

THE RADCLIFFE SCHOOL
BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES TOGETHER
SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



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The Radcliffe School

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'It is the best school in the world.'
Year 9 Pupil - OFSTED Report 2019



Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to The Radcliffe School's Sixth Form. We hope the prospectus provides you with an overview of our Sixth Form as well as subject specific information on the loose-leaf sheets at the back. The Sixth Form Open Evening event is an ideal opportunity to discuss any questions you may have around our provision, or to help you consider which subjects and courses may be best for you and your future career.

At The Radcliffe School we are proud of our Sixth Form students, and it is always with mixed emotions when we say goodbye to our Year 13 students, who leave us well rounded and fully prepared to take that next step into adulthood.

Our Sixth Form offers a broad curriculum choice of both academic and vocational accreditations, which means that our students have access to a full range of destinations, be it Oxbridge, a Russell Group or any other university, degree level apprenticeships or the workplace.

We offer a personalised approach, supporting and meeting the needs of each individual. The Sixth Form team are experienced and highly trained in guiding students through the higher and further education or apprenticeship processes, offering the best personalised advice and guidance throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

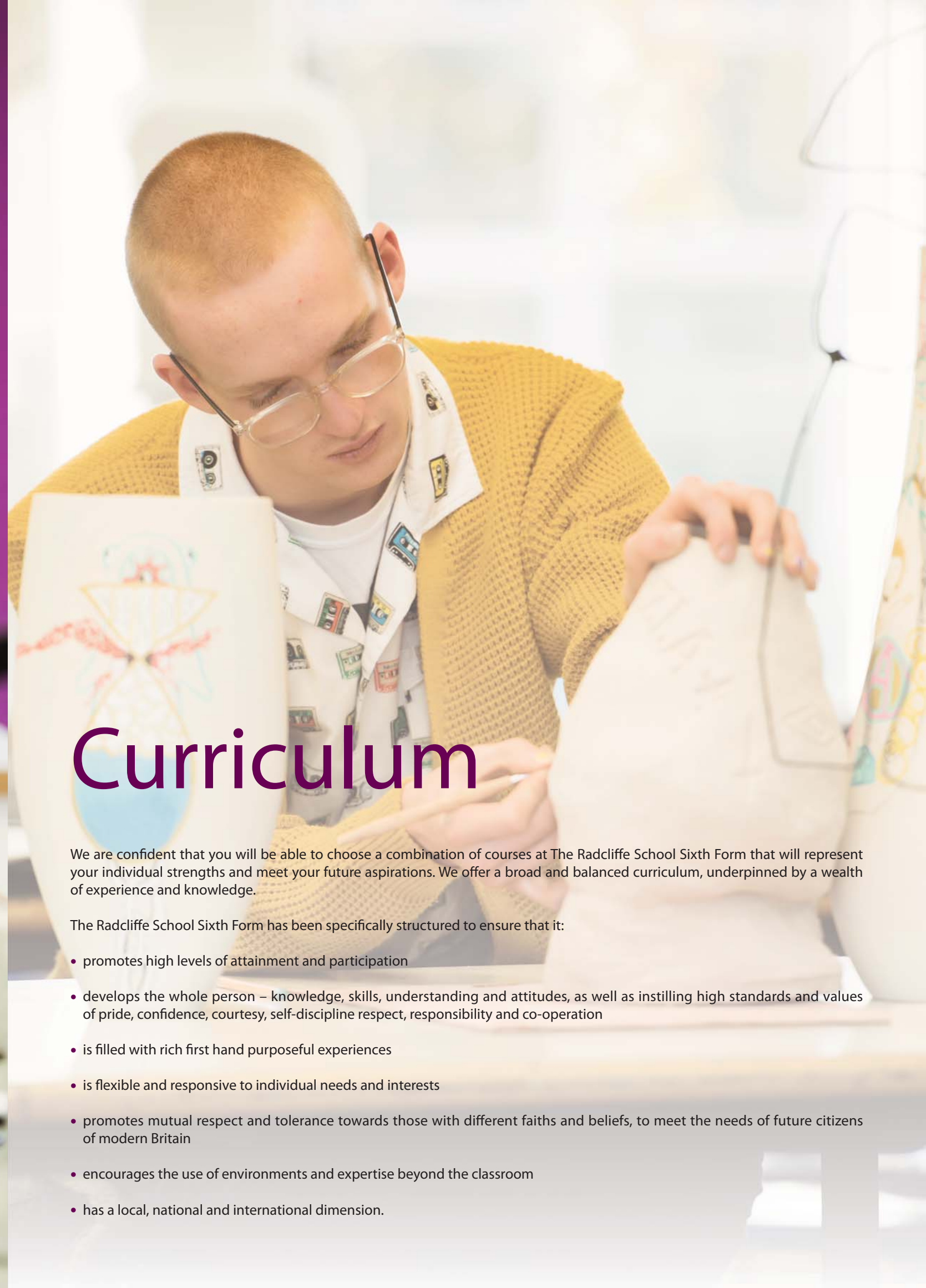
As a school, we pride ourselves on getting to know our students so we can help them to fulfil their personal ambitions and potential. The school offers a unique experience, which guarantees success for those who fully engage and take advantage of the opportunities available during their time with us. When Ofsted rated our 6th Form as Good, we were pleased to receive the validation knowing our students receive a good quality of education. But, this is not the end of a journey, we continue to build on and develop our provision to provide the best opportunities and experiences for every 6th Form student.

