



**Shape
the
future**

2023



Hills Road
Sixth Form College
Cambridge

Be part of our success

"Students say that it is a privilege to study at Hills Road. They enjoy studying alongside other like-minded students who challenge and inspire them."

Ofsted 2022



96%
of
graduating
Hills Road
students
achieved a
2:1 or better
at University
in 2021

78%
A*-B
grades
in 2019-21

99%
A*-E
grades
in 2019-21



55%
of graduating
Hills Road
students
were awarded
a First at
University
in 2021



93%
of students
progress
to Higher
Education

78
Oxbridge
offers in
2022

Ofsted rated
Outstanding in 2022

Shaping your future

Thank you for your interest in Hills Road Sixth Form College.

I hope that in these pages we can convey something of the unique flavour of Hills Road and its great opportunities.

You'll find that Hills Road is a busy, vibrant, exciting community of young people. With new social and study facilities on campus, we know you will have two fantastic sixth form years and then leave us brilliantly prepared for your first choice destination and ready to take your place in the world. Whether its environmentally, socially, creatively or economically, we want Hills Road students to be part of shaping a brighter future.

You'll discover that Hills Road is a half-way house between school and university or employment. We're focused on helping you grow into adulthood and helping you secure your future goals. And we're very much looking forward to meeting you and helping you on that journey, starting with your application to join us as a Hills Road student.

Jo Trump, Principal

**Read on to find out
about our fantastic
College and, if you need
to know more, visit
www.hillsroad.ac.uk**





Creative and confident learners

We encourage you to think harder and challenge what you already know. We give you the opportunity and space to explore ideas and interests that fire your imagination, and we inspire you to set ambitious goals.



#WeAreHills



Shape
the
future



Hills Road
Sixth Form College
Cambridge



What makes Hills Road Outstanding?

In February 2022, the College welcomed Ofsted and, once again, we have been rated 'Outstanding' in all key judgements. We are extremely proud of the feedback we have received; the following is a selection of statements from Ofsted's report.



Hills students

Students value the highly ambitious and inclusive college community. They enjoy leading and taking part in a broad range of inclusive societies and enrichment activities.

Curriculum and teaching

The College has developed a highly ambitious, inspirational and effective curriculum that extends well beyond the high academic expectations they have for students.



The College includes the EPQ as a vehicle to develop students' ambitions and wider skills. They develop high levels of time management, self-discipline and skills in research, academic writing and communication.



Extended Project Qualification



Wellbeing

The College has taken decisive and highly effective action to support students' wellbeing to enable them to excel academically.

Making your sixth form experience a success

During your time at the College, we aim to support you to achieve the A level results you need and to equip you with the vital life skills that will help you with your future progression, no matter which path you choose.

Key facts



1 dedicated tutor throughout your time at college

Easy-access
to a bursary fund



100%
of students are
invited for professional
careers guidance



“Students have a strong work ethic and dedicated focus to achieve the very top grades of which they are capable. They are proud to take ownership of their learning.”

Ofsted 2022



Resourceful and resilient individuals

We encourage you to learn more about yourself and your capabilities. We support you to develop critical and creative thinking skills, to become more organised and to take on more responsibilities.



#WeAreHills



Shape the future

Being an effective independent learner

Success in employment and higher education depends on the ability to be both resourceful and independent.

As a high achieving Sixth Form College, we specialise in having the services, resources and facilities that allow you to develop the high-level skills you need to thrive at university and in employment.

Our expert A level teachers understand the importance of supporting your smooth transfer from secondary school to Advanced level study. They will help you make the most of our post-16 learning environment, which is designed to enable you to become the very best independent learner you can be.

When you join the College, you will learn how to manage your time most effectively and you'll be given significant amounts of independent tasks to encourage you to get into good time management and study habits early.

You may initially need help to reap the rewards students enjoy by effectively managing their studies. If this is the case, then support is at hand!



“Having more independent study time was a step up from GCSE.”

Alex

When you start with us, your tutor will guide you through what it means to be an independent learner, how to organise your time, manage your workload and when you should be asking for help.

We want you to leave us as creative and confident learners: able to shape your future through the skills you have developed during your time with us.



“My tutor does everything she can to push me to my full potential. She doesn’t let me fall at any point, mentally and academically!”

Riya



How will you support my transition?

At the beginning of Year 12 the Future Ready programme will help you to:

- Choose your Enrichment options
- Discover what independent learning means for you
- Manage change and look after your wellbeing
- Become a socially aware member of the College and its wider community

Starting at Hills

Your tutor will be ready to welcome you from day one, starting with your induction.

Your dedicated tutor

Joining Hills will feel exciting and possibly a little daunting. That's why your tutor is there for you from the beginning. They will be with you during your time at the College and are your go-to person if you need help or someone to talk to. You will meet with them every week, and they will introduce you to our Future Ready Programme which has been designed to give you support and guidance during your time at the College, and to help you prepare for life after Hills.

Your tutor will help you to make sure you are receiving the right level of help and guidance for your needs, so you can make the very best of your time at the College.

Getting Started

Starting sixth form can be a big step and our Getting Started programme is designed to help you to learn about being a Hills Road student through a variety of onsite and online activities. Your programme will include:

- Meeting your tutor
 - How to be your best throughout sixth form; how to stay resourceful and really thrive during your time at the College
 - How to manage your own mental health and wellbeing
 - Activities to help you get to know your fellow students in a relaxed environment outside of the classroom
 - How to use the College's digital learning platforms



“Students know whom to talk to if they are concerned about themselves or others, and they feel empowered to do so. Students trust their tutors and wellbeing staff.”



“The Student Support team really helped me out with choosing what kind of options I could pursue after my time at Hills Road.”

Cydnee

Taking the step up to Advanced level can be a challenging one. Our experienced and dedicated support teams are here to help and guide you practically, academically and emotionally.

Support Services

How to contact Student Support:
 t: 01223 247251
 e: StudentServices@hillsroad.ac.uk



Student Services Team

At the centre of the College is Student Support. The team is here to provide you with the answers to any questions you might have about College life. Our friendly staff are here to help you if you're feeling unwell, unsure, or if you just need someone to speak to. The Student Services team also work with students to support their attendance at College and contact home if there are any concerns.



Meet the team



Vanessa



Cilla

Joy

Hazel



Anna



Study and SEND support

The Study Skills team provides a range of support, including assistance for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We have a welcoming atmosphere and a suite of rooms available for one-to-one work and group study space. Qualified staff carry out assessments for exam access arrangements and offer appropriate follow-up support, including supporting students in using assistive technology. We also offer quality online resources, including podcasts. Make sure you share with our Study Skills team how we can support your needs. Students with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) will have a key worker from the Study Skills team.

Supported Independent Learning Service (SILS)

We recognise that not all students can adjust to the demands of advanced learning as quickly as others. Our Study Skills team offers timetabled supervision and support for students finding the expectations for completing independent study outside lesson time challenging. The team works with students to help prioritise their learning more effectively so they feel more confident and able to complete their

How to contact
the Study Skills team:

t: 01223 247251

e: StudySkills@hillsroad.ac.uk



studies. SILS is also on hand for more specific support offering guidance on organisation, time management, exam technique and revision.

Subject support for learning and extension

All departments and subjects offer opportunities to support and extend your learning beyond the classroom. Often these opportunities are provided as lunchtime 'surgery' slots, used to diagnose, challenge and support your understanding further.

Disability

The College is committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities and recognises that a disability can affect people in different ways. We encourage you to make relevant staff aware of your needs so that full and appropriate support can be provided.

Bursary Fund

Financial support is available for 16-19 year olds, find out more at www.hillsroad.ac.uk/bursary-fund

Wellbeing



Our Wellbeing team are here to listen to anything that may be troubling you. Whether you are feeling stressed and anxious about managing your time and workload or apprehensive about the changes ahead, our Wellbeing team is here to support you.

Wellbeing Coordinators

Maggie, Rachel and Anj are located in the Guidance corridor. They are here to help you with any concerns you may have.

In-house Counsellors

Jane and Gitte are highly experienced in listening to young people and talking with them about a wide range of issues. Information shared with them is confidential (unless in exceptional circumstances around safety).

How do I ask for help?

There are many ways you can ask for help:

- Send an email to the Wellbeing Team
- Drop-in to the Wellbeing room at break and lunchtimes
- Talk to your tutor or teacher
- Talk to a member of the Student Support team



Hills was accredited with the AcSEED award for promoting best practice in supporting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of those young people attending the College.

Meet the team



Maggie, Wellbeing



Rachel, Wellbeing



Gitte, Counsellor



Jane, Counsellor



How to contact the Wellbeing team:
e: StudentWellbeing@hillsroad.ac.uk

Helping you grow

How to contact the careers team:

e: careers@hillsroad.ac.uk



Believe it or not, your two years at the College will go very quickly, which is why our post-16 specialist careers team start talking to you in the Spring term of Year 12 about your next steps.

It doesn't matter if you're not sure what you want to do next; what's important is your studies with us will help you to get where you want to go. The first part of your careers programme includes:

- **Careers guidance interview** – with our qualified careers advisers
- **Careers week** – talks from a variety of higher education and industry professionals
- **Employer fair** – where you can speak directly with local and national employers about employment and apprenticeship opportunities



Will I be offered a work placement?

During Year 12, you will be encouraged to arrange at least three days of work experience; this takes place at any time before starting Year 13. Our careers team provides advice and guidance, encouraging you to approach employers and arrange your own work placement.

Considering university?

- Our programme of guest speakers from different universities will help you to decide where you might want to apply
- Qualified careers advisors will support you with your UCAS application
- Industry professionals provide mock interviews
- The careers team supports you with your university admissions test
 - If you are applying for Medicine and/or Oxbridge we will help you with your application
 - Guidance on writing your personal statement is provided by external guest speakers and the careers team
 - Your parents are invited to sessions on UCAS applications and HE finance.



Employment or an apprenticeship?

- Industry representatives will guide you through the opportunities available for apprenticeships and employment
- Our team of qualified careers advisors will help you with CV writing and interview tips
- Industry professionals will provide mock interviews so you can practise the interview skills you have learnt

Taking a gap year?

- Students considering taking a year out before going to university or into employment can attend a gap year advice evening with their parents. We share information about what

students can do to make the most of this time

- Guest speakers from organisations running gap year programmes will share with you information on some of the exciting groups you can join
- Our careers team will continue to support your UCAS or employment application during your gap year

No matter what you decide to do when you leave Hills Road, we help you make decisions about your first-choice career destination and advise you on how to plan your research to achieve your goals.

Societies supporting career choices

The College has a variety of clubs and societies you can join to help you with your progression planning.

Go to pages 40 & 41 to find out about special interest clubs and societies

Medical Society (MedSoc)

MedSoc is an ideal society to join if you are considering a career in medicine, dentistry, nursing and other allied health careers. Support includes:

- A speaker programme with a wide range of talks from clinicians and academics
- Student led events and discussion groups
- One to one support with applications, personal statements, and university choices
- Interview preparation including panel interviews and multiple mini-interview role play
- Admissions test advice and BMAT essay practice with feedback
- Advice and guidance on work experience and volunteering
- Membership of The Medic Portal medsoc to help with preparation for a medical school application
- External links with Addenbrooke's Hospital and Cambridge University, including a lecture and dissection practical at the Physiology Department.



Speaker example:

Stem cells and repairing the brain Professor Robin Franklin, Wellcome Trust-MRC Cambridge Stem Cell Institute.

Subject-focussed societies

Subject societies offer a range of activities including hosting talks from Industry professionals, former Hills students and university students who discuss their areas of specialism and progression pathways. Subject societies include Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classics, Computing, Economics, Geography, History of Art, History, Maths, Philosophy, Photography, Robotics



Speaker example:

Is habitat fragmentation bad for biodiversity?

Dr Laura Graham Fellow at the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham





Veterinary Society (VetSoc)

VetSoc provides similar opportunities as MedSoc but for students interested in veterinary medicine.



Speaker example:

Bat viruses and pandemics – did biodiversity loss, wild animal trade or a lab leak cause the COVID-19

pandemic? Professor James Wood, Head of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge.

Law Society

Open to students interested in law, the society includes:

- Discussion and sharing of work experience ideas

- Super-curricular activities and ideas to support university applications
- Mock trials for a human rights case
- Support with the Law LNAT entrance exam
- Lunchtime presentations by former students and industry professionals
- Routes in to law and the differences between a solicitor and a barrister.



