

Prospectus

HIVE Sixth Form Countesthorpe Academy



Respect / Resilience / Success

Show **Respect** Develop **Resilience** Achieve **Success**

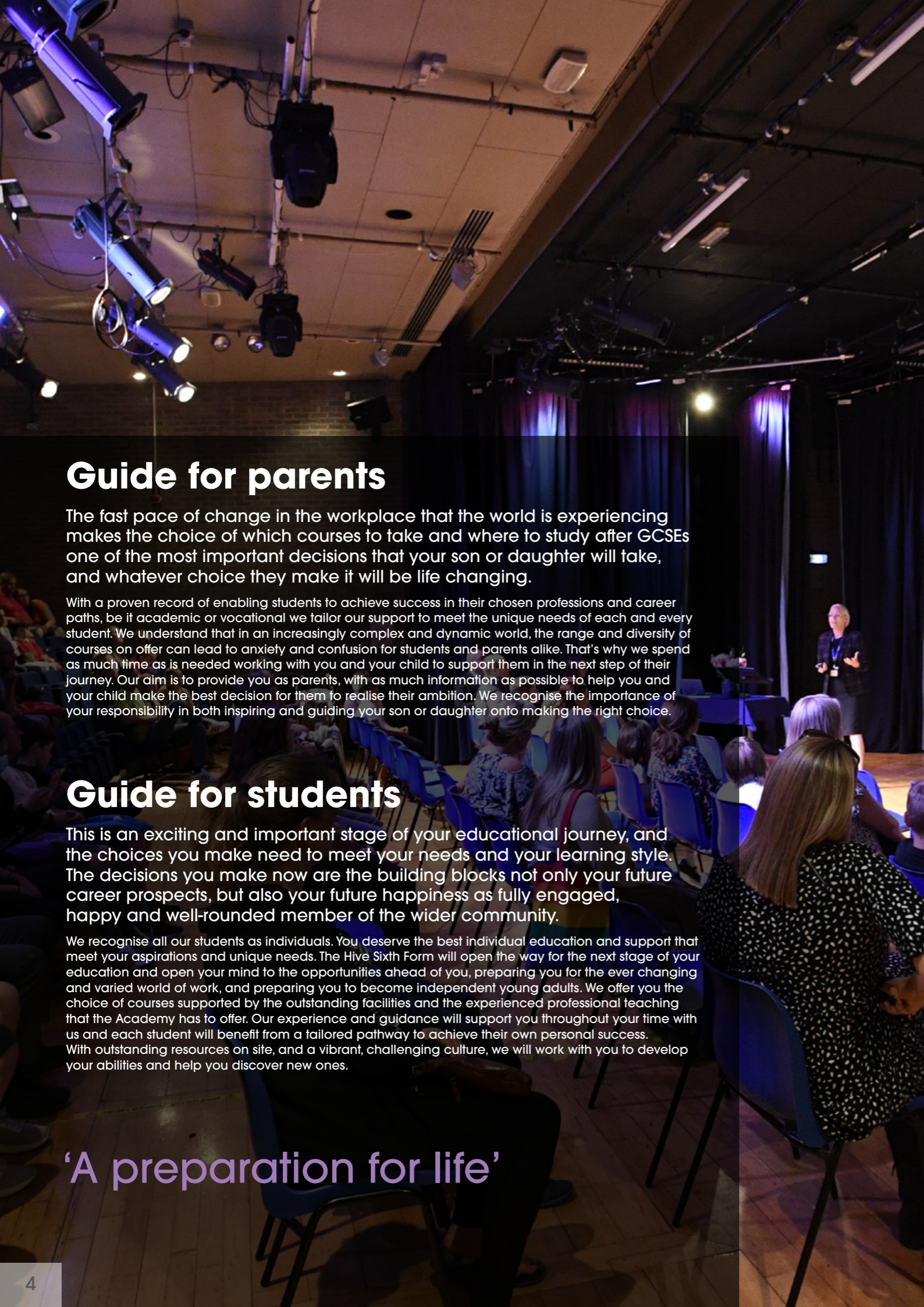


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Taking the next step



Guide for parents

The fast pace of change in the workplace that the world is experiencing makes the choice of which courses to take and where to study after GCSEs one of the most important decisions that your son or daughter will take, and whatever choice they make it will be life changing.

