Welcome to Brentwood County High School’s Sixth Form

Studying after Year 11 offers great opportunities to focus on the things that truly excite you as you move towards your future career and life. When you choose your options for Year 12 you are able to make a real statement about who you are and who you want to be. Whether you are seeking courses that will provide the path to the university of your choice, or qualifications and skills to start in the career of your choice at 18, studying in the BCHS sixth form will enable you to pursue your goals.

The two years that you will spend in the sixth form at BCHS will be academically challenging and personally fulfilling. Our sixth formers are our senior students and A-Level or BTEC courses studied in Year 12 and 13 are the pinnacle of our curriculum. Sixth form life at BCHS is inspiring, exciting and life affirming. It is also hard work, but we are sure you would expect nothing less!
We firmly believe that life in the sixth form must be about more than simply the course outcomes that will let you fulfil your aspirations for the future. Year 12 and 13 offer the chance to expand your horizons and take the opportunities and freedoms that come with the enhanced status of being a sixth form student. At BCHS we are proud to place great emphasis on the role that our sixth formers can play in our school community. Sixth form students provide support as role models to the younger students in their form groups each day, using these opportunities to build their skills as leaders and mentors. Whilst in the sixth form you have the chance to lead clubs and activities in sports, the arts, science, technology and indeed all aspects of school life. As well as being worthwhile and enjoyable activities, these opportunities also provide you with skills and experiences which help you to gain university places and employment.

All members of our sixth form work towards the BCHS Community Award which recognises time and commitment to the life of our school. Time spent supporting the school community is logged and throughout the two years in the sixth form you will achieve the different levels of the award which can then be referenced in UCAS or job applications. The importance placed on this reflects our belief that life in school is about ensuring that you access the full range of opportunities that sixth form has to offer.

“Immediately, as I was shown round the school I felt like I was part of the school already. I now feel like I have been here years, everyone is so welcoming.” Toni-Louise

Community
The experience

“As a new student at Brentwood County High I have found it extremely welcoming by both students and staff. Everyone has been so helpful and I would definitely recommend it to anybody looking to go to a Sixth Form to study A-Levels.” Lava

A-Level students study three or four courses in Year 12, and then three in Year 13. A-Level students also study the Pre-U course or core maths which enhance and support A-Level courses. BTEC Level 3 students study a combination of three BTEC subsidiary diplomas and the extended project qualification. Level 2 BTEC students will study both their main course content as well as having lessons in English, maths and ICT in order to enhance the key skills required to move on to further study.

Sixth form students have a number of privileges in line with their status as senior students. There are around four lessons a week defined as study periods where you manage your own time out of the classroom. Sixth formers do not have to wear school uniform, instead wearing smart business dress when in school. There is a sixth form common room, a number of sixth form study areas and sixth formers also have access to the library for study whenever it is available.

The two years in the sixth form offer fantastic opportunities in an adult working environment. It is up to you to seize these and achieve success.
"The Sixth Form encourages independence but there is always an abundance of support if you need it."

The Sixth Form experience

"BCHS Sixth Form’s individuality consists of perseverance, achievement and community spirit."
“The people here make BCHS the place you want to be, whether it’s the teachers, the support team or your friends, you will always have a helping hand.”
We offer a wide range of A-Level choices in all our subject areas including English, maths, sciences, languages, technology, arts, sport and humanities. In 2016 we will run as wide a range of subject choices as are popular with students. All A-Level students also study the Pre-U Global Perspectives course or core maths, which enhance skills useful in all courses.

Our students have achieved great success with Level 3 BTECs in sport, ICT and business in recent years. We have expanded our student offering from September and are now proudly offering applied science, art and performing arts to our subject offering. From 2016 we intend to run Level 2 BTECs alongside our successful Level 3 courses. This is a widening of our offer and reflects the changed requirements for students to stay in education, employment or training to the age of 18. By widening our offer to include Level 2 BTECs we are also enabling more of you the chance to access sixth form education at BCHS.

More information about all our sixth form courses is available on our website: www.bchs.essex.sch.uk

“Lessons have a focus on thinking skills and evaluation.” OFSTED
Exciting opportunities

There are numerous great opportunities provided for you in the sixth form.

Sports teams continue to run in the sixth form in a wide range of activities including netball, football and rugby. Our football academy is led by Charlton Athletic and our Basketball team is led by the Essex Leopards. Our hugely successful Duke of Edinburgh Award programme continues into the sixth form as students complete their Gold Award in Year 12 and 13. The Summer of 2016 sees the re-launch of our hugely successful World Challenge.

The status of our sixth formers is recognised as the student elected Head Boy and Girl, and Deputy Head Boy and Girl, are members of the school’s governing body. This enables them to help to shape the strategic vision and management of our school. Senior prefects are drawn from our sixth form student body, as are the leaders of the various parts of our student parliament structures.

Sixth form students are able to take part in many visits and experiences. These include the Roadster visit to Ford focussing on road safety and driving skills, a day at Anglia Ruskin University to launch life in the sixth form, ongoing work with Credit Suisse for girls in the sixth form including the “Breaking through the Glass Ceiling” conference and the annual geography and biology field trip to Wales.
All students are able to have free access to the school’s wifi network either through their own devices or through the laptops provided through the purchase scheme. Sixth form students have access to three different study areas, each with its own suite of PCs. Sixth form students also have access to the computers in the library for private study. A new suite of media studies PCs was purchased to kit out our new media suite in order to support the high demands of the A-Level media courses.

All sixth form students have the opportunity to buy a high specification laptop from the school during their time in the sixth form. Paid for with 10 interest free payments, the laptop comes with Microsoft Office and other relevant packages installed. The laptop comes with a two year warranty with basic maintenance available on site. Funding for this can be accessed through the sixth form bursary scheme for students who are entitled to this.
“An effective leadership team provide appropriate academic and pastoral guidance.” OFSTED

After the Sixth Form!

Although you may be surprised to have to think about it already, you will find that time in the sixth form passes very quickly. Almost straight away you need to start planning for what you are going to do after Year 13. The choices of higher education at university, higher level training or education in the workplace or a specific employment route need to be given careful consideration.

At BCHS we make sure you are aware of all your choices and will enable you to consider these carefully and with appropriate support. In the summer term of Year 12 you will take part in a three day conference organised by the BCHS Sixth Form team to help you prepare for life after sixth form. This focuses on everything from how to apply for university or employment, how to access funding for university and what you need to consider regarding a possible “gap year”. We will also help you to brush up on some of those essential basic life skills such as ironing, cooking and personal finance.

Support is given throughout this time by our fully trained sixth form leaders, tutors and house team. You can also access our careers advisor, who provides independent advice and guidance on your future options. Your form tutor, head of house and subject teachers are also always on hand to provide support.