



# SIDMOUTH COLLEGE PROSPECTUS



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*believe • inspire • succeed*

# Welcome to Sidmouth College

We hope this prospectus will give you a flavour of what makes the College successful, unique, and a special place for learning in East Devon.

Whatever your child's skills and interests, Sidmouth College has a great deal to offer. Students achieve academic success, develop their creativity, have the opportunity to excel on the sports field and encounter a multitude of new experiences in a safe and enjoyable environment. They are encouraged by a team of dedicated, supportive and highly experienced professionals.

At Sidmouth College we believe that the

vibrant learning community, coupled with a culture of high standards and expectations, brings out the best in every student and establishes the best possible foundations for your child's future.

This prospectus aims to give you a sense of what our College offers. If you would like to learn more, we welcome you to visit the College to see what we do. Like others who visit us, we are confident you will be impressed by the working atmosphere, the sense of enjoyment in the learning process and the strong focus on achievement.

We look forward to meeting you.

*"I have met lots of new people and made lots of new friends at Sidmouth College. The teachers are very helpful"*

Year 7 Student



“Pupils say the school has a strong community feel.”

**Ofsted 2022**

“There are good relationships between pupils and staff. Pupils appreciate that staff help them with their concerns.”

**Ofsted 2022**



# Transition

Research shows that a successful transition programme from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 is fundamental to a successful start at secondary school. At the College, we work hard to give our new students a smooth, positive transition to secondary school life. We work closely with our partner primary schools throughout the transition process so that we get to know the students and understand their academic and social needs and abilities. This personal and proactive approach ensures our teaching is responsive and tailored to the individual.

Before starting at Sidmouth College, Year 6 students have the opportunity to spend time with us engaging in some fun team-building activities and familiarising themselves with the College premises and daily routines. Parents are also invited to a Transition Evening and to a Tutor Meeting to

ensure that the crucial two-way partnership between home and College is established.

Year 7 is an important building block in establishing the ethos and values of the College within all students and ensuring their future success. From the start, our focus on pastoral care and student wellbeing enables students to forge strong relationships with others in their year group, their house group and with their form tutors.

*"I like Science lessons, especially the practicals where we do exciting experiments"*

Year 7 Student



# A stimulating & exciting learning journey

Learning is an adventure to be enjoyed; a journey that stretches, challenges and opens minds. Our focus is on delivering exciting and challenging teaching which enables all of our students to achieve the very best they can. We have high aspirations for all our students and our highly skilled and enthusiastic staff will encourage your child to have strong ambitions and work hard to achieve these.

Our rich curriculum inspires students to succeed through a learning journey that provides knowledge, skills and opportunities for them to be responsible global citizens with positive life chances. Our overarching aim is to provide our young people with the skills and qualifications they need to become happy, successful adults with a passion for lifelong learning and so our curriculum is personalised to meet students' individual needs.

Our Key Stage 3 programme aims to raise the ambitions of all our students, develop their knowledge, skills and understanding, and help them to have confidence in their abilities. At Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to study a range of personalised pathways designed to support their individual talents and interests and maximise their achievement and success. Further ahead, a large proportion of our students then move on to our Sixth Form, which is now bigger, better and more successful than ever.

*"My favourite thing about going to Sidmouth College is making things in woodwork and getting to take them home to use"*

Year 7 Student





“Pupils, staff and the community are proud of the school and about their achievements.”

**Ofsted 2022**

“Behaviour in lessons is good and pupils focus on their learning well.”

**Ofsted 2022**

“Pupils are well informed about mental well-being and know how to look after themselves and seek help if needed.”

**Ofsted 2022**

“Pupils feel safe at school.”

**Ofsted 2022**



# A caring & supportive community

We recognise the need for high quality support and guidance to ensure that all students feel cared for as individuals and can fulfil their potential. Care, guidance and support are strengths of the College. Each student has a dedicated support network, including a form tutor and Head of House, backed up by an extremely strong Student Support Department and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator who ensure that students have the full range of support and help that they need to access the curriculum and make good progress.

