



Welcome to the Sixth Form

The sixth form is outstanding because it is led very effectively and because the quality of teaching that students receive each day is excellent. This means that students make outstanding progress in all aspects of their learning, are happy and confident and have high ambitions for themselves.

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Curriculum

Ranelagh provides an excellent education for all of its students, preparing them well for life in modern Britain. The range of academic subjects on offer is suitably wide to enable all students to follow courses of interest and relevance to their futures.

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Curriculum

Context

Those of you who choose to join the sixth form in September 2019 will be doing so during a period of significant change in post-16 education. For fifteen years AS Levels were coupled with A Levels; AS modules were taken in Year 12 contributing half of the overall A Level marks. These qualifications have been phased out in their previous format and qualifications in all A Level subjects are now linear, being examined only at the end of Year 13.

Curriculum structure

As the qualification structure has recently changed, we have moved to a fully linear curriculum, with most of our students selecting three A Level or BTEC subjects to study for two years in the sixth form. The content in the new A Level specifications has increased and students are expected to demonstrate greater depth of understanding, which is why the vast majority of post-16 providers, both locally and nationally, have moved to a three A Level programme for most students.

At Ranelagh, any courses embarked upon at the start of Year 12 are studied for the full two years. Universities have no expectation that students study more than three subjects and their offers reflect this. If you would like to study a programme of four A Levels, you should indicate this on your application form; we would particularly recommend this for anyone opting to study Further Mathematics.

Students at Ranelagh also have the opportunity to widen the breadth of their programme of study by choosing to embark upon an Extended Project Qualification, a research-based dissertation that is well-regarded by universities and employers. Further details about the EPQ are available in the Course Guide.

Making and confirming choices

It is really important that you choose subjects that you will enjoy, that will enable you to succeed. The subject-specific entry criteria for each course are designed to support you in selecting the subjects which are the most appropriate for you; please take careful note of these when making your choices.

You can initially make a free choice of the subjects available, with option blocks being generated after you have made your decisions. This enables us to facilitate as many combinations as possible. We aim to offer as broad a curriculum as we can and will inform you as soon as possible if we have to make any changes to the courses available for September.

As part of the application process, you will be invited to meet with a senior member of staff, in order to give you the opportunity to discuss your choices in the light of your aspirations for the future. At the end of June, those of you who decide to join the sixth form at Ranelagh will attend induction days, participating in lessons in your chosen subjects to give you further insight into the courses that you have selected. There will also be an enrolment day at the start of September when you will be able to confirm your choices in view of your GCSE results.

Whilst students leaving the sixth form follow a range of pathways, including apprenticeships and employment, most students choose to go to university. The subjects and courses that we offer at Ranelagh enable our young people to access any of the thousands of higher education routes that are available; the breadth of the curriculum ensures that our students are regularly accepted to study subjects as diverse as Law, Media Studies, Accountancy, Computer Science, Medicine, Sports Science, Physiotherapy and Nursing. When making a decision about which Level 3 courses you would like to study, it is important to look at the university entry criteria for pathways in which you are interested, to ensure that you are making informed decisions based on what universities will really be looking for.





Teaching and Learning

The overall quality of teaching is outstanding. Teachers use their knowledge about their students, together with their impressive subject knowledge, to adapt their approach to teaching the subject as appropriate. This enables students to progress outstandingly well. Students do not get bored and are inspired, excited and motivated as they go from lesson to lesson each day.

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Teaching and Learning

Rationale

In the sixth form as throughout the rest of the school, teachers and students work together in partnership to enable all young people to meet their potential. Our Learner Profile is designed to engender the following characteristics in our learners:

- Confidence
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Empathy
- Creativity
- Independence

Courses

A wide range of A Level subjects is offered in the sixth form [see Course Guide for further details]. In addition, students also have the opportunity to study a BTEC Level 3 course alongside their A Level studies; BTECs have equivalent value to A Levels and are assessed through portfolios of evidence as well as examinations.



Wider curriculum

Progression mornings are timetabled throughout the sixth form, during which students have the opportunity to consider positive learning habits, explore options for the future and develop skills and knowledge to support progression on to the next stage of education, training or employment. Students also have regular opportunities to discuss a range of moral and philosophical topics, encouraging you to develop your individual views and spiritual and cultural identities. Every week, all students in the sixth form participate in two timetabled hours of sport, during which you can engage in a variety of team and individual activities.

