



STROOD
ACADEMY



POST 16

Prospectus 2022/23

Be Inquisitive | Be Respectful | Be Resilient | Be Kind

Sixth Form at Strood Academy



is part of Leigh Academies
Trust

Leigh Academies Trust is one of the country's largest and most-established multi-academy trusts operating across Kent, Medway and South East London. It contains primary, secondary and special academies and is highly inclusive and successful. Our mission is to deliver "education for a better world" by ensuring that young people in our academies have an excellent start in life regardless of their background or ability.



Our Values

We care -

about our pupils and their families through our human scale approach to education, our staff and their well-being and the world around us, driven by our high ideals and strong moral values.

We have boundless ambition -

to achieve excellence for all and create confident young adults with high levels of resilience and integrity.

We work together -

as one team because we are greater than the sum of our parts. We foster an enterprising culture through global collaboration with partners in business and education.

We keep getting better -

using our 'can-do' attitude and research informed approach to continuous improvement and innovation.

For admission enquiries telephone: 01634 717121
Or email: sixthformadmin@stroodacademy.org

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Welcome

to Strood Academy Sixth Form

Welcome to Strood Academy Sixth Form. We offer a broad provision of subjects allowing choice and specialisation for all students, yet maintaining a personalised and supportive structure. We offer the International Baccalaureate which allows students to broaden their academic qualifications and their understanding of the world we live in.

We are very proud of the achievements and development of our students who consistently achieve high and leave us with the qualifications and skill set required for future success in the next stages of their lives.

Our Sixth Form is underpinned by our core values of being kind, respectful and resilient in our journey towards excellence. These provide the foundation of our Sixth Form and underpin our positive pastoral system and supportive environment which develop the whole student, enabling students to maximise their potential and develop into well rounded young people.

We offer a broad range of high quality courses; allowing choice and specialisation for all students rooted in a personalised environment. Our outstanding teaching and supportive atmosphere ensures students are able to flourish and achieve, and alongside our PSHE and Careers curriculum, our students are prepared for their next steps.

Many of our students continue their studies at a range of universities whilst others have found success in apprenticeship programmes or paid employment.

The Sixth Form Centre is the hub of the Sixth Form where students can study and catch up with their peers. Students are given chromebooks to support them with their studies. It is a vibrant and busy place, which encourages students to learn independence and focus. Our teachers are passionate about their subjects and we supplement academic studies through project work and outside speakers.

There are opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, within our active Student Leadership programme which enables students to be open minded, principled, caring, knowledgeable, reflective, risk takers, inquirers and excellent communicators.

We believe we offer an all-round education and are convinced you will be very happy during your time at Strood Academy.

Why Strood Academy Sixth Form?

Leaders of tomorrow

Our aim is to help each individual student succeed in their aspirations and achieve the best possible progress for them as individuals; we will help them on their journey towards excellence.

We pride ourselves on the high level of care we offer to each student in the pursuit of their individual academic goals. Students come to Strood Academy because they want to succeed academically and personally.

While we put great stress on qualifications, hard work, effort, and academic success. We are also here to educate young people in the widest sense: developing the whole person so that all our students realise their full potential.

We not only want our students to leave us as rounded, thoughtful, caring and confident adults equipped with the skills and attitudes they need to make a success of their lives, we also want them to be ready to make a positive contribution to society.

We believe in developing each individual to ensure they have academic grades and soft skills to enable them to be successful in their chosen career and throughout their lives. Students are supported through workshops and mentoring in a range of skills that enable them to develop themselves as individuals and lifelong learners. We build confidence and prepare students for academic and future possibilities.