With a proven record of enabling students to achieve success in their chosen professions and career paths, be it academic or vocational we tailor our support to meet the unique needs of each and every student. We understand that in an increasingly complex and dynamic world, the range and diversity of courses on offer can lead to anxiety and confusion for students and parents alike. That's why we spend as much time as is needed working with you and your child to support them in the next step of their journey. Our aim is to provide you as parents, with as much information as possible to help you and your child make the best decision for them to realise their ambition. We recognise the importance of your responsibility in both inspiring and guiding your son or daughter onto making the right choice.

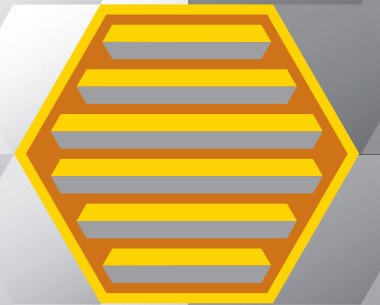
Guide for students

This is an exciting and important stage of your educational journey, and the choices you make need to meet your needs and your learning style. The decisions you make now are the building blocks not only your future career prospects, but also your future happiness as fully engaged, happy and well-rounded member of the wider community.

We recognise all our students as individuals. You deserve the best individual education and support that meet your aspirations and unique needs. The Hive Sixth Form will open the way for the next stage of your education and open your mind to the opportunities ahead of you, preparing you for the ever changing and varied world of work, and preparing you to become independent young adults. We offer you the choice of courses supported by the outstanding facilities and the experienced professional teaching that the Academy has to offer. Our experience and guidance will support you throughout your time with us and each student will benefit from a tailored pathway to achieve their own personal success. With outstanding resources on site, and a vibrant, challenging culture, we will work with you to develop your abilities and help you discover new ones.

'A preparation for life'

'Our students grow as individuals, develop their own unique talents, learn to love learning, as well as meeting and mixing with new friends.'



A route to success

Students at the HIVE Sixth Form at Countesthorpe Academy have a track record of outstanding success in academic results, as well as enjoying rewarding careers across numerous industry sectors from finance and economics, environment and the arts, and well as computing, engineering, journalism and medicine.

Even in the most challenging of circumstances our students are achieving great results, with more and more of our Sixth Form students going on to the top universities, exciting vocational careers, apprenticeships and employment with some of the UK's leading businesses.



What drives our success?

Our vision

To inspire and enable all to be the best that they can be

Our values

Through our actions and behaviours we will strive to build a learning community in which all:

Show **Respect**
Develop **Resilience**
Achieve **Success**

Our ethos

We deliver a high quality experience for all where:

- Student learning, attainment, achievement and the well-being of all are at the centre of everything we do
- A caring and supporting environment is created
- Opportunities are provided which will engender a love of learning now and in the future
- There is a culture of success where achievement is rewarded and celebrated
- High standards of conduct and behaviour ensure the best possible outcomes for all
- Having high aspirations and ambitions for staff and students leads to a determination and desire for continuous improvement



Unique and distinctive



The Hive Sixth Form at Countesthorpe Academy is both a unique and distinctive part of the learning community where results and performance are consistently excellent, and where students build resilience and achieve success. The majority of students who join our Sixth Form go on to study at some of the leading universities in the UK, with 80% of students applications accepted by their first-choice university.

Student life in Sixth Form is very different from Years 10 and 11 studying for GCSEs. Advanced Level study is more exacting, more challenging and demands a much greater sense of responsibility for the workload, a greater intellectual and academic awareness and above all, it requires consistent and considerable hard work. Expectations are high and so is the level teaching, encouragement and support that each and every student receive.

This important stage in the educational journey is when students develop the skills of self-management, self-discipline, independence and responsibility in order to progress successfully into the world of work or Higher Education and as such, we have proven structures in place to help achieve these skills.

Alongside academic study, there will be opportunities to develop skills, confidence and independence through meeting new people, engaging in new opportunities and leading by example. The Hive Sixth Form has a dedicated Sixth Form Centre, new study area, and dining environment and social areas for exclusive use and for individual private study.

We are an inclusive Sixth Form and have developed a tailored transition package to prepare each student for the rigorous and independent nature of Sixth Form studies designed to provide support to all students to enable you to achieve your very best, whether a student currently attending Countesthorpe Academy or a student joining us for the very first time, we look forward to working with you.

The pandemic presented huge challenges for students and teachers alike, and our sixth form students and teaching staff are proud of the response and success achieved during this time.

