

Fremman

COLLEGE



INFORMATION 2023-2024

Freman

COLLEGE

Bowling Green Lane · Buntingford · Hertfordshire · SG9 9BT
Telephone 01763 271818

Email admin@freman.org.uk · Website www.freman.org.uk

Co-educational comprehensive upper school · Age range 13 – 18
Headteacher: Helen Loughran · Chair of Governors: Jackie Martin

Open Evening

Wednesday 20th September 2023, 6.00 – 8.30 pm

Headteacher speaks at 8.00 pm

Arrangements for tours

For tours of the college during the working day,
please call the college office to arrange an appointment.

Contents

Aims and ethos	_____	3
Admission arrangements	_____	4
Transition arrangements	_____	4
Pastoral care	_____	5
Safeguarding students' welfare	_____	5
Curriculum	_____	6
The Sixth Form	_____	7
Careers guidance	_____	7
Student support	_____	8
Homework	_____	8
College sport	_____	9
House activities and extra-curricular opportunities	_____	9
Uniform	_____	10
The college day	_____	10
General information	_____	10–12
Staff	=====	13–15
Exam results	_____	16
Student destinations	_____	17

The aims of the college

Freman College has a long-standing reputation for excellence, not just for high academic achievement but in the education of the whole person.

The aims of the college are:

- to excel in teaching and learning and inspire all who study and work at the college to enable them to achieve the very best of which they are capable
- to offer each individual the opportunity to discover and develop their personal skills and talents
- to develop in all members of the college a strong sense of community and responsibility towards others within our local, national and global communities as well as our own college community.

What makes the college unique?

There is much that is unique about Freman College. We believe that many of our strengths derive from its unusual character.

- Our vertical pastoral system brings students together twice a day from across the whole age range and provides a 'family unit' for every student in the college. Older students act as mentors and role models for younger ones.
- Our House system fosters a sense of collective responsibility and provides a wealth of house activities including sport, drama and music.
- Our status as an upper school means that we are staffed with teachers with outstanding experience in teaching their specialist subjects to GCSE and A level.
- Our relationship with our partner middle schools is extremely close, enabling us to ensure a smooth transition from middle school to the college.
- Our range of extra-curricular opportunities is exceptional, offering students a remarkable number of lunchtime and after school activities as well as exciting extended educational trips.

Visitors to the college often remark on the warmth of the relationships they see both between students themselves and between staff and students. This lies at the heart of Freman. Respect for the individual underpins all that we do and as a result students and staff feel an enormous sense of loyalty and commitment to each other and to the college.

Joining Freman College

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The number of places for entry to Freman College in September 2023 was 210.

There were 303 applications received for September 2023.

The total number of allocations was 270.

The college operates its own Admissions Policy which is outlined in the booklet: Moving on to Secondary School: Information for Parents and is also available on the college website.

The highly respected headteacher ably supported by her senior leaders, has created a distinctive ethos in which each member of the college community is valued and has the opportunity to flourish.
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TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

We believe that it is very important that a student's transition to the college is as smooth as possible.

We work closely with our partner middle schools to ensure that the curriculum we all offer allows students to move seamlessly from one school to the next. There are many opportunities for students to become familiar with Freman College before they join us in Year 9. Students attend performances and workshops at the college and take part in sporting activities through the college's sports partnership.

We put a lot of time and care into talking with children's current teachers, whether they are joining us from our partner middle schools or from other middle and secondary schools in the wider area. This ensures that we know as much as possible about each of our new students' particular interests, strengths, needs and areas for development before they arrive at Freman.

Before they join the college in September our new students all spend a full day at the college, getting to know their way round, meeting teachers and new class mates. There is also an evening for new students and their parents at which they meet their Head of House and Group Tutor.

We believe that our transition arrangements really help our new students to settle in well and make their move to the college successful.

Pastoral care

Students and parents tell us that they really like the way the college's pastoral system is organised and the support it provides. Ofsted agreed with them.

The college's work to promote students' personal development and welfare is outstanding. Students thrive in an environment where they feel safe, cared for and valued.

Ofsted

When they join the college, each student becomes a member of one of our four Houses, Butler, Hepworth, Mills and Moore. Siblings are always placed in the same House.