We will:

- Maintain a culture of high standards, a shared determination to achieve and a commitment to continuously improve
- Support students to achieve the qualifications they need to succeed, through high-quality teaching and a rich, varied curriculum
- Actively promote a 'can do' attitude – our students are resilient and autonomous learners
- Provide a smart, business-like environment where students work with staff on the basis of mutual respect
- Create a culture of success where achievement is rewarded and where individual talents and interests are celebrated
- Deliver personalised next steps guidance – whether that be for Higher Education, training or careers – and work experience that employers really value
- Provide opportunities for students to show leadership and enterprise, to challenge themselves and to grow in confidence as young adults
- Nurture in students the ability to adapt and thrive in the modern world – from technological and communications skills to understanding how industry operates
-



The Sixth Form Team



Mr Knight
Vice Principal

Mr Knight grew up in Hampshire but moved to Kent following the completion of his BA (Hons) degree in Physical Education with qualified teacher status at Brighton University.

He has worked in both Folkestone and Tonbridge before moving to Strood Academy and has significant experience in teaching and leading in a wide range of subjects across key stages 3, 4 and 5.

As a senior leader Mr Knight has led on a wide range of areas including school culture and engagement as well as personal development and safeguarding.

Mr Knight is Head of Trafalgar College with the oversight of whole school personal development and leadership of the sixth form. He is passionate about ensuring all students feel able to engage fully in their education through a strong sense of care, support and challenge.

'It is my absolute pleasure to oversee the sixth form provision here at Strood Academy'. Working alongside a fantastic team, our sixth form students gain the qualifications and experiences required to progress to the University or career of choice.'



Ms Hancock
Head of Sixth Form

Ms Hancock grew up in Medway, Kent and studied at The University of Greenwich where she gained a BA Hons in English Literature with Drama. Ms Hancock trained to teach at Canterbury Christchurch University where she completed her PGDE and several years later completed her Masters in Education. Ms Hancock has had various roles during her teaching career including: Head of English Department, Lead Practitioner of English, and Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning and for Culture and Rewards.

Ms Hancock is driven by her belief that all young people deserve to have choices in life and to be the best versions of themselves. She has high expectations of herself, and of the students, and wants all young people to leave Strood Academy with a suite of qualifications that provides opportunities for a happy and fulfilling life.

'It is a privilege to be the Head of Sixth Form here at Strood Academy. Working alongside our students to help and support them in their journey towards excellence. Sixth form should provide opportunity and enrichment to enable all students to have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be successful and achieve their dreams.'

The Sixth Form Team *(continued)*



Mr Perry
Director of Progress

Mr Perry was born and raised in Gravesend, Kent where he attended Secondary School and 6th form at St George's C of E Comprehensive. He then completed a BA (Hons) in Geography and Religious Studies at Canterbury Christ Church University. Following a gap year, Mr Perry completed his QTS through a SCITT course with Bromley Schools Collegiate gaining teaching experience in two Greater London schools.

Mr Perry has worked in 4 schools now gaining experience in teaching many subjects at key stages 3, 4 and 5. He became one of the first Subject Leader appointments at Strood Academy when we opened. Due to the success of the Citizenship department he was appointed to the role of Faculty Leader for Humanities in 2014. After 5 years in this role and completing a MA in Education he moved to the pastoral sphere as the Director of Studies for Hercules college changing to Key Stage 4 and then the Director of Progress for Year 11.

Mr Perry is now The Director of Progress for Sixth Form and IBCP coordinator, where he establishes and maintains high expectations of students' development, achievements and progress through effective target setting and strategic monitoring.

'It is an honour and privilege to work and mentor our students at Strood Academy. I am a strong believer that a person's background should not ever limit their aspirations and achievements. I am here to support you and help you believe in yourself. Whatever your goals, you can achieve them and more. The world is yours.'



Ms Thomas
Wellbeing Manager

Ms Thomas grew up in London and moved to Kent 10 years ago. Although she initially began her career as a Personal Assistant within a large marketing company her work with a mental health charity for teenagers soon became her drive. After retraining as a Transformational Coach and Safeguarding Officer she secured her first role within education as Head of Year 10 at a local comprehensive based in South East London. After 4 years she moved on to the role of Post 16 Pastoral and Safeguarding Lead where she remained for 8 years. Her latest journey began with us at the beginning of the year.