Speaker example:

Law lecture taster

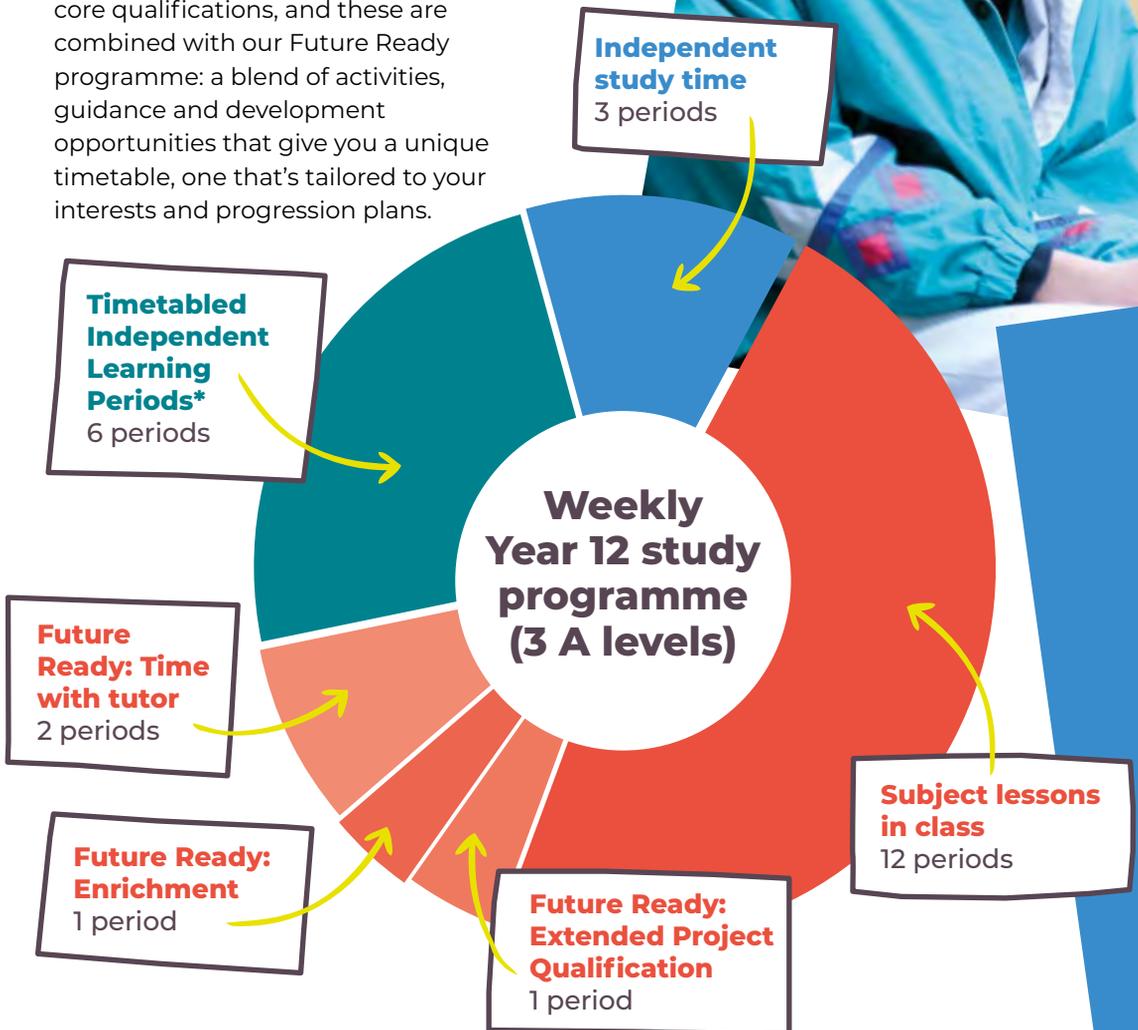
Rob Heywood, Professor of Medical Law at the University of East Anglia.

Your study programme

As a specialist A level college, we make sure that every student's study programme is full of opportunity.

Your A level subjects are your core qualifications, and these are combined with our Future Ready programme: a blend of activities, guidance and development opportunities that give you a unique timetable, one that's tailored to your interests and progression plans.

Alex



* Independent Learning Periods are timetabled as additional learning time where students continue with their learning either on the campus, making use of the College's resources, or at home.



Cecilia

Zahra

Ask the students... What does a Y12 student study programme look like?

Student opinion

What subjects are you taking?

Cecilia: Business, Geography and Maths

Alex: Art & Design, Geography and Maths

Zahra: Business, Economics and Maths

Which Enrichment activity have you done?

Cecilia: Badminton and multi-sports

Alex: French films and culture, science sustainability projects

Zahra: Event management and an introduction to Philosophy

Have you joined a club or society?

Cecilia: Architecture, Asian, Geography and First Aid societies

Alex: LGBTQ+ society

Zahra: Economics, Business, Asian, Afro-Caribbean and Islamic societies

What are you doing for your EPQ?

Cecilia: Creating models of buildings and sculptures using digital software

Alex: Exploring the relationship between gender and fashion and designing a gender-neutral fashion collection

Zahra: Making and selling my own jewellery

Which space do you like to use for independent study?

Cecilia: G block study space or the Hub
Alex: The library, as it's useful to have access to computers and books

Zahra: G block study area as it's the study space for Business and Economics

Enriching your experience

Find out about the Extended Project and all the incredible Enrichment opportunities on offer. There are over 100 clubs, societies and teams for you to join.

Key facts

Over

70



enrichment activities, sports teams and music groups



52

clubs and societies to choose from



37

sports teams to join



“The College provides students with a wealth of enrichment opportunities that are highly effective in building students’ character in preparation for their next steps.”

Ofsted 2022



The Extended Project Qualification

At the heart of our study programme is the requirement for every student to develop and realise an Advanced level project entirely of their own devising.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/extended-project



Delivered in Year 12, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) offers the chance for you to gain real independence, resilience and maturity as an Advanced level learner while pursuing any topic of your choosing. From staging a fashion show or designing a carbon-neutral house to researching ground-breaking cancer therapies or beginning the novel you've always wanted to write, the Extended Project presents a fantastic opportunity both to pursue your interests and to spread your wings.

Would you like to learn a new skill?

No matter where your interests lie, the Extended Project is the perfect opportunity to try something different and is at the heart of students' study programmes at Hills Road. You decide the topic, you assess your progress and you determine what your final dissertation, artefact, performance or event will be!

Why is this project important?

Taught in a university-style, through seminars and one-to-one tutorials, this qualification prepares you for both higher education and employment,

and focuses on all of those crucial skills that you develop as you take a project through from the drawing board to delivery.

Why do 100% of Hills Road students take the qualification?

The EPQ is well-regarded by universities and is equivalent to half an A level. The project provides evidence that the transition from college to university will be a smooth one for students who have successfully demonstrated their aptitude for independent learning.

"I developed my Python programming skills and learnt about new technologies, whilst developing my project which relates to one of my main interests, gliding!"

Aiden





“My EP was a nice contrast to my A levels and gave me an excellent taster of robotics, something I now intend to pursue further.”

Josh

Left: Josh made a full-scale model of K9, the famous robotic dog from Doctor Who, as it combined his interest in robotics as well as his love for the show.



Left: Aiden built and programmed an electronic variometer, an instrument used by glider pilots to inform them of the vertical speed of the air surrounding the glider.



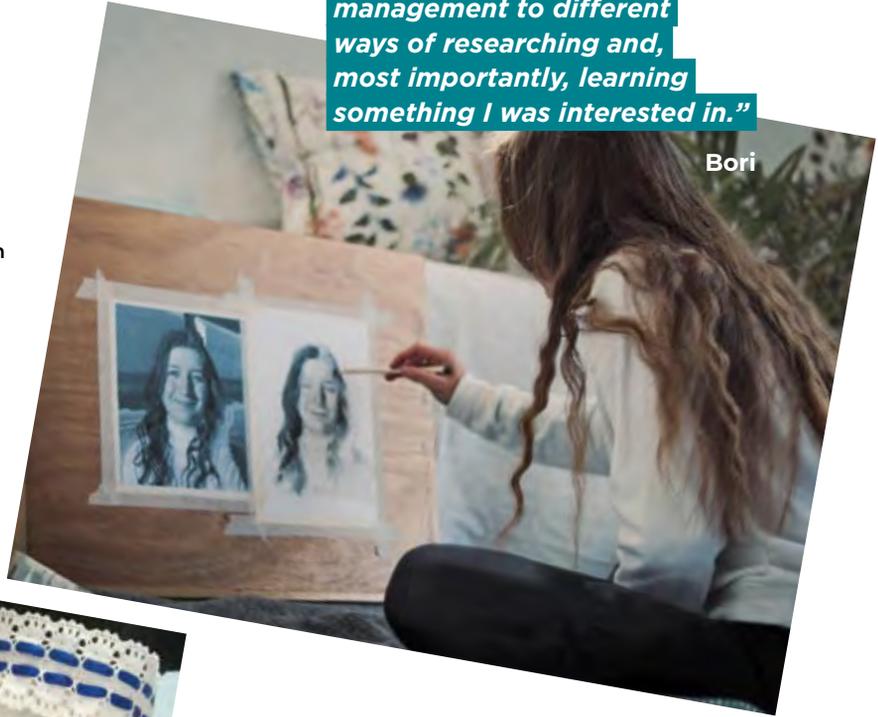


Right: Bori saw the EP as an opportunity to learn photography and following lockdown 2.0, he decided to explore the theme, 'Happiness in Lockdown'. This image is taken from his photobook.

Below: Cecilia made a Victorian corset as close to historical accuracy as she could achieve.

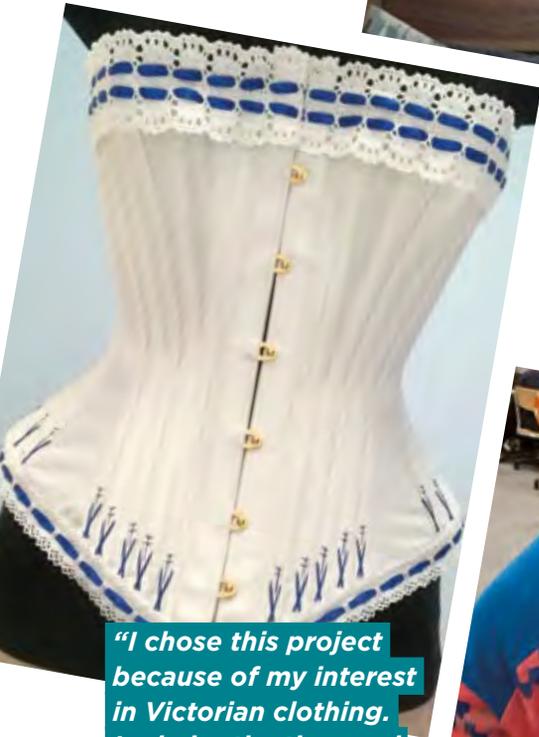
"The EP has enabled me to get creative, from project management to different ways of researching and, most importantly, learning something I was interested in."

Bori



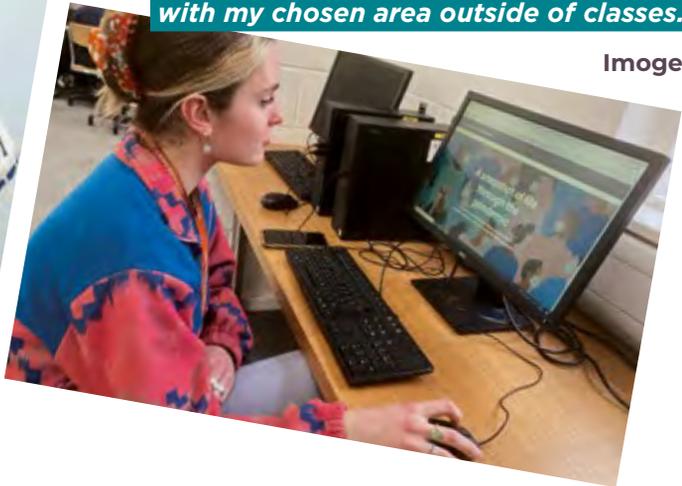
"The research and work I carried out for my EP has been so useful when writing university applications to study Human Sciences or Anthropology. I was able to demonstrate I could engage with my chosen area outside of classes."

Imogen



"I chose this project because of my interest in Victorian clothing. I admire the time and talent required to make this type of clothing, especially in contrast to the fast fashion that is prevalent today."

Cecilia



Above: Imogen wanted to investigate how Covid has influenced and changed the lives of different people around the world. She interviewed 13 participants in New

Zealand, Japan, India, the USA and the UK, and analysed their responses to the interview questions. <https://imogenboxall.wixsite.com/lifeinthepandemic>

Alumni Q&A

Lizzie Bleickl

Former Hills student Rachel Stonehouse focused her EPQ on a baking blog, and now she is Head Bakery Trainer at Luminary Bakery.

The Extended Project can ignite a passion in a topic you're not currently studying, which can potentially lead to a future career path. A perfect example of this is Rachel, who shared cake, biscuit and brownie recipes on a blog called *Ice-cream in the Rain*.

Since leaving Hills in 2014, Rachel began working at start-up social enterprise, Luminary Bakery, which helps disadvantaged women get into work and build a future for themselves. She teaches in the kitchen classroom, where she shares her extensive knowledge of baking and helps her students to develop transferable skills they can use in the working world.

What were your subjects?

Biology, Chemistry, Psychology.

What did you do for your Enrichment?

Y12 production of *West Side Story*.

Which clubs and societies did you join?

Christian Union.



“I recognised that the EP allowed me to develop new skills that I wanted to pursue a career in, all whilst gaining another qualification.”

What did you do when you left Hills Road?

Whilst on an internship with a charity in London, I volunteered in their community coffee shop and as a baker for their start-up social enterprise bakery – Luminary Bakery.

What are you doing now?

I now work as Luminary's Baking Tutor, teaching the women on our programmes to be professional bakers.

Discover something new

All students in Year 12 undertake Enrichment as part of their study programme, and there are over 70 activities to choose from!

Skills and talents develop in different ways, and they are not always related to your A level subjects. It could even be that you find a new talent or skill through Enrichment that you would like to turn into your Extended Project. Perhaps the budding entrepreneurs amongst you will develop your business ideas and insight with Unloc, a social enterprise organisation that the College works in partnership with, or maybe choosing Debating will encourage you to start a political commentary blog. Whatever you decide, Enrichment is your chance to try something new.