In charge of each House is a Head of House assisted by ten group tutors. Each tutor has care of a tutor group of around twenty-five students drawn from all year groups. Students remain in the same vertical tutor group throughout their time at the college and it provides a 'family' unit within which they grow and develop. When they join the college they are mentored by the older students in their tutor group, who provide positive role models for them. As they grow older, they too take on responsibility for the younger students and organise tutor group and House activities.

We place great emphasis at Freman on the importance of respecting others and we believe this is reflected in the positive and caring relationships to be found between staff and students and between students themselves. Neither staff of the college nor the students tolerate bullying or unkindness.

Students' behaviour is exemplary. They respect their staff and their peers. This makes for a mature and harmonious learning environment.

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We have high expectations of how students behave in college, whether in lessons or at other times. We believe all students have the right to learn in a calm, orderly environment. We have a clear Code of Conduct (available on the college website) which is displayed in all teaching rooms and we enforce this strictly. We believe this creates an environment in which students feel happy, safe and free to be themselves.

Behaviour in lessons is typified by good humour, hard work and respectful relationships.

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Safeguarding students' welfare

The college is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding procedures are built into the college's recruitment, induction and training of all staff and volunteers and our Child Protection Policy is available on the college website.

The Curriculum

Teachers have high expectations of what their students can achieve. They systematically set challenging targets and plan lessons that are well suited to the needs and capabilities of their students.

Ofsted

One of the great advantages of an upper school is that all our teachers really enjoy teaching their subject at the highest level and are passionate about their specialist area.

Admission Year (Year 9)

Students joining the college from our partner middle schools have completed the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3 in Year 8. Consequently, as soon as students join Freman the focus is on preparing them for their GCSEs. They begin their GCSE courses in English, mathematics and science straight away. In other subjects they work on the GCSE skills required for each subject, prior to making their option choices in March and embarking on these courses in May of their first year. All assessment is done using GCSE criteria from the outset and students' progress is measured against GCSE target grades which they receive within the first half term.

Teachers make effective use of their strong subject knowledge to enrich lessons and sustain the interest of students.

Ofsted

All students study art and design, design technology, drama, English, French, geography, history, ICT, mathematics, music, personal development, physical education, religious education and science. Citizenship and personal, social and health education are taught through various curriculum areas and through PSHCRE days. Students with a particular aptitude for languages also study Latin. The students are taught much of the curriculum in mixed ability learning groups, although they are grouped by ability for the teaching of mathematics

Intermediate and Examination Years (Years 10 and 11)

In March of the Admission Year all students make decisions about the subjects they will be studying at GCSE level in the following two years. Plenty of guidance is available for both students and parents when it is time for them to make decisions about which GCSE subjects to opt for. This includes an evening for parents and also individual meetings with a senior member of staff for every student and their parents.

In Key Stage 4, all students take English, mathematics, physical education and science. Some students take a combined GCSE in science while others take three GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics.

In addition, most students take four of the following GCSE subjects: art and design, business studies, child development, computer science, design technology (resistant materials),

drama, food preparation and nutrition, French, geography, history, ICT, Latin, music, photography, religious studies, sport science, sport studies. Citizenship and personal, social and health education are delivered through various curriculum areas and through PSHCE Days, rather than as separate timetabled subjects.

In the words of one student, 'The best thing about college is the teachers'.

Ofsted

The Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form offers a broad range of A level subjects, offering students a high level of flexibility. The following subjects are offered at A level: fine art, biology, business studies, chemistry, drama, English language, English literature, French, further mathematics, geography, history, Latin, mathematics, media studies, music, photography, physical education, physics, psychology, religious studies, sociology and 3-D product design. We also offer Cambridge Technical Foundation Diplomas in Sport and Physical Activity, Information Technology, Business and Health and Social Care, as well as a Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in Sport.

A significant number of students complete an Extended Project while others take the IFS Level 3 Certificate in Financial Studies. Both of these qualifications are equivalent to half an A level.

Every year, the majority of students stay on to take A levels in the Sixth Form. We also have new students who join Freman to take advantage of our wide range of courses. As a result, we have a large and very successful Sixth Form.

Students have their own Sixth Form building, the Pavilion, which comprises a large common room with a canteen in addition to a study area equipped with a computer suite.

