



Prospectus



Sixth Form Prospectus

In Pursuit of Excellence



The Sixth Form is a

strength

of the school.

Ofsted



welcome



A Warm Welcome

Highcliffe Sixth Form encourages all of its students to aspire to the highest levels of achievement and enables them to prepare for adult life. We offer a broad range of qualifications and encourage each individual to choose a balanced and challenging combination of courses appropriate to their strengths, interests and ambitions. Sixth Form studies are designed to ensure exam success and help students become independent thinkers and learners – not only through their main examination courses, but also through the acquisition of key skills and involvement in the academic and personal enrichment programme. We aim to combine a friendly and informal atmosphere with high expectations and high standards of achievement. The choice you make about which path to take at the age of sixteen will influence the future direction of your life. It is a critical decision. We aim to ensure that you never have cause to regret choosing Highcliffe Sixth Form.

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Highcliffe is a successful and popular school with an established record of nurturing high levels of attainment in its students. We provide a first rate teaching environment which challenges all students to achieve their very best, supported by a structured academic and pastoral tutorial programme to guide them in this endeavour.

29%

Of all grades achieved were A- A*

60%

Of all grades achieved were A- B*

80%

Of all grades achieved were A- C*

94%

*Of all grades achieved were Distinction/ Distinction**

Our Vision: We value the power of education to change lives.



“ Absolutely

delighted

with Sixth Form and also the school as a whole, both boys are happy, great results and no concerns.

Parent

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Why Choose Highcliffe Sixth Form?



- Excellent examination results and progression into Higher Education
- Academic rigour and challenge in subjects, combined with a wealth of personal and academic enrichment opportunities and extra-curricular field trips and visits
- Carefully personalised 'university style' support for independent study skills with groups and individuals provided by the Sixth Form Study Mentor
- A positive, mature and supportive environment that values the individual and supports the realisation of their potential
- A warm, inclusive community where strong relationships between students and staff are the foundation for success
- Excellent facilities including Sixth Form Cafe, Study Centre, Art Studio, Music Recording Studio, Fitness Suite, Language Labs and a state-of-the-art Technology Centre
- Exceptional preparation for Oxbridge and medical applications, university admissions tests and interviews
- A comprehensive programme of career preparation, advice and guidance, including links with businesses and apprenticeship providers
- Strong student voice and opportunities to develop teamwork and leadership skills ready for the workplace
- Financial support, travel subsidies and Sixth Form transport service

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“This is an academic sixth form. There is a focus on critical thinking and problem-solving with Sixth Form teaching. Students respond well and gain high outcomes as a result.”

Ofsted ”

Student Voice

The Sixth Form committee, led by our head girl and head boy, supports and enhances student life in the Sixth Form. The committee is run by students for students and meets regularly to voice the opinions of the Sixth Form as well as making key decisions about forthcoming events and activities in the wider school community.

We recognise the importance of developing leadership skills and the range of opportunities we offer is outstanding. Roles within the student leadership team are extensive. They range from encouraging and mentoring younger students to develop their self-confidence and communication skills, delivering assemblies, taking part in school presentations and organising social and charity events.



Having only moved to Highcliffe in Year 11, choosing the Sixth Form was an obvious choice, as the inclusive atmosphere and positive, stimulating energy that the teachers and learning environment created, ensured I felt welcome and prepared to succeed from day one. Teachers recognise you as individuals, and are open to discussing issues or problems you may have.

*Oliver Wilmore
Head Boy
Australia*



I chose to come to Highcliffe School because I knew I would have constant support from the teachers to aid and encourage my learning, as the relationship with the teachers is brilliant. The mature environment is highly encouraged throughout the Sixth Form which has prepared me for furthering my academic studies. The atmosphere is welcoming and friendly.

*Eleanor Dibdin
Head Girl
Highcliffe School*



I came to Highcliffe because of the excellent academic achievement proved over the last few years in the areas I wish to study namely Maths, Physics and History. My aims for the future are to study history and politics at university with a view to go into law or politics later on in life; Highcliffe has offered me great support to help me through my applications.

*Charlie Silverwood
Deputy Head Boy
Bournemouth School for
Boys*



There are many amazing opportunities such as extra curricular activities which advance our growth on both academic and personal levels. The positivity and overwhelming support has created an excellent working environment which continuously enables students to thrive.