“Photography is a super chill activity and a great way to make friends.”

Athena

What activities are available to me?



Below is a taste of some of the activities on offer to you:

Active: Dance ● DofE ● Sports

Community: Ambassadors ● Social Action ● Volunteering

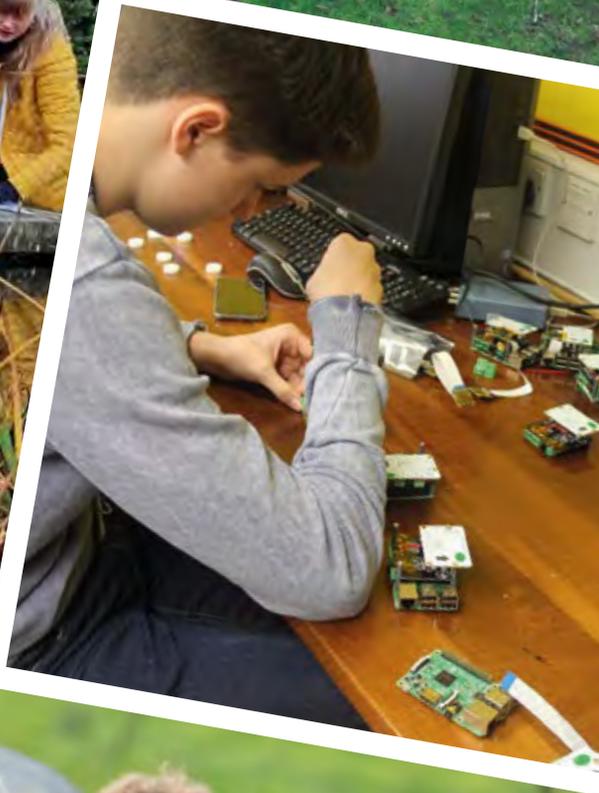
Creative: Ceramics ● Drawing ● Garden Design

Languages: Chinese ● French Film ● Italian

Music & Performing Arts: Choirs ● Drama ● Orchestras

Thinking: Criminology ● Debating ● Philosophy





"With so many options available, I chose Ceramics despite taking A level Biology, Chemistry and Further Maths!"

James

Performing Arts

If you love acting, singing, dancing, or technical theatre, there are many opportunities to be involved in productions as part of your Enrichment programme.

Drama Productions

Directed by staff, Year 12 Enrichment students put on two large-scale productions. At the end of the Autumn term, they perform a musical and in the Summer term, they perform a play.

Year 13 students also get two staff-directed opportunities, in a Spring production and in our annual summer show with our resident Edinburgh Fringe company Babolin Theatre.

Technical Theatre

As part of this Enrichment, we will train you to become a member of our production crew, working with our

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/performing-arts



industry-standard lighting and sound equipment. You can then work on additional performances during your two years at the College.

'Elevate' Dance Company

If you are a confident contemporary dancer, this is an exciting Enrichment opportunity for you. Open to all experienced dancers, this group runs throughout the year to create dynamic work for public performance.

Student-led productions

If you have ever wanted to write, direct or perform your own production, this could be perfect for you. You will be invited to pitch your idea and, if successful, will stage your production in our fully-equipped theatre, assisted by our technical team.

What performances could I be part of?

Here is a selection of recent performances

Legally Blonde ● Sister Act ●
 Sweeney Todd ● West Side
 Story ● A Matter of Life and
 Death ● Twelfth Night ● Spamalot ●
 Gormenghast ● Metamorphosis
 ● The Street of Crocodiles ●
 The Trial ● Measure for
 Measure ● Under
 Milk Wood





“During Y12 I did two Enrichment plays; both of which were amazing experiences in completely different styles for great variety.”

Mary



Music

Read more:

[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
music-enrichment](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/music-enrichment)



We have a diverse range of opportunities for all musicians from performing with the Symphony Orchestra to playing in the FolkRoots Group and Jazz Orchestra.

As part of your programme of Enrichment in Year 12, you can choose to join a music group as your timetabled activity, which could include the College Choir, Jazz Orchestra, Wind Orchestra or FolkRoots Group. Auditions are not required for these ensembles; you just need to sign-up!

Auditioned Ensembles

Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra (woodwind and brass sections, and string principal positions) require you to do a short video-submitted audition. The Symphony Orchestra string section and Wind Orchestra may require auditions. You will be invited to sign up for our ensembles in June 2023.

Concerts and tours

Our ensembles play in formal and informal concerts held at venues such

as Ely Cathedral, King's College Chapel, West Road Concert Hall and the College, with plenty of opportunities for solo performances.

The Chamber Choir and a group of instrumentalists typically tour overseas every two years, alternating with the Jazz Orchestra and FolkRoots group.

A full scale musical theatre production is planned in conjunction with the Performing Arts department in the Autumn term.

Instrumental Award Scheme

The Instrumental Award Scheme brings together musicians to create small ensembles of the highest quality. www.hillsroad.ac.uk/musical-activities

Instrumental and singing tuition

We offer tuition for a variety of instruments and singing. For our full programme visit www.hillsroad.ac.uk/music-tuition

Which groups could I join?



Symphony Orchestra

- Wind Orchestra ● Jazz Orchestra ● FolkRoots Group ● Instrumental Award Scheme ● College Choir ● Chamber Choir

"I think anyone who has even a tiny bit of interest in music should join College Choir."

Eric



Sport

Hills Road students achieve sporting excellence in equal measure to their academic success, supported by the fantastic facilities available at the College.

Sport for Enrichment is an excellent way to enjoy recreational sporting activities in a social environment. You can make friends and play non-competitively! Choose to take part in dodgeball, badminton, five-a-side football, social netball and tennis, or why not learn to row?

Competitive sports and teams

While we offer a wide range of social sports, the College also has a regional and national reputation for its sporting success. We pride ourselves in providing high-quality, competitive sport. We have 37 sports teams covering 24 different sports, with students competing at county, regional and national levels. Hills are the holders of the coveted Association of Colleges Clifford Dixon Trophy where our students amassed

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/sport



“This past year I’ve found playing rugby enjoyable and a good way to really feel part of Hills Road.”

Thea

the highest number of points for competitions in the region, making us the most successful Sports College in the East.

In recent years, we have had national representatives in cross country, hockey, athletics, cricket and tennis.

Sports trials take place in the summer, so this enables you to aim for selection to become part of the thriving sporting community at the College, making you ready to get training straight after induction. Teams meet for weekly training sessions and match play.



Which teams can I join?

- Badminton ● Basketball ●
- Cheer ● Cricket ● Football ●
- Hockey ● Netball ● Rowing
- Rugby ● Table tennis ●
- Tennis ● Volleyball







Responsible and active citizens

Alongside your core subjects you will learn more broadly about the world around you and contribute to the College and its wider communities. You will build networks and learn how to keep yourself safe.



Shape the future

#WeAreHills

Club sports teams

If you are passionate about a Club sport, then we will do our best to support your interests.

Some of the most popular Club sports that our students currently compete in are athletics, bouldering, cross country running, equestrian, golf, gymnastics, korfbal, lacrosse, skiing, squash, swimming and ultimate frisbee. Enrolment is offered at the start of the academic year with some Club sports teams having regular weekly training, while others meet on an adhoc basis.



A vibrant College Community

We encourage every student to become active members of our dynamic community.

As part of your Future Ready programme, you will take part in initiatives that help empower you to seek to build stronger communities and sustainable businesses; participate in social change activities and fundraise to support our wider community through social action. You will be encouraged to:

- Improve your skills of enquiry and communication
- Learn how to exercise your rights and responsibilities effectively
- Develop your role as a well-informed and active citizen.

Student Council

Every Year 12 student can stand for election to join the Student Council. This is a great role if you are passionate about your sixth form experience, and you would like to contribute to the decisions being made by the college.



#HillsSocialAction

Every Year 12 gets involved in Social Action Week – a week-long project challenge to raise £10,000 for charities. The fundraising event provides a strong opportunity for you to connect with a cause you feel passionate about and gives you the chance to make social action part of your learning experience at the College.





Culture Fest!

Organised by the Student Council, Culture Fest is a celebration of the global diversity of the student body. From performances, music and food stalls to games, all students are invited to share their cultures and be proud of the College's vibrant and diverse community.

39



#HRFunRun

In April 2022, students and staff took part in the annual HR4.5 fun run to raise funds for Teenage Cancer Trust. 500 students and staff walked, ran or went three-legged around the 4.5km route. Over £5,000 was raised for charity!

All Hills students are encouraged to contribute ideas that will help the College to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.

Climate Change Summit

Every year, Hills Road hosts a Climate Change Summit that empowers students to have a meaningful say on how the College is tackling climate change to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The outcomes from this summit are discussed by the whole college community and inform the actions taken within the Hills Road sustainability policy.



Clubs and societies

There are many clubs and societies students can join, and if there isn't one that covers your interest, you could start your own!

The College has many established groups from LGBTQIA+ and debating to music theatre and horror, but if you think something is missing, then we encourage you to set up a group to support your interests, no matter how niche they may be. The vibrant diversity of our students means you are likely to meet someone with similar interests to help get your new activity off the ground.

FILM FRANCHISE
vegan Gaming
SPIRITUAL and Pagan
MUSIC THEATRE

Warhammer

Taylor Swift



FIRST-aid



Architecture and Design
ROBOTICS Dungeons and Dragons
Harry Potter KPOP SOUTH AFRICAN
one Direction MODEL UN
socialist

Horror

LGBTQIA+ asian

LET'S TALK ABOUT MUSIC

FEMINIST VOLLEYBALL

47

Go to pages 10 & 11
to find out about societies
that may support your
progression choices



Environmental

Join the College's action to reduce carbon emissions



The College's Environmental Society is supported by students and Hills Road staff, with everyone working together to reduce the impact the College building, students and staff have on the environment.

Students are an active part of this group and have already suggested many environmental initiatives, which the College is incorporating as actions into its sustainability policy. They have also introduced a biodiversity garden, to increase the diversity of wildlife on the campus.

If you are passionate about climate change and would like to have your say on how the College becomes sustainable, then the Environment Society could be the group for you!

conservative
PUBLIC SPEAKING

DESI/BOLLYWOOD
CROCHET DEBATE

Languages
KPOP DANCE

Finding your way

You will find the space and support you need to aid your successful progression into higher education and the world of work.

Key facts

High-speed WiFi throughout the campus



Study spaces for independent learning

Click and collect food and drink from the café





“Students make the very best use of high-quality resources, study spaces and lunchtime workshops to achieve high grades.”

Ofsted 2022

The café and social spaces

Our campus is designed for you as you learn to manage your time effectively. Great social spaces help you to get the balance right between work and play: essential preparation for university!

Café

The café is located at the centre of the College, overlooking the quad. Featuring an array of hot coffees and cold Frappuccinos from Starbucks, delicious hot food inspired by the flavours of Peru from Hola Pollo and a vast selection of sandwiches, pastries and cakes to cater for almost every palette, with Click and Collect service available too!

The marquee: located at the back of the College, this is an extra covered space for you to take some time out to socialise with your friends and eat your lunch.

Social spaces

The Atrium: a bright, airy space and centrally located in the College with benches for you to use your own devices.

The Hub: a relaxed space and the perfect spot to socialise and study.

"I think the new café is great! The menu is both affordable and creative."

Brandon

The picnic area and outside spaces: You're allowed to walk, sit, sunbathe and even try some yoga stretches on the grass areas at the College if you feel like it! We encourage you to make the most of the great outdoors, especially when the sun is shining.

Where can I go for a bit of time out?

The tranquillity garden is a quiet place for you to sit and relax during your busy day.





Study spaces

Many students spend their independent learning periods studying at the College, whether they are completing their homework or working on their EPQ. The College has dedicated spaces students can use to work autonomously or collaborate on group projects.

There are many dedicated study locations around the campus, including silent study areas. They are bright, airy purposeful learning environments with access to a fantastic wide range of online resources.

The Zone

Located next to the Atrium, this is a bright space for silent study with PCs on benches and space for you to bring your own digital device.

The Study Skills Centre

This brand-new purpose-built centre will be completed in January 2023. The new building will create a 21st-century study environment that our students will be able to use for their independent learning time. The new space will also accommodate the Special Educational Needs Department (SEND) by creating a student-centred space and a welcoming environment for our learners with particular needs.

The Library

A purposeful learning environment for silent study with a fantastic range of resources, including digital subscriptions to online journals and information as well as a regularly updated book stock.

Open-access resource areas

Located within subject departments, these areas can be used for independent study in between your lessons.





“With the support of teachers and the great study spaces available at Hills, it has become easier to learn by myself.”

Ellie

First-class training facilities

The College's sports facilities offer all students the opportunity to use some of the best sporting amenities in East Anglia.

Outdoor pitches

As well as the nine acres of football, rugby and cricket pitches at Luard Road, the College also invested in a million-pound purpose-built pavilion to support our students' sporting success. For students interested in hockey and rugby, we also enjoy access to St Catherine's College hockey pitches off Granchester Road and a 4G rugby pitch at Shelford Rugby Club.

Competition level tennis courts

Our four indoor and six outdoor courts include the only clay courts in Cambridgeshire. You have the opportunity to train to a high standard with first-class facilities.