The Admissions Criteria and Application Process, along with information on each subject, and details of our Transitional Work Programme and other support tools can be found on our website. It is important that you examine these subject pages carefully, particularly concentrating on the subjects you are interested in studying at Sixth Form.

Personalised learning and subject experts



Every student is an individual with a personal learning style and as such at the Hive, we pride ourselves in understanding, valuing and supporting every student uniquely.

The high achievement in A Level and Level 3 generic qualifications is due to our dedicated teaching, personalised approach to learning, support, and the high standards which we set all of our students. The breadth of courses we have on offer should suit all students' aspirations, ability and interests, and provide them with the adaptability, understanding and skills to cope with a rapidly developing technological world. Through the personalised curriculum students are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for their own learning so that they have the essential skills for Higher Education, apprenticeships or employment.

Evidenced by the success our students achieve shows Sixth Form teaching at the Hive is second to none. Subject expert teachers have a great passion for their subject and go out of their way to support and inspire students. Many of them have higher degrees and all are specialists in their field, and the academy invests heavily in ongoing training and development for our teaching and support staff allowing students to benefit for the latest teaching knowledge and practice.



In my experience

A student perspective
Isabelle D

Application process

My experience of applying to Countesthorpe Academy was a smooth and well guided process. My teachers and tutors were able to help me in writing up a strong personal statement that was able to give Countesthorpe a good sense of who I am and why I may be a good fit for the Hive community. It is important to communicate a sense of well-roundedness by highlighting a number of extracurricular activities as well as the lessons and transferable skills that can be applied to studying at Countesthorpe. A great example is how volunteering in a charity shop caused me to develop my time-management and organisational skills. After submitting my application, I promptly found out whether I had an interview. The interview process was similar to a friendly conversation whereby I was asked why I wanted to study the subjects I had chosen. Whilst it may seem daunting at first, I found the application process to be well supported by both my secondary school and Countesthorpe's Sixth Form.

Day to day

The Hive Sixth Form has a welcoming community atmosphere. As an external student I was worried that I would find it challenging to integrate with already formed friendship groups, however everyone was eager to accept me as their friend and I quickly settled in. The staff at Countesthorpe were just as welcoming as the students; I find my teachers to be engaging and enthusiastic members of our Sixth Form community who are always open to providing further support. I believe that having such confident and well-prepared teachers made bridging the gap between GCSE's and A-Level's so much more manageable. Part of this step up when studying your A Levels is the sudden independence you are given, you are treated like an adult by staff and therefore they expect you to learn to balance your work with things you do outside of school. During study periods the Sixth Form have three key study rooms: our amazing Hive Centre which is perfect for social studying, next door is the Hive Fuel where you can buy drinks, snacks and lunch during the day and then there is the Sixth Form quiet study room in our brand-new building. These spaces provide a variety of different environments in order to achieve the perfect balance between socialising with friends and getting your head down to work.

Future and how the academy is helping

Countesthorpe encourages all Sixth Form students to start considering their future early in order to make the right decisions later down the line. Mrs Challinor is excellent at providing resources that will help you to develop your personal statement and prepare you for UCAS applications. During year twelve we were told to make the most of virtual work experience opportunities and access programs which provide support when applying to Russell Group universities. However, if you don't think you want to go to university, I have found Countesthorpe to be supportive of all routes including planning gap years, applying for jobs and apprenticeships. Tutors are also a great support network when considering your next steps as they are able to help advise you on your personal statements and discuss what options are available to you. This year there are bi-weekly mentoring sessions during registration where you are given the opportunity to review your applications and future plans with your tutor. Another new addition to this year is the SCAR programme which has led me to explore and become the master of one topic related to what I want to do in the future. This gives everyone a supercurricular activity that demonstrates our enthusiasm towards our course and will make us unique applicants when applying for jobs as well as higher education. The Hive Sixth Form is well equipped to guide all students when making daunting life choices and encourage us to reach our potential. I am confident that I have the skills and knowledge to prepare me for my future.



High performance, going further

Students are challenged and encouraged to recognise and realise their potential in a range of different areas, whether it be academic, sporting, artistic or vocational achievement. Success is celebrated regardless of direction.

We support our academic high achieving students through 'The Elephant Group Programme' whose underlying principle is that of high expectation and aspiration. Those who demonstrate high academic potential, and the will to succeed are supported through a range of challenging and focused learning activities and provided with inspirational extra-curricular activities ranging from university visits to Oxbridge conferences and summer schools at Russell Group Universities, to mock entrance exams and interviews. Personalised intervention opportunities ensure that we stretch and extend our students to deepen their learning and thinking. We understand that high achievement is not just confined to the classroom, and can be defined as academic, able and talented and we tailor our support according to the students' skills.