*Ekaterina Cherskova
Deputy Head Girl
Avonbourne School*



“ It is quality and

reputation

that count. Highcliffe has both!

Parent

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The Sixth Form provides a wide range of academic courses. Students are

ambitious

and work hard to achieve good results.

Ofsted

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Academic Scholarship

The majority of our students follow an academically challenging programme comprising of three A level or combined A level/BTEC courses. However, there is the possibility for students to take four in exceptional circumstances. These subjects are chosen from the wide range on offer, the details of which are set out in the course directory. Additionally, all Year 12 students follow an enrichment programme to cultivate both academic scholarship and personal development in preparation for adult life.

Examinations are just one dimension of academic life: unlike examination syllabuses, scholarship is limitless.

At Highcliffe, we balance the rigour of carefully crafted examination preparation with the development of research skills and the ability to debate, communicate confidently, solve problems and think both critically and creatively. Delivered through academic lessons, tutorials and university-style seminars, these skills have inherent, lifelong value and universities and prospective employers are always on the lookout for candidates who possess them.

Our Super-Curriculum encapsulates all those activities that foster academic endeavour beyond the measurable outcomes of examination results. It includes (but is not limited to) wide and habitual reading, extended project work, stretch and challenge questions, debates, public speaking, research, competitions, lectures, MOOCs and study trips/visits.



“It’s very easy to think, not having come from a private Sixth Form, that applying to Oxbridge is something completely out of reach, but I am pleased to say that Highcliffe have been instrumental in showing me that this is not the case. Even before I made my application, I was taken on several visits to Oxford which really inspired me to go for it. For me, the Oxbridge Conference at Epsom Downs and the residential trip to Keble College in Year 12 were invaluable in that they gave me the opportunity to ask any questions and, as I was able to stay in college for a couple of nights, was able to gain a real insight into the many fabulous opportunities afforded to Oxford students. When it came to writing my Personal Statement, which can seem an incredibly daunting process, my teachers were extremely helpful in advising me on content and were only too happy to proof read and refine many initial drafts. In terms of preparation for my entrance exam and interview, my teachers were very supportive: my Italian teacher suggested further reading which stretched me beyond the A Level syllabus and made time to mark past MLAT papers. This, along with a mock interview, helped me to know what to expect in the ‘real thing’ and certainly strengthened my application. Throughout my time at Highcliffe, I felt encouraged to realise my full potential in an environment that was endlessly friendly and supportive. I am extremely grateful to my teachers who went the extra mile to make the next step in my academic life a fulfilling and exciting one.”

Alice Ritchie
Oxford University
Linguistics



“ *The World Challenge trip to Borneo
was absolutely*

amazing

*and without doubt the most rewarding and
enjoyable experience of my life so far.*

Student





Academic and Personal Enrichment

We offer a comprehensive programme of enrichment activities, social events and trips based on student interests and what will support their future pathway. Students will meet new people, broaden their skills and experience and impress future employers.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

In addition to the academic courses and qualifications that are available, we also offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities for Sixth Form students. Our Enrichment Programme is designed to prepare students for adult life and give our students 'the edge' over others locally, nationally and internationally. Our aim is to help shape your character so that you can make a genuine difference to local communities and the world around you.

DEBATE CLUB

Highcliffe has a popular, well-established Debate Club which helps students increase their knowledge of current affairs and develop their critical thinking skills.



I chose Highcliffe because I had a very good experience with the teachers and the support I received really meant that Highcliffe was the choice for me, as I knew the teachers support and help would be really beneficial at A Level, as the difficulty of subjects increases. The enrichment and trips/visits really enhance your learning abilities and make Sixth Form really enjoyable.

Toby Lockyer
Highcliffe School



I chose Highcliffe due to its fantastic reputation and also the fact I would be enhancing my education as soon as my first lesson began. I haven't looked back since. Highcliffe has offered us a wide range of activities, which range across a multitude of subjects which benefits the entire Sixth Form community as it means everyone can get involved.

Archie Korrie
Highcliffe School

Future Pathways

Students follow an intensive programme of preparation for their future career pathway and can access extensive advice and support. During Year 12, students follow a broad careers programme, where we identify potential career opportunities accessed through university degrees, apprenticeships, further education, employment or training.