Sports Hall

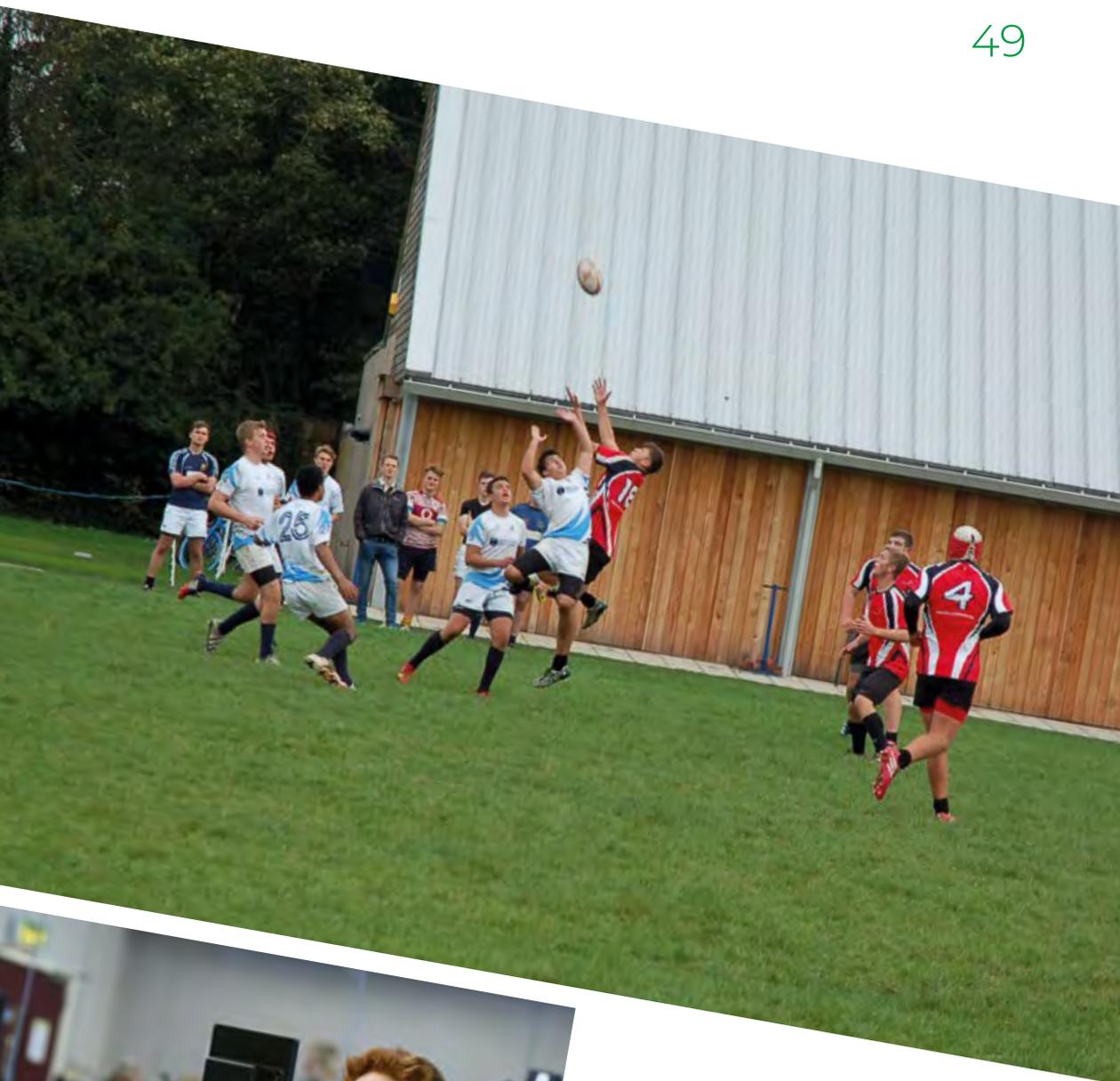
The sports hall hosts various activities such as volleyball, basketball, five-a-side football, netball, circuits, aerobics, table tennis and badminton.



"The Hills Sport facilities are absolutely fantastic for students from all sporting backgrounds."

Will





Cricket Hall

The Sir Jack Hobbs Cricket Hall has a floor surface comparable with the cricket school at Lords and two bowling machines that deliver the perfect ball every time at up to 90mph!

Hills Road Gym

The newly refurbished gym, with state-of-the-art equipment, is perfect for fitness enthusiasts who want advanced functionality and exclusive programmes as part of their fitness training.

Digital resources

No matter where you are studying – in College, at home, or in a café – you can access the resources you need to keep you on track with your learning.

Part of the journey to being work and university ready involves knowing what online resources are available to successfully support your progress.

To make learning as straight forward as possible for you, your teachers have created virtual learning resources, which are all held in the cloud version of Sharepoint 365, accessible from wherever you are studying that has WiFi. Extension and support materials are available online to challenge and enhance your learning at every stage.

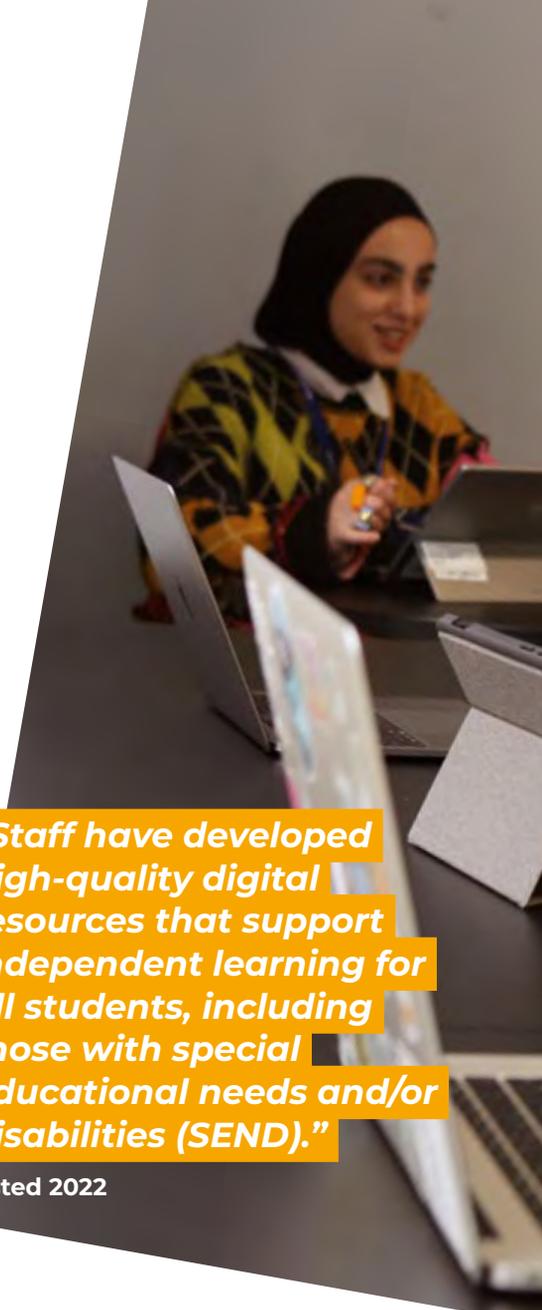
Digital resources at Hills

Personal email account: An Outlook email account is assigned to you at enrolment.

Personalised progress and guidance network: The student portal is where you can access careers and tutorial support materials.

High-speed WiFi access: Available throughout the College.

Before you join the College in September 2023, we will provide you with guidance on which digital learning devices are most suitable for your subject choices.



“Staff have developed high-quality digital resources that support independent learning for all students, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).”

Ofsted 2022

Over 800 computers: For student use only.

Office 365: Download Office 365 on up to five devices, plus 1Tb of space on your OneDrive.



What online learning support will I receive?

Face-to-face teaching is supported by a virtual learning environment. Microsoft Teams, SharePoint and Moodle, and a wide range of subject-specific resources are used to support classroom-based and online independent learning.



Applying to Hills

In this section, we explain our application process. Before you apply to us, we recommend you review our many different resources available.

Key facts



of students take
three A levels

The application
deadline is



Apply online at
mychoice16.co.uk



“Students take ownership of their learning to make sustained and significant progress over time. They understand the need to extend their studies outside the classroom to achieve higher grades.”

Ofsted 2022

For more info:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/apply

Your application journey

There are many opportunities available for you to find out more about the College and to decide if Hills Road is right for you.

Before
you
apply

1

July Open Events

Our Open Events are the best way to start your research. Getting a feel for the College and exploring the subjects you are interested in will help you to gain a better understanding of what it's like being a student at Hills Road.

September-November Do your research

2

Post-16 evenings

The College is part of the Cambridge Area Partnership (CAP), and members of the College's team attend all of the Post-16 evenings that are hosted by our partner schools.

Watch our subject videos

On every subject page on our website, our A level experts have recorded a short video to give you more information about their subject. There are also lots of FAQs to help you too! www.hillsroad.ac.uk/subjects



3

January 2023 Submit your application

10 January if you attend a CAP school.

3 January if you attend any other school.

For more information visit
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/apply

**After
you
apply**

February Guidance meetings

No offers are made at this stage! The purpose of your guidance meeting is to discuss your subject choices with you and to make sure they support any progression plans you may have.

4

February Confirm your subjects

Once you have had your guidance meeting, we ask you to reconfirm the A levels you would like to take, so if you want to change your subjects, you can!

5

March Offers published

Offers will be emailed to applicants by the end of March 2023.

6



July Welcome to Hills

Experiencing life as a Hills Road student, before you start in September, is an essential first step on your journey with us. Welcome to Hills takes place after your exams have finished in June.

7

August GCSE results day

Stage 1 online enrolment commences. You will need to upload your results to our enrolment platform, and then if you are qualified, you will be invited to complete Stage 2.

8

September Induction

Start your first day as a new Hills student! You will meet your tutor and find out more about being a new Year 12 at the College before your lessons start.

9

Making your application

For more info:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
apply](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/apply)



When you apply to the College, it is important that you follow our admissions policy. For your application to be considered, please ensure you are qualified for the subjects you would like to study. You will need to be qualified by the subject entry requirements **AND by the relevant admissions score.**

When you apply to the College, you will need to include the subjects you wish to study, but you can include up to five choices. Following your guidance meeting you will be asked to reconfirm and submit your subject selection in order of priority.

Entry criteria:

For your application to be progressed by the College you will need to make

sure you satisfy our entry criteria below. Failure to do so may result in your application being returned to you.

- ✓ Your application is submitted by the closing date, 10 January 2023.
- ✓ Hills Road is placed as first choice A level centre, or second choice behind a CAP school sixth form.
- ✓ You meet the College's Admissions Score that is relevant to the A level subjects you are applying for. Your score is based on GCSE/IGCSE/vocational* or equivalent qualifications.

What is an Admissions Score?

We have four different admissions scores depending on the subjects you are applying for. Our admissions scores are determined by the annual application patterns for each subject and are therefore subject to change. The following is an indication only of the levels that have previously been required:

- Minimum Entry admissions score = 58
- Maths adjusted admissions score = 60
- Higher adjusted admissions score = 71
(Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Physics)
- Four A level Programme adjusted admissions score = 78



Got a question?

We have included below some of the most frequently asked questions about admissions scores.

Q: My admissions score is slightly below the levels indicated for subjects I want to take, should I still apply?

A: Yes. The admissions scores are an indication of the levels that could apply. The application patterns in 2023 will determine the score and these indicative levels may change.

Q: I only want to take one Science subject; which score will apply?

A: The Higher adjusted admissions score will apply to your application.

- ✓ You must also satisfy the minimum grade requirements for at least three A level subjects for which you have applied, as specified in this prospectus. For the purposes of your application, your school will provide predicted grades.
- ✓ Your subjects at GCSE/ IGCSE/ vocational or equivalent qualifications provide a suitable foundation for progression onto your chosen A level programme.
- ✓ You live, or intend to move to live, with your parent or carer within sustainable commuting distance of the College.
- ✓ Your application is made from the address you are living at with your parent or carer at the time of applying.
- ✓ Enrolled students are expected to live with at least one of their parents or a carer for the duration of their course.

As part of our review of your application, we will also take into account the reference or supporting information provided by your school or college. This assessment is to ensure there is no indication or significant concern regarding your record of attendance, fitness to study a full-time course, punctuality, general behaviour, attitude to study or aptitude for the proposed course of study.

Read our admissions policy: www.hillsroad.ac.uk/admissions-policy

*The admissions score can include a maximum of two equivalent level 2 vocational subjects

Calculate your admission score at:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/calculator





Alumni Q&A

Wondering what studying at Hills could lead to? We ask four former students where their studies took them.

Curator, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Elizabeth Cleland

1992-1994

Subjects: History of Art, English Literature and French

Enrichment activity: Italian for beginners

After Hills: I did a BA, MA and PhD History of Art, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London

Where are you now? I am Post-medieval European textiles museum curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York



Corporate Affairs Manager

Charlie Hull

2014-2016

Subjects: History, Politics and Spanish

Enrichment activity: Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

After Hills: I went to the University of Cambridge to study Human, Social & Political Sciences

Where are you now? I am Corporate Affairs Manager at GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare



Movement Director

Dan Canham

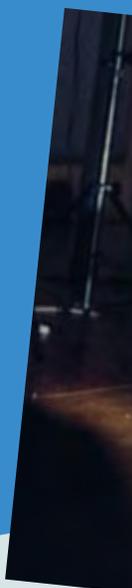
1998-2000

Subjects: Drama & Theatre, English Literature and Philosophy

Enrichment activity: Dance

After Hills: I went to study Drama at the University of Exeter

Where are you now? I run my own performance company – Still House, and I work as a choreographer/movement director for larger-scale theatre shows



For more info:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/subjects



Selecting your subjects

Follow our eight-step guide to help you decide.