What a day in the HIVE looks like...

We are proud of the fact that our Sixth Form students are taught by exceptional staff whose passion for their subject is second to none. Subject options are taught for 9 hours per fortnight with additional sessions for tutorial activities with your form group.

Each day is broken down into five, one hour lessons, and your subject lessons are taught over a two week timetable. Each hourly lesson has been carefully planned, and is immensely focused.

Tutor time	Lesson 1	Break	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lunch	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 5
8:45-9:10	9:10-10:10	10:10-10:30	10:30-11:30	11:30-12:30	12:30-13:00	13:00-14:00	14:50-15:00	14:50-15:00

What we offer

Year 12 students will opt for 3 A Level subjects which will be studied over two years.

In addition to this, ALL students will undertake a core programme of study which includes participation in the tutorial programme and enrichment options. Students may also opt to study the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Entry requirements

In order to study A Levels at the Sixth Form students must:

Have five GCSEs (or more) at Grade 5 (Merit in BTEC subjects) or above, including at least a Grade 4 in English and Maths. We would also ask that students would ideally have at least a level 5 in the subject area they wanted to study, if they have previously studied their chosen subject. There are additional entry requirements for the following subjects:

- Psychology A Level – 5 in Maths and 5 in Biology GCSE
- Maths and Further Maths A Level – 6 in Maths GCSE
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics A Level – 6 in the chosen Science specialism

Within the supportive and collaborative Countesthorpe Academy community you'll be recognised as an individual. At the Hive you can achieve your goals with the support of our expert teaching staff, and the vast range of subjects, courses and qualifications on offer.

Whatever your personal motivation, dreams and aspiration...

'You'll inspire and enable all to be the best that they can be.'





Courses on offer



Key Stage 5 courses

We have a wide choice of A Level courses on offer, and Level 3 generic qualifications to choose from. For further details visit www.countesthorpe.org.uk

Subjects

- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- English Literature
- Esports
- Fashion and Textiles
- Food Science and Nutrition
- French
- Further Maths
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- ICT
- Maths
- Media
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Product Design
- Psychology
- Science (Applied)
- Sociology
- Spanish

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Recognised as a valuable qualification by many of the leading employers and seats of higher education across the UK, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) offers students the opportunity to study a subject area of their choice. The EPQ is a research-based qualification that supports the skills that are so important in Higher Education and in the work of work. Included in the EPQ are visits to University Libraries and students will receive relevant advice from supervisors who provide guidance and support.

Subject availability is subject to student uptake.

Careers advice

Every student will benefit from a dedicated careers advice and guidance offer that provides information, for a number of pathways. These include UCAS university applications and applying to college places or apprenticeships schemes including Degree Apprenticeships.

Our careers team also co-ordinate careers days, visiting speakers and industry presentations, university taster days and are always available to book an interview with for one-to-one advice. Tutorial sessions are developed to meet your personal, social, professional and financial needs includes guidance on student finance, sponsorships and bursaries. The programme is developed to provide support for your next steps applications, whether this is onwards towards University or on to an Apprenticeship. All of your career needs can be met through this programme Additional support for your ongoing success can be sought from our careers and guidance teacher. Our wealth of knowledge and contacts throughout various industries means that whatever your ambitions are we can support you.

Alumni

I am currently going into my final year studying Management Sciences at Loughborough University and am looking forward to entering the world of work next year, hopefully in social enterprise, marketing, or the events space.

I miss my time at Countesthorpe - the warmth of staff and eagerness to help me progress are aspects that made it so much easier for me to seek opportunities, and created an enriching environment and extra-curricular life enabling me to gain my desired university offer! As well as this, outstanding and engaging business teaching at Countesthorpe inspired a passion that has directed my degree choice and career aspirations!

Warwick Butler
Loughborough University
September 2021



In the summer of 2018, I completed my third and final year at the University of Lincoln where I studied English Literature and Journalism. I managed to secure a First Class honours degree and graduated at Lincoln Cathedral in September 2019.

After finishing at Lincoln, I then started a Masters degree at the University of Leicester, where I studied Media and Public Relations. Again, I worked exceptionally hard and managed to secure a Distinction classification - the highest mark on offer.