In partnership with external providers, we also deliver a one day Future Pathways conference, aimed at supporting students' applications to university or vocational progression routes. For those students who choose to make an application to university, we explore current issues on student finance, student life, course entry requirements and how to write an effective personal statement. For students following a vocational or employment pathway we explore apprenticeships, trends in the current job market, how to put together an effective CV and guidance on interview technique. Students undertake a two day employability, enterprise and empowerment (EEE) course, in addition to exploring critical thinking skills for the work place. All students are encouraged to undertake a period of work experience to support their future career aspirations.



Highcliffe was exactly what I was looking for. It was, and still is, the perfect combination of support and preparation for independence. They also made the application process easy and gave me a lot of information and opportunities during the course of it. I'm now on track for A Levels and university applications, a process that has been made a lot less stressful thanks to all the help I have received.

*Alex Constantine-Smith
Priestlands School*



Before moving to England I researched the best schools in the area, Highcliffe School seemed like the best. As I joined in Year 11, after moving from Spain, I was also thinking ahead to Sixth Form and Highcliffe Sixth has had good results in the past. Even though the lessons were challenging I enjoyed them, and the teachers always supported and keep supporting me now. I really enjoy studying in Highcliffe's Sixth Form as there is a very good working atmosphere and you are able to see the results of your hard work.

*Irene Mercader Pastor
Spain*



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The majority of students remain in education post-18. Many go to the top third of higher education institutes and

Russell Group

universities.

Ofsted

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There is good promotion of equality of

opportunity.

There are proactive practices to break down stereotypical perceptions.

Ofsted ”

A Supportive Environment

At Highcliffe, we pride ourselves on the quality of support and guidance that we offer. Throughout the academic year students take part in tutorials, workshops and events specifically designed to ensure every student can realise their potential and understand the skills necessary for them to bridge the gap between GCSE and Sixth Form study, and build upon their own learning and scholarship.

TRANSITION SUPPORT

- Open Evening and Taster Day
- Course advice at interview
- Transition support and induction; promoting a successful and smooth transition into Year 12 and 13

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Academic 'university style' mentoring and coaching tutorials led by a specialist Sixth Form tutor
- Target setting to help students achieve their potential
- Monitoring and Support Plans to identify and prevent underachievement
- Academic Focus Days – (Study Skills, Independent Learning, Revision)
- Structured workshops on: time management, essay writing, proof reading, plagiarism, exams and revision, Harvard Referencing and basic grammar
- One-to-one or small group sessions with the Sixth Form Study Mentor for students who may need additional support and guidance
- Pre University seminars, for example: preparing for Open Days, student bank accounts, referencing, and researching at university level

FUTURE PATHWAYS SUPPORT

- Unifrog Platform
- Excellent individual advice, guidance and support with university and job applications
- Mock interviews
- Advice and information about employment locally, nationally and internationally
- Assistance with Work Experience/Shadowing placements
- Higher Education advice, including help with UCAS applications and guidance on applying for the right course at the right institution
- University Visits/Conferences and help organising undergraduate shadowing schemes
- Help with preparing for university aptitude tests, including BMAT, LNAT, TSA etc.
- Enrichment Programme

PASTORAL SUPPORT

- Advice on personal issues, supported by our local partners, e.g. ELSA, School Nurse, Shadows etc.
- One to one and small group mentoring and coaching tutorials to enable students to become more independent and empower progress

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Subsidised travel costs & transport service
- 16-19 Bursary

Student Life

THE HIGHCLIFFE EXPERIENCE

We offer a comprehensive programme of subject related trips, visits and social events and trips based on student interests. Students will meet new people, broaden their skills and experience and impress future employers.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES, TRIPS AND VISITS

Extra-curricular activities are diverse and include school productions, concerts, sporting clubs, language courses, first aid qualifications and work experience. Social events such as the induction day, paintballing, bowling, quiz nights and Freshers' parties offer many opportunities to build new friendships.

Trips to Borneo, Madagascar, India, Vietnam/Cambodia, Japan, America, and Europe offer students the opportunity to broaden horizons and experience different cultures. Curriculum based trips such as the Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics trip to Iceland, Art and Photography trip to Paris, History trip to St Petersburg and work experience in Normandy. University visits, Southampton Hospital pathology unit trip, field trips including the residential Ecology Field Trip to Kimmeridge Bay, museums/gallery tours and theatre productions are just a taster of the visits we run to enrich student experiences and learning outside of the classroom.