Ms Thomas oversees all aspects of student well-being and offers our students opportunities that are not always accessible within the classroom. As a trained coach and mindfulness expert she is able to teach students how to manage and reduce their stress levels, encourage a growth mindset, help students set realistic goals and offer a nurturing environment to ensure that students feel safe, valued and looked after.

Ms Thomas also runs key programmes to help promote the growth and mindset of our female students as they prepare to navigate through life as young women outside of the classroom.

'As adults we often take for granted that our voice is loud enough to be heard. Young people sometimes feel unheard and I am fortunate enough to work in a school where I can create a platform where students build resilience, gain confidence and become well rounded adults. It is an honour to be part of this process.'

Our Vision

Our vision at Strood Academy is to create:

'An inclusive community where we are all **kind**, **respectful** and **resilient** in our journey towards excellence. Our students thrive through an enriching and diverse curriculum that offers a global perspective, empowering all to become **inquisitive** lifelong learners.'

To be Inquisitive

To be Respectful

To be Resilient

To be Kind



Why Choose a Vocational Subject?

BTEC has earned a worldwide reputation as a premier applied learning qualification because it provides learners with a clear route into their career. Today's employers are looking for a confident, work ready employees who have practical knowledge and technical skills that are taught when studying a BTEC.

BTECs are coursework focused which means that, depending on your course; you won't have to do many examinations to get your qualifications. BTECs are good for people who don't like or can't perform well on exams.

BTECs can provide you with real life experience in your industry which is very appealing for potential universities or prospective employers.

BTECs can be an excellent way to progress into university and nowadays 95% of universities accept BTECs, including those in the Russell Group (which includes the likes of Oxford University).

In 2015, statistics showed that a quarter of students accepted into higher education held at least one BTEC. The vocational focused BTECs are becoming more popular among students, so it isn't a surprise that universities are adjusting their acceptance requirements and promoting the same respect for BTECs as A-levels receive.

A Levels

Why do so many students from around the world choose to study A Levels?

1. They are the UK's gold standard for university entry

If it's your ambition to go to university in the UK, then you should consider taking A levels first. Although UK universities do accept other entrance qualifications, the admissions system is geared towards A levels. With A levels you do not have to take foundation courses - you can go straight to your degree.

2. They are the best route into top universities

A levels are the preferred entry qualification for many top universities and the best route for students with an excellent academic record who hope to study at one of the UK's top universities, such as Oxford, Cambridge or other Russell Group institutions. Taking A levels demonstrates your commitment to securing a place at a UK university.

3. They are widely recognised internationally

Because the A level standard is widely recognised by prestigious institutions around the world, not just the UK, it is a great choice if you want to choose from the widest range of options later on. Many other qualifications have to be topped up, but A Levels generally let you skip that stage and smooth the admissions process.

4. They allow you to specialise

While many other university entrance qualifications focus on a broad education, A levels allow you to focus on a few subjects that relate to the course you want to study at university.

5. Employers love A Levels

While A levels are important for admission to university, they also provide advantages later on. A levels – and their grade levels – are widely recognised by employers around the world. A strong set of A level results, combined with your degree, will help you stand out from other candidates. This is a great way to demonstrate consistent performance and your ability to meet international standards of excellence.

IB - Careers Programme

What is the IBCP?

The CP is a framework of international education that incorporates the values of the IB into a unique programme addressing the needs of students engaged in career-related education.

The CP Curriculum

CP students undertake a minimum of two IB Diploma Programme (DP) courses. Pupils will also take part in the core which consists of four components that includes approaches to learning, community and service, language development and a reflective project as well as an approved career-related course.

For CP students, DP courses provide the theoretical underpinning and academic rigour of the programme; the career-related study further supports the programme's academic strength and provides practical, real-world approaches to learning; and the CP core helps them to develop skills and competencies required for lifelong learning.

Assessment and Exams

Students take written examinations at the end of their IB Diploma Programme courses which are marked by external IB examiners.

The components of the CP core are assessed by the school.

Who is the CP for?

The CP was specifically developed for students who wish to engage in career-related learning while gaining transferable and lifelong skills in applied knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural engagement.