Step 1: Make a list of the subjects you enjoy Try ranking them in preference order

Step 2: Highlight the subjects you are good at This will give you a shortlist of subjects to research

Step 3: Find out more about our 36 A levels Read about our A level subjects in this prospectus

Step 4: Watch our subject videos Learn more about each subject at www.hillsroad.ac.uk/subjects

Step 5: Check the entry requirements Make sure you are qualified – see pages 62-106

Step 6: Talk to current students Ask our students how A levels differ from GCSEs

Step 7: Research your career options Speak to parents/carers, teachers and your careers adviser about your options

Step 8: Thinking about going to university? Visit informedchoices.ac.uk for degree programmes relevant to the A level subjects you would like to take

Scientist

Holly Rees

2009-2011

Subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Enrichment activity: Cross country running

After Hills: I went to the University of Cambridge to study Natural Sciences and did a PhD at Harvard University

Where are you now? I am a scientist at Beam Therapeutics, Cambridge



Choosing your subjects

At Hills Road, we have an incredible range of 36 A levels. Turn the page for an in-depth look at each subject including the grades you need to study it at the College.

Key facts



36

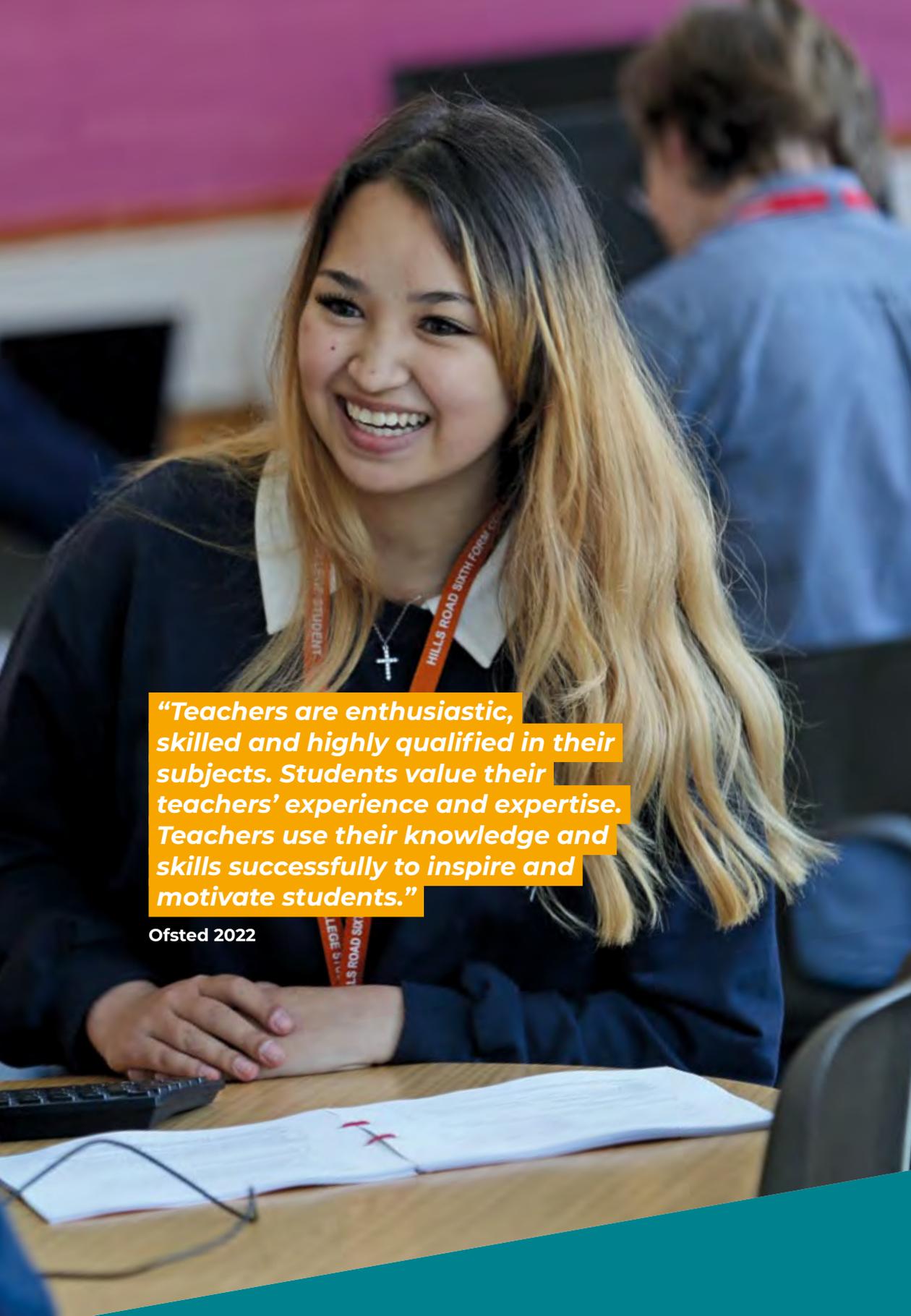
subjects
available in almost
every combination

Face-to-face teaching
time per subject is
4 hrs, 20 mins



78.2%

achieve A*-B
high grades



“Teachers are enthusiastic, skilled and highly qualified in their subjects. Students value their teachers’ experience and expertise. Teachers use their knowledge and skills successfully to inspire and motivate students.”

Ofsted 2022

Art & Design

Art & Design

This course presents you with exciting and challenging opportunities to learn much more about what it means to be a creative and imaginative visual artist and to grow in this way throughout the course. We welcome the wide variety of experiences, and diverse backgrounds students bring to their learning in this area. Our course is designed to build on the skills and enthusiasm you bring. We will help you to acquire new skills, broaden your knowledge, and support you to develop the confidence you need to achieve your full potential in this rich and exciting subject area. Original ideas, experimentation and risk-taking, are encouraged. All the staff are practising artists and bring a wide range of specialist interests and expertise.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject: Option a:** GCSE grade 6 or merit in Art or Design or similar subject title.
Option b: Applicants may complete our A level Access Project. For more information go to www.hillsroad.ac.uk/art-design
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Art and Design is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

The ability to 'think creatively' alongside the observational skills learnt through this subject are considered valuable in a whole spectrum of professions. For example, those students who want to pursue scientific subjects will find Art a welcome and useful contrast that equips them with a complementary set of skills.

Where could this course take me?

Many students complete an art foundation course after Hills, which leads to a wide variety of degree specialisms. Employment opportunities in the creative arts industries include design, fashion, TV & film alongside the museum and gallery sectors.



Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/art-design





“I absolutely love Art & Design – the teachers are supportive and allow you to flourish as an artist.”

Esther

Art & Design



History of Art

History of Art provides you with an exciting opportunity to better understand the world around you through looking at a wide range of artists and architects, from classical antiquity to the modern-day! Classes are highly interactive, and you are encouraged to discuss, debate and present your ideas to both your teacher and each other. As a result, you will gain a better understanding of painting, sculpture and architecture in the context of their art historical periods. Learning takes place both in galleries and museums and in the classroom, using digital slides and films. The course will also teach you vital essay writing skills, preparing you not just for examination but also for life beyond A level.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for History of Art is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

History of Art presents an opportunity to study a diverse range of topics, covering philosophical, political and aesthetics awareness through to the documentary, conceptual and spiritual concerns. Not only does this provide a rich and diverse educational experience, it also provides an excellent opportunity to develop transferable skills.

Where could this course take me?

History of Art gives students a great foundation for any career in the visual arts. It also presents opportunities to work in a range of areas such as the museums and gallery sectors, journalism, art conservation and many more!

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/history-of-art





“Photography is the perfect mix of creative freedom and enabling practical skills.”

Maddy

Photography

Studying Photography will give you a greater understanding of the world we live in and your place within it. We actively encourage individual project themes, ideas and experimentation, with a variety of discussion-based lesson activities to support your creative journey. There is also the opportunity to take part in several study visits. We have a photographic studio, darkroom and dedicated computer suite, plus a range of film, digital cameras, accessories and lighting equipment available for loan. The course is essential in preparing you for degree-level study and is also ideal if you have a love of photography and wish to develop your skills further. No previous knowledge is necessary, but a keen interest in the subject is a must!

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
Option b: GCSE grade 6 in Photography or Art (or a similar subject title).
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Photography is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Everyone has a story to tell and sometimes words are not enough. Studying Photography gives students a platform for visual self-expression and discovery. Exploring the world through a lens, communicating and documenting a moment in time using visual language can help students build in confidence, organisation and teamwork, as well as subject specific creative and technical skills.

Where could this course take me?

Students who study Photography could go on to become commercial and fine art photographers, work in advertising, art direction, film and television, graphic design, web design, multimedia, museum and gallery curation, art therapy, community arts, digital marketing and project management.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/photography



Business & Economics

Business

The business world is constantly evolving as economic, technological, political and environmental developments alter the commercial landscape. As a result of the changing global climate brought on by Brexit and the pandemic, businesses have been required to adapt in a variety of ways. Studying Business will provide you with an understanding of how businesses, large and small, can successfully deal with these challenges. Amongst the issues you will consider are: how might the way people work change because of working from home for so long? Is a recession always damaging for business? Are emerging economies an opportunity or threat to businesses based in developed economies? You will learn through case studies, research assignments, class discussions and group activities.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 4 in Mathematics.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Business is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

When studying Business, students have the opportunity to research actual businesses rather than a purely theoretical approach. Small groups will have a marketing challenge where they are creating a marketing campaign for an actual entrepreneur, which reflects the challenges of this role.

Where could this course take me?

Many Business students go on to take Business at university and an increasing number enjoy modern apprenticeships in Business Management or Marketing. Other students choose to go onto further education to study international relations, logistics or supply chain management.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/business



“Economics has given me such an insight into national and global affairs.”

William

Economics

There has never been a more exciting time to study Economics! Whether your interests lie with global warming or global trade, you will broaden your horizons through the study of the concepts in this fascinating subject. This course aims to stimulate your interest in how economies work – at a personal, national and global level. Some issues you will investigate include: why are footballers paid more than nurses? Why do some consumers act irrationally by smoking? How has the Covid 19 pandemic impacted the UK and global economy? Why is the debate around global fish stocks so important? Most news headlines are about Economics – by studying Economics you will gain a greater understanding of what is happening in your world.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 6 in Mathematics.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Economics is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Economics students will gain valuable analytical skills such as interpreting a range of graphic forms and digesting the most essential information from texts, which are highly desirable in the workplace. There are opportunities to participate in the Cambridge University Festival of Ideas by participating in a challenge to run the economy.

Where could this course take me?

Many students choose to study Economics at university and there is specific support for Oxbridge candidates. Other students explore the opportunities of apprenticeships with the Bank of England or choose to study international relations, business management or accounting and finance.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/economics



Earth Sciences

Environmental Science

In studying Environmental Science A level, you will explore the key challenges facing our planet, learning how the environment supports us; how we threaten these support systems and how we can embrace technologies and strategies that deliver a more sustainable lifestyle. Studying wildlife conservation, resource management, energy use, pollution and food production, you will develop an in-depth understanding of the problems the planet faces and the solutions. We will look at the many aspects of the world around us, including conservation methods, land use conflict, global climate change, pollution, energy resources, sustainable biological resources, evolution, biotechnology, ecosystems and population dynamics. You'll gain important knowledge about how society makes decisions about environmental issues and how these contribute to the success of the economy and society: a key 21st century skill set!

New
for
2023

Entry requirements

Subject: Option a: GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and one Science. **Option b:** GCSE grade 6 in Geography and grade 6 in Mathematics or one Science.

Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Environmental Science is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

This is a new course at Hills Road starting in 2023. We are currently working hard to put together some exciting opportunities for Environmental Science students to learn more about the world around us; this will include talks from expert speakers, and trips and opportunities to see environmental and social policy impacts in action both here and in Europe.

Where could this course take me?

Students wishing to study this subject at degree level may also consider the following: zoology, marine biology, biotechnology, animal science, sustainable civil engineering, journalism and urban landscape design. Environmental experts are needed in business, industry and government as well as estate management, land reclamation, countryside management and conservation.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
environmental-science](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/environmental-science)

“No other subject brings together so many different areas and current affairs.”

Michael

Geography

At A level you will study places, people, and the connections between them. To quote Danny Dorling: “Geography is the study of energy; how it builds mountains and then destroys them. It’s also the energy that flows through our atmosphere, bringing us our weather and changing our climate.” The course combines physical with human geography along with integrated fieldwork and an independent research project. Geographers investigate issues such as climate change, population growth and landscape degradation. Understanding processes behind these changes means that you will gain essential skills necessary to contribute to the management of these issues in the future. You will also develop skills in numeracy, literacy and how to use Geographical Information Systems.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in Geography and grade 4 in Mathematics. **Option b:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, grade 4 in Mathematics and grade 4 in Geography if studied.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Geography is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Geography provides a holistic approach to understanding the interconnections between the physical landscape and human activities. We consider how Earth’s physical processes have formed the planet and how humans have shaped and modified this environment. Conversely, we study how the Earth’s power, and the activity of humans influences and shapes the modern world.

