

**BIDEFORD COLLEGE**

# **Sixth Form**



**Bideford College  
Sixth Form**

Part of Athena Learning Trust



## **WELCOME** From the Principal



Choosing where to continue your education after GCSEs is a significant decision, and I am delighted that you are considering our Sixth Form. This prospectus aims to give you a flavour of what makes our post-16 provision so special.

At our Sixth Form, we are dedicated to providing a stimulating and supportive environment where you can truly thrive, both academically and personally. We offer a curriculum, designed to ignite your passions and prepare you for your next steps, whether that be a top university, a competitive apprenticeship, or directly into the world of work. Our experienced and passionate teachers are experts in their fields and are committed to guiding you every step of the way, helping you to achieve your full potential.

Beyond the classroom, you'll find a vibrant and inclusive community. Our Sixth Form offers a wealth of opportunities for you to develop new skills, pursue your interests,

and make a real difference. From leadership roles and a diverse range of extracurricular activities to volunteering and mentoring programmes, there are countless ways to enrich your experience and broaden your horizons. We believe in nurturing well-rounded individuals who are not only academically strong but also confident, resilient, and ready to make a positive contribution to society.

This is an exciting time in your educational journey, a period of greater independence and responsibility, where you will forge new friendships and discover new strengths. We are confident that our Sixth Form will provide you with the ideal platform to achieve your aspirations and prepare you for a successful and fulfilling future.

We look forward to welcoming you and helping you to embark on this exciting new chapter.

**Dr Claire Ankers**  
**Principal**



## **WELCOME** Head of Sixth Form



It is with great pleasure that we welcome students into **Bideford College's Sixth Form** to begin their next and very important stage of their educational journey.

Our vision is to provide the best learning and personal development experience, to ensure that our students are successful academically, as well as personally. We will support students to succeed, on whichever path they may choose.

We recognise each student as an individual, with their individual strengths contributing to make us a strong and diverse Sixth Form. We pride ourselves on being a welcoming and an inclusive community, which nurtures talent, in whatever form that may be. With our open door policy, we are able to support our students' needs, and ensure they know that communication and connection with staff is always available.

Our Sixth Form has a very caring, collaborative and supportive community, with wellbeing as a core focus. We have high expectations of our students and staff and aim to provide each student with the best possible post-16 education, so they are ready and prepared to reach their full potential as young adults entering higher education apprenticeships, training and employment.

**Kaye French**  
Head of Sixth Form



## MEET THE TEAM



### **Kaye French** **Head of Sixth Form**

Kaye, the Head of Sixth Form at Bideford College brings over 30 years of education experience to our students and 25 years leading in the post-16 sector. Kaye's background is in teaching Business and Economics and has also overseen well over 1,000 university applications. She also leads on Careers across both Bideford College and Atlantic Academy and has a passion for raising aspirations of all students. The aim is to support students to realise their full potential both academically and personally.

Kaye values a strong community ethos, where all students feel valued and cared for. She has embedded this into the culture of the Sixth Form, creating a collaborative and supportive environment for all students. The Sixth Form students are fantastic role models to others and the opportunities provided allow students to experience a wide range of leadership opportunities as well as a full and exciting and enriching programme.

The Sixth Form team is very passionate and committed to all of the students. The students receive bespoke support and guidance to allow them to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

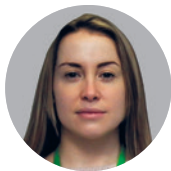


### **Neil Ayre** **Deputy Head of Sixth Form**

As Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Neil plays a key role in shaping this experience, bringing his passion for both science and sport into Sixth Form student life.

Neil currently teaches A level Psychology and Chemistry, having also taught A level Biology in the past. His enthusiasm for education extends beyond the classroom, as he continues to develop and enhance the extracurricular provision at Bideford College. A keen sportsman himself, he has played a vital part in establishing the Sixth Form football and netball teams, ensuring students have the opportunity to enjoy competitive sport alongside their studies.

Outside of College, Neil's passion for sport continues – he regularly plays cricket and squash. He also has a love for music, playing both the guitar and piano. His commitment to both academic excellence and personal development makes him an integral part of the Sixth Form team, ensuring that every student has the support and opportunities they need to succeed.



**Kimberley Gilbey**  
**Sixth Form**  
**Manager**

Kimberley has been working at Bideford

College Sixth Form for 11 years and working in Education for over 18 years. Kimberley runs and organises the Sixth Form on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all the students are prepared for learning. Not only does she ensure the sixth form is running smoothly, Kimberley is also responsible for the students' pastoral support. *'Having an open door policy allows me to really get to know all the students and their individual needs'*, which she prides herself on.

Kimberley is also a qualified Careers Leader and leads and supports students who do not wish to attend University with the post-18 decision making.