Additionally, at the virtual graduation ceremony in January of this year, I was awarded two prizes; best overall mark on my course and best dissertation which was titled 'How, and to what extent, has the rise of digital media changed the way 18-35 year old male football supporters in the United Kingdom consume sports journalism?'

I finished at Leicester in August 2020 and, from September onwards, have been working at a local Primary School as a Learning Support Assistant. I started in year five and, this year, have moved up to year six.

My time at Countesthorpe Academy Sixth Form was hugely beneficial. An obvious step up from GCSEs, the teachers were incredibly supportive but also encouraged more independent learning and bestowed me with research skills and a hard-working mindset that has proved invaluable as I have progressed to higher education and the world of work.

Dan Creese
Graduation, Lincoln Cathedral
September 2019



'Get involved in a rich variety of activities, share new experiences, make new friends and enjoy your time here.'

Student life

Life at The Hive is more than academic studies, there are many opportunities for students to get involved in a rich variety of activities, share new experiences, make new friends and enjoy their time here.

Leadership

Our Sixth Form Leadership Team, work closely with all of our Sixth Form students to organise events, awareness-raising campaigns and fund raising activities. Students are encouraged to volunteer for the variety of activities.

Ambassadors

Our Ambassador Programme is highly coveted and are examples of students living the values of the academy. They represent what is best about the school, participate in events, host visitors around the Academy and get involved in Open Evening events. Many of our students opt to take part and become an ambassador for Sixth Form as part of our extensive enrichment offer.

Social events

A wide variety of social and community events are organised by the students throughout the year, including the annual Leavers' Prom. This is always a wonderful occasion with an opportunity for friends to celebrate their achievements whilst at the Academy.

Equal opportunities

We pride ourselves on being a caring community. We promote equality of opportunity and celebrate diversity, not accepting any form of discrimination. We are committed to ensuring that students with special educational learning needs or disabilities are supported.





Outstanding facilities



As part of the Countesthorpe Academy, the Hive benefits from outstanding teaching staff with specialist knowledge, and many years experience in supporting students in achieving their goals.

Students have access to modern, specialist, well equipped departments offering the best possible resources covering; **Sciences, Music, Geography, History, Media Creative and Performing Arts, Hospitality, Language, Physical Education and Sports, English and Maths, Computer Sciences, Product Design, Sociology and Textiles.**

Sixth Form students have exclusive access the Hive, which comprises of a variety of study areas, a social area and a dedicated Fuel Bar refreshment and dining area. The Hive Study Area provides our students with modern facilities in a spacious, vibrant and supportive environment.

The Library

Rich in resources and learning technologies the well-stocked contemporary Library within the main body of the Academy is at the heart of independent learning.

Hive Centre

The Hive Centre has an open plan area for group study, plus quite individual space for personal study and reading, as well as outstanding internet and digital access throughout.

Hive Study

A space for focussed independent study where students can find quiet space to allow them to focus on their studies.

Hive Fuel

The Hive Fuel Bar is a social area giving students a chance to relax and catch up with friends in an area with comfortable seating, personal lockers and tables where students can eat or get on with group work.

Within the Academy, sixth form students have access to first class science laboratories, art studios, music and rehearsal rooms, sports and theatre, and enviable IT and Digital software and resources. The new building on site is the location for the Hive Study Centre and the new Activity Studio.



Encourage, guide and support



Motivational tutoring

Key to your success will be the role played by your tutor. They will have high expectations of you and will be there to support and encourage you to achieve your own aspirations and goals. They will get to know you well, and will monitor your progress and attendance.

‘Most importantly, they will inspire and enable all to be the best that they can be...’

Excellent study skill support

For transition to Sixth form to be successful you will need enhanced study skills. Regular opportunities are on offer at different points in the year to help you in organising your work, improving your revision techniques or independent research skills. Your tutor will also provide guidance as part of our tutor programme and provide you with individual support.



Enrichment opportunities

Additional to the breadth of academic subject choices we offer, you'll be encouraged to select from a wide range of enrichment opportunities. Not only will you enjoy it, but you will develop a whole range of important life skills, be it your interpersonal, organisational or leadership skills that improve, they will all give you that crucial advantage when it comes to being interviewed for a Higher Education place, job or apprenticeship.

We believe that providing our students with opportunities to extend their skills and qualities beyond the classroom is paramount. Involvement in enrichment programmes will enhance students wider appreciation, understanding and improvement of life skills. Throughout Sixth Form we support students to secure a community and enrichment placement that either incorporates elements of their study programme or further develops their social and interpersonal skills.

