

# Tor Bridge High Sixth Form Prospectus





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## Our mission:

To transform lives,  
strengthen our community  
and make the world a better place



# Headteacher's Welcome



Dear Student,

Welcome! Tor Bridge High Sixth Form is a place of tremendous opportunity. Join us and you will follow courses that do more than provide you with qualifications for the next stage of your life - higher education, further training or employment - they will absorb, challenge and provoke you into new ways of thinking and learning as you are encouraged to take greater ownership and responsibility for your own progress and personal development. Our school values of courage, love, and ambition are actively showcased and promoted each step of the way.

Tor Bridge High staff will provide you with excellent teaching and the very best support, facilities and resources. Our IT platform will give you anytime, anywhere learning, whilst the Sixth Form Suite contains high quality study facilities. A key aspect of life in the Sixth Form at Tor Bridge High is the unparalleled pastoral support that you will receive. Sixth Form has a team of specialist staff that will do all they can to ensure that you are able to be the best that you can be. Students within the Sixth Form have exceptional opportunities and experiences providing both a rewarding and enjoyable journey into the next phase of education. We know how successful we are at growing great people and providing the right support to navigate this transition.

Please read this prospectus carefully and discuss your plan for the future with family members. Talk to your current tutor about the Sixth Form or the staff here who are on hand to offer you help, guidance or support.

We look forward to offering you a warm welcome to our Sixth Form together with the encouragement you need to achieve your personal goals and ambitions for the future.

Tracy Stephenson  
Headteacher

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# Student Leadership



As Head Students of the Student Leadership team of Tor Bridge High, we are proud to be a part of the school and strongly believe that this is the best place to study for Sixth Form. We have worked with students across the years to gather their opinions on what would make Sixth Form even better, educationally and enjoyably, so that your experience here will be exciting and engaging.

Here at Tor Bridge High, the teachers and tutors work personally with each of their students to ensure they are learning and working to their best ability, whilst dealing with and supporting students' worries and concerns.

The Sixth Form experience includes the freedom of taking the subjects you are most interested in and combining them with highly effective learning by the teaching team, and a common room space where you are able to study independently in order to reach deadlines, targets and, most importantly, aspirations for your future. You can also use this space to socialise with your peers, making Sixth Form a more enjoyable experience.

As a Sixth Form student at Tor Bridge High you have exceptional opportunities to get involved in activities including sports, extracurricular Duke of Edinburgh's Award, social activities and trips away; we have been to Italy, London and Disneyland Paris. On top of this, as a student you are able to get support while searching for the perfect work experience placement in your chosen field, which not only will be an enjoyable experience but will also benefit your future goals and support your application to a university or higher degree apprenticeship. Our key speaker programme and partnerships with employers mean that you will have a unique and varied experience here.

We have been inspired by what past students have gone on to achieve following their time here, from professional sporting careers, to barristers and F1 engineers to medical professionals. The high expectations given to Sixth Form students have been proven effective from former students' successes, stemming back to their courage to try something new, desire to achieve, and positive working attitudes while at Tor Bridge High. The aspirations of our students are ambitious, and we are sure yours are, too. Our students love coming to school and we know that you will feel the same when you join our 6th form community. We look forward to you joining the 6th form community.

Jack Perrott & Lauren Trevaskis



# Head of Sixth Form Welcome



Tor Bridge High welcomes both existing students and students from other establishments. Choosing what to do after Year 11 is one of the most important and exciting decisions that you will make.

Our aim is to give students the skills, opportunities and qualifications needed to progress and to make the transition into the adult world successfully. We believe in providing opportunities so our students can achieve a life without limits. Our unique system of specialised pathways enables students to combine academic rigour with real-world employer experiences. Our students can select a plethora of activities to create a programme of study that enables them to fulfil their aspirations.

Our stimulating and friendly environment strives to give you the maximum opportunity to fulfil your goals both academically and as a young adult. As a Sixth Form student you will access excellence in the classroom, have expert support in supervised study time, have exceptional opportunities for high quality work experience and volunteering opportunities, as well as wider extracurricular activities. We are ambitious for you and you will be set challenging goals by your teachers and tutors, and will be monitored carefully to ensure targeted advice on how you can achieve your potential.

We work hard to empower young people with the skills necessary to take control of their own learning and performance through a range of supportive metacognition strategies.