To enhance your studies, we offer an array of curriculum visits in which to participate. Regular trips to Paris or Florence are an invaluable opportunity for A Level Art students to develop knowledge and understanding of art history, being inspired by the works of the French impressionists in the Musée d'Orsay or the Renaissance art housed in the Uffizi Gallery. Biology fieldwork enables students to develop understanding of ecology and conservation at the same time as extending practical skills. Recent visits in other subjects have included study visits to Poland in History, during which students visited Auschwitz and spoke with a Holocaust survivor, as well as Geography field trips and work experience placements abroad for Languages students.



Support and Guidance

Students expressed how much they value the support and dedication of their teachers and their willingness to spend time providing extra help and support. Parents are kept fully informed about life in the sixth form in general, and also about the progress of their children.

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Support and Guidance

Pastoral organisation

Every student is placed in a mixed tutor group of approximately 20 students. Each group has a tutor who works in partnership with individual students, supporting their academic and personal development. The Head of Sixth Form, working with the Assistant Head of Sixth Form, has overall responsibility for all students in Key Stage 5.

Transition to independence

We maintain a careful balance between monitoring and supporting individuals closely and encouraging you to develop the necessary independence to take responsibility for your own studies. Independent study periods enable you to learn how to manage your time effectively. All students are issued with a sixth-form planner to keep careful track of homework assignments, along with an independent learning guide in which there is subject-specific guidance about sources for wider reading outside of the prescribed curriculum.

Assessment and reporting

Based on their prior attainment in GCSE examinations, all students in Year 12 are encouraged to set themselves challenging and personalised targets.

Students are systematically screened and assessed and there are regular consultation evenings for young people and their parents, as well as online reporting. The system provides teachers, students and parents with an informative record of achievement and progress.

Special needs provision

Where Key Stage 5 students have specific learning needs, the Learning Support department, in collaboration with the Head of Sixth Form, provides help in a variety of ways. Some students are allocated study skills lessons with a learning support assistant or teacher on a group or individual basis; other students may be supported by a learning support assistant in their mainstream lessons if appropriate.

Provision for more able students

Very many of our students are particularly gifted in one or more field and we harness and develop these abilities in a number of ways. As the progress of every individual is monitored, teachers are able to use the information available to provide differentiated learning opportunities. The majority of our students go on to higher education, including Oxford and Cambridge and individual support can be arranged for students who are entered for university admissions tests. We have established close relationships with many local universities, regularly liaising with admissions tutors and departments at Surrey, Reading, Oxford, Royal Holloway and Southampton universities.

Careers guidance

Work-related learning and careers guidance are an essential component of the sixth-form programme. Representatives of Adviza, an external service for 13-19 year-olds, work with the school to provide impartial advice, guidance and support designed to help students prepare for the transition to adulthood and working life. In addition, our Assistant Head of Sixth Form has responsibility for guiding students as they make decisions about their higher education options.





Student Leadership

Students speak of their education in terms of serving the community, serving the school and one another.

SIAMS

Student Leadership

Opportunities to lead

Students in the sixth form are given many opportunities to develop leadership skills, through the sixth-form committee, extra-curricular activities and the School Council. You also have the opportunity to be appointed as prefects, positions of responsibility to which many students aspire. The prefects are led by the two School Captains, two Vice Captains and Chair of School Council; this year, we have also created a new role for an additional Vice Captain with responsibility for whole-school events management. A number of students have positions as House Captains, supporting staff with the leadership of assemblies and organising teams for the annual sports day events. Others choose to take the responsibility for co-ordinating the Christmas ball, a vibrant social event to which all students in the sixth form are invited, alongside the young people who have completed their A Levels the previous summer.

School Council

Students are strongly encouraged to take part in the running of the school. Each tutor group elects two representatives to the Year Council and in turn, the Year Council elects representatives to the School Council. Through this structure, students are able to contribute significantly to the decision-making process within the school.

Year 12 Revue

Each year the students in Year 12 present an evening of entertainment that is second to none! The evening is one of the highlights of sixth-form life as every aspect of the performance is prepared by the students. The writing, direction, set design, lighting, sound, make-up, costumes, box office and all the other activities involved in producing the revue are in your hands! Many skills and talents are required and almost every member of Year 12 is involved in some capacity.





Enrichment

In addition to their academic achievements, students' personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted extremely well through the extensive range of activities and opportunities available. There is a wide range of enrichment options, including sport and a wealth of clubs and activities for students to take part in.