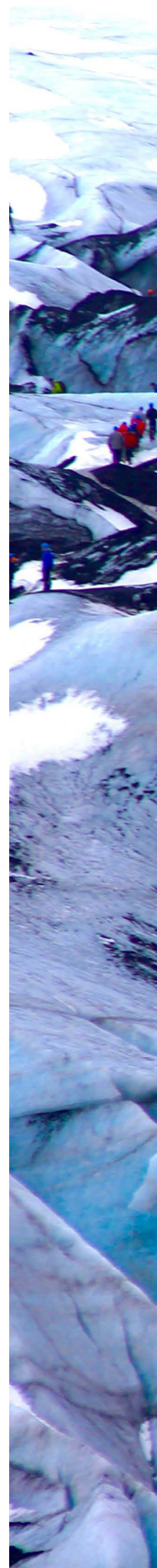
There are always lots of events going on in and out of school. The extra curricular activities are great, especially our enrichment time, we have many activities to choose from. I chose to complete an eight week photography for enrichment.

James Davies
Highcliffe School



The Japanese Exchange was excellent. It allowed me to really understand Japanese culture and traditions as well as practice my language skills. I really loved being invited into someone's home especially as they made me feel so welcome.

Ellie Pritchard
Highcliffe School





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My daughter came from another school to attend Sixth Form and we feel it has been the best decision we made. She has

excelled

in all her subjects and loves the enrichment opportunities.

Parent

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The Sixth Form provides a good platform for

future opportunities

in employment, education and training.

Ofsted

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Beyond Highcliffe Sixth

It is vitally important to us at Highcliffe that all our students leave the Sixth Form as well-rounded, experienced and skilful young adults. We are always fascinated to hear what former students of Highcliffe have gone on to do after leaving Sixth Form. Over the years, students from Highcliffe have gone on to achieve outstanding success in a huge variety of different fields. Here we share just a few of our success stories with you. **Our Vision: We value the power of education to change lives.**

UNIVERSITY LINKS

One of the ways we support our students is through developing strong links with Universities and other further education providers. An excellent example of these links is with the Arts University Bournemouth where through this close and unique relationship our students are interviewed at school within our spectacular Da Vinci building by the University's Head of Foundation Course. In 2018 eleven of our students had the opportunity to discuss their work and future aspirations within the Art and Design industry through this process and due to the high calibre of student applications from Highcliffe School, all 11 students were offered a place on the Foundation Course starting in September 2018 which is fantastic news and excellent progression for our Art and Design students.





Bradley Tombleson

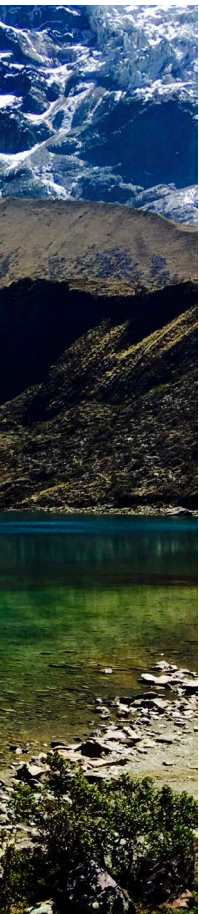
SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY, POPULATION AND GEOGRAPHY

"I'm currently at the University of Southampton studying BSc Population and Geography, the perfect hybrid between human geography and demography (demography is essentially the study of past and future trends in births, deaths, disease and migration). The degree may focus heavily on statistics, but I'm on track to obtain a first-class honours degree, having avoided Maths since my grade C at GCSE! So, don't underestimate your abilities..."

Thanks to the skills I've gained from Highcliffe, my degree programme, and the opportunities provided by Southampton, I've been able to pursue a variety of different work-related avenues: from working on a (voluntary) female empowerment project in India, and researching in Ghana; to being a student ambassador in China and an international student in Canada. I've been able to fulfil my dream of travelling during my degree, and I've certainly not been bored!

I regularly think about the memories I made at Highcliffe and just how fantastic those seven years were. Of course there were a lot of 'peaks and troughs', as with anything in life, but I think this is evidence of our passion; it shows that we care. Highcliffe taught me the power of ambition, resilience and friendship, and these lessons will remain with me well-beyond graduation. Believe in yourself and you can achieve!"





