



# Cockermouth School

An exceptional learning experience for all  
aspire • enjoy • include • respect • community



A photograph of two young people, a male and a female, sitting at a desk in what appears to be a classroom or study area. The male student on the left is looking down at a book or paper, while the female student on the right is smiling and looking towards the camera. They are both wearing blue lanyards. The background is slightly blurred, showing a blue wall and a window.

**Our core values of  
aspire, enjoy, include,  
respect & community**

underpin everything that we do

# Welcome to our Sixth Form

Cockermouth School Sixth Form provides an exceptional learning experience for all of our students.



Progression into Sixth Form is the most popular choice for our Year 11 students and every year we also warmly welcome many students who studied GCSEs at other schools, creating a vibrant Sixth Form of well over 200 students.

At Cockermouth School we offer a broad range of A Level and vocational courses that allows our students to choose from a range of subjects that align with their strengths, interests and future career plans. Taught by subject specialists,

and supported by an experienced and dedicated pastoral team, students in our Sixth Form make outstanding academic progress. Their achievements consistently place our school in the top 20% of schools in the country and, most importantly, prepares each individual well for progression into further education, university, apprenticeships or employment.

As one school community, Sixth Form students are taught in academic departments throughout the school. Our students also have access to dedicated Sixth Form facilities that provide a number of excellent, well-resourced study spaces where students can work independently, as they blend attendance in lessons with personal study time throughout the school day.

Beyond their own study, our Sixth Form students benefit from a wide range of curriculum and whole school enrichment opportunities to support both their academic and personal development. There is something for every student to be involved in beyond their taught curriculum, enriching their learning experience and enjoyment of Sixth Form life. As role models within our school, Sixth Form students also make valuable contribution

to the wider school community, including supporting younger students and leading on whole school and charity events.

Please make the most of the opportunities to find out more about life in our Sixth Form through our school website at [www.cockermouthschool.org](http://www.cockermouthschool.org) and at our Open Evening event, where you will have the opportunity to look around the school and speak personally with staff and students.

**Mr Richard King BSc**  
Headteacher

“The advice and support that our students receive is of the very highest quality.”



inspirational learning through exceptional and stimulating teaching

# Our Sixth Form

A warm welcome to Cockermouth School Sixth Form. We are a successful, friendly and inclusive community, and we strive for academic success for all our students.



We also believe that happy, well-rounded, well-supported students are the most successful. We deliver a full programme of advice and guidance to help students choose subjects that they will enjoy, to which they will be well suited and that will equip them for any future career plans they

may have. We have a strong commitment to support our young people and ask that they are fully committed to doing their best when they study with us; we recognise this is a partnership and therefore our pastoral care is centred on helping students to achieve their very best. We expect that students will take on

an increasing responsibility for their own learning and progress, therefore the nature of this partnership can change, with parents and school adjusting their roles accordingly.

Students who stay with us settle quickly, as subject staff already know them and students are able to continue the many excellent working relationships they have with our staff. Students who join us from other schools are well-supported to settle quickly and our students, staff and Sixth Form team are friendly and welcoming.

The Sixth Form has its own area within school, including a common room where a canteen service is available at break and lunchtime. There are two independent study rooms with computers and desks so that students can work quietly on a variety of tasks. Students are supported and guided to bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level study skills. Within our library there is also a dedicated space for Sixth Form students to work, including access to computers.

We look forward to meeting you on our Open Evening where there is an opportunity to talk with subject staff and current students. Students studying in Year 11 at Cockermouth School will apply to Sixth Form in school; students who have not been at Cockermouth School during Year 11 will need to complete an application form and personal statement online, which can be accessed on the school website.



our dedicated staff are highly skilled, highly qualified, passionate specialists



**High** expectations,  
**high** achievement



**Discover and develop your potential**

# Key Principles

We believe that success at Sixth Form is built on five key principles:

- 1 Aspirations should be set high. Students are encouraged and inspired to work hard and develop their academic skills and curiosity.
- 2 Students need to be committed to their studies and willing to give of their best, both inside and out of the classroom.
- 3 Students should be well-supported, listened to, and offered appropriate advice and guidance to enable them to make a good transition into Sixth Form, and again to help them set and realise their future aspirations beyond school.
- 4 Learning does not end in the classroom and enrichment activities must be an intrinsic part of our excellent Sixth Form provision.
- 5 As the oldest members of the student body, Sixth Form students must see themselves as young leaders, role models to younger students and ambassadors of school in the wider community.



# Entry Requirements

For automatic acceptance onto A Level courses, students will need to have achieved the entry requirements for the subjects they wish to study.

Prior academic performance is an important indicator of a student's ability to access Sixth Form courses. Entry requirements are used as they provide confidence that students have gained the knowledge and skills, through their GCSE courses, to progress to Level 3 in each of their chosen subjects. Where a student has not studied a subject at GCSE, but wishes to do so at A Level, prior achievement in subjects of a similar nature will be considered.

We may consider students who have just missed the qualifying grades if there is clear evidence of good attitude to learning and strong aptitude for the subjects they wish to study. The final decision will be made by the Head of Department and will be informed by their professional judgement.