Respect and consideration are the watchwords for the way we expect our students to treat each other and staff. Good behaviour is rewarded. Poor behaviour is not tolerated. Clear policies and sanctions exist and are acted upon to ensure that every child feels safe and secure.

Visitors frequently comment on the high quality of relationships and behaviour our students present and the calm and friendly community atmosphere that exists across the College.

*"When I joined Sidmouth College I was nervous, but the teachers helped me to enjoy lessons and learn lots. I made loads of friends very quickly"*

Year 7 Student



# A culture of high expectations

Expectations at Sidmouth College are kept high in order to ensure a happy, vibrant learning environment where success is at the forefront of all we do. We have a relentless focus on the quality of learning taking place.

High standards of work, behaviour and achievement are the daily diet for our students and we work hard to ensure that every student is given the individual support they need to make the best progress and achieve their full potential. Exemplary behaviour is essential for successful learning and is expected from all students.

The College has a clearly defined strategy to raise expectations and improve standards. We believe in rewarding positive learning behaviours. Students' successes and achievements – whether it be an outstanding piece of work or a contribution to the College community - are celebrated and contribute towards Praise Points.

*"Sidmouth College has helped both my children develop their knowledge and skills across a range of subjects"*

Parent

*"Sidmouth College is a wonderful place to learn. It challenges and supports my child to excel"*

Parent





“There are many opportunities, especially in sports and performing arts.”

**Ofsted 2022**

“Reading is a priority for leaders. The library is central to their work to promote a love of reading.”

**Ofsted 2022**

“The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.”

**Ofsted 2022**

“There is a wide range of enrichment activities to further promote pupils’ personal development.”

**Ofsted 2022**



# Beyond the classroom

We offer a wide programme of engaging, fun and educational activities which extend the curriculum and give all our students additional opportunities to widen their interests and succeed in new areas and experiences. From cricket to creative writing, and from drama productions to Duke of Edinburgh and Ten Tors, the wide range of activities on offer provides our students with a well-rounded education and one in which our talented team of staff can share their skills and experiences beyond the classroom.

We have excellent sports facilities within our 13.37 acre grounds, including extensive grass and all-weather playing fields. Our students also benefit from use of the gym, sports hall and squash courts at the neighbouring Sidmouth Leisure Centre. Students are encouraged to trial for College sports teams and compete, with a great deal of success, in fixtures

and events at a local, regional and county level throughout the school year.

In addition, we have developed excellent partnerships with parents, carers, our Primary School partners and the wider community, many of whom provide work experience opportunities for our students. These partnerships also give our students the opportunity to contribute to a variety of interesting community events and activities, such as the annual Sidmouth Science Festival, Sidmouth Seafest and the world famous Folk Festival. Regular charitable fundraising events organised by the College teach our students to respect their community, have compassion and value the needs of others.



# The Sixth Form: a great place to be

For many, the choice of secondary school will take into account whether there is the opportunity to study post-16. The Sixth Form at Sidmouth College is academically successful and a secure and vibrant learning community where students benefit from smaller class sizes and close monitoring by their teachers. Sixth Formers have their own separate common room and facilities including an IT Suite, work area and café.

Our Sixth Formers not only develop increased independence, but also acquire additional life skills and experiences through the many opportunities they have to mentor younger students and get involved in our wide range of extra-curricular and community activities. In Year 13 students can choose to put themselves forward to serve as Head Boy and Head Girl.

Above all, the Sixth Form at Sidmouth College is a dynamic place. We are not content with the status quo. We have an extensive and ever-changing enrichment programme and we regularly introduce new subjects, new activities and new facilities.

Alongside traditional A-Levels, we can offer vocational courses, which are supported by local businesses. We also work in partnership with local schools and colleges in East Devon to offer many different enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities.

When students leave Sidmouth College Sixth Form they not only have impressive qualifications but are also successful, creative, articulate, confident and independent.





“The number of pupils joining the Sixth Form has increased. Students say they choose to study at the school because they feel supported, and teachers are ‘always there’ for them. The school offers a choice of A-level subjects and the curriculum has been carefully planned.”

**Ofsted 2022**



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