

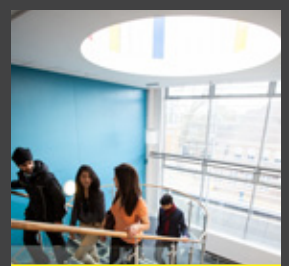
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# Sixth Form Prospectus

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**Heston**  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL





# Heston

COMMUNITY SCHOOL



# WELCOME TO OUR SIXTH FORM

Dear Student

Whether you currently attend Heston, or are thinking of joining Heston, I am delighted that you are interested in our Sixth Form and I aim to provide a flavour of our ethos and opportunities in this prospectus.

The Sixth Form at Heston is a key part of a large and highly successful school. As a Post-16 student you will enjoy an environment in which all students experience the right balance of independence, challenge and supportive guidance. We believe in developing the whole individual by providing opportunities to pursue ambitions, interests and passions whilst making a positive contribution to the school community.

We are able to offer students modern purpose built accommodation, excellent teaching from a Team of highly qualified teachers with a track record of success and a Sixth Form Tutor Team skilled in monitoring and raising student attainment who also prepare students for Higher Education, Training and Employment.

We believe that every student can excel on courses appropriate to them with the right support and commitment. The curriculum has been carefully planned to ensure that every Sixth Form student has access to a flexible and personalised package of courses, together with support and experiences designed to meet their individual needs and aspirations.

Our academic record speaks for itself. Each year, Post-16 achievement places Heston in the top quartile nationally for valued added. Nearly 90% of our students successfully enter Higher Education, many at some of the country's most prestigious universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, whilst our Art students obtain places at some of the most respected Art colleges in the country, including The University of the Arts London.

Equally, we encourage students to get involved in extra curricular activities and there are many opportunities for students to take part in activities such as: the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Sports Leadership courses and a student Mentoring Scheme where they work with younger students. You will be provided with many opportunities to participate in community activities which are highly regarded by employers and universities.

I hope that this Prospectus will provide you with a brief insight into life in our Sixth Form and encourage you to find out more about what our School can offer. Please feel free to join us on one of our Pathway Evenings or to arrange an individual family visit to view the School in action.

I look forward to meeting you.

*Phil Ward*

Headteacher



*Phil Ward*  
Headteacher



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## A BROAD CURRICULUM

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We offer a curriculum that is broad and ranges from BTEC First through to Advanced level courses. At Advanced level you can choose from a wide range of AS/A2 level subjects and practical vocational programmes. You will be expected to take four AS levels in your first year or to mix one AS level with a vocational option. Some students will start their studies with us doing a Level 2 vocational programme. These programmes provide the necessary building blocks that enable students to progress further in their chosen vocational area. For many, this is an alternative pathway into the world of work or Higher Education.

In addition to your main programme of study, you will have the opportunity to access a range of activities designed to suit your particular needs and career aspirations, regardless of interests or level of qualifications studied.

All students take part in PSHCEE once a week focusing on progression and development of personal skills. In order to do this, students work closely with their Tutors, participating in seminars, tutorials, debates and personal study projects.

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## PASTORAL CARE

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We recognise that you will need support and advice which will help you thrive as an independent young adult at Heston Community School. You will be allocated a Personal Tutor with whom you will meet regularly to discuss your progress and concerns so that you achieve your academic and personal goals. Personal Tutors will also support you in your transition from school into Higher Education, employment and training.

Additional support is provided by our highly skilled Learning Mentors who help students overcome any barriers to learning.



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*The Sixth Form is friendly, safe and welcoming, making it a great place to be.*”

*Year 13 student*

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## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

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The Learning Resource Centre provides the ideal environment in which to locate resources to support your learning. You will find this purpose built facility ideal to complete work and carry out research using a range of computer and media resources. The Sixth Form ICT suite provides fast access to the internet and our virtual learning environment and is accessible to all students during their non-contact lessons. Our resource collection is continually evolving to provide the best books and electronic resources to support your chosen courses. We also have a wide choice of contemporary and classic fiction and a comprehensive careers section with a range of university prospectuses and job information.

*The Learning Resource Centre is open from 8.00 am throughout the week.*

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## POST-16 COMMON ROOM

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The Common Room is a place for students to relax and enjoy time socialising. Comfortable seating and access to music and TV facilities make it the ideal spot for those wanting a break between studies.



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*Young people are at the centre  
of everything we do.*”

*Heston Community School Development Plan*





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## ENTRY CRITERIA

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The Sixth Form at Heston is open to all students who wish to continue their studies beyond the age of 16, on the understanding that the student is prepared to study seriously and make a positive contribution to the school community.

The decision on which course of study to follow should be made after carefully considering your level of achievement at the end of Year 11 and the subjects that are likely to further your career choices.

Your entry into the Sixth Form will be based on the following:

- Examination results
- Interview
- A reference from your previous school or recommendation from your Learning Co-ordinator at Heston Community School

We recognise that you may be studying, or have studied, other types of qualification in addition to GCSEs. We consider a variety of qualifications as equivalents to GCSEs. Each of our courses list specific entry requirements and these will be discussed with you at interview. Entry requirements for specific courses can be found in our Post-16 Course Guide Booklet. Whatever your qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss your options.

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## KEY STEPS

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Visit the School! Either come to one of our Open Events (dates are on [www.hestoncommunityschool.co.uk](http://www.hestoncommunityschool.co.uk)) or arrange to visit us for a discussion with one of our Senior Team and a tour of the School.