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Enrichment

Sport

We value the contribution of sport and exercise in helping young people to maintain active lifestyles and positive emotional well-being, as well as encouraging them to develop a spirit of healthy competition. All members of the sixth form are able to participate in sporting activities on a weekly basis, with activities ranging from aerobics and fitness training to dance and team disciplines. School teams regularly play fixtures in a range of sports including rugby, football, netball, rounders and athletics.

The first XI football team is particularly strong, competing against local independent schools to win the super 8 league recently for four years in a row. We regularly enter a similar super 8 competition with the first XV rugby squad. There are particularly high levels of commitment and enthusiasm for netball and last year we fielded U18 squads in both the A and the B league of the super 8 competition, with the A team finishing in a creditable runners up spot. This year we are aiming for the top spot and entering a strong side in the county schools' tournament which is the first round of the national schools' competition.

In school, House tournaments provide opportunities for students to compete in the full range of sports. The annual dance show always features skilled solo performances as well as group numbers from students in the sixth form.

The school actively encourages students to make the most of sporting activities out of school and individuals regularly play for County teams, accessing opportunities and facilities beyond school. Our School Sports Co-ordinator works within the local community to extend links with primary schools and our senior students often take on leadership and mentoring roles to support younger students in their sporting endeavours.



Music and drama

We have thriving Music and Drama departments and there is a wide range of opportunities within the performing arts. Musical extra-curricular activities range from choirs and orchestras to a wind band, string ensemble and jazz group. The senior school choir has visited many international locations, most recently touring Amsterdam in March 2016. The Drama department is also flourishing and students studying A Level Drama and Theatre often get involved in running lunch-time clubs for younger students. Recent shows have included "Into The Woods", and "Peter Pan" with a production of "Footloose" planned for the Spring term of 2019. Many of our students go on to study Music, Drama or Performing Arts at university.



Enrichment

Art

Visitors to Ranelagh always comment on the quality of our students' artwork displayed throughout the school. The Art department has regular exhibitions and has been recognised for high profile work through the National Arts and Business Award. The school has been awarded Artsmark (Gold) and established specialist status for the visual arts.

