



# Sigma Sixth Colchester

Prospectus

# Welcome

Welcome to Sigma Sixth, Colchester. We hope that our Sixth Form Prospectus will help you make the best decision about continuing education Post 16.

At Sigma Sixth, Colchester our young people are valued. We have the highest expectations for all our students, whether that is academic achievement, involvement in the college or care for each other.

Building on the traditions and academic success of the former Philip Morant College, Sigma Sixth, Colchester formed in September 2020. The college is part of The Sigma Trust's post-16 offer for The Philip Morant School, The Stanway School, Paxman Academy, St. Helena School and The Thomas Lord Audley School. Although located on The Philip Morant School site, we welcome over half of our students from local schools and non-Sigma Trust schools, who quickly become important and valued members of our community.

**"Teachers in the sixth form have strong subject knowledge and convey their enthusiasm for their subjects well."**

OFSTED

# Discover Yourself,





Sigma Sixth, Colchester is proud to include a Sports Academy which is based at The Northern Gateway Sports Park. Students can choose to study either the Level 3 BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development course or access the extra-curricular provision of the academy when studying A-Levels.

Education is about giving our young people the very best start in life so they are prepared fully to go to university, college or to start a career in their chosen field of employment. Our sixth form team will support you every step of the way.

Sigma Sixth, Colchester is a progressive sixth form, with a proven track record. Our teachers are experienced subject specialists who will not only deliver an excellent education, but will also provide the very best care, guidance and support. Life in the college is relaxed yet purposeful.

We recognise that the quality of facilities can help students excel. Our college has a purpose built block which is exclusively used by our sixth form students, including a College Cafe, a large study centre, e-learning suite and specialist practical areas.

We thank you for considering Sigma Sixth, Colchester and hope that the information provided in this prospectus enables you to make the best choice for you in terms of courses and institution for continued education Post 16.

We are committed to share this journey with you.

# Define Your Future



# Life in the Sixth Form

At Sigma Sixth, Colchester we believe not only in giving our students the very best chance of academic success, but also in preparing our young people for life beyond the college gates. When considering Post 16 courses take into account what you want to do next, whether that is university, further education or an apprenticeship.

The Sixth Form Curriculum Structure is divided into two distinct provisions:

- A-level
- BTEC

The A-level programme is designed for those students who achieved high success at GCSE and plan to follow a place at university or other higher educational institution. In the 6th Form, all students will follow three subjects, (and for the most able, four if they wish) from a large number of choices.

Students can choose to study BTECs. Each BTEC is equivalent to three A-levels and is delivered over 2 years. Students must successfully pass Year 12 in order to continue into Year 13.

All Post 16 courses require wholehearted commitment in order to achieve the best possible results, which is why we place a great emphasis on ensuring our students are developing a skill set that will prepare them for whatever they choose to do.

**“College is very different to school. The work at A Level is harder, so you have to be motivated, but you get excellent support from your teachers. They encourage you and help you improve, and support you with options for the future...”**





Our sixth form has a proven track record of delivering examination success. Our young people have consistently achieved results above the national average for value-added.

Academic excellence is of primary importance in everything we do. Our teachers are passionate about their subject and are committed to teaching interesting and challenging lessons.

Students will be offered a personalised study path chosen from a wide range of academic courses matched to their strengths and plans for the future. A tutor will also act as an academic mentor to ensure you stay on track.

Our purpose built sixth form college has an e-learning suite and study centre, which students can use for independent study. All of our students can access their work from home through Google classroom.

Field Trips and work-experience complement lessons and help to develop new skills and interests.

In addition to A-Levels and BTEC, students can also work towards an Extended Project Qualification, which is highly recognised by universities.

The majority of our students join their university of choice. A growing number of our students also access the expanding apprenticeship market, securing placements with well respected companies.

# Excellence

**“The proportion of students gaining top grades at A-level was impressive”**

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# Community & Opportunity

Our community is based on a friendly and supportive environment. Your teachers and tutors will encourage, inspire and support you, while recognising that you want to explore a newfound independence. Teachers and tutors are very approachable and offer guidance to support you through your studies. The study centre and e-learning suite are quiet zones with multiple workspaces and computers where you can spend time outside of your lessons completing homework, doing revision and carrying out research assignments to extend your knowledge beyond the curriculum. The college café is also a spacious and popular space used as a social study area to do group work, take a break and relax. The canteen offers a variety of hot and cold food options at break or lunchtimes and there are tables and soft chairs for all our students. The combination of silent and social study areas contributes to the university-style environment at Sigma Sixth.

