







## CARDIFF SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Cardiff Sixth Form College has topped the league tables for both A Level and GCSE and is recognised as one of the UK's leading independent schools.

World-class teaching alongside exceptional facilities at its two campuses in Cardiff and Cambridge helps students from across the globe develop their academic acumen, skills and personal maturity through an innovative curriculum to win places at some of the best universities in the world.

The College has been running its one-year GCSE programme since 2017, topping the Telegraph Small Schools GCSE league tables in its first year. In 2022 a two-year GCSE programme was launched. Both programmes are extremely innovative with significant careers and skills support designed as three or four-year pathways to top universities.





# ACADEMIC

GCSEs are the first formal academic qualifications undertaken by all students in the UK specifically designed to:

- Individual or small group tuition and mentoring
- Almost double the number of teaching hours per subject than other schools
- Expert instruction, with many teachers having served as examiners or inspectors
- Close monitoring of progress
- Dedicated support for university applications

UK universities make offers based on a complex variety of evidence. In Wales, all of our students undertake AS examinations as part of their modular A-levels which count for 40% of the final A-level and as such as the best form of assessment for university application. In England (CSFC Cambridge) we shall also take AS examinations which are externally assessed, but which are standalone qualifications. They still form the best evidence for university application. GCSEs are the first formal indicators of academic achievement and in combination with the AS examinations are evidence of continued and improving academic quality, vital for successful applications to top universities.

As the top academic school in the UK, Cardiff Sixth Form College offers two pathways for students wanting to study GCSEs as pre A-level qualifications enabling us to best fit our provision to the needs of our pupils and give them an outstanding preparation for Sixth Form study at A-level.

# SUBJECTS

|                        |                          |             |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Additional Mathematics | Economics                | German      |
| Art                    | English (First Language) | History     |
| Biology                | English Literature       | Mathematics |
| Business Studies       | French                   | Physics     |
| Chemistry              | Geography                | Psychology  |

**One-year GCSE** students take English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics plus a choice of one subject from:

*Art, Economics, French, Geography, German or History*

Additional Mathematics, English Literature and a GCSE in a student’s own language is available for appropriate, select candidates only if available.

**Two-year GCSE** students take English, English Literature, Maths, Additional Maths, Biology Chemistry and Physics, a choice of French or German (a game changer when applying to top universities) and two subject choices from:

*Art, Business Studies, Geography, History or Psychology*

A GCSE in a pupil’s own language is available for appropriate, select candidates only if available.







To support the classroom work, students take part in:

- Biology fieldwork
- Coastal and environmental trips for Geography
- Theatre productions to support their English Literature studies
- Visit local attractions of historical and cultural significance
- Art exhibitions to inspire artists
- International trips to improve their language development with French and German school trips to the Christmas markets
- Science practicals

## SUPPORTING CURRICULUM

In addition, all GCSE students have a supporting curriculum comprising:

- PE (Physical Education) and Sport. The weekly PE programme is designed to ensure sport is accessible for all students. It includes teaching games for understanding, fitness for life and activity engagement through learning a number of different sports throughout the year
- PHSE (Personal, Heath and Social Education). Sessions including healthy lifestyle, relationships, managing money and developing life skills ready for university
- Effective Communication
- English for Academic Purposes
- Critical Thinking
- Leadership/Teamwork
- Assembly Programme. Includes academic and pastoral announcements, motivational presentations, important days and traditions, topical news stories, examination preparation strategies, sleep, hygiene and wellbeing
- University Preparation Super-Curricular Programme

### KEY FACTS

|                   | Intensive 1 Year GCSE course  | Traditional 2 Year GCSE course   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Age of enrolment: | 15 (possibly, by exception 16)  | 14 (possibly, by exception 15)   |
| Course length:    | 1 year  | 2 years  |
| Course start:     | September   | September  |
| Synopsis:         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have not studied GCSE before and want to gain a British pre A-level qualification</li><li>• Are too old to start a traditional two year course</li><li>• Are looking for rigorous, academic second year of GCSE provision</li><li>• A specific and focused range of subject choices</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Want to study a standard British GCSE course</li><li>• Are looking for a rigorous academic course providing the foundations for applications to top universities</li><li>• Want an extensive super-curriculum programme</li><li>• The broadest range of subjects at CSFC</li></ul> |



## TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

GCSE students at Cardiff Sixth Form College are taught by the College's exceptional, highly qualified and dedicated staff.

