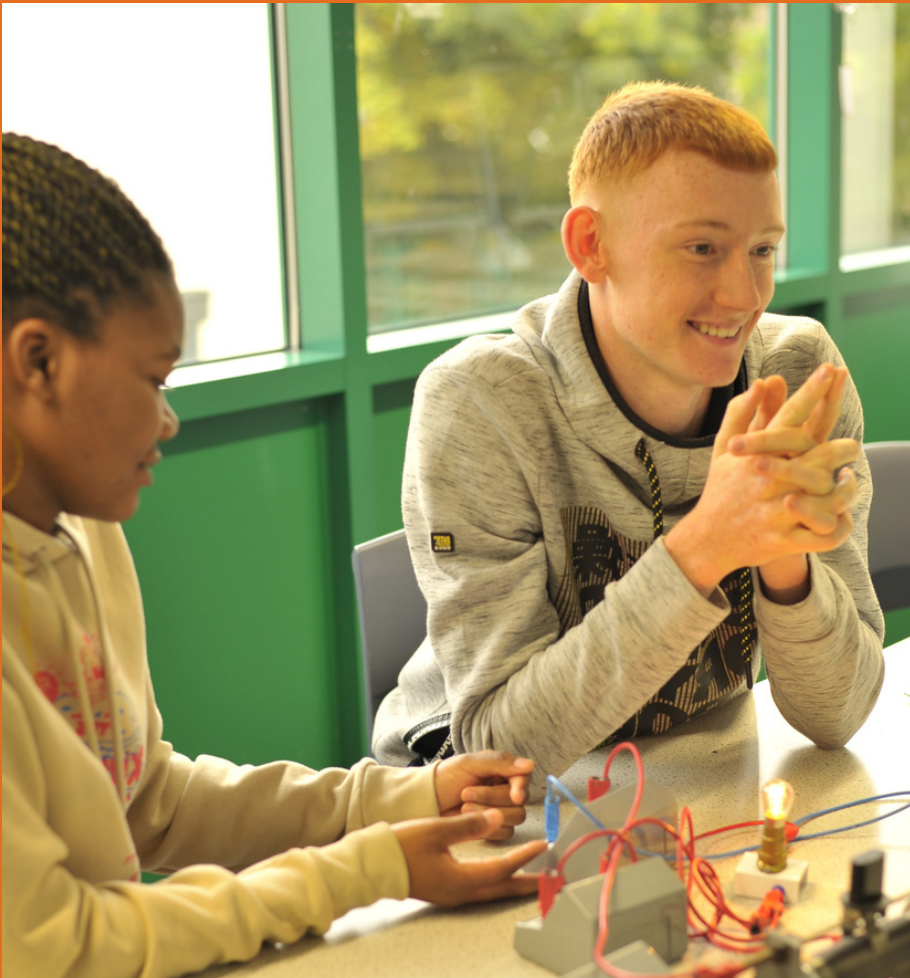




SIGMA SIXTH
COLCHESTER



Sigma Sixth Colchester

Prospectus
2023/2024

Welcome

Welcome to Sigma Sixth, Colchester. We hope that our Sixth Form Prospectus will help you make the best decision about continuing education Post 16.

At Sigma Sixth, Colchester our young people are valued. We have the highest expectations for all our students, whether that is academic achievement, involvement in our academies or care for each other.

Building on the traditions and academic success of the former Philip Morant College, Sigma Sixth, Colchester formed in September 2020. The college is part of The Sigma Trust's post-16 offer for The Philip Morant School, The Stanway School, Paxman Academy, St. Helena School and The Thomas Lord Audley School. Although located on The Philip Morant School site, we welcome students from over 20 schools in Colchester, Tendring, Braintree, Witham, across Essex and from overseas.

A community where everyone feels they belong and are the best they can be



Discover Yourself,

Sigma Sixth, Colchester is proud to include our Sports, STEM Creative Academies and VI6 University of Essex provision. The Sports Academy benefits from the provision at The Northern Gateway Sports Park. Students can choose to study either the Level 3 BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development course or access the extra-curricular provision of the academy when studying A-Levels. Both our STEM and Creative Academies provide students with hands-on learning experiences with real-world applications that will develop a variety of skills sets, and includes provision at the University of Essex STEM labs and creative opportunities in the city and beyond.

