



# High Achievers' Programme

2017



SUNDERLAND  
SIXTH FORM



# High Achievers' Programme

Sunderland Sixth Form values every student and recognises that specialised support is required for gifted and talented students to reach their maximum potential.

Our High Achievers' Programme has been tailored to meet the needs of our students and focuses on developing skills and talents in the classroom as well as through specialised workshops and visits.

Our High Achievers' programme is offered to those with predominantly A\*-B grades or grades 7 to 9, although students who are progressing well may opt into the programme at a later time.

Some benefits of the programme are:

- Choosing four A-Level subjects
- Talks, workshops, shadowing and summer schools
- Dedicated tutorial groups
- Preparation for university entrance
- Focused interviews with specialised staff
- Thinking skills sessions
- Extended Project qualification, attracting extra UCAS points
- Cultural visits
- Help with visiting universities

## Wider choice of subjects

Students who qualify for the High Achievers' Programme are able to choose four A-Level subjects rather than the standard three.

## Dedicated Personal Development Support

Our High Achievers will be part of a dedicated personal development system, in which, specialised staff will coordinate activities hand-picked to best support students' academic and cultural development, complementing their programme of study and future aspirations. This will include focused progress interviews with the tutor in which bespoke action plans will be agreed, monitored and adapted to individual needs.

Personal development programme for High Achievers includes:

- Critical thinking skills
- UKCAT/LNAT registration and preparation
- Community of enquiry
- University research
- Debate group
- Citizenship
- Current affairs
- Interview preparation
- Organising work placements

## Extended Project Qualification

High Achievers will be offered the opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification, which will enhance research and presentation skills and achieve additional qualification to support UCAS applications. The qualification is equivalent to half an A-Level, carrying the same number of UCAS points as an AS-Level, with the potential for an A\* grade. The project offers the opportunity to produce an extended piece of work in a chosen area of study or personal interest, developing skills in enhanced research, project management, independent learning, analysis and critical thinking - all essential and highly sought after skills in higher education.

The qualification has been welcomed by universities and completion will be beneficial to candidates in terms of university selection procedures.



*I had a lot of friends who studied at Sunderland Sixth Form and they recommended it. I was really impressed at the open event and the staff here are really friendly and supportive. I've grown in confidence in my time here and I am now going to study Mathematics at Newcastle University.*

**Anna Walton**

Former Castle View Enterprise Academy student



*I achieved two A\* grades and an A and have chosen to study Engineering at Cambridge University. I studied really hard and I'm proud of my achievements here at Sixth Form.*

**Owen Underwood**

Former Thornhill School student

# University Visits

Following some initial advice and guidance around university choice, students on the High Achievers' Pathway are recommended to visit several Russell Group universities. Russell Group universities are the most prestigious in the UK. Students will be encouraged to attend both day and residential visits and links will be made in accordance with mentoring and support programmes offered by specific universities, depending upon individual requirements.

Sunderland Sixth Form Learning Centre has a fully equipped Careers Zone and sessions are available with our Guidance Officers for advice regarding research, applications and personal statements. Preparation for higher education is recorded and closely monitored by review meetings.

## **Preparation for University**

We are keen to ensure that students receive the necessary support to enable applications to be submitted ahead of deadlines.

In addition, students applying for places at prestigious universities may require preparation for a formal interview process and the College has a trained team of staff to support this. Guidance is provided to ensure students are fully prepared for entrance tests or assessments which may be necessary.

## **Thinking Skills**

Thinking skills sessions are offered as part of High Achievers' Pathway Personal Development Programme to help develop analytical skills in preparation for university.

## **Cultural Visits**

Cultural visits are planned in order to extend students' overall general knowledge and experiences. Such visits can include:

- University library visits
- Art galleries
- Theatre trips
- Visits abroad

In previous academic years, our High Achievers enjoyed a trip to Paris and Rome, experiencing the cultural influences of these major cities.

# Sunderland Sixth Form



Excellent lecturers with industry experience

Rated as **GOOD** by Ofsted in 2016



A wide range of A-Level courses

99%

pass rate for the last eight years



Dedicated High Achievers' Programme



Exclusive partnership with REED NCFE to help our students into work



983



of our students progressed to higher education

Arts Academy



4 time award-winning Advice and Guidance Team



Sports Academy



Online career coach service



High quality work experience opportunities to give you the employment edge



*I think that the best thing about studying here is the atmosphere. I've studied Geography, Sociology and English Literature and I'm going to study Physical Geography at Northumbria University.*

**Emma McGrory**

*Former Thornhill School student*



*I'm really proud of my A\*, A and B grades, my family are really happy that I got what I needed to progress to Leeds Met to study Microbiology.*

**Michael Brigham**

Former Seaham School student

## Summer Schools

Summer Schools provide a fun and realistic taste of university and higher education to help young people decide if it is right for them. They offer the chance to work alongside current university students and staff and to get a real feel for what it is like to be a student.

## Contacts

For further information on the High Achievers' Programme you can email questions to **[guidance@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk](mailto:guidance@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk)**

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contents of this booklet  
in an alternative format  
please contact us.

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