Used to teaching the GCSE curriculum, either here at Cardiff Sixth Form College or having taught 11-19 year old students in previous schools, all our staff are extremely experienced having held senior positions in education, worked as examiners or as school inspectors. This gives them a broad view of what is required to achieve top grades.

All teachers provide one-to-one drop in sessions for students who are struggling with any aspect of a subject or who would like guidance on extra subject-specific work to support their studies.

GCSE students have regular half-termly examination practice.

Grades are awarded every half term and written reports twice annually. There are also zoom parents evening twice a year and a longer pastoral parent consultation.





## ENRICHMENT

To start the preparations for entry to leading universities, Cardiff Sixth Form College has designed a specialist enrichment programme to enable all GCSE students to develop holistically through a wide range of skills and dispositions and become more mature, reflective and well rounded.

Not only does the enrichment programme improve students' command of English, it also helps build confidence, improve communication and team working skills and develop interpersonal attributes vital for the all-important university interviews and successful transition to university life. The programme runs each week and includes:

### TEAMBUILDING, COLLABORATION AND PROBLEM SOLVING

These skills will be developed through a series of physical and mental challenges, designed to help students work collaboratively and in teams, through initiatives run both on and off site and include building trust, resilience and technical ability and solving puzzles.

### DRAMA AND PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

Designed to develop confidence, a love of language, communication and presentation skills, students will take part in a series of performance workshops where they use their creative skills to design, write and deliver performances, collaborate with others, develop presentation techniques and improve their English language skills resulting in public performances.



### PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING

Cardiff Sixth Form College is well-known for its prowess in the debating field with students representing Wales internationally each year. This module will help all students develop their research techniques, learn to analyse language, put together speeches and become confident in presenting in front of an audience, ready for those all-important university and careers interviews.

### SUSTAINABILITY, PROBLEM SOLVING AND TEAMWORK

All young people will face climate change issues in their futures. As well as examining the scientific issues surrounding our planet's survival, students will be challenged to develop strategies to make the school more eco-friendly, working together on practical solutions and leading sustainable initiatives.

### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This last module will include how to pitch a new business idea, understanding marketing concepts in the digital era, the psychology of business and learning business organisational structure culminating in a project with individual students assuming different business roles within their enterprise.





## CAREERS AND SUPER CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

Character development is essential for students wishing to prepare for application to leading universities around the world. Our GCSE super-curricular programme is specifically designed to allow pupils a platform to develop appropriate, wide ranging and tailored experiences, which help build students into confident global citizens.

The programme includes:

- International Citizenship Experience (e.g. Amsterdam, Paris and Brussels)
- Industry insights with our Dukes Education partners INvestin, The Career Portal, The Medic Portal and The Lawyer Portal
- Careers Societies
- Careers Award
- Industry Speakers and Workshops
- Competitions
- Enrichment Trips
- Debating/Public Speaking
- Young Scholars Cup
- Applying to top global universities with A-List Applications and Dukes Oxbridge Applications
- Enhancing students' understanding and skills when applying to the most competitive universities which includes Oxford and Cambridge

The super-curricular programme on both GCSE courses is tailored to provide support appropriate to the academic commitments of the course.

All GCSE students receive a comprehensive careers programme, which includes an introduction to career pathways and choosing a top university. There is a specialist Careers and Higher Education Department where students can readily access expert career and university counselling staff at all points in their college journey. Students will take part in a variety of careers skills workshops, one to one and in groups, including Morrisby testing to work out personal attributes, career suitability, skills for specific roles and university requirements. A range of lesson topics will include the future of work, action planning with hard targets, exam planning and 16 and 18+ options.

Enrichment Weeks run at Cardiff Sixth Form College in both October and February when speakers from industry come into college to talk to students, hold workshops and events. In addition, social plans for our GCSE students during Enrichment Week have included visits to St Fagan's and the Principality Stadium, boat trips to Cardiff Bay, burger and bread making and drama workshops.

Cardiff Sixth Form College GCSE students will also benefit from a full PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Ethics) programme run by senior specialist staff to increase GCSE students wider learning outside their specific subjects and develop critical thinking skills.





# EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Cardiff Sixth Form College runs a wide range of extra-curricular activities for students for fun, relaxation and enjoyment. These enable students to develop personal interests and hobbies, keep physically fit and make friends with other students college-wide.

## SPORT

There is a wide range of sports on offer at the College, which in the past, has included orienteering, football, netball, cycling, circus skills, basketball, handball, badminton, cricket, table tennis, swimming and cycling. Fixtures are played between College Houses and against other schools and a whole school Sports Day is held during the autumn term.