Our VI6 partnership is the only provision in the country where students study A levels at the University of Essex with students from other schools in the partnership.

Education is about giving our young people the very best start in life so they are prepared fully to go to university, college or to start a career in their chosen field of employment. Our sixth form team will support you every step of the way.

Sigma Sixth, Colchester is a progressive sixth form, with a proven track record. Our teachers are experienced subject specialists who will not only deliver an excellent education, but will also provide the very best care, guidance and support.

We recognise that the quality of facilities can help students excel. Our college has a purpose built block which is exclusively used by our sixth form students, including a College Cafe, a large study centre, e-learning suite and specialist practical areas.

We thank you for considering Sigma Sixth, Colchester and hope that the information provided in this prospectus enables you to make the best choice for you in terms of courses and institution for continued education Post 16.

We are committed to share this journey with you.



Define Your Future

Life in the Sixth Form

At Sigma Sixth, Colchester we believe not only in giving our students the very best chance of academic success, but also in preparing our young people for life beyond the college gates. When considering Post 16 courses take into account what you want to do next, whether that is university, further education or an apprenticeship.

The Sixth Form Curriculum structure includes courses at A level and Level 3 vocational qualifications.

The A-level programme is designed for those students who achieved high success at GCSE and plan to follow a place at university or other higher educational institution. All students study three subjects, (and for the most able, four if they wish). Most students will study one of their A level subjects at our VI6 provision at the University of Essex.

The Level 3 BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development is a full time programme and is the equivalent to 3 A levels.

We offer one A level equivalent level 3 qualifications and those courses can be chosen as a mixed programme of vocational qualifications which can also include A level choices.

Students must complete year 12 successfully to progress to year 13.

We provide all students with the opportunity to resit English or Mathematics if they have not achieved a grade 4 at GCSE and provide the opportunity to sit these qualifications for the first time for students joining us from overseas.

“College is very different to school. The work at A Level is harder, so you have to be motivated, but you get excellent support from your teachers. They encourage you and help you improve, and support you with options for the future...”



Our sixth form has a proven track record of delivering examination success.

Academic excellence is of primary importance in everything we do. Our teachers are passionate about their subject and are committed to teaching interesting and challenging lessons.

Students will be offered a personalised study path chosen from a wide range of academic courses matched to their strengths and plans for the future. A tutor will also act as an academic mentor to ensure you stay on track.

Our purpose built sixth form college has an e-learning suite and study centre, which students can use for independent study. All of our students can access their work from home through Google classroom.

Out of lesson opportunities and work-experience complement lessons and help to develop new skills and interests.

In addition to A-Levels and BTEC, students can also work towards an Extended Project Qualification, which is highly recognised by universities. The majority of our students join their university of choice. A growing number of our students also access the expanding apprenticeship market, securing placements with well respected companies.

**98% of students
gain their first
choice of
University**



Excellence

Community & Opportunity



“Sigma Sixth is a supportive community.”

Our community is based on a friendly and supportive environment. Your teachers and tutors will encourage, inspire and support you, while recognising that you want to explore a newfound independence. Teachers and tutors are very approachable and offer you guidance to support you through your studies. The study centre and e-learning suite are quiet zones with multiple workspaces and computers where you can spend time outside of your lessons completing homework, doing revision and carrying out research assignments to extend your knowledge beyond the curriculum. The college café is also a spacious and popular space used as a social study area to do group work, take a break and relax. The canteen offers a variety of hot and cold food options at break or lunchtimes and there are tables and soft chairs for all our students. The combination of silent and social study areas contributes to the university-style environment at Sigma Sixth.

Student Leadership plays a vital role in the life of the college. A range of leadership opportunities will be available to you when you join Sigma Sixth - whether through our academies or through opportunities in working with main school events. The college boasts 3 Academies: Creative, STEM and Sport extending your Post-16 opportunities to prepare you for your future.