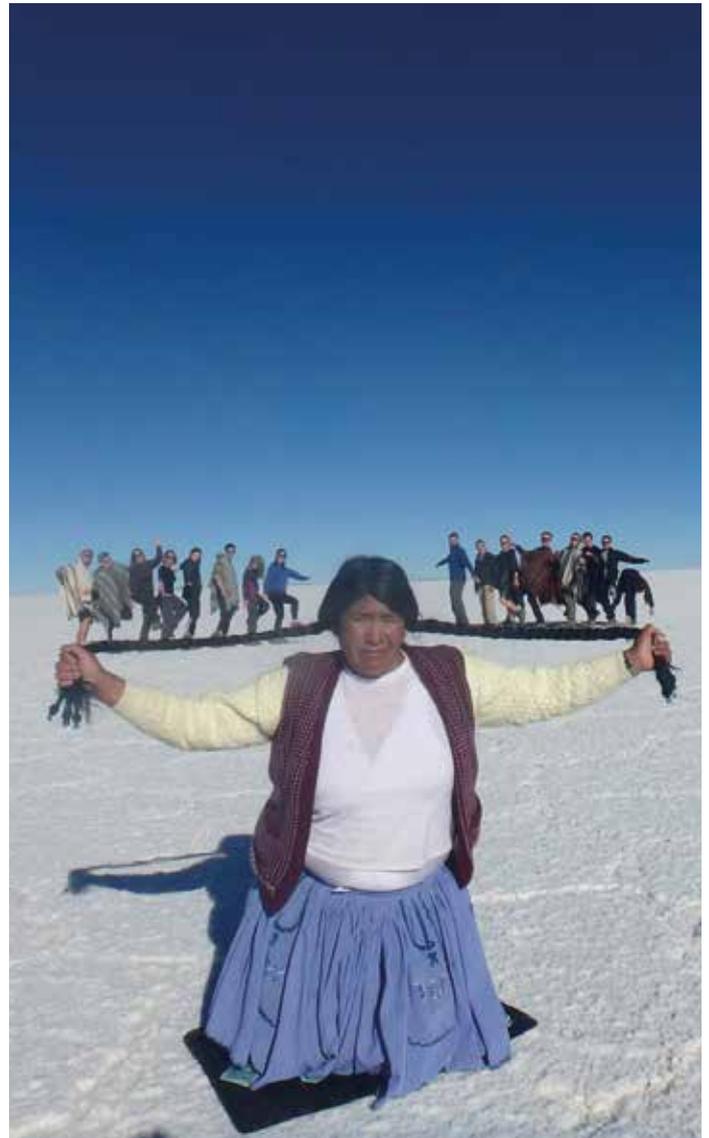


Entrepreneurship

Ranelagh took part in the Young Enterprise competition for many years, winning a variety of awards along the way. The scheme involves students in the setting up and running of a profitable business, giving them the chance to develop valuable teamwork, organisational and communication skills. In 2015, team "Vincio" won three out of seven of the awards available at the very competitive local area final (winning the prizes for Innovation and Company Report as well as being selected as the overall winners for the area) and their products were subsequently stocked by John Lewis. In 2016, team "Fortis" created the 'little box of calm'. The team were delighted to receive the trophy for their Company Report for the second year in a row. In 2017, team "Rebus" won best trade stand, successfully marketing and selling their scented candles at a range of functions throughout the year. In 2018, "Framed" made it as far as the county final after coming second in the local round of the competition. This year saw a change in direction, with the launch of the in-house "You're the Business" competition. This has enabled us to set up even more sixth-form companies, with a Dragons' Den style pitch for students presenting to business experts to win more start-up capital for their team and a grand final at the end of the year. We will see which team prevails!

Wilderness Expertise

Every two years sixth form students are given the opportunity to apply for a place on a month-long overseas personal development expedition. The process is facilitated by the Hampshire-based company Wilderness Expertise who - as well as providing excellent staff and support - specialise in giving students responsibility to plan their itineraries, resulting in a bespoke trip. The purpose of the expedition is to enable students to develop understanding of and practise the skills of transformational leadership, and this aim is achieved whilst being away from home and in an unfamiliar environment for a month with phases that include trekking, a community development project, and time for rest and relaxation. Most recent expeditions have been to China and Mongolia, Bolivia, and Southern Africa.





Achievement and Outcomes

Student achievement in the sixth form is outstanding. The proportions of students gaining A to B grades are consistently higher than national averages. As a result of very high quality teaching and the broader experiences to which they are exposed, students are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in their education, training or employment.*

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Achievement and Outcomes

We are so proud of our students, who leave us having developed the skills and qualities to enable them to pursue their chosen pathway in life, equipped with the necessary qualifications and personal attributes to succeed. The most important function of the sixth-form staff team is to support students as they make decisions about their next steps. We encourage them to set themselves aspirational targets so that they can approach the future with confidence and excitement.

The vast majority of Year 13 students go to university, whilst others choose the further education route, taking up places on Art foundation courses or undertaking vocational training. Some students select the apprenticeship pathway, obtaining prestigious placements at companies including Ernst and Young, BP and IBM; others choose to go straight into the world of work. Whatever route they choose, sixth-form staff are always available to support our former students beyond their school careers: students taking gap years regularly come into school for support as they complete their university applications and we are always happy to provide employment references. We keep in touch with former students and it is always wonderful to hear of their successes.

At least 85% of the students who leave us in Year 13 tend to go to university, with at least 25% of students taking up places at Russell Group universities each year. The table below gives an indication of some of the diverse courses and institutions chosen by Ranelagh students in the last three years.

Institution	Course
Bath	Chemistry Mechanical Engineering Physics Mathematics
Berkeley, California	Chemistry
Birmingham	Chemical Engineering Geography
Bristol	Chemistry Geography
Cambridge	Modern Languages Music
Cardiff	Law Mathematics Architecture
Durham	Theology Mathematics Economics Psychology English Literature
Exeter	Psychology Accounting Mathematics Geography Drama Economics Philosophy and Politics
Imperial College, London	Physics
King's College, London	Law Nursing Midwifery Geography
Kent	English and American Literature Mathematics

Institution	Course
Leeds	Economics Mathematics Medicine Radiography
Loughborough	Mechanical Engineering Accounting Management Sciences Economics Politics
Nottingham	Architecture Law with Spanish
Oxford	Law Music Fine Art Mathematics and Computing
Roehampton	Economics English Geography
Royal Holloway	Film Studies Film Television and Digital Production Biological Sciences
Southampton	English History Chemistry Civil Engineering Biology Neuroscience Philosophy Law Philosophy
University College, London	History of Art English
Warwick	Biological Sciences Law