## MUSIC

Many students are musical and the college can facilitate private music lessons for most instruments. The college runs a choir as well as several musical groups and many of our talented musicians are also members of the Cardiff Youth Orchestra and perform at special external events. Performance opportunities in school include informal concerts, the Talent Show held at the Wales Millennium Centre and the annual Cultural Event.

## DRAMA

GLEE Club, run by our in-house director, is one of the most popular societies and puts on a major musical theatre production every year at a local professional theatre with past productions including Grease, Legally Blonde, Mulan and Hairspray. In addition, there are inter-House drama competitions and drama performances organised by the students themselves at the Cultural Event.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Students can take the Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award choosing a volunteering service, physical and skills activities and go on a camping and hiking expedition designed to build confidence and challenge their own beliefs about their capabilities.



# CLUBS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Clubs are an excellent way to make friends and, if there isn't a club or society in place that caters for pupils' interests, they are encouraged to form their own. All clubs are student led with staff support and change depending on student interest and leadership. Recent examples of these include:

|                           |                          |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Amnesty International     | Futurology               | Psychology               |
| Animal Health Society     | Journalism and Editorial | Running                  |
| Art and Photography       | Legal Reading            | Shakespeare Monologue    |
| Badminton                 | Linguistics              | Strategic Games          |
| Basketball                | Medical Ethics           | STEM                     |
| British Sign Language     | Medical History          | Swimming                 |
| Charity                   | Model United Nations     | Volunteering and Charity |
| Computer Science/Robotics | NASA                     | Table Tennis             |
| CSFC Video Production     | Netball                  | Tennis                   |
| Dance                     | Pride Society            | Textiles                 |
| Debating                  | Poetry Together          | Yoga                     |
| Film                      | Public Speaking          | Wellbeing                |
| Football                  | Philosophy               |                          |

## WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Four large-scale whole school events are held each year bringing the whole school community together: Sports Day, The Talent Show, GLEE Musical and The Cultural Event.

## HOUSE EVENTS

All students are assigned one of six Houses for which they can win House points by taking part in competitions. A wide variety of fun, inter-House events take place after school, during the weekends and over Enrichment Week with recent events including Fashion Shows, MasterChef, inter-house sports competitions, writing competitions, mini marathons, charity work, art exhibitions, photography and video events.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Social events run throughout the year with popular events including the Halloween Party, Christmas Ball, Chinese New Year celebrations, paintballing, Escape Room, Thanksgiving Meal, charity events, picnics and the Summer Extravaganza.





## PASTORAL CARE

Student welfare is amongst our highest priorities at Cardiff Sixth Form College. All GCSE students are looked after by the GCSE Head and Deputy Head who are the first point of contact for parents.

The GCSE office is located right next to the GCSE study room and common room. Assemblies, morning registration, PSE and daily briefings take place in the GCSE area, slightly separated from the rest of the school, creating a safe haven for younger students. The first points of contact for parents, their role is to encourage and support all GCSE students, deal with punctuality, help address any problems, provide a listening ear, liaise with the boarding staff and ensure that their students are as happy as possible.

Peer to peer support is provided by our team of GCSE buddies – second year A-level students who look after our GCSE pupils and are their student point of contact. Introduced right from the first assembly, all of the buddies were GCSE students themselves and give invaluable support and help to the younger students.

GCSE students also take part in Student Voice – a chance for the students to have their voices heard on topics such as new initiatives, areas for improvement and areas for development as well as providing feedback on individual courses. The Head and senior staff also hold student lunches every week to get to know the students and give them a chance to put any ideas directly to senior management.



## BOARDING

Our GCSE students live on two floors of Shand Boarding House looked after by specialist house parents. GCSE students have single or double study bedrooms, some ensuite and others share a bathroom between two students. Located opposite our teaching block at Trinity Court, our accommodation provides bright, well-equipped rooms, superfast broadband, access to cooking facilities, relaxing common rooms for leisure, music and art rooms and laundry facilities. CCTV and 24 hour security is also in constant operation.

All homework is supervised for our younger students. From a social perspective there are a range of weekend activities organised by the boarding staff including movie nights, cinema trips, bowling trips, picnics in the park and BBQs as well as full GCSE boarding weekend trips away, one each half term.