Students value the care that is taken to provide them with a broad range of leadership roles. They proudly wear their prefect badges and enjoy the opportunities to work with students from Years 9 to 11. Students are acutely aware of their responsibilities as the oldest students in the college.

Ofsted

Careers guidance

From the Admission Year through to the Sixth Form, students have access to individual careers guidance and regular careers talks to help them make the right choices for their future. In addition to the individual interviews mentioned above, students may book an appointment with a Careers Advisor who regularly visits the college. Sixth Formers also benefit from the wide experience of the Sixth Form staff to help them with their post-18 Higher Education, employment and training choices.

A rich variety of activities, such as university visits, visiting speakers and interviews, equips students with the skills and knowledge to make informed choices about their futures.
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Support for students with additional needs and disabilities

The college believes that all students have the right to achieve to the best of their ability. Many students, at some point in their educational career or sometimes throughout their time at school, will need additional support.

We work closely with our partner schools to ensure we have detailed information about the individual needs of students so we can make their transition to Freman as smooth as possible. Our Special Educational Needs Coordinator liaises with the relevant staff at other schools to make sure we have all the information we need and that teachers are fully informed about the particular needs of their students when they arrive and throughout their time at Freman.

The college's policies and procedures, available on the college website or from the office, detail how students with additional needs are supported and how their progress is monitored and reviewed.

Our SENCo manages a team of teaching assistants and provides information and training for all teachers.

The college also has a disability equality scheme which details our commitment to ensuring that the college is accessible to all. This is also available on the college website or from the office.

Homework

Homework is an important part of students' studies and supports their academic progress. In A to E Year, it is set in accordance with a homework timetable, which is displayed in students' tutor rooms and is available on the college website. Developing effective private study habits from the outset is essential if students are to cope with the demands of coursework, revision and other aspects of GCSEs, Cambridge Nationals and A levels as they progress through the college. We strongly encourage parents to take a close interest in their sons' and daughters' homework.

Both parents and students can log on to Satchel: One to check what homework has been set and when this is due in.

Homework can involve a variety of tasks including some which involve internet based research and resources such as MyMaths and Seneca. If students do not have internet access at home, they are able to use computers in college before and after college and at break and lunchtimes.

College sport

Freman College operates traditional team sports: basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders, rugby, volleyball as well as athletics, badminton, gymnastics, orienteering, swimming, tennis and trampolining.

In addition to our fantastic four court sports hall, our sporting facilities include sports fields, a fitness suite, a gymnasium and tennis/netball courts. We also regularly use the swimming pool located on the college site and the all-weather pitch located adjacent to the college. Groups within the local community make extensive use of Freman College's facilities during the evenings and weekends.

A full range of inter-House events operates throughout the college year and Freman College competes effectively in the local area and within the County.

House activities

Throughout the year there are a host of inter-House competitions. These include House Drama, Music, Chess, University Challenge and Baking in addition to many sporting competitions. All students are expected to take part and can win House Colours for doing so. Points are accrued throughout the year, culminating in July in the award of the Sainsbury's Cup to the winning House.

Other extra-curricular opportunities

Freman has an enormous range of extra-curricular activities. These include activities before and after college and at lunch time but also encompass an enormous range of educational visits. We expect students to take full advantage of these opportunities. Education is not just about what takes place in the classroom but is much wider than this: it is about being part of the college community and playing a full part in the wider life of the college.

In addition to the extensive programme of sports activities, the college has many groups and societies, including an Amnesty International group, brass group, chess club, choir, drama, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, jazz band, orchestra, vocal ensembles and wind band.

There are many annual performances and events for students to take part in, including the Intermission Play (for Admission and Intermediate Years), the Christmas concert, the college play or musical, the Spring concert, Amnesty Live Lounge and The Event.

Examples of annual trips and educational visits include ski trips, classics visits to Italy and Greece, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, French work experience in Loches, geography visit to Iceland and numerous visits to universities, galleries, museums, theatre performances and other places of educational interest.

Uniform

Admission, Intermediate and Examination Years

Students are expected to wear the correct uniform. This applies on their way to and from college as well as during college hours. A uniform list is sent to parents with other information in the summer term.

Sixth Form

There is no specific uniform, but the dress code states that students may not wear anything that offends or distracts other members of the college.