Rebecca Tooze

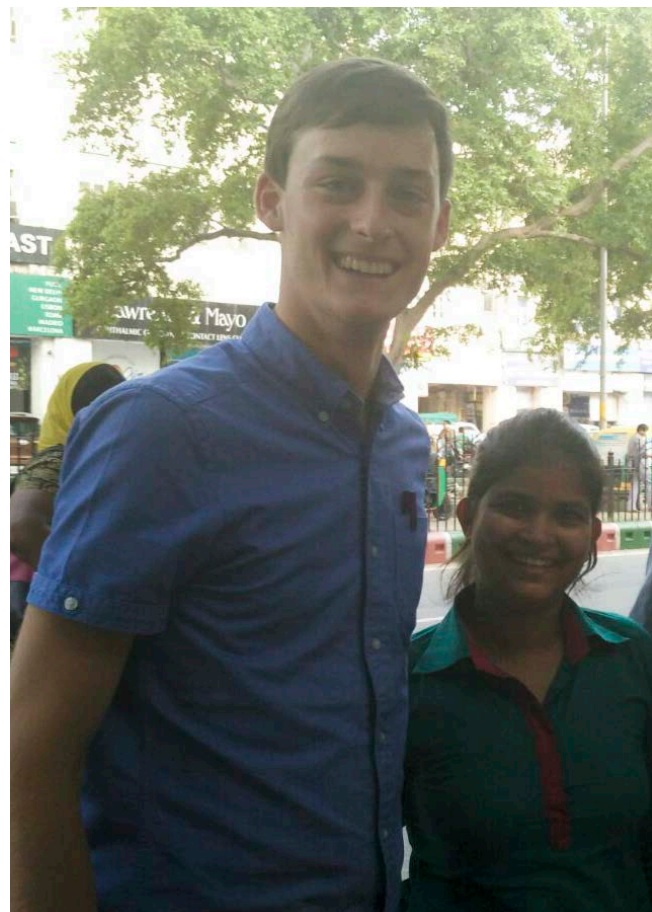
EXETER UNIVERSITY, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Rebecca is now in her second year at Exeter University and after delighting us with her account of biological studies with owls in her first year, Rebecca has been in touch again with news of her latest adventure:

"I have recently got back from Peru having done the Salkantay trek to Machu Picchu! It was one of the most incredible experiences ever and much more difficult than I was expecting but made it to the end despite being very bruised and injured by the end of it! I am leading a team this year to Everest Base Camp for Hope for Children which is very exciting but also a lot of responsibility to make sure everyone is reaching their targets and having to organise fundraising workshops and socials etc!! They do a lot of work with children in both the UK and in deprived countries by helping them be self sufficient and providing education and food and do receive some sponsorship from Children in Need and Comic Relief but are not a massively known charity!

I am also the Chair of the Biosciences Student-Staff Liaison Committee this year which is a bit daunting because I kind of got thrown into the role and now have to have meetings with people very important within the university!

University is going incredibly quickly! Lots of essays starting to do with mitochondrial dynamics which is really interesting! I'm on the programme to do a conservation project next June in the Bahamas to look at coral reefs and then will be on a years' study abroad hopefully to Australia so I'm really looking forward to that! (I promise I am doing work in the middle of all of this!)