Where could this course take me?

A level Geography opens-up many pathways for further study and employment. Geography as a subject provides the cornerstone of related subjects, e.g. earth, environmental and social science degrees. The transferable skills geographers acquire also enhance employment opportunities.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
 geography](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/geography)



Earth Sciences

Geology

Studying Geology at A level provides a unique opportunity to take a new and dynamic science subject. In your first year of study, you will investigate the rock cycle and how minerals, rocks and fossils provide information on Earth's history and evolution. In the second year, you will build on and apply your knowledge to investigate the subject better, applying a problem-solving approach. There are several opportunities to enhance your understanding by studying in our specialist laboratory, with a rich collection of rocks and fossils, and on fieldwork in North Norfolk and the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. Geology provides many career pathways from volcanology, civil engineering, forensic science and mining to environmental geology.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and grade 6 in one Science.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Geology is 58.



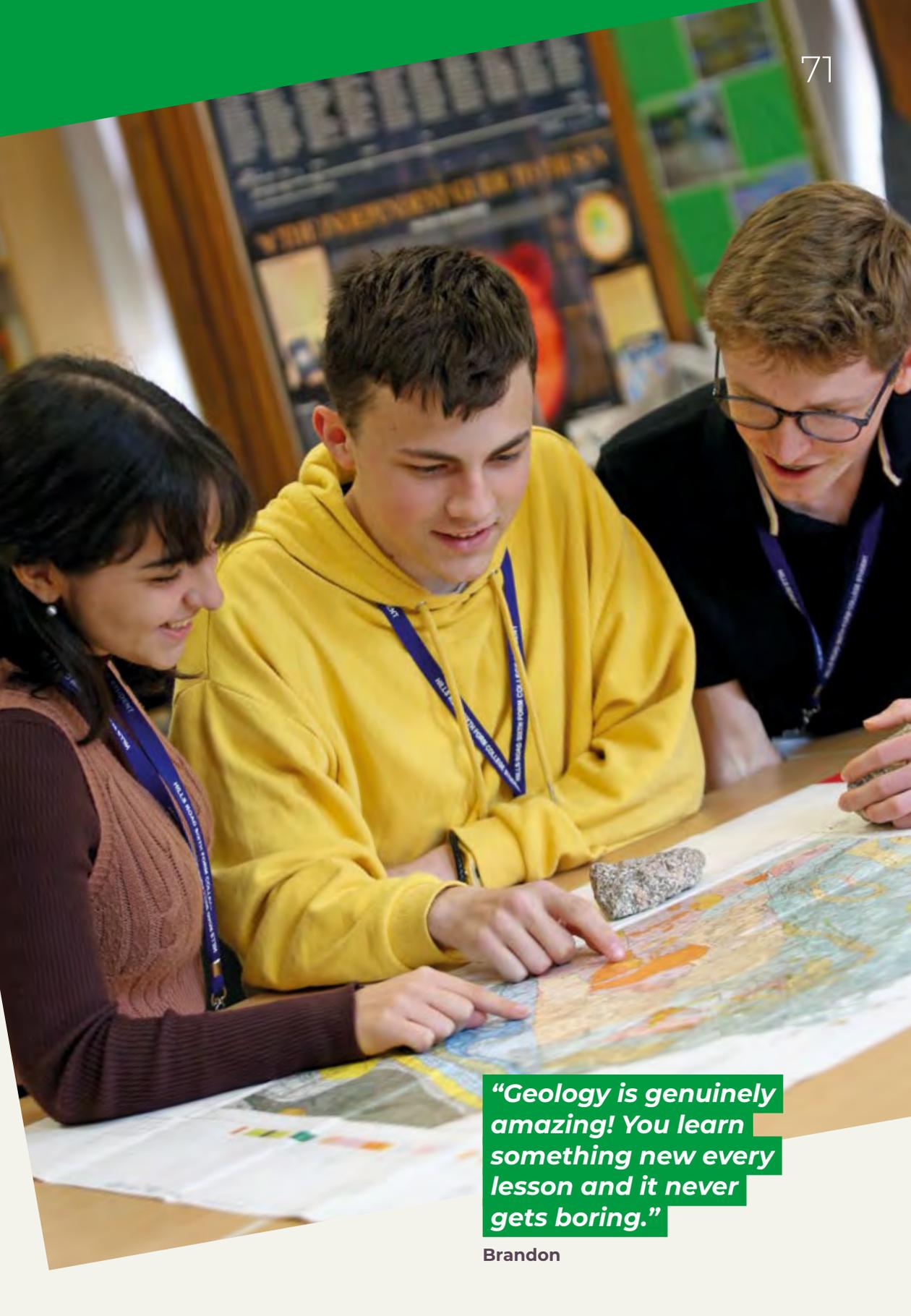
What opportunities are unique to this course?

Studying Geology gives a unique insight into the processes of how planet Earth formed and has evolved over the past 4.5 billion years. The course provides a 'hands-on' approach to investigating the materials – rocks, minerals and fossils – either in the lab or on fieldwork, that preserve the evidence of past environments and often, catastrophic events.

Where could this course take me?

Geology is a physical science and provides an alternative route into a vast array of science degrees including; earth & environmental sciences, oceanography, volcanology, palaeontology, forensic science and resource-based courses, e.g. oil, mining and hydrogeology.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/geology



“Geology is genuinely amazing! You learn something new every lesson and it never gets boring.”

Brandon

English

English Language

Is English Language for you? The answer is 'Yes' if you're up for open minded investigation of what the language was in the past, is now, and may become in the future. Are technology and young people ruining the language? Will English be the world language? Are children specially hard-wired to work out language for themselves? Do women and men communicate differently? Is accent discrimination the last acceptable prejudice? Is the rhetorical question an overused stylistic device? You'll get to carry out your own language investigation project. You'll discuss issues in class. You'll write evaluative essays, analyses of spoken, written and electronic texts, and you'll produce original writing in a genre of your choice. It's both analytical and creative. What's not to like?

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for English Language is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

We invite experts in Language and Linguistics from Cambridge and other universities to inspire students. We put on talks from ex-students on studying Linguistics at university. We conduct field research into regional accents and dialects. You will have a unique opportunity to conduct your own independent research project. English Language students can enter department creative writing competitions.

Where could this course take me?

Language is an excellent foundation for a variety of career paths. Specialisms can include journalism, law and publishing, whereas some ex-students have gone on to become teachers, speech therapists and lexicographers. Forensic linguistics is an exciting emerging field.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/english-language





“The depth of the teaching, the texts you study and the additional resources are fantastic!”

Indiana

English

English Language & Literature

English Language and Literature is a course that will allow you to study a diverse range of writers while learning how to craft your own unique writing. You will learn how to become an expert reader equipped with a clear linguistic focus helping you develop your interpretive and analytical skills. You will study modern fiction, poetry and drama. There is also a fascinating collection of writing, including journalism, screenplays, podcasts, speeches and reportage as some of the genres included in the Voices anthology. Coursework gives you the opportunity to write your own original pieces inspired by texts on our reading list.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for English Language and Literature is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

English Language and Literature provides the unique opportunity to analyse texts from both a linguistic and literary point of view and to use your understanding of these methods in your own fiction and non-fiction pieces.

Where could this course take me?

Journalism, media, the arts, law, education and any other careers where analytical and writing skills are required.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/english-language-and-literature



"Everyone is as passionate about the subject as you are. I've never had a dull moment!"

Ava

English Literature

Do you enjoy reading and discussing the great works of literature? Do you want to expand your understanding of texts, contexts, ideas and to improve your writing? Then English Literature is for you. During your study of English Literature, you will explore eight texts while being encouraged to read independently, widely, and in-depth. We will cover all three genres: Poetry, Drama and Prose across a range of periods and will include a selection of contemporary poetry written since the year 2000, the romantic John Keats, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and the thematic exploration of either 'Science and Society' or 'Women and Society' in the novel. Coursework forms part of this A level course, and the theme is Belonging.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for English Literature is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

We have frequent visits by academic speakers; this year Professor Victor Sage, expert on the gothic, spoke on *Frankenstein*. We take groups to theatres to see relevant productions and recently we organised a trip to Cambridge University Library to hear poet laureate Simon Armitage read.

Where could this course take me?

Writer, journalist, law, politics, careers of conscience such as working for a charity, public relations, teacher, academic, content provider, media, work in theatre and entertainment.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/english-literature



Film & Media

Film Studies

Film Studies is a well-established academic subject that offers you the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of different films and gain confidence with a range of critical approaches. You will learn how to 'read' a film, considering cinematography, mise en scene, editing and sound. You will also analyse the relationship between the text and the spectator and production contexts. The course covers texts from early cinema history, experimental film movements and contemporary cinema. Some of the texts you will look at on the course are *Vertigo*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Breathless*, *The Hurt Locker* and *Skyfall*. The course also allows you to express your creativity through the production of a short film or screenplay.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Film Studies is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Students can participate in courses with the British Film Institute, work for Watersprite Film Festival and meet visiting industry professionals. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in projects within the college, nationally and even internationally as part of the wider film community.

Where could this course take me?

Many students go on to study film at university, progressing to a range of areas within the creative industries, including visual effects, journalism and film production. Studying film at A level also evidences a student's ability to write extended prose.



Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/film-studies





"Film Studies has opened my eyes to genres I had never experienced before."

Philip

Media Studies

The A level Media Studies course offers you experience of a range of media forms, including newspapers, video games, music video, advertising and online media. You can also work creatively to produce print and video products. Media Studies equips you with the skills and knowledge to engage critically with the wide range of media you encounter in everyday life. You will learn to use digital video cameras and digital editing equipment to create your own video work. There will also be opportunities for trips and extra-curricular activities.

Entry requirements

- Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
- Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Media Studies is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Students on the course have opportunities to meet and learn from music video directors, TV directors and many more industry professionals. Opportunities to participate in regional and national courses with the BFI and Watersprite film festival are also possible.

Where could this course take me?

Students can progress to studying media at university either through a practical or a theoretical route. This can then lead to many careers within the creative industries such as video games design, TV production, journalism and film marketing.



Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
media-studies](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/media-studies)



History

History: Crisis, Conflict and Communism

This course focuses on life under Communist regimes in the twentieth century, including democracy and dictatorships in Germany from 1919-1963 and tsars, revolution and communists in the Soviet Union from 1855-1964. You will also study England in Revolution: the early Stuarts, civil wars, and Cromwell from 1603-1660, and you will be able to choose from a range of coursework topics, which currently include: witch hunts in early modern Europe c.1450-1750, the French Revolution: Robespierre and the Terror 1793-94, and origins of the Cold War. Students can only take one History course at the College.

Entry requirements

- Subject:** **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in History. **Option b:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 4 in History if studied.
- Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for History is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will be provided with a wealth of resources and individual support to help you get the most out of this course. There is a thriving student-run History society.

Where could this course take me?

History graduates pursue a wide range of careers including journalism, law, accountancy, management, the civil service, teaching, research and heritage work.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/history-crisis-conflict-and-communism



"History is for anyone with a deep fascination for the past."

Molly

History: Rights, Race and Revolutions

This course focuses on the USA in the twentieth century, especially the struggle for Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992, and the Cold War in Europe 1941-1995. You will also study England in Revolution: the early Stuarts, civil wars, and Cromwell from 1603-1660, and you will be able to choose from a range of coursework topics which currently include: witch hunts in early modern Europe c.1450-1750, the French Revolution: Robespierre and the Terror 1793-94, and origins of the Cold War. Students can only take one History course at the College.

Entry requirements

- Subject:** **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in History. **Option b:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 4 in History if studied.
- Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for History is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will be provided with a wealth of resources and individual support to help you get the most out of this course. There is a thriving student-run History society.

Where could this course take me?

History graduates pursue a wide range of careers including journalism, law, accountancy, management, the civil service, teaching, research and heritage work.



Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
history-rights-race-
revolutions](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/history-rights-race-revolutions)

Mathematics

Mathematics

The Maths A level course gives students the essential tools required to study and understand abstract ideas in a wide range of contexts. Alongside pure mathematics, you will also study Mechanics, building on Newtonian ideas of motion and forces, and Statistics, which enables you to analyse and interpret the real world through data analysis and modelling. Maths is a facilitating subject for Maths and Science based degree courses. Maths is good training for the mind, helping to develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills: the kind of analytical processes that have helped solve problems of all kinds for thousands of years. It focuses on the abstract, linking algebra with geometry, including elements of problem-solving and analysis of a large data set.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Maths adjusted admissions score is 60.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will have the opportunity to take part in the Senior UK Maths Challenge and the Ritangle competition. You will also be able to attend the Maths Inspiration show in Cambridge and Maths Fest in London.

Where could this course take me?

Maths is a much sought-after qualification for entry to a wide variety of courses at university and many areas of employment. Such courses and careers include economics, medicine, architecture, engineering, accountancy, teaching, psychology, physics and computing.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/mathematics





“Maths is an enjoyable challenge with a huge variation of interesting topics.”