Whilst academic skills and qualifications are important, we are passionate about developing individuals outside of the classroom, too. We encourage all students to get involved in our comprehensive extracurricular and enrichment opportunities. We want you to be the students of choice for universities and employers by standing apart and having a competitive edge. You can choose your pathway and engage in activities to unlock your future and live a life without limits!

The Sixth Form is a partnership between you, your teachers, your peers and your parents. You will be expected to work hard, show commitment and achieve success. We have high expectations and aspirations for you! Being a member of a hardworking and vibrant Sixth Form is an exciting and rewarding experience. We look forward to welcoming you as part of our community.

Mrs Flaxton  
Head of Sixth Form

# Why Choose Tor Bridge High?

We have a range of opportunities and varied programmes of study - from academic to vocational subjects, we have courses that are designed to suit varying student needs and aspirations. We encourage students to have a broad and balanced curriculum with the opportunity to develop the skills that employers need. The opportunity to select from specialised or open pathways means that students can create a personalised experience that enables them to achieve their goals.

In addition to this, we offer:

- Enrichment courses such as the Extended Project, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Leadership Development, Young Enterprise and the Engineering Education Scheme.
- Personalised learning and support for higher ability students through the 'Aspire' Project.
- Variety of challenging and exciting extracurricular opportunities including conferences, residential, work experience and workshops with universities and employers.
- Masterclasses with employers, universities and alumni.
- Volunteering opportunities at local primary schools, our community hub and with a range of employers.
- GCSE resit opportunities in English and Maths

## High Quality Provision:

We work exceptionally hard to ensure a smooth transition from GCSE to Sixth Form study across all levels. We have a proven track record of excellent results with strong success in students securing their first choice at university and apprenticeship applications, including degree level apprenticeships. For the last three years 100% of our student applicants have been successful in gaining university places and the number of students securing degree apprenticeships with high profile companies is increasing.

There is a team of specialist staff who will support students throughout their Sixth Form journey including a specialist tutor team who offer 1:1 support and an independent Careers Advisor who can provide high quality guidance on post-Sixth Form options. This, combined with excellent facilities, trained study support staff, specialist Sixth Form teachers, teaching rooms and outstanding study areas make for a truly unique learning experience.



# Widen Your Horizons

There is a huge range of enrichment opportunities available for students throughout their Sixth Form studies including:

- Taster lectures and pathways to university with the University of Exeter
- Specialist links with Downing College, Cambridge University and Sutton Trust
- Engineering Education Scheme
- Student Leadership
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Young Enterprise
- Charity and fundraising events
- Field trips/international trips (e.g Florence, Paris)
- Subject-related conferences such as Medlink, Human Rights and Pilgrim Fathers Lectures
- Community Commitment volunteering programme
- The Aspire Project
- Events management opportunities
- Wide range of sports and outdoor pursuits; including the Patriots Academy
- Pathways with employer links to provide specialist support within a range of sector
- Higher education support through the University of Cardiff, Plymouth, Exeter, St Mark and St John, Swansea and Bristol UWE to name a few!
- Christmas lectures
- Keeping Safe conferences

We aim to give students a competitive edge, to give the chance to become more resilient, show effective communication, organisation and leadership. Every student, regardless of their chosen pathway, will have access to wider enrichment opportunities.

A well organised and relevant work experience placement is a compulsory part of the Sixth Form experience. Students can complete either:

- A weekly work placement for bespoke work experience options
- A voluntary Community Ambassador placement
- A focused work experience week in the summer term (for Year 12 students)

All extra curricula activities are recognised and accredited by Plymouth University.

Students are encouraged to search for places away from Plymouth that are relevant to their chosen vocation. In recent years, higher education institutions have stressed the need for students to have experienced time in a work-based environment where new skills can be developed.

# Your Next Steps to Sixth Form

## STEP ONE

Choose your option (A-level, BTEC or Mixed Programme)

## STEP TWO

Choose your pathway (for example Law or Engineering)

## STEP THREE

Look at the option blocks and select your subject choices

## STEP FOUR

Submit your application      or      select your choices  
(external applicants)                      (existing TBH students)

## STEP FIVE

Attend your choice confirmation appointment to support your  
subject selection

## STEP SIX

Achieve the entry requirements

## STEP SEVEN

Enrol and release your potential-you will be on your way  
to a life without limits!



# Your Next Steps to Sixth Form

## STEP ONE CHOOSE YOUR OPTION

The Sixth Form is a more adult learning environment and the pathways on offer are reflective of this. We enable students to achieve their aspirations by giving students the opportunity to specialise in particular fields or choose a broad programme of study. We have three main options for study.