# TIMETABLE

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 08.30       | Registration   |
| 08.45       | Lessons begin  |
| 10.15       | Morning break  |
| 10.30       | Lessons begin  |
| 12.00-13.30 | Lunch (different times blocked)  |
| 13.30       | Lessons begin  |
| 15.45       | Afternoon break  |
| 16.00       | Lessons begin  |
| 17.30       | Lessons end (most days)  |
| 17.30-18.30 | Supper   |
| 18.30       | To boarding for prep, reading, free time and extra-curricular activities |





# RESULTS

Top of the Telegraph Independent Small Schools’ league table for GCSEs in the first year of results. Increased levels of achievement since then with a cohort double the size.

| Rank | School                              | A*-A or 9-7 entries (%) | Candidates |
|------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 1    | Cardiff Sixth Form College, Cardiff | 83.87                   | 14         |
| 2    | Hampton Court House, East Molesey   | 77.6                    | 15         |
| 3    | Focus School, Nottingham            | 65                      | 10         |
| 4    | Econ Jeannie Manuel, London         | 62.16                   | 19         |
| 5    | Brampton College, Hendon            | 61.54                   | 21         |

(No results published in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid 19)

Results (Intensive one year GCSE course)

|      | A*-A (9-7) | A*-B (9-6) |
|------|------------|------------|
| 2023 | 84.1       | 90.5       |
| 2022 | 88.8%      | 95.5%      |
| 2021 | 90.3%      | 95%        |
| 2020 | 93%        | 97%        |
| 2019 | 84%        | 94%        |

(Teacher assessed grades in 2020 and 2021)





# CASE STUDIES



**DAVID**  
**Home Country:** Spain  
**IGCSE Subjects and Grades:**  
Biology 9, Chemistry 9, English Language 9,  
Economics 9, Physics 9  
**University:** University of Oxford, Medicine  
**Grades at A-level:** A\*, A\*, A\*, A\*



**FRANCISCA**  
**Home Country:** United Kingdom  
**IGCSE Subjects and Grades:** Biology  
9, Chemistry 7 Economics 7, English  
Literature 9, Mathematics 8, Physics 6  
**University:** King's College London,  
Philosophy, Politics, Economics  
**Grades at A-level:** A\* A B B

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*I started Cardiff Sixth Form College as a one-year GCSE student after attending the academic summer school programme. My three years at Cardiff have been the best of my life and the College has given me the opportunity to discover a range of subjects as well as encouraging me to look into different areas of study via workshops, lectures etc.*

*My favourite memories from life at Cardiff Sixth Form College will be the time spent with friends. I've met people from all over the world and some of the friendships I have made over the past three years, with students and staff, I am sure will last a lifetime. Thanks to all the help I received at Cardiff I have gone onto Oxford University to study Medicine, but I can't wait to come back and visit everyone in Cardiff!*

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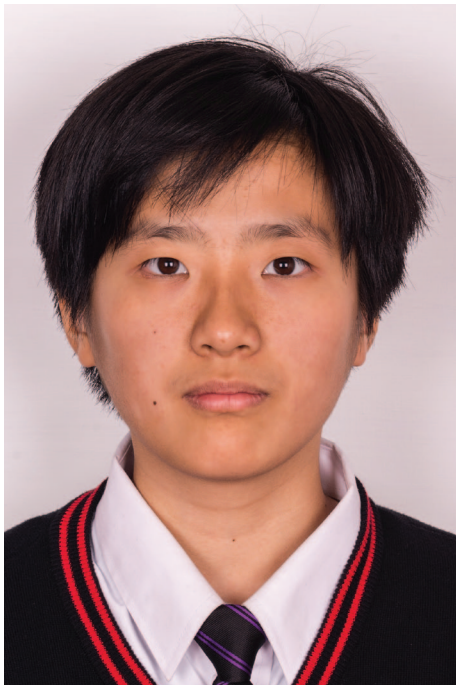
*I started at Cardiff in my GCSE year before beginning my A-level studies, so I am one of the first local students to have spent three years at Cardiff Sixth Form College. The support I have received from the staff here has been really helpful to me over the time I have been here, whether it was deciding on what to study or catching up after having to miss a period of lessons, I always knew the school was here for me to help me achieve my academic potential.*

*Throughout my time at Cardiff, I have taken part in many of the different opportunities on offer to students including my GCSE year performing Ballet at the Eisteddfod and Cultural Event in front of hundreds of people! There is so much going on to get involved with at Cardiff Sixth Form College around our studies and during my GCSE year, I made some great friends from GCSE and A-level classes, boarding students and day students like myself. Everyone really mixes in together and it was great to get to know people from all around the world.*