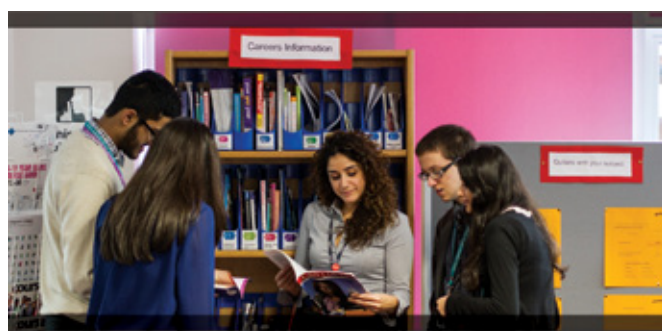
- By the end of March: Deadline for submitting your application form
- Throughout March/April: Interviews for external applicants
- Late August: Enrolment Day

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## CAREERS

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A Careers Advisor is available on site to all Post-16 students. They provide personalised guidance and access to support on a range of issues which might affect you. This may include careers, education and financial advice and guidance. You can request an individual interview so that support can be personalised to meet your individual needs. The Advisor is an expert in helping make difficult decisions more manageable.



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*The Sixth Form at Heston brings difficult yet motivating challenges - the School is passionate about its students' success.*”

*Year 12 student*

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## SIXTH FORM BURSARY SCHEME

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The Government has introduced a Post-16 Bursary Scheme to enable schools to provide some financial support when students' financial circumstances are a barrier to their learning. All courses at Heston allow students to access the Bursary Scheme. There are two types of bursary available. Students may be eligible if they are in care or in receipt of income support, or if they are in receipt of Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. A second bursary is available for those eligible for Free School Meals. There may also be one off contributions for students whose financial circumstances become a barrier to their education.

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## DRESS CODE

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As part of our commitment to high standards and pride in our School, our Post-16 students are expected to come to school in smart, professional clothing reflecting what you would expect to wear in an office or business environment. You will be expected to act as a role model for younger students and maintain the excellent reputation that the School has in the local community.







## HELPING YOU MOVE ON TO UNIVERSITY, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING

In addition to your studies, it is important that you make the most of developing other skills, talents and interests and gain the enjoyment and satisfaction of playing a full part in school life. Increasingly, employers and universities are looking for students who have many skills and can balance a variety of commitments. The Enrichment Programme at Heston includes: Critical Thinking, Languages, Ethics, Sport, Creative Writing, Web Design, Food and Hygiene, Young Enterprise and Contemporary Issues in Science.

We know that universities value interests outside of school and evidence that you do not spend all of your time with your head in a book. In addition, they like to see some sense of community service, together with a willingness to contribute and to think of others. You will be encouraged to help others, be they in the school or wider community.

During Tutor Time students plan and prepare applications for their Post-18 pathway. Tutors and visiting experts offer support in preparing CVs and UCAS personal statements. Students are encouraged to attend Master Classes at local universities in areas of study that interest them.

University Taster Days and Open Days also offer students the opportunity to find out more about further study and student life.

In Year 12, parents/carers and students are invited to our UCAS Evening to gather information about the university application process, study options and student finance. Students considering Oxbridge applications or careers in Medicine and Law will be invited to additional evening sessions to prepare for interviews and BMAT and LNAT entrance exams.

We recognise that some students will choose to use the skills and qualifications gained in the Sixth Form to find the job or training programmes that are right for them. Our Careers Adviser will provide you with a personalised programme of support and advice to help you identify opportunities that meet your needs. Your Personal Tutor will help you with your applications and interview techniques.





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## THERE'S MORE TO LIFE AT HESTON THAN HARD WORK...

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At Heston you will have ample opportunities to get involved in activities, show off your skills or try out something different. We believe your time here should be enriching and fun. We have a number of opportunities which will allow you to develop new interests, abilities and make a positive contribution to the school community.

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP

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We actively seek ways of providing students with opportunities to develop their leadership and organisational skills.

Students are invited to take up posts as Senior Students and to act as positive role models, taking the lead in organising whole school events. Head Boy, Head Girl and Associate Governors are appointed each year recognising the skills that students bring to the Sixth Form and the contribution they can make to leading and shaping provision at Heston Community School.

Student Voice is valued and encouraged at Heston and Senior Students are expected to take a lead in this.

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## PUBLIC EVENTS

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Post-16 students organise and lead whole school events including; the annual Cultural Fusion Show; Staff and Student Quiz Evenings; the Prom and the Sixth Form Yearbook.

All students are encouraged to involve themselves actively in one or all of these activities.



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*We care about children and place their happiness as high as their achievement.*

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*Teacher*

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## COMMUNITY WORK

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Volunteering is great for your community and makes the world a better place but could it actually make a positive impact on your life too? Many students engage in community work because they believe that it carries rewards beyond the obvious and tangible. It also helps to build a rich and supportive community. Some students take advantage of the opportunities offered within the school community whilst others arrange community work placements for themselves. Prospective medical students at Heston have work shadowed doctors and completed voluntary work in hospitals. Other students have worked as Teaching Assistants in our local feeder primary schools and have also helped coach the School Junior Soccer and Basketball Teams. You are only limited by your imagination!

Whether you want to improve your CV by learning new skills, meet new people or just feel good about yourself, we would hope that you would make the effort to volunteer.



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## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

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Rucksack, tents, blisters, rain and mud will all be experienced on the DoE Award Scheme. However, you will do a lot more including community service, environmental projects, sport and charity work. Highly valued by universities and employers, we will build a programme around your interests and time commitment. No previous experience is necessary to enrol on the Scheme.

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## SPORT

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You will have full access to the School's extensive sports facilities. All Post-16 students can make use of our fully equipped and supervised Sports and Fitness Centre, as well as our outdoor hard court playing area, for netball, basketball, tennis and five-a-side football.

The Sports and Fitness Centre has a wide range of modern cardio-vascular exercise equipment together with resistance machines and free weights.





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