### Option 1:

A Level courses, Level 3 courses that provide students with the subject knowledge and entry level requirements to enter into university or higher level apprenticeships. These subjects are predominantly assessed through exams at the end of Year 13. Subject choices include English Literature & Language, History, Law, Sociology, Biology and Art to name a few!

### Option 2:

Our Level 3 BTEC programme is an A Level equivalent route which involves a more hands-on learning experience but provides students with the entry requirements for university or higher level degree apprenticeships. This pathway is assessed through a mixture of coursework and examinations. Examinations can be taken from the summer of Year 12 onwards. Subjects include Business, Engineering, Sport and many more...

### Option 3:

A mixed pathway: mix your Level 3 BTEC subject of choice with A Level options to complete a combined programme of study.



# Your Next Steps to Sixth Form

## Option 1:

A Level route. This is a two-year programme of study, with exams completed at the end of Year 13.

The A Levels on offer are:

- Art, Craft and Design
- Art, Graphic Illustration
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English Literature and Language
- History
- Geography
- Law
- Mathematics
- Photography
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology

## Option 2:

BTEC route. This is a two-year programme of study assessed through a mixture of assignments and examinations. Examinations can be completed from the summer of Year 12. The BTEC courses on offer are:

- Business Studies
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Sport

We also offer an RSL Performing Arts in either Music or Drama Performance course which is assessed in a similar way to the BTEC courses.

## Option 3:

Choose a BTEC subject or two and mix it with an A Level for a combined programme of study.



# Entry Requirements: Pathway 1

Detailed course descriptions for all courses can be found on our website at [www.torbridge.net/sixth-form](http://www.torbridge.net/sixth-form)

## Option 1:

### A Level entrance requirements

Students must have achieved five GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, including Maths and English. A Grade 6 is usually expected in the chosen course. Some individual subjects also have further entrance requirements.

Art and Design - GCSE Art at Grade 4 or above

Biology - Two or more GCSE Sciences at Grade 6 (or, if you are studying triple Science, a Grade 6 in Biology and one other science and and least 5 in another) and GCSE Mathematics at Grade 6

Chemistry - GCSE Science at Grade 6 (or, if you are studying triple Science, a Grade 6 in Chemistry and one other science and and least 5 in another) and GCSE Mathematics at Grade 6

Physics - Two or more GCSE Sciences at Grade 6 (or, if you are studying triple Science, a Grade 6 in Physics and one other science and least 5 in another) and GCSE Mathematics at Grade 6

English Literature and Language - GCSE English Literature and Language at Grade 6

Geography - Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography or Grade 5 in Science if Geography has not been taken previously.

History - GCSE History at Grade 6 or above. For those students who have not taken GCSE History, an English grade of at least a 6 is required

Law - GCSE English Language at Grade 6 or above

Mathematics - GCSE Mathematics at Grade 6 or above

Photography - GCSE Art at Grade 4 or above

Psychology - GCSE grade 5 in Maths and Science

# Entry Requirements: Pathway 2 & 3

## Option 2:

### Level 3 BTEC courses

Students will have achieved five or more GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including English and Maths. Individual subjects may have further subject specific entry requirements.

Business Studies - A range of GCSE grades, at least five grades 9-4 including a 4 in English and Mathematics

Engineering - GCSE Mathematics and Science at Grade 5

Health and Social Care - No additional requirements

Sport - GCSE Physical Education at Grade 4 or above, alternative Level 2 qualification in Sport (at Merit or Distinction level), GCSE Science at Grade 4 or above and GCSE English at Grade 4 or above

Performing Arts Drama - No additional requirements

Performing Arts Music - No additional requirements





# The University Scholar Route

*Offered in conjunction with:*

**Plymouth Marjon University**  
**University of Plymouth**  
**Exeter University**  
**Sutton Trust**

Students can choose any combination of subjects from our option blocks. This pathway features specialist programmes with university masterclasses, student shadowing, university visits, university applications, student workshops and summer schools.

This is an open pathway with a variety of opportunities to prepare you for careers in any sector.

All subjects available via our options blocks, mix and match the subjects that best suit you!



**UNIVERSITY OF  
PLYMOUTH**

# The Apprentice Scholar Route

*In conjunction with:*

**NSSW**

**BD**

**Babcock**

**Bromhead**

**Plymouth Marjon University**

This route features specialist masterclasses on preparing for employment and securing higher and degree apprenticeship.

Work experience, mock interviews, apprenticeship assessment practice and employer visits will be a core component of this route.