Sophie

Further Mathematics

Further Maths is for those with a significant interest in pursuing Maths beyond sixth form. Students studying Further Maths must also study Maths and two other subjects. You will cover the Maths course in one class, and Further Maths in a separate class, meaning you will have the equivalent of two subjects' worth of teaching time. It can be extremely rewarding for you if you love studying Maths and are stimulated by the faster pace and greater depth. Further Mathematics builds on the Pure Maths covered in A level Maths, whilst also branching out into new areas such as Matrices and Complex Numbers. You will also study Discrete Maths, as well as the option of Further Mechanics or Further Statistics.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 8 in Mathematics and grade 8 in all Sciences. Applicants must have studied a minimum of two Sciences.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Four A Level Programme adjusted admissions score for Further Mathematics is 78.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will have the opportunity to attend lunchtime Enrichment sessions where you can work with other students to solve complex and interesting Maths problems. If you wish to study Maths at University, you will be able to attend preparation classes for admissions tests as well as the option of having practice interviews.

Where could this course take me?

Further Maths is essential for a small minority of university courses, and is useful for courses and careers in economics, computing, physics and engineering.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/further-mathematics



Modern Languages

French

Would you like to speak French fluently? Or maybe work or study abroad? Studying French will help you to make this happen. Debates and discussions in the classroom will give you a broad perspective on a wide range of issues, and you will gain in-depth knowledge of France and French speaking countries. You will develop your language skills through group work, the study of grammar and language lab sessions. Topics will include social issues such as immigration and politics, as well as cultural themes such as music, film and literature. We also offer competitions and talks, a student-led society and small group conversation classes with a French native-speaker Language Assistant to help you develop your speaking skills.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in French. **Option b:** applicant is bilingual or has recently lived in a French-speaking country*.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for French is 58.

* Eligibility will be discussed with the applicant if they are invited to a guidance meeting.



What opportunities are unique to this course?

We hold a small group conversation class for 30 minutes every week with our French language assistant. There is extensive support, including small group and individual support as well as peer mentoring. You will study a film and a book and there is an exchange trip to Montpellier for 10 days staying with a French student from our partner school.

Where could this course take me?

You could study a range of degree courses, including French, linguistics, a new language or combining a language and another subject as well as studying abroad for a year. You could go on to work for an international company either in this country or abroad.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/french





“You get so much more out of A level French than just the ability to speak and understand French!”

Izzie

Modern Languages

German

Would you like to speak a foreign language fluently? Perhaps work abroad? Studying German could help make this a reality and equip you with invaluable skills for the future. Germany's society and culture form a core part of the course, from contemporary youth culture and Germany's role in the EU to architecture and Epic Theatre. Through discussions and debates in the classroom, small group work with our native speaker Language Assistant, partner work and language lab study, you will develop your fluency and become better informed on a wide range of issues and topics. There are workshops for individual and group support and extension classes in Year 13 to prepare for university language courses. We have a student-led German Society.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: Option a: GCSE grade 6 in German.
Option b: applicant is bilingual or has recently lived in a German-speaking country.*

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for German is 58.

*Eligibility will be discussed with the applicant if they are invited to a guidance meeting.



What opportunities are unique to this course?

Hamburg work experience exchange: stay with a student at our partner school in Hamburg and do a seven-day work placement. Placements range from schools and nurseries to research centres and pharmacies, a GP's and solicitor offices. Weekly speaking class with a native speaker: all students have a weekly small-group 30-minute class with our German Assistant.

Where could this course take me?

You will be able to work or study abroad and have the skills and confidence to learn new languages. You can progress to a wide range of degree courses. Career options include interpreting, business, teaching or the diplomatic service.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/german





"I really enjoyed Spanish at Hills Road - it is interesting and fun!"

Dan

Spanish

If you dream of speaking fluently and impressively in a language spoken by 450 million people in the world, and perhaps even working abroad, studying a language can help you to achieve these goals. Spanish will make you a more desirable employee and increase your job prospects. Learning a second language is also proven to improve your brain! Debates and discussions in the classroom will give you a broad perspective and in-depth knowledge on a wide range of issues about Hispanic society. Native speaking Language Assistants in the Modern Languages department are available to support you with small group conversation work.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in Spanish. **Option b:** applicant is bilingual or has recently lived in a Spanish-speaking country.*
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Spanish is 58.

* Eligibility will be discussed with the applicant if they are invited to a guidance meeting.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will experience the local way of life thanks to the wonderful exchange link to Santander in Spain! And you will also enjoy the opportunity to participate in the Spanish society, with films, talks and a wide range of activities to help you dive in to Spanish culture!

Where could this course take me?

The advantages of taking A level Spanish are huge as it pairs well with arts-based subjects like History of Art, English Literature, or History, but also with Sciences as it will open the door to do research all across Latin America!

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
spanish](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/spanish)



Music

Music

If you love music and are keen to evolve your skills in performing and creating music, this is the course for you. In addition to practical music-making, you will explore a broad range of set works, from popular music to film, fusions to works written in the western classical tradition. Fifty percent of the course allows you to work in your preferred musical styles; you will also build your aural, analytical and essay writing skills through collaborative lessons on set works. Performance is a key part of the course so you must have regular lessons with a suitably qualified professional on your main instrument or voice. You will be encouraged to take part in the lively and diverse extra-curricular music programme.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: Option a: GCSE grade 6 in Music and grade 5 instrument or voice. **Option b:** grade 5 instrument or voice and grade 5 Music Theory (or equivalent).

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Music is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

The course allows you to develop your practical skills in performance and composition alongside the academic study of a range of musical styles. There are ample opportunities to take part in live music-making and an enticing array of concerts and other events.

Where could this course take me?

Most students continue to higher education, perhaps to study Music, or to Music Conservatoire to specialise in an instrument, voice, or composition. Many A level Music students pursue different subjects at university but continue music as a future hobby.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
 music](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/music)



"A truly diverse and engaging course from symphonies to jazz fusions."

Joanna

Music Technology

Music Technology is a creative and innovative subject that provides you with the skills needed to compose, produce and record music. You will gain an understanding of a wide range of popular musical styles and how to create them. The course is practical, with much of the work carried out at computer workstations. We aim to offer a number of trips and a residential study trip in Year 12. There are excellent opportunities to learn to operate a wide variety of music hardware and software, all in superb facilities, including a teaching room with a suite of computers and two recording studios. Both studios are equipped with Logic Pro X and a range of high-end hardware and Native Instruments Komplete.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 or Merit in Music (or similar subject title). **Option b:** grade 5 Music Theory or grade 5 instrument.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Music Technology is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Music Technology offers the unique opportunity to develop your skills as a producer. You will have access to exceptional equipment and resources and be provided with opportunities to use them. Our Music Tech students often support recordings and live sound at college events and in the wider community.

Where could this course take me?

There are a variety of career paths for Music Technology students: common routes include studio and live sound engineering, whereas some of our ex-students have gone on to become film score composers and video game sound designers.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
 music-technology](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/music-technology)



Performing Arts



Dance

A level Dance is active, physically demanding, intellectually stimulating and, most importantly, huge fun. The course is highly practical: you will develop your technique, expand your movement vocabulary and explore your skills through regular performance. Through analysis of professional works by the world's greatest choreographers, you will understand their techniques and apply them to your own creative work, developing confidence to become an inspired dancer and choreographer. You will also learn to write analytically, succinctly and insightfully about the processes of dance. Trips to live professional performance, workshops from visiting practitioners, and a range of exciting extra-curricular technique classes – alongside additional opportunities such as our in-house dance company all enrich this highly practical and creative course.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 6 in Dance if studied.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Dance is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Strong transferable skills will be nurtured, including teamwork, problem solving, creative thinking, leadership and meeting deadlines. Going to the theatre, performing and creating your own work are all key parts of the course. Developing a sense of community is important in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Where could this course take me?

Obvious progression would be to study dance, choreography, or musical theatre at university or vocational college. Other pathways include creative industries, analytical courses, and those that require teamwork, confidence and listening skills, e.g. counselling, midwifery, psychology and education.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/dance





“Drama at Hills Road gave me the confidence to become an actor.”

Sarah

Drama & Theatre

Drama encompasses all of human experience. As the world becomes more complex, our need to understand ourselves through the mirror of stage or screen becomes ever more urgent. Through Drama, you will develop intellectually, artistically and socially, as you explore ethical issues in a way designed both to entertain and to make your audience think, challenge and question. In Drama, you will explore everything that goes into making great theatre, from text and performance to technical elements and design. You will study superb plays by brilliant playwrights and perform them alongside your own devised work. You will explore the work of the most influential directors of the modern age, supported by a dynamic programme of theatre trips and professional workshops.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 6 in Drama if studied.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Drama is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

It's the many opportunities to experience and create live performance that make this course so dynamic. You'll be part of a community of over 150 drama devotees, creating up to ten shows a year, seeing up to ten professional performances, staging your set texts and participating in exciting extra classes in improvisation, screen acting and physical theatre.

Where could this course take me?

Former Hills Road drama students have formed over 30 professional drama companies, attended all the top drama schools – RADA, Central, Rose Bruford – and top universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Bristol, Exeter and Birmingham. They are now appearing on TV, in film and in professional theatre venues around the globe.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/drama-theatre



Physical Education

Physical Education

Are you interested in human biology, biomechanics, sports psychology, nutrition, skill acquisition and sports commercialisation? A level PE will provide you with a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Whether you aspire to work within the sports sector or are looking for a varied, challenging and fun third subject, A level PE represents the first step towards your future career. Our students go on to study sport related courses at a number of the UK's leading universities. Career pathways of PE students include physiotherapy, journalism, osteopathy, sports marketing, medicine and veterinary science. Hills Road PE students have progressed onto a diverse range of other career paths including politics, chemistry, law, corporate management and the civil service.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: Option a: GCSE grade 6 or Merit in PE (or similar subject title) and grade 6 in Mathematics or grade 6 in one Science. **Option b:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, grade 6 in Mathematics or in one Science, and grade 4 in PE if studied.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Physical Education is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

The range of topics covered at A Level PE is a huge strength of the course. Students will study Anatomy & Physiology, Exercise Physiology, Sport Psychology, Skill Acquisition and History of Sport. Additionally, the first-class resources and support on offer to PE students enables all students to progress and exceed their potential.

Where could this course take me?

Employers greatly value the range of skills that 'Sport' graduates bring to the workplace. However, many do choose a career in sport, indeed, a number of you will be taught and coached by former Hills Road students.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/physical-education





"I love PE because it has some of the most engaging and diverse content out of all my subjects."

Temwani

Political & Social Sciences

Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation explores the literature, history, culture and thought of ancient Greeks and Romans. With their unique composition and exciting tales of gods and heroes, Homer's Iliad, Virgil's Aeneid and the drama produced in 5th century Athens form an excellent grounding for exploration of the classical world. If you want to examine in detail the anger of Achilles, tragic heroism of Dido and Oedipus, Cato's stoicism, Caesar's anti-Republican behaviour, and to explore critically the ways in which classical texts might be interpreted, then this is the subject for you. Many students find the subject complementary to History, English Literature, Politics, Philosophy and Art, while for others, it is a pleasing contrast to Science subjects.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Classical Civilisation is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

We regularly host guest speakers and leading academics in their fields of expertise. Students have the chance to attend lectures, events and theatre performances, especially those closely related to our areas of study. Our thriving student-led Classics society hosts regular lectures and debates.

Where could this course take me?

Classical Civilisation is highly regarded by both universities and employers. History (both modern and ancient), politics, literature, law, finance are just some of the courses this unique subject could lead you to.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/classical-civilisation





“Learning about a whole new world full of drama, war and love is not something you want to miss.”

Cheska

Political & Social Sciences

Latin

In Latin, you will learn to think logically and analytically about language and literature. You will develop a critical approach to ideas of Roman society and compare them with those current today. The opportunity to read original Latin texts written more than twenty centuries ago by authors such as Virgil, Cicero, Caesar, Ovid, Tacitus, and Livy is challenging but rewarding. Although the course focuses on language and literature, historical context and Roman ideas and values are studied as part of the background to literature and language. Some students choose to study Classics at universities, others medicine, law or modern languages. It is a rare qualification, offered by few state schools and colleges, valued by universities and employers alike.

Entry requirements

Subject: GCSE grade 6 in Latin (short course GCSE acceptable).

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Latin is 58.



What opportunities are unique to this course?

We regularly welcome academics and guest speakers to share their expertise. Latin students are also encouraged to enter national competitions, both in essay writing and Live Latin Reading, in which our previous students have excelled.

Where could this course take me?

Highly appreciated by universities and employers, Latin will automatically make you stand out from the crowd. Depending on the subject you take alongside it, Latin could lead you to a career in medicine, classics, science, politics, finances, law, linguistics.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/latin





“You’ll learn important skills of deduction, critical thinking and how to create an argument that cannot be criticised.”

Jessica

Philosophy

Philosophy examines the rich treasure trove of answers to questions such as: What is the nature and limitation of our knowledge? How do we decide what is right? Does God exist? What is human consciousness? Philosophy A level will appeal to you if you enjoy thinking deeply, reading critically and expressing your ideas clearly in essays and discussion. Your opinions will be challenged in lively classroom discussion as you are led through the maze of philosophical puzzles. A level Philosophy is an antidote to learning facts and figures: this subject requires you to think for yourself! The course is complementary to both arts and humanities, as well as Science A levels.

Entry requirements

- Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
- Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Philosophy is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Philosophy gives you the opportunity to consider and discuss questions you will never have considered in any other subject! Do we know we are not dreaming right now? Could everyone else be robots? Is it actually wrong to kill people?

Where could this course take me?