The college day

We have five one-hour lessons per day and operate a two-week, ten-day timetable.

8.40	–	9.00	Registration and assembly/tutor time
9.00	–	10.00	Period 1
10.00	–	11.00	Period 2
11.00	–	11.20	Morning break
11.20	–	12.20	Period 3
12.20	–	1.20	Period 4
1.20	–	2.05	Lunch
2.05	–	2.15	Registration
2.15	–	3.15	Period 5

General information

Absence

Apart from routine matters such as medical or dental appointments, prior permission for absence should be sought from the Headteacher in writing. Absence from college is likely to mean a student misses assessments and other activities which contribute a significant proportion of marks towards their final public exam results and cannot be completed at home. Parents are legally obliged to see that students are only absent from college for a very good reason. Family holidays should not be taken during term time. Students' attendance should not fall below 95%.

Charging policy

The college will charge for the cost of materials needed for subjects where the student will take home the finished product.

There will be a charge for activities and visits that take place outside the college hours and are not a compulsory part of the curriculum. Otherwise, a voluntary contribution will be requested; but if there are not enough contributions to make an activity possible, it will not take place.

First entries for GCSE and A level examinations are normally paid for by the college, but retakes of examinations and modules will be charged for.

Any student not attending an examination or not submitting coursework will be charged the full entry fee for that subject. A copy of the full Charging Policy is available on request.

College Fund

All schools operate under tight financial constraints, and Freman College is no exception. We are also geographically somewhat remote and our students have to do much more travelling than most to participate in educational activities such as sports events and cultural visits.

The Freman College Fund subsidises most college activities not directly involved with the curriculum. Its major expenditure is running the college minibuses and hiring transport for college activities. It also helps to provide extra equipment and facilities for the college that we would not otherwise be able to purchase.

In order to fund this we rely traditionally on the generous support of parents. For 2023/2024 we are suggesting a donation of £25 from each family, but fully appreciate that not all families are in a position to make a donation.

Equipment

Pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, scientific calculator, dictionary, exercise book for draft work and a suitable bag.

Lunchtime

The college operates a cafeteria system in the Dining Area using biometric tills. Parents top-up their son or daughter's account online and can view the items purchased. PIN numbers are issued for students not registered to use biometrics.

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, such as Income Support, your son or daughter may be eligible for free school meals. Please visit Hertfordshire County Council's website to apply online at <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>. There is no differentiation between students who have free meals or those who pay, with student accounts being credited automatically.

All students except Sixth Formers must stay on the premises unless they have a home lunch pass. Lunch passes are issued at the discretion of a student's Head of House and only to students living in close walking distance of the college.

Music lessons

Music tuition for a variety of instruments is available including: guitar, violin, flute, trumpet, bass guitar, piano, viola, oboe, trombone, tuba, drums, cello, clarinet, French horn, tuned percussion, singing, double bass, bassoon, saxophone and euphonium. If you have any questions please contact the College Office on 01763 271818 or visit: <https://www.freman.org.uk/student-life/curriculum/extra-curricular/music>

Transport

Any queries or problems regarding transport for students entitled to free transport to college should be addressed to the HCC Passenger Transport Unit on 0300 123 4043. Any queries or problems regarding transport for students who travel to college by bus but are not entitled to free transport should be addressed to the relevant bus company.

Website

Our website is an important source of information. For example, details of uniform, examination arrangements, key dates and events and booklets for parents are available online at www.freman.org.uk.

Staff

Senior Leadership Team

Ms H Loughran Headteacher
Ms L Jones Deputy Headteacher
Mr W Abell Assistant Headteacher
Ms S Hebditch Business Manager
Mr M New Assistant Headteacher
Mr M Shearn Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Z Smith Assistant Headteacher
Mr S Thornewill Assistant Headteacher

Pastoral Team

Mr B Green Head of Butler
Ms S Lord Head of Hepworth
Ms W Malley Safeguarding Lead
Mr J Tiffen Head of Mills
Mr A Wilson Head of Moore
Mrs F Norton Pastoral Support Lead
Ms M Beale Pastoral Administrator
Mrs E Newman Pastoral Support Worker

Art and Photography

Mr C Moody Head of Department
Ms S Lord
Ms A Stoneman
Ms K van de Zande (Technician)