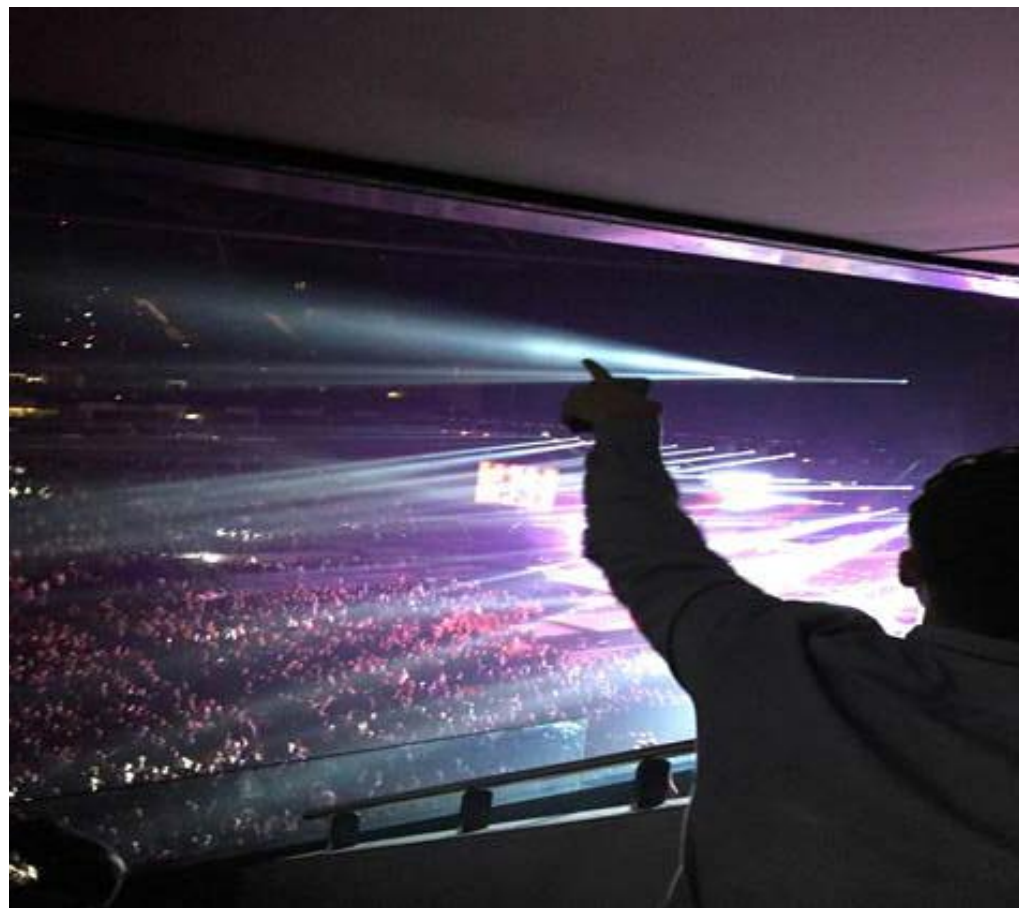
Kathryn Moses

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL: FRENCH, SPANISH AND ITALIAN

I have just finished my first year at Bristol studying my dream course, the Three Language Programme. I had always hoped to study multiple languages for my degree and with the help of my fantastic A-Level Spanish and French teachers at Highcliffe I was more than prepared for the start of uni. My course is a little bit unique as, once I had arrived at Bristol, I was able to sit an extra placement test which allowed me to join the post-A Level Italian class despite not having studied Italian at A level. I have to thank the Italian students in Highcliffe Sixth for this, as they gave me so much help and encouragement to learn Italian and this in turn has enabled me to fast-track my studies at Bristol. The needs of every student are considered individually at Bristol and I am very proud to be (as far as I know!) the only non-native student doing a course with this special structure.

I have also been fortunate enough to secure a scholarship with Lloyds Bank. As I write, I'm back at Highcliffe for two weeks as a volunteer Languages and Maths assistant as part of my scholarship programme. The Lloyds Scholars programme is a fantastic scheme that provides financial support, paid internships, a business mentor and develops employability skills. I'm about to embark on my first 10-week internship in Central London working in innovation in Lloyds' digital sector, which I am extremely excited about!

However, it's also just really nice to be back! I knew I wanted to do my volunteering here because I wanted to give something back to the teachers that have done so much for me and have now become more like friends to me. Thank you for everything Highcliffe, you've made all the difference and have prepared me so well for life after Sixth Form. I truly could not have done it without you!





Mitch Clay

VISA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPRENTICESHIP

Over the last year or so I've worked on projects for both Visa and The Telegraph (I've just switched companies) building mobile and web apps; everything from prototypes for defining product direction and user experience, production applications and even innovation prototypes. To get to the point...I help companies solve real world digital problems through experiences that enrich users life. Although I certainly wouldn't be in this position with out the opportunity to be an apprentice.

While at Highcliffe Sixth Form I studied ICT, Electronics and Computing with plans to study Computer Science at university. That was until I heard about the Visa IT Apprenticeship.

Rotating every six months for two years has given me the opportunity to kick start my career with a wealth of technical experience. In addition I have completed a foundation degree through the Open University, a level 4 Diploma and industry-wide qualifications. For my final year as an apprentice I spent my time specialising as a front end developer within Visa's Innovation team, before finally getting a job in this area.