The Student Leadership Team plays a vital role in the life of the college. As well as providing a range of social events throughout the year, they are available to answer questions and give practical advice should you need it. The college boasts a range of societies and activities for you to get involved in - the Essex Speaking Union Debating Society, British Sign Language and National Citizen Service are just some of the additional opportunities open to you.

**“Sigma Sixth is a  
supportive community.”**





# Pathways - Sports Academy

Based at The Northern Gateway Sports Park, Sigma Sixth Sports Academy offers a unique opportunity for students to study for their A Levels, or the Level 3 BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development, whilst training and competing in their chosen sport. Currently Football, Rugby, Basketball and Golf academies are available, but we are looking to develop this programme in the future so please contact us to see if we can support your application. We also provide generic support including sports injuries, training management, nutrition and recovery regardless of your sports specialism so anyone can study with us and gain the benefits.

Training, coaching and playing matches are managed by fully qualified professional coaches with a professional sports background and qualifications in coaching and education. We train more than any other College in the region, allowing for faster development of skills and performance and, as part of the training, we cover all aspects of technical and tactical elements of the game in addition to physical training and recovery.

We also have access to a physiotherapy clinic to cater for all prehab and rehab needs, and a state-of-the-art gym for all fitness, strength and conditioning requirements.

**“In my first three weeks in the academy I have already learned a lot that will help me reach my potential. I would recommend this course to anyone.”**



# Enrichment

At Sigma Sixth, Colchester, students have the opportunity to take part in a broad range of voluntary enrichment activities alongside their main programme of study.

Some activities enable you to gain additional qualifications or experiences, whilst others allow expression of creative talent. Involvement in activities of your choice will not only enrich your time here, but will also give you the chance to meet new friends, widen your interests, and develop teamwork and leadership skills. The range of enrichment activities on offer are all appreciated by universities and employers, and are an excellent addition to your CV or UCAS personal statement.

The list opposite represents some of the activities which have been offered in the past, but this list is not exhaustive and we believe that enrichment should be as individualised as possible. Under the banner of enrichment, many students have incorporated relevant work experience or voluntary work into their study programme.

**“Thank you for all the help you have given me over the 2 years. Your help has definitely made me into a better person.”**







Enrichment is not a closed book. If you wish to pursue an activity that is currently not on offer, then this is the perfect opportunity for you to take the lead in starting your own club or society.

- ▶ **EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)**
  - ▶ **National Citizen Service**
  - ▶ **British Sign Language**
  - ▶ **Art & Photography**
  - ▶ **Music Group**
  - ▶ **Conversational Spanish**
  - ▶ **Drama Group**
  - ▶ **Film Club**
  - ▶ **Debating Society**
  - ▶ **Sport or Yoga**
  - ▶ **Classroom Support (pre-teaching)**
  - ▶ **Magazine Production**
  - ▶ **Pre-Driving**
  - ▶ **World Challenge**

**“Students are offered many opportunities to develop their leadership skills”**

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# Support, Care and Guidance

Every student will be assigned a Tutor at the beginning of the academic year, who will act as a mentor and will be available to provide you with advice and support whenever you need it. Tutorial time can be used to discuss your progress with your Tutor and request guidance or ask for help with any concerns you may have about your academic studies and well-being. Our dedicated Pastoral Coordinator is also available to provide students with day-to-day pastoral care. Any general suggestions about the way college life could be improved can also be raised with the Student Leadership Team.

Our values and ethos of Aspiration, Success and Kindness (ASK) underpin everything we do, both inside and outside the classroom. We want you to have the highest expectations and we aim to nurture a growth mindset and 'can do' attitude. We also respect and celebrate difference, instilling an ethos of acceptance and understanding for everyone in our college community and in the wider world. The college has a proud tradition of raising money and awareness for charity and supporting the local community.

**"Careers advice and guidance are strong features of the provision"**

OFSTED

**"It's like being part of a big family. Everyone basically looks out for each other. There's a positive, supportive atmosphere, and you know there'll always be someone there to help if you need it..."**



# How to Apply

## Candidates must have:

**A Level:** A minimum of five passes at grade 5 or higher at GCSE, three of which must be a grade 6 or higher. Within these passes, there must be a grade 5 or higher in English Language and Maths.

**BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development:** 4 or more GCSE grades of 9 - 4, including English Language & Maths preferable. (Student can resit Maths & English, if necessary.)

## Applications:

Applications are online and should be submitted by 31st January 2021. Visit [www.sigmasixth.org.uk](http://www.sigmasixth.org.uk) and follow the instructions on the homepage on how to apply using our online application process.

Once you have completed and sent your application form, you will receive an email confirming that your application has been received.





# Discover Yourself, Define Your Future



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