



## Quality of Sixth Form Provision

### Programmes of Study

#### Intent

Richmond Sixth Form College study programmes are designed to provide students with a structured and challenging learning schedule that supports their development and progression in line with their career plans. All students enter into a Home-College Agreement outlining our high aspirations, what students can expect from the College with regard to teaching and learning, student support, reporting and the expectations of students in order to ensure success.

#### Implementation

Each student's study programme has a core aim of either "A Levels" or "Cambridge Technicals" and is the component making up the largest number of planned hours of their programme. The Sixth Form learning programme comprises of qualification and non-qualification hours and includes the following elements some or all of which can be selected for each student's personalised programme of study.

#### **1. Substantial qualifications that stretch students and prepare them for education at the next level or for employment.**

**A Levels:** Students can choose three or four A Level subjects dependent on GCSE qualifications from a range of twenty-seven different subjects.

**Vocational Level 3 Courses:** Students can choose one, two or three subjects and mix with A Levels if appropriate. We offer a small number of vocational courses across four

**Extended Project Qualification (EPQ):** All students are invited to choose to undertake the EPQ as an additional qualification which is equivalent to 50% of an A Level. This allows students to demonstrate in-depth, university-style research in one particular area of their choosing which enhances their future applications.

#### **2. English and mathematics resits where students have not yet achieved a GCSE pass at grade 4 or better.**

**GCSE Level 2 Maths and English:** All students who have not reached a grade 4 in English or mathematics prior to joining Richmond Sixth Form College will have distinct timetabled lessons to help them to achieve at least a standard pass. Other Level 2 qualifications in English or mathematics can be offered in addition, such as Functional Skills qualifications, to aid progression.

#### **3. Work experience to give students the opportunity to develop their career choices and to apply their skills in real working conditions.**

**Work Experience:** Preparation for university and employment is an integral and key part of the Sixth Form programme. We give students the opportunity to complete a minimum of five days of

high quality in-person or virtual professional placement in order to gain a deeper knowledge of the subjects and career areas they are considering.

#### **4. Other non-qualification activities to develop students' character, broader skills, attitudes and confidence, and to support progression.**

We recognise the importance of students developing personal qualities alongside their academic studies and offer a range of enrichment opportunities for students to participate in.

**Non-qualification programme:** Each student has a minimum of 10 hours per fortnight of timetabled supervised study in the Sixth Form Study Centre where an Academic Mentor supports students with their learning. Each student is allocated a tutor with a weekly programme of daily activities in Year 12. The tutor also leads the Learning for Life programme which includes study skills, lessons for life, current affairs, careers guidance and guest speakers from local universities, gap year organisations and "Speakers for Schools". The tutorial programme supports the UCAS and careers programme in Year 13 to ensure students have clear progression strategies in place following the completion of their courses.

**Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance:** (See also Careers document) Our students receive outstanding Careers guidance and we hold the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard. Using our close working links with the universities of Durham, York, Leeds, Newcastle, Leeds Beckett, Newcastle and Teesside and our alumni network, each student is offered a mock interview and all attend a UCAS Higher Education event. Outstanding support for applicants for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Nursing and Russell Group universities is in place. All further education applicants are given one to one support.

**Enrichment Programme:** All students have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular enrichment including many sporting and cultural activities. Performing arts and music are particular strengths and have strong links in the local community. Subjects offer residential and day visits and national competitions where students are encouraged to take part such as the UKMT in Mathematics, BEBRAS challenge in IT and Computer Science, National Chemistry and academic essay competitions in many subjects. The College can offer the highly regarded Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award where students dedicate time to community work, an expedition and other challenging activities. Students also lead after-College enrichment clubs and work with younger students in activities such as paired reading, learning transferable life skills as a result.

**Student Leadership Programme:** We have an active body of Student Leaders who work as ambassadors for the School and Sixth Form College and have a variety of roles, giving our students a voice in decision-making. The student leaders' work allows them to learn how to effect positive change and take on roles of responsibility to prepare them for life beyond College, discussing issues such as learning, mentoring, sustainability and healthy eating.

**Independent Learning Tasks:** Students are encouraged to undertake MOOCs and other research tasks throughout their time in Sixth Form. Most independent work takes place in the Study Centre where the environment supports purposeful learning.