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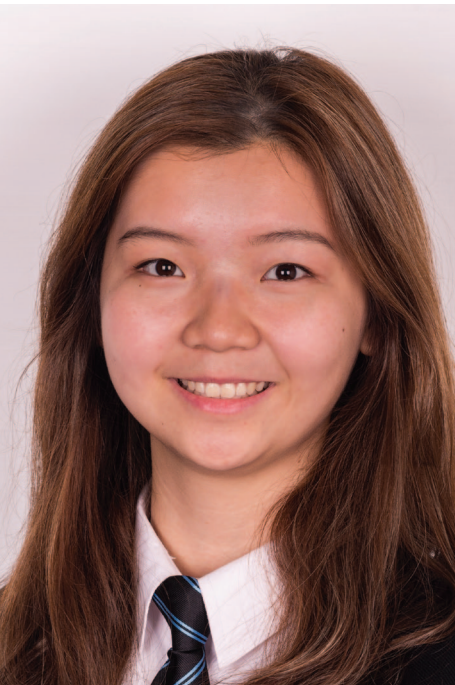


# CASE STUDIES



**SANDY**

**Home Country:** China  
**IGCSE Subjects & Grades:** Biology 9, Chemistry 9, English Language 8, History, Mathematics 9, Physics 9, Further pure mathematics 9  
**University:** Oxford, Philosophy, Politics, Economics  
**Grades at A-level:** A\* A\* A\* A\* A\*



**COCO**

**Home Country:** Hong Kong  
**IGCSE Subjects & Grades:** Biology, 9, Chemistry 9, English Language 8, Economics 8, Mathematics 9, Physics 9, Further pure mathematics 8  
**University:** University of Hong Kong, Medicine  
**Grades at A-level:** A\* A\* A\* A\* A\*

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*During my GCSE year at Cardiff Sixth Form College I was a boarding student. The close-knit community in the boarding houses at Cardiff really helped us to make friends quickly with the other GCSE students. The house parents in the boarding house are there 24/7 for us and any problems we might have, be it missing home, struggling in lessons or with keeping organised with time keeping, tidiness and laundry.*

*The programme in place for boarding GCSE students really helped prepare us in the life skills needed for A-Levels and beyond. There are different clubs and activities for everyone to get involved with at Cardiff Sixth Form College from sports, subject based clubs and musical theatre, and personally, I enjoyed the art club. There is an art room in one of the boarding houses at Cardiff and also numerous art based inter-house competitions to take part in throughout the year.*

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*I was part of the first group of IGCSE students at Cardiff Sixth Form College starting in September 2018, I was of course attracted to Cardiff by the outstanding A-level results that had gone before and knowing that it would be the same teachers for the GCSE students made the decision to attend an easy one! The small classes helped to make lessons really personalised for each student and we had lots of support from our teachers so any difficulties we were having in our schoolwork could be quickly resolved. I also really enjoyed the PE lessons, which was a good chance to have some fun and try some new sports outside of academic lessons.*

*In the boarding house the GCSE students are all housed together and it was great spending so much time with my friends, we really became each other's family. The house parents are always around in boarding if we need anything and as GCSE students, we had evening prep to help us study as well as help with domestic things like laundry. We had lots of activities in boarding for the evenings and weekends, some just with the GCSE class like family dinner nights but we also got involved with inter-house activities with all the AS and A2 students so there was plenty opportunities to make friends with the A-level students too. After finishing my GCSE's at Cardiff Sixth Form College I stayed in Cardiff to complete my A-Levels.*

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# APPLICATIONS

Get in touch today to take the first steps towards studying at the UK's top school

We strive to make our admissions process transparent at all times. All applications are considered to be on an equal basis according to the following procedure:

- Complete application form by going to [www.ccoex.com](http://www.ccoex.com) and press the apply now button
- Send us your passport, school report and birth certificate
- Parents invoiced for the £250 registration fee
- Complete entrance tests in English and Maths plus a GL aptitude test
- One year GCSE students book UKVI academic IELTS test (5.5 required)
- Application is then reviewed and an offer of a place is sent, or you are notified of an unsuccessful application
- Accept offer and pay deposit to secure place
- Pre-arrival information and CAS sent (June onwards)

For admissions information or to enquire further, get in touch with us at [admissions@ccoex.com](mailto:admissions@ccoex.com) or visit [www.ccoex.com](http://www.ccoex.com).

“Dukes Education is a **family** of schools and educational services based in the UK. Our schools are **distinctive** in identity and style, yet united in offering outstanding teaching and learning, providing the strongest **foundations** for young people to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.”



CARDIFF  
SIXTH FORM  
COLLEGE

TOGETHER WE'RE  
EXTRAORDINARY

Dukes  
EDUCATION

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