If you have any questions regarding the assessment of the core, or any other questions about the IBCP, please contact Mr Simmons the IBCP Coordinator.



Subject Entry Criteria

Subject	English	Maths	Relevant GCSE Subject
A Level 3D Design	4	4	Grade 5 or above in DT related subject
A Level Art	4	n/a	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art
A Level Biology	5	5	GCSE Combined Science at Grade 66 or above OR GCSE Biology at Grade 6 or above
A Level Chemistry	5	6	GCSE Combined Science at Grade 66 or above OR GCSE Chemistry at Grade 6 or above
A Level English Literature	6	n/a	GCSE English Literature or Language at Grade 6 or above
A Level History	5	4	Grade 5 in GCSE History or above
A Level Maths	n/a	7	GCSE Maths Grade 7 or above
A Level Media Studies	5	n/a	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Media Studies, IF studied at GCSE
A Level Photography	4	4	Grade 5 or above in DT related subject
A Level Physics	5	6	GCSE Combined Science at Grade 66 or above OR GCSE Physics at Grade 6 or above
A Level Sociology	5	4	n/a
BTEC Applied Law	5	4	Grade 5 or above in a Humanities subject if studied at GCSE
BTEC Business	4	4	Level 2 Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC Business or BTEC Enterprise or GCSE Business at Grade 4 or above
BTEC Computing	5	5	n/a
BTEC Criminology	5	4	Grade 5 or above in a Humanities subject, IF studied at GCSE
BTEC Health & Social Care	5	5	Level 2 Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC Health and Social Care if studied or Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science
BTEC Information Technology	4	4	Grade 4 or above in GCSE IT or GCSE Computer Science or Level 2 Merit in a BTEC subject if studied
BTEC Performing Arts	4	4	Level 2 Merit or above in BTEC Dance, BTEC Drama or GCSE Music or Grade 4 or above in GCSE Dance, GCSE Drama or GCSE Music
BTEC Sports	4	4	Grade Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC Sports or GCSE PE at Grade 4 or above
IB Geography	5	4	GCSE Geography at Grade 5 or above
IB Social, Cultural & Anthropology	5	n/a	n/a
IB Global Politics	5	4	n/a
IB Psychology	5	4	Grade 5 or above in a Humanities subject, IF studied at GCSE

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is offered to all our students as soon as they arrive. At Strood Academy we take student wellbeing very seriously and as a result of this we are able to offer an excellent service which allows all of our 6th form students to feel safe, listened to, and valued.

Our Student Wellbeing Manager can offer emotional support and practical tips to those students who may be struggling with the initial transition from Year 11 to Year 12. We are also able to offer a tailored coaching programme to those individuals who aim to explore their beliefs around their academic journey and encourage them to take ownership over some aspects of their learning whilst with the Academy.

As a team, we encourage students to coordinate events and support them by promoting any initiatives that they may wish to pursue.

Our student wellbeing service offers an open-door policy and students can drop in to speak about any issue that may be of concern to them.

Enrichment

As a team we acknowledge that Sixth Form life can be both stressful and demanding. It is important we ensure students maintain a balance between learning and wellbeing. To help with this, we offer our students an enrichment opportunity once a week. Students choose an enrichment option that they must commit to for the entire half term and will get another opportunity to select another option the following half term.

Enrichment options include but are not limited to:

- Mindfulness
- Debate Club
- Exercise and Fitness
- ROAR - Female Empowerment Programme
- Coaching - Personal Development
- Work Experience



Student Leadership and Student voice

We expect our learners to be active participants in their own right. We have several opportunities for you to voice your opinions and to make a difference. Sixth Form students are encouraged to apply for positions in the Senior Student Leadership Team; roles that involve engagement with students across the academy. Student leadership at Strood Academy is key to enabling young people to realise their potential whilst building on necessary skills, confidence and motivation to allow students to engage directly in the wider improvement of the school. Appointed members are trained in public speaking and leadership skills to ensure they can articulate their point of view with great competency; enabling them to be effective in what they set out to achieve.