Business

Ms L Clarke Joint Head of Department
Miss L Hunter Joint Head of Department
Mr R Milne

Child Development

Mrs J Todd Head of Department
Mrs Z Smith

Classics

Dr S Aguilar Head of Department

Computing

Mr W Hamilton Head of Department

Drama

Mrs K Wallace Head of Department

English

Mrs C Callow Head of Department
Mr N Smith Second in Department
Mrs R Patman Second in Department
Mrs R Saunders A year coordinator
Mrs H Carr I year coordinator
Mr B Hemel
Ms L Jones

Miss B Welch
Ms I Woodger

Finance

Mr R Milne Finance Co-ordinator
Ms L Clarke
Ms L Hunter
Mr M Hyde

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Mrs S Malone Head of Department
Mrs G Keating Technician

French

Mr I Driscoll Head of Department
Ms S Maunier
Mrs J Smith

Geography

Ms J Cadman Head of Department
Mr W Abell
Mr M Hyde
Mr S Thornewill

Health & Social Care

Ms Dionne Phillips Head of Department
Mrs S Lewey

History

Mr M Trapmore Head of Department
Mrs V Bentley
Miss V Cannon
Mr J Tiffen

ICT

Miss T Brown Head of Department
Mr W Hamilton

Mathematics

Mr A Maguire Head of Department
Dr S Duxbury Second in Department
Mrs R Edwards Second in Department
Mr D Atkins
Mr D Carr
Ms W Malley
Mr W Moulton
Miss H Summers

Music

Mr L Barclay Head of Department

Physical Education

Miss A Roach Head of Department

Mrs S Lewey Head of Girls PE
 Mr J Young Head of Boys PE
 Mr B Green
 Mr T Hamilton
 Mrs D Phillips – i/c CTech
 Mr M Shearn
 Mr A Wilson

Psychology**Ms A Povall Head of Department**

Mrs S Lewey
 Miss A Roach
 Mrs H Stenning

Religious Studies**Mr N Loynes Head of Department**

Miss R Roberts

Science**Mrs H Stenning Head of Science**

Mrs S Bowman Technician
 Mrs A White Technician

Biology**Mr P Norris Head of Biology**

Mr C Brickel
 Mr S Callow
 Ms A Povall
 Mrs H Stenning
 Dr A Vishnivetskaya

Chemistry**Dr G Glasssmith Head of Chemistry**

Mr S Callow
 Ms R Cutteridge
 Mr B Merison

Physics**Mrs H Stenning Head of Physics**

Mr C Brickel
 Ms C Downie
 Mr B Green
 Ms S Sakimoto
 Dr A Vishnivetskaya

Resistant Materials**Mr S Malone Head of Department**

Mrs G Keating Technician

Sociology**Ms J Cadman Head of Department**

Mr M New

Head of PSCHRE & Careers**Miss R Roberts****Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme****Mr B Merison Coordinator**

Mr C Brickel
 Mr M Hyde

Sixth Form**Mr W Abell Assistant Head i/c Sixth Form Achievement**

Mr B Hemel Second i/c Sixth Form Achievement

Mrs C Monk Sixth Form Administrator

Miss L Chapman Sixth Form Study Supervisor

Special Educational Needs Team**Mrs J Todd SENCo**

Mrs J Gaffney	Asst SENCo, HLTA
Mrs H McDonell	Admin Assistant
Mrs S Andrews	Teaching Assistant
Mrs L Coles	Teaching Assistant
Mrs J Doncaster	Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Ellis	Teaching Assistant
Mrs M Harbour	Teaching Assistant
Mrs S King	Teaching Assistant
Miss E Norton	Teaching Assistant
Mrs L Purse	Teaching Assistant

Graduate Intern

Mr B Leader

Administrative Team**Miss C Jones Office Manager**

Mrs L Ricketts Deputy Office Manager

Mrs D James Administrative Assistant

Mrs W Nancarrow Administrative Assistant

Business & Finance Team**Ms S Hebditch Business Manager**

Mrs J Chaplin Finance & Admin Assistant

Examinations**Mrs M Bristow Examinations Officer**

Mrs Z Hay Assistant Examinations Officer

Lesson Cover & General Support

Mr S Leader
Mr H Legg
Mrs L Munt
Mrs K Patel
Mrs G Schwan

Network Team

Mr M Grimley Network Manager
Mr K Butters Network Assistant

Site Team

Mr P Dyson Site Manager
Mr M Day Site Assistant
Mr R Waller Maintenance Assistant