Our relatively small and friendly Sixth Form enables us to get to know you as a young adult and to offer you the support you might need throughout this particularly important time. Students joining our Sixth Form will be part of the exciting expansion plans of our Sixth Form accommodation and should be the first group to benefit from those improvements when they open in 2021.

We look forward to seeing you, and discussing the exciting opportunities at The Radcliffe School.

Paula Lawson, Headteacher





Curriculum

We are confident that you will be able to choose a combination of courses at The Radcliffe School Sixth Form that will represent your individual strengths and meet your future aspirations. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, underpinned by a wealth of experience and knowledge.

The Radcliffe School Sixth Form has been specifically structured to ensure that it:

- promotes high levels of attainment and participation
- develops the whole person – knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes, as well as instilling high standards and values of pride, confidence, courtesy, self-discipline respect, responsibility and co-operation
- is filled with rich first hand purposeful experiences
- is flexible and responsive to individual needs and interests
- promotes mutual respect and tolerance towards those with different faiths and beliefs, to meet the needs of future citizens of modern Britain
- encourages the use of environments and expertise beyond the classroom
- has a local, national and international dimension.

Opportunities

At The Radcliffe School Sixth Form students have ample opportunities to get involved in activities, show off their skills or try out something different. We believe time here should be enriching and fun. We have a number of opportunities which will allow students to develop new interests, abilities and make a positive contribution to the school community.

Opportunities that make a difference

We actively seek ways of providing students with opportunities within the wider school community to develop their leadership and organisational skills. All students take up posts as learning mentors and support their peers weekly in a variety of activities. These activities range from supporting guided reading to, numeracy tutoring, to one to one mentoring.

The Radcliffe Sixth Form has a variety of partnerships with local businesses. All students will meet a number of business men and women through our career workout, facilitated by our careers lead and supported by Worktree, to help them understand more about employability in the workplace and transferable skills. Additionally, we are linked with an enterprise adviser from Network Rail, who offers us opportunities throughout the year, including CV workshops and visits. There are a number of opportunities for students to participate in talks and seminars with different employers, as well as interview preparation and one to one guidance. Students are encouraged to consider work experience or work place visits in Year 12, to help inform their 'next steps' choices. Students have also successfully participated in the Nuffield research placements and received mentoring from the social mobility foundation.

The skills learnt from these activities and partnerships, we believe, are vital to support our students to comfortably stand out from the crowd. Some of the activities above (if complete to the required standard) can provide a national accreditation in leadership skills.

Students are encouraged on Fridays to try a different enrichment activity. These range from Origami to sketching, from Yoga to sign language. Each term there is a different selection to choose from and students can explore those different activities which are specifically identified to make a difference to student mental health. Students have the opportunity to take part in dedicated Sixth Form PE lessons, House competitions for sport and other activities and volunteer in the local community.

The Student Leadership Team are appointed each year and they contribute to shaping the provision for the Radcliffe Sixth Form. Student voice is valued and encouraged at the Radcliffe School and our students run their own Sixth Form Council. The Council is driven to make positive changes for the students and support the organisation of Sixth Form events including the Annual Prospective Parents Evening, the production of Year Books, organisation of Reward Trips and the Summer Ball.

Throughout the Sixth Form the students have a wide range of access to professionals who can inform and support the development of the skills needed to be independent adults. This can be something as simple as help filling in driving licence forms independently to cooking on a budget, from keeping yourself safe, to managing a budget. As our students grow and mature we support them with a variety of opportunities that will inform and consolidate the knowledge they need to develop into well rounded adults.