Kimberley coordinates numerous programmes that are run along students academic studies, ensuring the students are attending regular engagements for ASPIRE, Realising Opportunities and the Young Enterprise programmes amongst others.

Kimberley is passionate that not only do students achieve their academic goals whilst in Sixth Form, but that they have a memorable experience with lots of fun and activities along the way.



**Denise Morgan**  
**Study Support**

Denise works solely in the Sixth Form Centre as the study support

supervisor. She has over 14 years experience working with students aged 16–18 in different educational settings promoting independent learning and personal responsibility. Her main role is to oversee and encourage engagement with our *Up Learn* and *Integral* programmes and to monitor them accordingly. Denise also ensures students have the best distraction-free environment for their private study periods. Denise works alongside Kimberley Gilbey offering pastoral support to all students, general administration involved in running a busy Sixth Form as well as checking attendance on a daily basis. Denise also helps to coordinate the recruitment of Year 12 students to become Young Ambassadors for the Children's Hospice South West and on occasions accompanies students to local Universities or other schools for enrichment programmes such as Realising Opportunities.



## SIXTH FORM LIFE

Being in the Sixth Form is a time for you to learn more about who you are and how you fit into the world, with good friendships and overall wellbeing playing an important role.

We are proud of the warm, inclusive and fun environment that we have with our Sixth Form students. Whilst we will always encourage it, Sixth Form activities outside the classroom tend to be peer driven, creating a greater sense of community, inclusivity and family. Student led activities include sporting tournaments, bake sales, BBQs, beach cleans and fundraising.

These activities are vital to our students' wellbeing; learning how to relax throughout stressful periods is an important life skill. We also support our students' wellbeing with access to a gym, counselling, open communication with staff, quiet spaces and interest modules, which can include art, chess, yoga, book club and sports.

The Sixth Form Executive Council is an integral part of our Sixth Form with a student voice extremely important to us. The role of the Council is to contribute to the running of the Sixth form, plan events



and activities, as well as be role models for the younger students and to run the whole school council.



## SUPPORT AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Life in the Sixth Form is about more than academic qualifications. Our students are also supported in developing the strength of character and resilience to succeed. We recognise everyone as an individual and encourage them to focus on their passions in order to enrich themselves and their learning with new and exciting experiences. We encourage our students to develop the confidence to lead, participate, communicate and support as much as possible.



We are proud of the relationships we have established which enable us to offer a range of different enrichment and volunteering opportunities to help our students develop further.



These opportunities include; curriculum assistance, ambassadors for the Children Hospice South West, fundraising for EduKid. Duke of Edinburgh, Ten Tors, Young Enterprise, various partnerships on supra curricular academic schemes, school trips, joining the Student Executive Council and many, many more!

The Sixth Form also offers a range of Supra-curricular activities, those activities which give students the chance to research and study beyond the scope of the courses they study. This includes EPQ (extended project), Biology and Chemistry Olympiads and the Maths Challenge. Students wishing to apply for Oxbridge or for Medicine or Veterinary can be part of the Sixth Form Aspire programme.



## SIXTH FORM FACILITIES

Our Sixth Form students benefit from some of the most impressive facilities available in further education in Devon. Our Sixth Form centre, Kingsley, which is exclusively for Sixth Form use, boasts a common room, two quiet study areas and a classroom, ICT Suite, gym, outside green space with picnic benches and a fully fitted kitchen with appliances. Our Sixth Form Centre is conducive to give our students the very best opportunities for their learning. The Centre is open from 8am–6pm, Monday to Friday, where students have the access to computers, careers and higher education literature, dedicated study spaces and kitchen facilities.

Across the college, students can take advantage of specialist facilities, including a fully equipped recording studio, ICT suites, drama studios, a variety of science labs, plus much more. Outdoors, the college boasts the only full size astro turf in North Devon and two multi use games areas.



The whole college site benefits from full Wi-Fi access so students can learn wherever they wish.



## Academic Life

During your time at Bideford College Sixth Form you will follow a comprehensive study programme that offers you a broad understanding of your chosen subjects.

The study programme will contain the following six elements:

- Academic or vocational qualifications
- Work experience or voluntary work
- Tutorial support and information, advice and guidance
- Private study
- GCSE Maths and English Language if a student hasn't already achieved a grade 4 or above
- *Up Learn* and/or *Integral* for selected subjects.

*Up Learn* is a digital learning platform which enhances learning in the following subjects; Psychology, Economics, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

*Integral* is used for Maths. Students will have timetabled sessions to complete these programmes. These programmes allow students to prepare for lessons in advance or revise work that teachers have gone through in the lessons.

Students will also have a Tutor. Tutors will help and support you with your workload as well as help oversee applications for higher education and employment.