While at Highcliffe the best support came from speaking to teachers and career advisors about the different opportunities available. Mr.Downs actually put me in contact with an ex-student (Adam Davies - pictured second from the right) who was already an apprentice at Visa, after speaking to him I was sold on applying.

Lastly it's not all work on an apprenticeship, we'd frequently be out on team building events or in Visa's box at the O2. Also don't rule out not getting the 'uni experience' on an apprenticeship I moved in with six other apprentices.



Ben Radford

GAP YEAR, EXETER UNIVERSITY, MARINE BIOLOGY

I chose to do a gap year because I wanted to learn new skills and get practical qualifications relevant to my university course. I volunteered to work and live on Kwantu Private Game reserve in South Africa for two months. During this time, I completed a Game Ranger course where I took game drives and went on bush treks. I also took part in conservation work around the reserve, and attended lectures and classes on Biology, Geology, Geography, Astronomy, and Climatology. Furthermore, I was taught rudimentary ways to navigate using the stars, and to track animals based on “scat and track” identification. This enabled me to pass my Field Guide exam, allowing me to become a qualified Level 1 FGASA field guide.

It was a truly outstanding experience and the Biology and Geography lessons taught by the teachers at Highcliffe School definitely helped.

After these two amazing months, I then travelled to Playa Del Carmen in Mexico, where I took part in a two month marine conservation expedition to record the biodiversity of the local barrier reef ecosystem. I attained my PADI Advanced Open Water Diver qualification, PADI Rescue Diver qualification and PADI Coral Reef Research Diver Distinct Speciality qualification.

I've learnt so much during this year, all of which has built upon the solid foundation Highcliffe Sixth gave me. My time at Highcliffe was extremely fun; I had a good relationship with my teachers and lessons were tailored to what I needed to know for exams. All my teachers went the extra mile for me in one way or another and are all responsible for the grades I achieved, which in turn have allowed me to take a year out as well as secure a place on the course I wanted at my chosen university: Marine Biology at Exeter University.





Lottie Kennedy

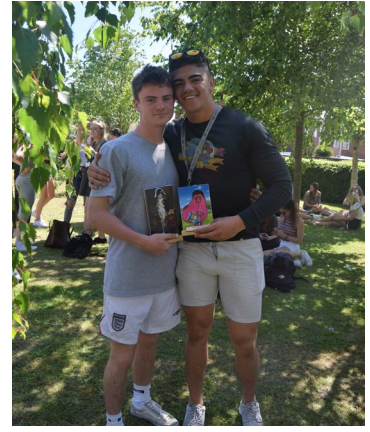
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND, MARKETING

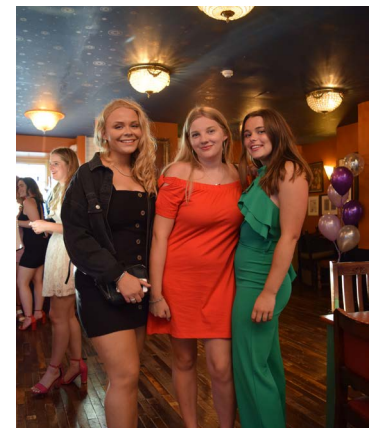
After completing my GCSEs at Highcliffe School, I then progressed to Highcliffe Sixth Form where I had two of the best years of my life!

During my time at University, I had the opportunity to take a 'sandwich year' and gained a placement at The Walt Disney Company in London in the European Product Management team, working on the Studio film releases. From this, I returned to University and graduated with a First Class Honours in Marketing.

I am currently working at The Walt Disney Company as part of the Disney Theatrical Group as a marketing co-ordinator working on live entertainment shows across Europe. My time at Highcliffe definitely shaped the person, which I am today, and the skills and the experience that I gained were invaluable throughout the next stages of my life. Whatever your interest, the teachers at Highcliffe will support and guide you and I could not recommend joining the Sixth Form enough. I would recommend gaining as many experiences as possible during your time and to never turn an opportunity down!







Life at Highcliffe Sixth

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His nature is such that he has to be drawn out by kindness and encouragement but if he be treated well, and love be shown him, he will accomplish things that make the whole world wonder.

**Michelangelo, describing himself as
a young Art student in 1490AD** ”

 **Highcliffe Sixth**

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Registered in England and Wales Company Number: 07631213

All information provided in this booklet is correct at time of going to press September 2018