Helping you to move on to Higher Education, Employment or Apprenticeships

In addition to your studies, it is important that you make the most of developing other skills, talents and interests and gain the enjoyment and satisfaction in playing a full part in school life.

Increasingly, employers and higher education providers are looking for students who can demonstrate transferable skills and qualities alongside academic qualifications. There are a number of opportunities within school to develop these skills including the Young Enterprise Company Programme, Critical Thinking, Languages, Ethics, Sport, Creative Writing, Web Design and Debating. Students are encouraged to volunteer and help others, whether in school or the wider community. The Get Involved Campaign has been very successful, where students have the opportunity to work alongside and mentor younger students in school.

As part of the tutor programme, students have the opportunity to prepare applications for their Post-18 pathways. Students are fully supported in the UCAS process, with tutors and our Careers Adviser providing advice and support on early entry, Oxbridge, personal statements and interview techniques. Students are encouraged to attend talks and seminars on areas of academic interest, whilst also attending open days and taster events. All Year 12 students visit the UCAS fair in the summer term.

In Year 12 parents and carers are invited to our 'way to work' presentation, outlining all the options available to Post-18 students and explaining the UCAS and apprenticeship process. We also have a presentation on student finance.

We recognise all students have a range of options and pathways available to them and we are keen to ensure our students are made aware of the variety of opportunities available. Our Careers Adviser can provide a personalised programme of support and will help identify opportunities for all students, helping them make informed choices throughout. The Careers Office is based within the Sixth Form and the Careers Adviser is part of the Sixth Form Team. A Personal Tutor will help students with their applications and interview techniques.

During Tutor Time students plan and prepare applications for their Post-18 pathway. Tutors and visiting experts offer support in preparing CVs and UCAS personal statements. Students are encouraged to attend Master Classes at local universities in areas of study that interest them. University Taster Days and Open Days also offer students the opportunity to find out more about further study and student life.

In Year 12, parents/carers and students are invited to our UCAS Evening to gather information about the university application process, study options and student finance. Students considering Oxbridge applications or careers in Medicine and Law will be invited to additional evening sessions to prepare for interviews and BMAT and LNAT entrance exams.

Pastoral System

The Sixth Form pastoral system and tutor groups are organised in such a way as to enable tutors to focus specifically upon the needs of individual students. It is a student-centred approach. Therefore, a combination of group tutorials and individual personal tutoring occurs. We also have a non-teaching Assistant Head of Sixth Form and a Sixth Form Study Supervisor to support all students when necessary.

Role of the Personal Tutor:

- to be the primary contact point for students and have a key role in supporting active learning and personal development
- to carry out a tutorial programme designed to promote an active independent approach to study
- to offer individual support to each student
- to provide a link and referral route to the support services
- to provide a link with the administration services and a communication channel between academic, pastoral, and careers support staff
- to have responsibility for general oversight of the tutor groups
- to monitor, guide and counsel students in academic, pastoral and welfare aspects of their development.
- to teach an enrichment programme.

Role of the Student:

- to accept responsibility for their own learning
- to be positive and active about all aspects of their academic and non-academic courses
- to identify their own individual needs
- to develop core skills and effective planning and organisation
- to set themselves realistic learning and personal targets in consultation with their tutor
- to think through their own progress and identify areas of strengths and weaknesses and develop appropriate strategies
- to research their career needs.





The Radcliffe School Sixth Form entry requirements

The Radcliffe School Sixth Form is open to all students who wish to continue their studies beyond the age of 16, on the understanding that the student is prepared to study seriously and make a positive contribution to the school community. The decision on which course of study to follow should be made after carefully considering the level of achievement at the end of Year 11 and the subjects that are likely to further career choices.

Entry into the Sixth Form will be based on the following:

- Examination results – we require Five or more 9-4 grades at GCSE (or BTEC Merits) including either English or Maths
- Interview with senior staff at The Radcliffe School.

Key Steps

Visit the school website for more information and a virtual tour.

26th January 2024:
Deadline for submitting your online application form

Throughout January / February: Interviews for applicants

Beginning of September: Enrolment Day

Careers

A Careers Adviser is available on site to all Post-16 students. They provide personalised guidance and access to support on a range of issues which might affect you. This may include careers, education and financial advice and guidance.

Students can request an individual interview so that support can be personalised to meet their individual needs. The Adviser is an expert in helping make difficult decisions more manageable.

We recognise that you may be studying, or have studied, other types of qualifications in addition to GCSE's. We consider a variety of qualifications as equivalents to GCSE's. Each of our courses list specific entry requirements and these will be discussed with students at an interview.