Students go on to study a wide variety of subjects at university, with many choosing Philosophy itself or PPE. Philosophy’s transferable skills will also benefit you in a broad range of fields including teaching, law, civil service, journalism and intelligence.



Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/philosophy



Political & Social Sciences

Politics

Politics is the way in which a society or a group manages different views, conflicts and disagreements over resources. We study UK and global politics, examining the political structures and issues of debate. You will develop research and communication skills through a balanced handling of political questions, an interest in citizenship, up-to-date knowledge of current affairs and an understanding of the political ideas that have shaped the world. You will develop your analytical skills by evaluating political concepts and arguments from competing viewpoints. These are skills highly valued by universities and employers. Politics students go on to study a wide variety of subjects at university, including PPE (Philosophy, Politics & Economics), international relations, law, and history.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Politics is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

By studying politics students will have an opportunity to improve their analytical and debating skills through up-to-date knowledge of current political events and issues. There are also opportunities for external visits to Parliament and Brussels or The Hague.

Where could this course take me?

Politics students go on to study a wide variety of subjects at university. The diverse nature of the course provides skills which lend themselves to any professional field of work.



Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/politics





“RS gives great insight making it a very engaging and interesting subject.”

Clodagh

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is an attractive option if you are interested in exploring and debating the fundamental questions which all human beings ask: What or who is God? Why is there suffering and evil in the world? What is the right way to live? Is there anything beyond death? The course includes the study of Buddhism and how this fascinating religion and philosophy has evolved and developed over time. It also introduces you to some of the great debates and thinkers in religion, philosophy and ethics. This subject will appeal to you if you are enthusiastic and want to understand the deeply held convictions of others and to examine your own assumptions and beliefs.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Religious Studies is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Students will have the opportunity to explore and discuss what religious people believe and why, and how beliefs relate to religious practices and ethical decision making. The critical skills gained in Religious Studies can enable people to consider different views in an open minded and fair way. Students will learn to cogently evaluate a variety of viewpoints and to give their own opinions supported with reasoning.

Where could this course take me?

The skills gained from Religious Studies are invaluable for a wide range of degree courses and careers. It can help with the development of skills in critical thinking and analysis, and can help understanding of people and customs.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/religious-studies



Political & Social Sciences

Sociology

Are you curious about the world in which you live and your place in it? Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way that it does. They conduct research into and look at the extent to which behaviour, and opportunities, can be shaped by social class, age, gender and race. This course will help you to understand how individual lives are influenced by social institutions such as the education system, religion and the mass media, and investigates key contemporary problems, such as poverty, religious extremism and crime. Sociology is a subject within the Political and Social Sciences department at Hills Road. The department regularly invites outside speakers to come into the College to speak to students.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Sociology is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Sociology offers a unique opportunity to really examine the life chances of different groups in society based on their ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality.

Where could this course take me?

The courses and employment that our students embark on after studying Sociology are incredibly diverse – popular examples being law and midwifery.



Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/sociology





“Sociology lessons are filled with in-depth and interesting discussions about news topics and personal experiences.”

Frankie

Psychology

Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and experience. This stimulating subject combines fascinating content with a rigorous and scientific approach to investigation. It covers a broad range of topics from learning about why we are more likely to obey those in uniform to the multifaceted approach to explaining schizophrenia, alongside why some people become criminals and others don't! And, what happens when you cut someone's brain in half? You will develop your ability to formulate an argument by presenting and critically evaluating research evidence. Assessment includes short structured questions and longer essay style questions. Psychology continues to grow in popularity for both A level and undergraduate study, with an average twenty five percent of Hills Road Psychology students continuing with the subject or a related degree.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 6 in Mathematics or one Science.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Psychology is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Psychology, for many, offers a new science subject focused on the working of the human mind. Psychology appeals to all types of students and is well respected by many universities and apprenticeship pathways. As you study, you will have the opportunity to develop many different skills; critical evaluation, scientific investigation, mathematical analysis, extended writing and informed debating.

Where could this course take me?

Psychology is a very useful basis for a psychology or related degree, leading to clinical, sports or forensic psychology. It is also a well-respected A level for many further study choices and occupations from medicine to AI advisor.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/psychology





“If you would like to learn more about the extraordinary human mind and behaviour – take A level Psychology!”

Harry

Sciences

Biology

If you enjoy Biology at GCSE and you want to know even more about how life does what it does and why life is the way it is, then A level Biology is for you. We'll explore molecules, cells, organs, organisms and ecosystems, as well as central concepts such as how structure relates to function, evolution and inheritance. Biologists will play an important role if we are to overcome some of the great challenges of our time, such as climate change, food and water security, antibiotic resistance, and how to live more healthily for longer. If you want to be part of finding solutions to these challenges, then choosing A level Biology may be your first step to saving the world!

Entry requirements

1. Subject: Option a: GCSE grade 7 in Biology and grade 6 in Chemistry and grade 6 in Mathematics. **Option b:** GCSE grade 7 in both Combined Sciences and grade 6 in Mathematics.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Higher adjusted admissions score for Biology is 71.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

A weekly visiting speakers' programme lets you hear from a wide range of scientists from Nobel laureates to early career scientists. There are also opportunities to engage with the local scientific community through visits, masterclasses and Big Biology Day. We also build our own community through student-led societies such as BioSoc, MedSoc, VetSoc and the environment society.

Where could this course take me?

A level Biology provides a strong foundation for further study and a career in any area of the life sciences including medicine, plant science, ecology, environmental science, conservation, biochemistry, physiology, neuroscience, immunology, computational biology, genetics, veterinary medicine, and evolutionary biology.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/biology





“The course expands greatly on the topics covered at a surface level at GCSE. What you learn at A level is truly fascinating.”

Robin

Sciences

Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of the properties, composition, and structure of substances; how they interact, the transformations they undergo, and the energy changes that accompany these processes. Chemists provide many of the materials used in everyday life, and search for solutions to improve healthcare and tackle future challenges. A deeper knowledge of this fascinating subject will give you a greater understanding of the world in which you live. If you are interested in finding out about how the world around you works, and relish challenges such as recognising and explaining different patterns of behaviour, then you will enjoy Chemistry. Throughout the course, you will also carry out practical work to develop your skills and enhance your enjoyment and understanding.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: Option a: GCSE grade 7 in Chemistry and grade 7 in Mathematics. **Option b:** Grade 7 in both Combined Science GCSEs and grade 7 in Mathematics.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Higher adjusted admissions score for Chemistry is 71.



What opportunities are unique to this course?

As well as your A level, you will be working towards the Practical Endorsement in Chemistry. You will develop competence in a wide range of practical skills and laboratory practices during the 50+ practicals you complete as part of your course.

Where could this course take me?

The vast majority of students move on to higher education to study courses that are either Chemistry-related (e.g. forensic chemistry etc., pharmacy, biochemistry, chemical engineering), STEM-related (e.g. biological sciences, physics, mathematics, engineering) or require Chemistry (e.g. medicine, dentistry, veterinary science).

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/chemistry





*“Excellent teachers,
excellent resources,
excellent support...
a great place to learn!”*

Finlay

Computer Science

Computer Science is an exciting and challenging subject in which you will develop valuable skills in problem-solving as well as learning how computers work. You will learn how to design and develop new software to solve problems whilst also learning how complex computer systems work at the hardware level. You will learn how to analyse problems, design algorithms and write programs. Some students have no previous programming experience and we assume none, so we start from the beginning. We offer excellent support in the form of workshops and one-to-one help. We also provide strong challenges for the most able students, including Olympiads, competitions and extension challenges.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and grade 4 in Computing or Computer Science if studied.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Higher adjusted admissions score for Computer Science is 71.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Studying Computer Science provides you with the opportunity to develop your analytical thinking and problem-solving skills; all highly valued by employers and universities. Throughout the course, you will work on projects that gradually become more substantial, thus allowing you to grow into a rounded individual capable of undertaking new challenges, both within and outside of Computer Science.

Where could this course take me?

Common career paths include software engineering, app and web development. There are many fields that our alumni pursue careers in, including the sciences, engineering, business and health care sectors. Some have even become data analysts and artificial intelligence engineers.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
computer-science](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/computer-science)



Sciences

Physics

Do you want to understand how the world around us works? Do you have an inquiring mind and enjoy solving problems? Are you interested in cutting-edge discoveries currently happening in the world? By performing experiments and collecting data, physicists deduce the fundamental laws that explain everything we see, from the expansion of the universe to the tiniest particles known in existence. At A level, you gain an in-depth knowledge of a broad range of topics, as well as develop your logical thinking, problem-solving, and investigative skills. The skills developed open doors to a world of opportunities, including a wide range of degrees such as physics, engineering, chemistry, biology and maths, as well as subjects like design, computing, medicine, economics and law.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: Option a: GCSE grade 7 in Physics and grade 7 in Mathematics. **Option b:** Grade 7 in both Combined Science GCSEs and grade 7 in Mathematics.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Higher adjusted admissions score for Physics is 71.



What opportunities are unique to this course?

Students can participate in several external competitions such as the Physics Olympiad and UK Space Design Competition. We host a variety of talks from guest speakers, and organise trips to external organisations such as CERN. Students can work with leading experts from industry through the Launchpad and Engineering Education Schemes or explore university life through the Headstart taster courses.

Where could this course take me?

Could it be to a game studio, designing the next Minecraft? Or to the Met Office, creating computer models to predict climate change? Or to a hospital, using physics to help to save lives? With thousands of exciting, rewarding physics-related careers to choose from – picking just one is hard.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/physics

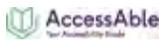
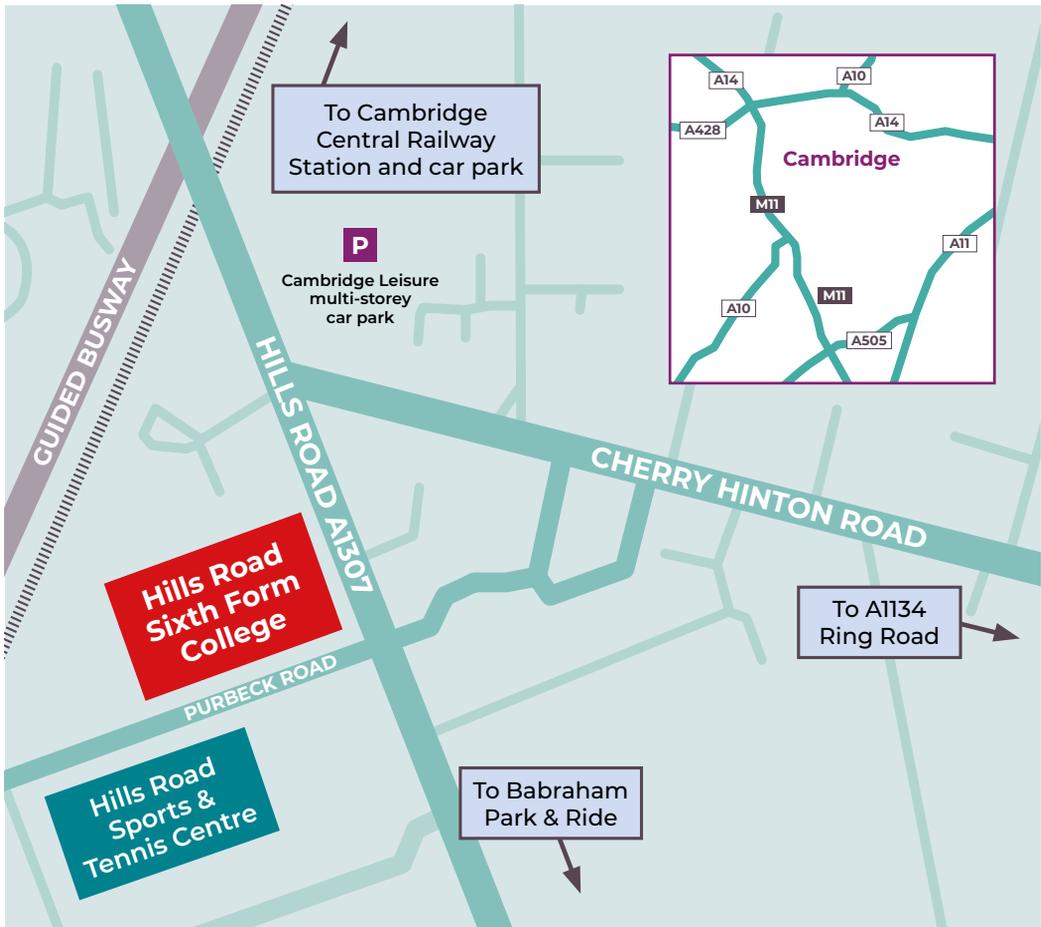




Hills Road
Sixth Form College
Cambridge

Hills Road,
Cambridge,
CB2 8PE
01223 247251
www.hillsroad.ac.uk

How to find us



This prospectus is a Carbon Balanced Publication, where the Carbon emissions of the paper and production has been estimated, and then balanced (offset) by the World Land Trust. For more information on Carbon Balancing go to www.carbonbalancedpaper.com

www.carbonbalancedprinter.com
Healey's Print Group • Reg. 2108

Subject sticker to go here

Subject sticker to go here

Collect your subject stickers

During our Open Event, grab a sticker from each subject department and scan the QR code to find out more information about each A level from our virtual subject leaflets!

Subject sticker to go here



Hills Road
Sixth Form College
Cambridge

Find the QR codes for every
subject: [www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
subjectQR](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/subjectQR)