## MEET THE STUDENTS



*'At our sixth form, you know you're in a community where you are encouraged to strive for success. From the support of the teachers to the abundance of resources, this sixth form will offer anyone a chance at reaching their full potential. The structure of day-to-day life allows for a productive two years that can make it easy to stay on track.*

*Furthermore, the strong relationships with teachers provide a rare chance to personalise your learning experience. Small class sizes and interactive lessons ensure that teaching is tailored to individual needs. Beyond academics, the teachers are exceptionally supportive – offering help and guidance not just in studies, but in personal matters too, whenever it's needed.*



*Above all, it's the genuine, tight-knit community of this sixth form that has helped us build lifelong friendships with people from diverse backgrounds and varying aspirations, where everyone motivates and supports each other to succeed.'*

**Daisy Riley**



*'My time at Sixth Form has been fulfilling to say the least. I have been provided with the support I needed, but more importantly had the freedom to develop my academic ability and achieve the grades I need. The guidance I received throughout the UCAS application process has been invaluable.'*

*A feature that stands out to me is the opportunity to use Bideford Colleges' sport facilities. As a sport enthusiast, I was delighted to have the chance to run a club of my own and participate in matches against other local colleges. This was fundamental in the upkeep of a fun and social atmosphere at Sixth Form.'*

**Matthew Cloke**





## YEAR 11 TRANSITION

Every year students of Bideford College transition from Year 11 into our Sixth Form. We also have an ever growing number of students from other schools around North Devon and beyond who are choosing to study here with us. Students from all schools are very welcome.

The college will hold a Sixth Form Information Evening at the end of November each year. This is where parents and students can meet Sixth Form teachers and current students and find out about studying in our Sixth Form.

We are also happy to meet with parents and students at any time, to discuss options, have tours of the college and the Sixth Form and support in any way we can.

Being in the Sixth Form is very different to being in lower school. Students are able to wear their own clothing and wear a student identity card for safe guardian purposes. Sixth Form students are not in lessons every hour of the day and there is time incorporated into their days for study time in college.



The Kingsley Sixth Form Centre is open from 8am–6pm for students who wish to continue their studying on site.

Spring 2025, we were ranked 5th in the A Levels league table for post-16 provision and results in Devon. We were in fact the only state school in the top 5 in the county, an achievement we are incredibly proud of!

Every student who applies for a place in our Sixth Form will be offered a personal guidance meeting to discuss the most appropriate courses for them, depending on their academic ability and career aspirations.



The minimum grades needed to achieve a place in the Sixth Form are five grade 9-5s at GCSE. It is possible to take A Level courses, BTEC courses or a combination of both. There are individual entry criteria for each subject; so please refer to the requirements on our website. A number of subjects require grade 6 at GCSE to ensure access to the course.

**Applications can be completed online and the deadline is February half term – further details can be found on our website.**

We believe that further education should be available to all. Financial assistance is available from our post-16 Bursary Scheme for learners. More information can be found on our website.

## **Apprenticeships and employment opportunities**

Many of our Year 13 students head to a range of fantastic universities, but this route is not for everyone. We ensure that students who are interested in gaining Apprenticeships, going into the Forces or taking a Gap Year, have all the information and support they need to achieve their career goal.

## **Your journey, your way**

### **Life after Sixth Form**

We appreciate that everyone is on their own unique path in life, therefore during Years 12 and 13 we provide a comprehensive programme of information and advice which introduces all of the post-18 options available.

University, college, apprenticeships and other career options are all explored impartially and students are supported and advised with their choices by our Sixth Form team and teachers.

The Sixth Form team is there to ensure that you have the skills to enable you to make informed career decisions now and in the future.

### **University transition**

Many of our students choose Higher Education and we support them through the application process and transition to university.

We know that the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) can be a little intimidating, so our Sixth Form team are there to assist students in completing their applications. We spend time with each student to investigate the courses and institutions that will best support them with their future plans. We take our students to a university open day and support them to attend others, so they can experience for themselves the atmosphere, campus, students and staff.

We are proud that each year our students have great success in getting onto their dream courses and securing places at the most prestigious universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. Our students go on to study a wide range of courses from medicine and dentistry to computing, engineering, law, physiotherapy and commerce, to name a few. We are proud of all their achievements.



**COME AND SEE  
FOR YOURSELF**





## Visit Us

We would like to welcome you to attend one of our Sixth Form Information Evenings.

For more details on dates please check our website. If you are unable to attend one of these, then please do not hesitate to contact the college reception as we would be happy to arrange tours for individual appointments.

*For more information about our Sixth Form please go to our website:*  
**[sixthform.bidefordcollege.uk](https://sixthform.bidefordcollege.uk)**



## **Bideford College Sixth Form**

Part of Athena Learning Trust



**01237 477 611**

**Bideford College, Abbotsham Road, Bideford, Devon, EX39 3AR**

**mail@bidefordcollege.uk www.bidefordcollege.uk**