

## Director of Sixth Form's Speech

Good Evening. My name is Catherine Trueman and I am the Director of Hayesfield Mixed Sixth Form. We are the most inclusive school Sixth Form in Bath and work hard to ensure that we have appropriate, engaging and wide-ranging pathways for all our students. The common experience for many is the high quality of teaching you will receive and the level of tutorial support. We recognise that for students moving from GCSE to A level you have to transform into much more independent learners and provide tutorial support to enable you to achieve this effectively; all our new students participate in a study skills programme at the start of Year 12 , in association, with Southampton University, where you can develop the skills you need to achieve this. Our Sixth Form courses allow you to develop the skills you need whether you want to study Medicine at Cardiff, History at Oxford or take up a high quality apprenticeship at Rolls Royce.

Our pathways model on p.9 in your prospectus is designed to provide you with a well-rounded educational experience, incorporating curriculum subjects relevant to your individual starting point, and wider educational experiences. For example, in our Bespoke pathway for students following a highly academic curriculum we offer a very successful Early Entry Programme for elite universities to support students considering medical subjects, veterinary science or Oxbridge entry, which incorporates University visits, access to Summer schools, career days and application and interview support. The majority of our students will follow the Aspire and Inspire pathways, where, along with other pathways as well, you can personalise your studies by undertaking an Extended Project Qualification. This is an exciting opportunity to study a topic of your choice from any discipline and with the aid of a staff mentor learn how to undertake academic research. Students can choose between writing an essay or producing a product and report. It is also carefully scheduled to avoid pressure points with your other subjects. Many students use this to support future university applications with great success and in the last two years have completed studies on rebuilding a triumph car engine, evaluating the Drake equation , creating their own language based on Old Norse, and analysing the portrayal of women in ancient Greek mythology. Our current cohort is on track to achieve 80% A\*-B grades and this thermometer compares us with other centres nationally showing we're pretty hot on the EPQ!

At the same time we are pleased to offer this year a new qualification in Core Maths. This is equivalent to an AS level studied over two years and enables students to further their studies in Maths without undertaking the full A level. Particularly useful for Psychologists, Geographers and Scientists who are not taking Maths, although useful for all.

Hayesfield has strong and active links with a number of highly regarded universities and you as students will have visits to at least three appropriate institutions over the course of your studies; from Oxford and Bristol to Southampton, Bath Spa, & U.W.E. Not only do these links enable us to offer you access to the information you need to make successful applications but also to participate in university preparation courses like Access to Bristol and On Track to Bath which often result in preferential offers and/or financial incentives for higher study.

I'm really excited by the range of vocational level 3 courses we are able to offer across the Explore and Endeavour pathways. These are equivalent to A levels in terms of university points but rather than a one subject vocational course which fills your whole timetable you are able to explore up to three different subjects, possibly alongside an A level, to help you clarify your next steps post 18. This year we are adding to our offer with our Leisure and Tourism course designed to provide you with a grounding in the skills they will need for the huge number of local, national and international jobs associated with this industry.

We are one of only 25 schools in the South West to hold the Employability Chartermark. This award shows that we are committed to ensuring you receive high quality careers guidance and advice. We ensure that you leave school with the qualifications, characteristics and skills that are desired by employers. We place great emphasis on developing these skills and you are able to undertake Young Enterprise projects, develop your debating skills in Model United National competitions and make connections with local and national employers via a programme of Career sector talks. In addition, we work with local University Careers' Services to understand the soft skills needed for employment, such as networking .

Over and above this we are committed to educating the whole individual and strongly encourage all you to undertake a wide-range of extra-curricular opportunities. For the sportsmen and women, or those seeking to follow a healthy lifestyle, you will have access to a fantastic range of facilities, from the fitness suite which can be used during non-contacts to staff/student football on Fridays after school and the rowing team which have trained hard and completed the Sportsmark award. For more artistic students you can participate in an annual musical production a senior auditioned choir in HOST, a Sixth Form choir and the Sixth Form Boys' Choir. Alongside your academic courses you can complete your LAMDA qualification or an Artsmark award to add breadth to your CV. At the same time we also like to have lots of fun with the now legendary Sixth Form flash mob, vintage sports days, scavenger hunts and sixth form panto!

A Hayesfield Sixth Former doesn't just attend lessons but also plays a role in the wider community, both in and out of school. As you've heard already you can take on school leadership roles as prefects, head students and learning mentors for younger students. Sixth Formers lead our House system for all students and the numerous charitable and fun activities and competitions during the year. But we also believe our sixth formers should be

active citizens and you can get involved in political action through make your mark campaigns and the youth parliament or undertake community service.

Your generation will live your working lives in an increasingly global economy and what is unique about Hayesfield Sixth Form is the range of international opportunities open to you; from language exchanges and work experience in Europe to academic trips to locations as diverse as New York , Russia and Iceland. We also bring the world to you with visiting EU students from Denmark, Italy and Germany and Euroclass groups from China and Norway who spend part of the year with us. What better way to develop your understanding than to debate it with students who have a different global view and provide opportunities for Hayesfield students to undertake cultural trips to Oslo and Suzhou in return.

Being a Hayesfield Sixth Former is giving yourself the best. The best teaching, the best outcomes and the best opportunities.