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**Opportunity, Quality, Achievement**

**The College:**

The College operates from a single site, 1.5 miles south of Cambridge city centre. Since its inception in 1974, succeeding the former boys’ grammar school, the College has concentrated mainly on providing advanced level courses to students in the Cambridge area. Having responded to strong and sustained demand for places over a number of years we now have approaching 2,300 full-time 16-19 students for whom we provide a choice of 35+ A level subjects, the Extended Project Qualification, an extensive programme of enrichment and extra-curricular activities and responsive individual support and guidance. The breadth, depth and challenge of this curriculum are at the heart of our long-standing educational vision.

The College is a member of the Cambridge Area 14-19 Partnership: there are ten other centres for post-16 education: Cambridge Regional College, Long Road Sixth Form College, The College of West Anglia, UTC Cambridge and six school sixth forms. The Cambridge Area 14-19 Partnership provides a common application procedure for post-16 courses and co-ordinates the information and guidance services for student transfer at 16+. The great majority of our full-time sixth form students are recruited from 18 maintained secondary comprehensive schools in the Cambridge area, 12 of which do not have their own sixth form.

We deliver an Adult Education programme, mainly during evenings and some weekends. The number of part-time adult student enrolments is around 3,500 a year. The range of courses reflects the needs of a much wider community in Cambridge and the surrounding area. The College is also a study centre for the Open University.

The Hills Road Sports and Tennis Centre is solely owned by the College and operates as Cantabrigian Ltd. While providing an outstanding facility for staff and students of the College, it also serves as a community sports centre working in partnership with Cambridge City Council and the Lawn Tennis Association. Local residents use the centre on a pay-as-you-play basis or via the membership scheme. Activities range from tennis and fitness room sessions to squash, cricket and pilates.

**College Performance:**

Hills Road Sixth Form College enjoys a national reputation for excellence and, in its last two Ofsted inspections, was rated outstanding in all graded areas.

*A Summary of the College’s Performance in 2014-15*

* In the Government’s examination performance table for ‘points per examination entry’, the College posted the highest score of any sixth form college in the country as it has done every year since the tables’ inception in 1993.
* Retention and success rates also remained high, with 96% of those enrolled on a two-year course in 2013 going on to achieve the equivalent of at least two A level passes in 2015.
* For the past four years the tables have included the percentage of students achieving at least AAB at A level in at least two of the Russell Group's 'facilitating subjects'. As in each previous year Hills Road recorded the strongest sixth form college percentage.
* Value added continued to be positive overall. The College’s score of 0.18 indicated that Hills Road students achieved about one fifth of a grade per A level entry better than might have been expected based on their prior GCSE results.
* Over 90% of Hills Road students progressed to higher education with significant numbers going to the most sought after universities (77 Hills Road students received Oxbridge offers during 2015-16).

**College Ethos:**

At Hills Road we are strongly committed to providing our students with a broad sixth form education characterised by academic excellence, high quality learning experiences and extensive enrichment opportunities. Students are encouraged to achieve the highest standards not only in the classroom but also in a range of extra-curricular activities which help them to develop new skills, think independently and exercise their responsibilities as global citizens. We seek to promote a caring and supportive atmosphere with a strong sense of community in which all students are valued equally as individuals and treated as young adults.

From teaching and tutorial departments to administrative and support functions, Hills Road staff are deployed within specialist teams where their expertise, knowledge and skills may be used to best effect: each student has a specialist tutor with whom s/he meets regularly; subject departments offer lunchtime workshops where students can receive one-to-one support with homework queries or extension work; help with all aspects of learning, from essay writing to time management, is available from the specialist team in the Study Skills Department; and the Careers Department advises students on the world outside and beyond Hills Road, from work experience to UCAS applications.

Specialisation brings considerable benefits to staff as well as to students: not only does it have a significant impact on the quality of teaching, support and guidance, but it also helps to enrich working relationships and to promote a culture of learning and continuous improvement. Teams are encouraged to work in creative and collaborative ways and to reflect on their own and each other’s performance.

College Facilities:

Throughout our history the buildings have been extended and refurbished to meet changing needs. All lessons take place in high quality, purpose-built accommodation. In addition to excellent classrooms which are fully equipped with digital media resources, the College enjoys first class facilities including: extensive open-access IT facilities, a Library and Resources Centre, The Robinson Theatre, a modern well-equipped Music Department with recital room and practice rooms, an Art and Design Centre andspecialist laboratories for science and language learning. Indoor and outdoor sports facilities are excellent, with the Sports and Tennis Centre located on the main site and a well-maintained ten-acre sports ground, including a recently constructed modern pavilion, situated within a short walk from the College. The most recent addition to our facilities is a fabulous three-storey building at the edge of our site which provides outstanding accommodation for the Mathematics, Performing Arts and Sport departments.

We are currently in the process of developing a new Student Services hub at the heart of the College site. This will house the Supported Independent Learning Service and Careers department, a new library-style student study space and a staffed reception area. We shall also be creating a new Student Services Team to respond to all manner of student need and to ensure a qualified staff member is available throughout the College day to respond to student concerns in respect of wellbeing and mental health.

A Stimulating Environment:

I hope this has helped to convey some of the qualities which make Hills Road Sixth Form College a stimulating and rewarding place in which to work and learn. If you choose to visit us, you will experience a College which enjoys a happy and purposeful atmosphere and a unique blend of opportunity, quality and achievement.

July 2016