Throughout the academic year we encourage Sixth Form students to lead assemblies both in Sixth Form and the Year 7 - 11. Sixth Form students are encouraged to take part in the peer mentoring scheme, 1:1 Maths support for Year 11 students and reading support for Year 7 students. A large number of students act as ambassadors at various public events.

Careers and Work Experience

At Strood Academy we prioritise the future of our young people. Students are supported to make successful transitions when they leave the academy whether into apprenticeships, employment or university. We have a robust Future careers programme that includes trips to UCAS and Apprenticeship fairs, UCAS support from local Universities, CCCU, Greenwich University. Apprenticeship fair, key speaker assemblies, Career fairs and UniFrog support and guidance and much more.

Students complete a work placement to allow them to gain experience of their chosen career to develop key skills allowing them a better understanding of the work placement and the skills required.

Dress Code

Sixth Form students are proud to wear business attire which reflects the purposeful and studious ethos of Strood Academy. Details of the dress code can be found on our website.

Your Journey towards Excellence starts today!



Citizen Service

At Strood Academy, we believe in our students giving back to the local community. Students have the opportunity to dedicate one study period per week volunteering within the wider school community. Opportunities include mentoring, support in lessons, peer tutoring, reading buddies and supporting whole school events such as open evenings and sporting events.

We believe helping pupils to enquire, speak and communicate with confidence throughout the school, especially in the sixth form.



Leadership

We are committed to empowering students to lead and to take on responsibility. Our sixth formers are in many ways the leaders of the student community, and set an example for the rest of our students to follow. A number of our sixth formers get involved in self-ran activities, displaying leadership skills by organising their own groups and campaigns.

Destinations

Here are some of the apprenticeships and university courses our Sixth Form students are currently doing after leaving Sixth Form at Strood Academy:

Apprenticeships

Julius Baer Bank
Finance
Real Estates

University of Bath

Psychology
International Politics & Relations

Beoagama University, Italy

Biomedical Science

Bournemouth University

Psychology

Canterbury Christ Church University

Worldwide Politics
Law
History

Coventry University

Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence

University of Essex

Psychology
Speech & Language Therapy
Law

Greenwich University

Engineering Management

Hull University

Politics

Accountancy

Drama & English Literature
Midwifery
Paramedics

University of Kent - Medical School

Medicine
Law
Politics & Law

University of Kent

Criminal Justice and Criminology
Law

Lancaster University

English Literature

Nottingham Trent University

Business management & Marketing

Royal Holloway (University of London)

English

Solent university, Southampton

Prosthetics & Special Effects Design

South Bank University

Children's Nursing

South Wales University

Criminology & Criminal Justice with Psychology

University of Sussex

Biomedical Sciences

University of Winchester

Forensic Investigative Psychology

University of York

English

16-19 Bursary Fund

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- bursaries for defined vulnerable groups of up to £1,200 a year
- discretionary bursaries which institutions award using policies they set, in line with these funding rules

Students must meet the age and residency criteria which follow to be eligible for help from the bursary fund.

Age

A student must be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2022 to be eligible for help from the bursary fund in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

Institutions should generally only pay bursaries to students aged 16 or over. However, in exceptional circumstances institutions may use their discretion to pay bursaries to younger students, for example, where a student is following an accelerated study programme. Exceptional circumstances do not include students aged 14 to 16 who are attending college as part of their key stage 4 programme.

Students aged under 19 enrolled on higher education qualifications are not eligible for support.

16-19 Vulnerable Student Bursary

A Vulnerable Student Bursary of £1,200 a year is made by the ESFA and paid as 4 payments across the academic year by Strood Academy to students studying within the Sixth Form who apply for the bursary and meet the eligibility criteria set out by the ESFA.

16-19 Discretionary Bursary

A Discretionary Bursary may also be available to young people who do not meet any of the criteria for the above bursaries but are still in need of financial support from any remaining funds. This bursary is available to young people aged 16 to 19 to help with travel to school, equipment, books, essential trips, exam resits or attending HE interviews. The amount is dependent on funding availability and number of applicants.



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Education for a better world

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