They may also consider a placement that will support their UCAS application such as helping at a local primary school to support a teaching application or volunteering at a nursing home in order to gain valuable experience in a 'caring' profession. Students are currently participating in Mentoring Schemes, Sports Leaders, Reading Club, charities committees and helping to organise their Year 13 prom and Year Book. Many of our Sixth Form students become part of our award winning "Let's Talk" mental health support programme. The emphasis on looking after our own well being and passing on our support to others is one of the fundamental priorities of staff and students at Hive Sixth Form. There are also many additional Student Ambassador and Leadership roles available. In addition, all Year 12 students will participate in a week long work experience placement at the end of Year 12.

Sporting opportunities

The vibrant and enthusiastic Physical Education department run numerous Academy clubs and teams, with links with numerous organisations, affiliated youth groups and clubs in the wider community. Our impressive facilities include: Fitness Suite; Gym; multi-purpose Sports Hall; Playing Fields; Tennis Courts; Activity Studio and Drama workshops. These facilities are available for all students regardless of the subjects they choose to study.



Getting here

Our campus is located on the edge of rural Leicestershire in the village of Countesthorpe.

We have many transport options for our students, including:

- Safe walking routes from Countesthorpe and Blaby
- Cycle sheds for students who wish to cycle
- Bike parking for students who wish to ride a motorcycle or scooter
- Public transport with the Arriva 85 bus picking up and dropping off right outside our campus
- Private bus services provided by a number of bus companies

For students coming to us from Thomas Estley Community College or Brockington College, and for all students living in the villages of Broughton Astley, Frolesworth, Lutterworth, Cosby, Whetstone, Enderby and the surrounding area we run an exclusive Sixth Form Minibus service.

For those of you learning to drive, we have a limited number of parking spaces available to Sixth Form students.

Timetable and pricing information for the Sixth Form Minibus can be found Countesthorpe.org

Please note: Routes and timings are subject to change depending upon demand and preferred pick up/drop off points next academic year.



LIFE Academy Trust

We are a medium sized Trust, consisting of six Secondary Schools – Ashby School, Bosworth Academy, Countesthorpe Academy, Ibstock Community College, Ivanhoe College, Winstanley School and currently two Primary Schools – Braunstone Frith Primary Academy and Kingsway Primary School.

Vision

- We have a compelling desire to provide high quality, personalised and rounded education for everyone, right in the heart of our local community. We believe that no school can be deemed successful unless all those around it are also successful, popular and flourishing. Hence, we believe that dynamic, mutually accountable collaboration and challenge between local schools as members of the LIFE MAT is the cornerstone of our future success.
- Each school is seen as a leader of and vital to its local community; each school is regarded as fundamental to the identity of its surrounding community.

Values

- Ensuring that every student achieves positive, life changing outcomes.
- Providing a whole education; academic excellence co-existing with an exceptional commitment to activity beyond.
- The relentless pursuit of excellence by; expecting this of every person, every day; recognising and celebrating behaviours that lead to great progress, and promoting and celebrating elite performance inside school, and in the wider world.
- Valuing the diversity and qualities of our staff and students.
- Ensuring that all students and staff feel known, appreciated and supported.
- Committing whole-heartedly to collaboration within, between and beyond our academies.

Mission

- Outcomes equal to the best nationally and internationally for every school and every child.
- Every child receives a truly rounded education resulting in a strong moral compass, a globally competitive skill set, and a confident sense of self.
- Every school is a hub for community activities, a centre for extended services, and a source of immense pride for students, their families and other local stakeholders.
- Providing high quality buildings, engaging classrooms and excellent sporting facilities.
- Delivering innovative learning resources and materials.
- Ensuring a well-disciplined and caring environment.
- Exploiting cutting edge technologies to expand the opportunities for students, staff and our community to benefit from learning in a digital age.





Social media

Search for Countesthorpe Academy



HIVE Sixth Form Countesthorpe Academy

Winchester Road,
Countesthorpe,
Leicestershire,
LE8 5PR

Tel: 0116 277 1555

Email: 6thform@clcc.college

www.countesthorpe.org.uk

Term time opening hours

Mon to Thurs	08:00 to 16:30
Friday	08:00 to 16:00

Countesthorpe Academy is part of
the **LiFE Multi Academy Trust**



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