Sports Academy



“In my first three weeks in the academy I have already learned a lot that will help me reach my potential. I would recommend this course to anyone.”



With the practical element of the course based at the **Northern Gateway Sports Park**, Sigma Sixth Sports Academy offers a unique opportunity for students to study for their A Levels, or the Level 3 BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development, whilst training and competing in their chosen sport in either Football, Rugby, Basketball or Golf. We also provide generic support including sports injuries, training management, nutrition and recovery regardless of your sports specialism so anyone can study with us and gain the benefits.

Training, coaching and playing matches are managed by fully qualified professional coaches with a professional sports background and qualifications in coaching and education. We train more than any other College in the region, allowing for faster development of skills and performance and, as part of the training, we cover all aspects of technical and tactical elements of the game in addition to physical training and recovery.

We also have access to a physiotherapy clinic to cater for all prehab and rehab needs, and a state-of-the-art gym for all fitness, strength and conditioning requirements.

STEM Academy

Science and Mathematics A levels are very popular choices at Sigma Sixth.

Sigma Sixth STEM Academy will provide you with access to a range of hands-on learning experiences with real-world applications that will help develop a variety of skills sets, including creativity and 21st century skills. You will gain knowledge of the opportunities in STEM to prepare you for the world of work where a transferable skills set is key.

A range of STEM trips run throughout the year along with access to specialist facilities at the University of Essex. Bespoke advice in STEM careers will guide you in your Post-18 destination choice and specialist support will be given in applications to Russell Group Universities.

Whether you want to work towards the Gold Crest Award, take part in STEM workshops led by PHD students, be inspired by Medical Mavericks workshops or get involved a Biosciences University Taster Day, our STEM academy will support you in pursuing your passion in one or more STEM subjects and help you explore where this passion will take you in future life.

“Thank you for all the help you have given me over the 2 years. Your help has definitely opened my eyes to the full range of opportunities within STEM.”



Creative Academy

Students studying English Literature, Media, Drama, Photography, Music Production or Film Studies have access to a range of experiences to further their passion for creativity within our new Sigma Sixth Creative Academy. Workshops, productions and projects throughout the year will give students the space, encouragement and nurturing environment to be creative.

Students have the opportunity to take the lead in creative opportunities across the school, to experience the wide range of opportunities in local theatres, art galleries, music events, journalism and access to a publishing house in London. Students will be given expert support for their Post-18 pathways.

Students are offered many opportunities to develop their leadership skills



Support, Care and Guidance

Every student will be assigned a Step-up Tutor at the beginning of the academic year, who will act as a mentor and will be available to provide you with advice and support whenever you need it. Step-up sessions can be used to discuss your progress with your Tutor and request guidance or ask for help with any concerns you may have about your academic studies and well-being. Our dedicated Pastoral Coordinator is also available to provide students with day-to-day pastoral care.

Our values and ethos of Aspiration, Success and Kindness (ASK) underpin everything we do, both inside and outside the classroom. We want you to have the highest expectations and we aim to nurture a growth mindset and 'can do' attitude. We also respect and celebrate difference, instilling an ethos of acceptance and understanding for everyone in our college community and in the wider world.

Once you express an interest in Sigma Sixth you will join our welcome programme. You will be invited to subject / academy related events and GCSE support during the year.

We want you to feel you belong even before you start.

“Careers advice and guidance are strong features of the provision”

“It’s like being part of a big family. Everyone basically looks out for each other. There’s a positive, supportive atmosphere, and you know there’ll always be someone there to help if you need it...”



How to Apply

Candidates must have:

A Level: A minimum of five passes at grade 5 or higher at GCSE, within these passes, there must be a grade 5 or higher in English Language or Literature and Maths.

BTEC National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development: 4 or more GCSE grades of 9 - 4, including English Language or Literature or Maths. (Students can resit Maths or English, if necessary)

Applications:

Applications are online and should be submitted by 31st January. Visit **www.sigmasixth.org.uk** and follow the instructions on the homepage on how to apply using our online application process.

Once you have completed and sent your application form, you will receive an email confirming that your application has been received.



Discover Yourself, Define Your Future



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