For details of entry requirements for all courses, please see the Subject Information Booklet or the Sixth Form Entry Requirements sheet, both of which can be accessed on our school website.

“High expectations and dedicated support empowers students to learn and achieve personal excellence.”



students are encouraged to take on challenging levels of responsibility



**Sixth Form** is **exciting**,  
**challenging** and  
ultimately **rewarding**



Inspiring **excellence**  
through **enquiring**  
and **reflective** minds



# Academic Curriculum

We pride ourselves on offering a broad and balanced academic curriculum that will prepare students well for the next stage of their education, and for their lives beyond school.

We deliver a wide range of A Level courses, alongside vocational courses at Level 3. The combinations of courses on offer provide a springboard for a variety of future destinations. Every year we have students moving on to post-18-degree courses and higher level apprenticeships in a range of areas such as law, nursing, veterinary and medical sciences, policing, project management, accountancy and the arts.

Students will choose from one of three pathways; Academic (studying three or four A Levels), Mixed (studying two A Levels and one vocational subject) or Vocational (studying two or three vocational subjects).

All courses are taught by experienced, highly skilled subject specialists and draw upon specialist facilities that provide an exceptional learning experience for all. Each year we have students move on from Cockermouth School having achieved excellent outcomes and made significant progress as a result of their Sixth Form experience.

All students also have periods of timetabled private study. This helps them to develop the independence they need to be successful in their advanced studies, both at school and beyond. Full details of all the courses on offer can be found in our Subject Information Booklet on our school website.

“Our Sixth Form curriculum is designed to nurture individual interests and instil a passion for learning.”

we are proud of our friendly, warm and welcoming sixth form



# Enrichment

Enrichment is an essential part of Sixth Form life; it inspires students to broaden their horizons, and encourages them to try something new and give something back to our community.

Through our Enrichment Programme, students are encouraged to develop a broad range of skills and competences, such as confidence, resilience, organisational skills, leadership, teamwork and communication to help them succeed in all aspects of their life. The programme has three strands:

**Personal Development** can include academic enrichment through the completion of online courses such as MOOCs or other extra-curricular opportunities such as orchestra, the school production, sport, Young Enterprise and the balloon project, to name but a few.

**Work Experience** can include placements organised by students in the school holidays, or placements overseen by school on a Wednesday afternoon in local primary schools, veterinary and dental practices and other local businesses. We encourage students to apply to Dream Placement and have a designated work experience week at the end of the summer term.

**Volunteering** can include placements at the Food Bank, with Age UK, or work for local and national charities. Many students also volunteer in school, supporting younger students within lessons, working with the Year 7 and 8 pastoral teams or helping with literacy interventions. Mentoring younger students is an important role for our Sixth Form students.





# Trips & travel abroad

We offer a number of educational trips to challenge and inspire our young people.

In recent years these have included Operation Wallacea projects to South Africa and the Amazon Rainforest in Peru, World Challenge expeditions to Borneo and Madagascar, with Ecuador planned for 2025. Language trips visit Salamanca and Bordeaux, Geography and Biology run successful field trips and theatre and drama trips provide a wider cultural experience. Year 12 students visit a careers fair and a Russell group

university open day as well as an Oxbridge conference, and a chance to attend Oxford open day.

On these trips, students have gained insight into how their studies relate to the world beyond school, and a number of them have been inspired by their experiences to follow particular career paths as a result.



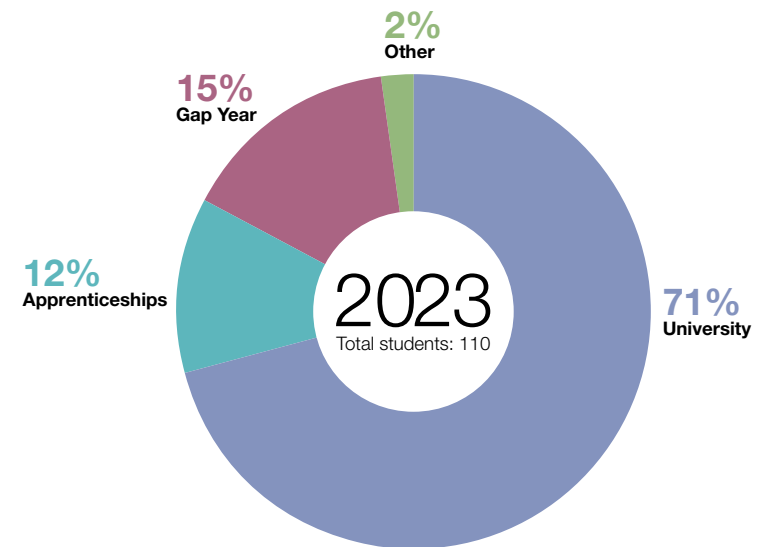
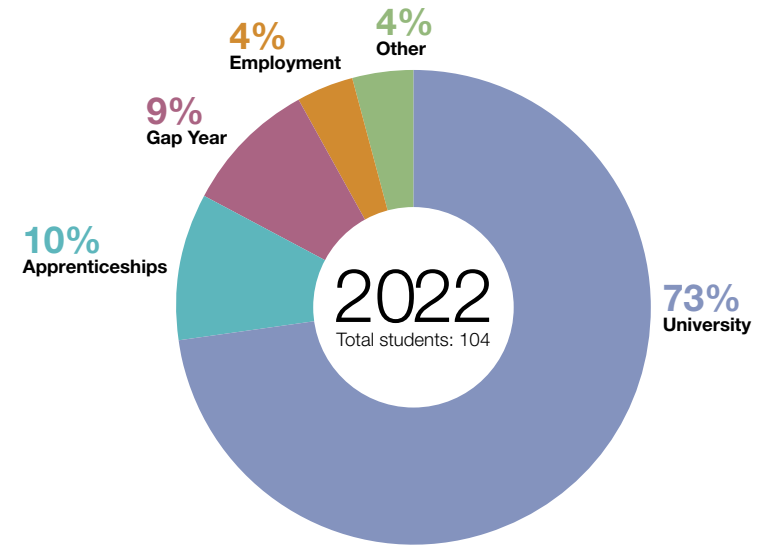
“Students benefit from an incredibly supportive learning environment and outstanding student welfare provision.”