Cleaning

Mrs J Page - Supervisor

Canteen

Ms K White Catering Manager
Mrs N Reeves Assistant Manager
Mrs L Barnes
Miss K Cornell
Mr M Gleadow
Ms Y Levchuk
Mrs T Varney

Examination results

KEY STAGE 4

Year 11 students performed exceptionally against all the national measures. Although the national pattern was that 2023 GCSE grades dropped from those of 2022 to be closer to 2019 (pre-pandemic) grades, Freman students' attainment and progress were both very good.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Government did not produce P8 scores in 2020 or 2021 but data that we have suggests that our students' "value-added" scores in 2023 were similar to previous years.

Students complete Key Stage 4 having attained levels that are significantly higher than expected nationally.
Ofsted

Progress 8	
2017	0.48
2018	0.45
2019	0.45
2020	Not published
2021	Not published
2022	0.69
2023	0.4 (estimate)

* The Progress 8 measure is a secondary school accountability system. It aims to encourage schools to teach a broad curriculum and reward schools that teach all pupils well. It measures pupils' progress across 8 subjects from age 11 to 16. Freman's P8 scores have always placed us amongst the top schools nationally.

The proportion of Freman students achieving high grades in English and in Mathematics exceeds the national average each year. Below, our 2023 results are compared with the National results from 2019, before disruption due to the Covid pandemic.

Grade	English Language			Maths		
	Freman 2023	National 2019	Freman vs. National	Freman 2023	National 2019	Freman vs. National
7+	19.3	17.4	+1.9	20.8	20.4	+0.4
4+	79.7	70.5	+9.2	76.4	71.5	+4.9

Sixth Form

In 2023, a year in which there was unprecedented competition for university places, **91%** of our students who chose to move on to Higher Education, took a place at their **first choice** university.

A Level results

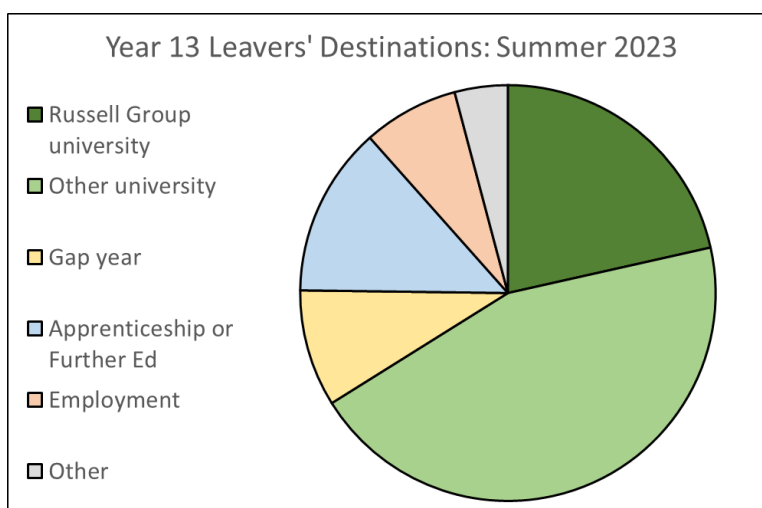
	2022	2023
A Level: average point score per entry	40.5	37.22
A Level: average point score expressed as a grade	B	B-
% A*/A grades	37	27

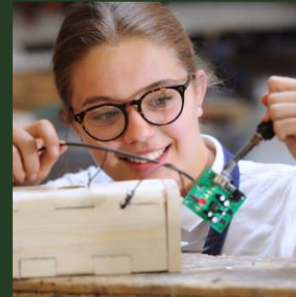
Cambridge Technical results

	2022	2023
Cam Tec: average point score expressed as a grade	Distinction	Distinction
% Distinction grades	71	53

Destinations

Having finished the Sixth Form, most Upper Sixth students moved on to the university of their choice. The remainder of our students secured an apprenticeship or employment, or took places on Art Foundation courses, prior to taking a degree.





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