# Destinations

Through both Years 12 and 13 we run a well-developed Futures Programme to help our students plan for the next stage in their education.

The main focus is on securing excellent progression for our young people. Our Sixth Form tutor team support students with personal statements, CV writing and preparing for life post-Sixth Form. We invite a number of speakers from a range of universities, apprenticeship providers, former students and representatives from local business to speak to the students to help inform their choices. We also arrange for mock interviews and support for aptitude tests.

The majority of our students progress to university, including Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group institutions. A significant number also take up Higher Level Apprenticeships including some with degree programmes. Throughout Year 12 and 13 students are encouraged to think about and research courses, careers and opportunities for work experience to help them better understand the many pathways available to them.



students take advantage of a wide range of academic, social and cultural opportunities

# Student Profiles



**Izzy Tranter**  
Year 13 student

I am studying A Levels in English Literature, Maths and Economics which I have thoroughly enjoyed due to the variety of information I am taught on a daily basis. An element of Sixth Form I enjoy is having allocated lessons

dedicated to private study and wider reading. In Sixth Form you are treated more like an adult and are trusted to take control of your own learning, homework and revision.

Whilst I have enjoyed the academic side, I have also been able to participate in extra-curricular activities such as Young Enterprise and the netball team. Within Young Enterprise, I was voted as Managing Director which allowed me to oversee a business which I created alongside my peers. We then presented our business at the Northwest finals at KPMG in Manchester where we were awarded the Sustainability award. The netball team has given me the opportunity to train and compete in tournaments with other Cockermonth Sixth Form students.

Advice I would give to Year 11 students who are wanting to study at Sixth Form is to make sure the subjects you pick are ones that you will enjoy and to use your free time wisely so that you don't fall behind as it is harder to catch up in A Levels.

After leaving Sixth Form I intend to study Economics at university.



**Karim Gardiner**  
Year 13 student

I am currently studying Psychology, Art, and Economics at A Level. I have enjoyed studying this variety of subjects during my time in Sixth Form because of the wide range of disciplines they cover.

Although I initially found the workload to be a significant step up from GCSE, the transition was very smooth thanks to the support from the teachers and the Sixth Form team. I have also enjoyed the independence that Sixth Form has afforded me. The study rooms and the library are especially useful because they supply a calm and quiet atmosphere where I can do a lot of the homework I am set efficiently.

There have been lots of extra-curricular activities available to me whilst in Sixth Form, for my enrichment I took part in Young Enterprise and Year 7 form attachment which have broadened my skills tremendously.

After my A Levels I hope to study Product Design with a view to joining the design and manufacture sector.

“I have also enjoyed the independence that Sixth Form has afforded me.”



**Livvi Bennett**  
Year 13 student

At A Level I chose to study Biology, Geography and PE. I have found these subjects work cohesively together as many of their aspects are interlinked with similar foundations, which has been helpful for me.

During my time studying A Level Biology, I have been able to hone my ability to think critically and build on my knowledge from GCSE, as well as implementing what I've learnt in the classroom to interesting practical sessions.

Studying A Level PE has given me a unique insight into the physiological workings of the human body during sport, enabling me to understand my own sporting performance as well as providing an in-depth understanding of its history and background.

Throughout my time studying Geography, I've learnt about our landscape and its past as well as many relevant social and political issues. Geography has provided me with a well-rounded knowledge of our world and the people in it, I've thoroughly enjoyed studying it.

My time at Sixth Form has allowed me to explore and further my own interests too, I have been able to run the schools Amnesty International Club, whereby I prepared and delivered sessions for younger students, this being an enlightening and highly beneficial experience for me.

My long-term aim is to work as an NGO environmental consultant to help minimise further environmental damage.



**Cockermouth School**

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**Headteacher:** Mr R J King  
**Chair of Trustees:** Mr A Rankin



An Inspired Facility