This generic pathway links to all subjects available to study at Tor Bridge High.



# Pathways: Health & Social Care

## *What can I expect from this Pathway?*

- Masterclasses from healthcare professionals
- Patient journey experience days
- Opportunities to apply for work experience/volunteering at Derriford Hospital and local schools
- Training to prepare individuals for careers in this sector; basic life support, safeguarding, manual handling, understanding equality and diversity.

## *Where can I go with this?*

Careers in healthcare and science, nursing, midwifery, doctor, surgeon, radiographer, oncologist, pharmaceuticals, physiotherapy and more.

## *Subjects linked to this pathway include:*

Biology, Chemistry, Art, Psychology, and more!



# Pathways: Engineering

## *What can I expect from this Pathway?*

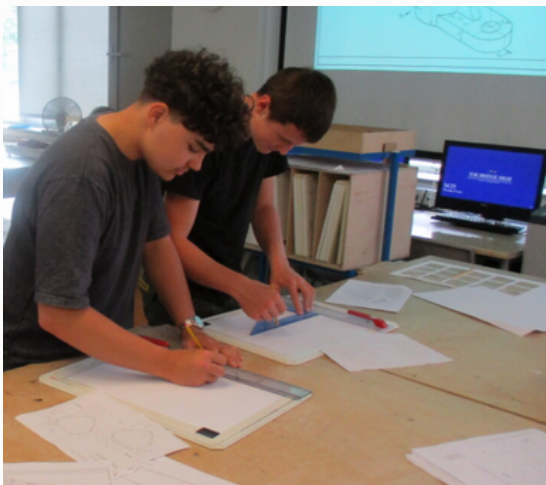
- Factory/site visits and tours
- Masterclasses
- Workshops on how to secure degree apprenticeships in the sector
- Opportunities to apply for work experience in the sector

## *Where can I go with this?*

Careers/sectors in engineering such as; mechanical, manufacturing, engineering, architecture, CAD design, structural engineering and civil engineering.

## *Subjects linked to this pathway include:*

Maths, Physics, Art & Design Graphics, A level Art & Design, to name a few!





# Pathways: Law

## *What can I expect from this Pathway?*

- Court visits
- Opportunities to apply for work experience in the sector
- Masterclass in law
- Sessions with solicitors and barristers
- Visit to Parliament
- Mock trial activities
- Mooting and Debates

## *Where can I go with this?*

Careers in law: barrister, solicitor, police force, probation, history based careers and any sector that requires you to use and understand policy alongside evidencing excellent problem solving skills.

## *Subjects linked to this pathway include:*

English, History, Psychology, Sociology, Art to name a few!



# Pathways: Business & Finance

## *What can I expect from this Pathway?*

- Visits to businesses, both locally and internationally
- Masterclasses
- Workshops on how to engage in high quality marketing and recruitment
- Opportunities to apply for work experience in the sector

## *Where can I go with this?*

Customer services, recruitment, marketing, sales, business advisor, managerial jobs etc...

## *Subjects linked to this pathway include:*

Maths, English Literature and Language, Art or Sociology, for example.



# Pathways: Sport

## *What can I expect from this Pathway?*

- Masterclasses in preparing for elite sport
- Training in basketball by Plymouth City Patriots Basketball Club coaches
- Competitive and elite sport competitions
- Opportunities to use world-class sporting facilities

## *Where can I go with this?*

Professional basketball careers alongside sports careers in physio therapy, sports analysis, sports coaching and personal training. Other sports are also promoted and encouraged- there is the option to join our football team or to take part in our wide extra curricula sport clubs. We have students who study and compete at local, national and international level for a range of sports.

## *Subjects linked to this pathway include:*

Business, Maths, Art, Health & Social Care and more.....



# Pathways: Marine Science

## *What can I expect from this Pathway?*

- Masterclasses
- Visits to the National Marine Aquarium and other employers to find out about working in the sector
- Careers information sessions
- Laboratory technique workshops
- Sessions with Marine Park Rangers
- Work Experience

## *Where can I go with this?*

Marine biology, marine science, environmental sustainability. The marine sector is growing at a tremendous pace in Plymouth and new job opportunities are appearing all of the time.

## *Subjects linked to this pathway include:*

Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Physics, Maths, Art and more.





# Pathways: Art

## *What can I expect from this Pathway?*

- Gallery visits, from London to St. Ives
- Masterclasses with a range of artists
- Opportunities work with live artists and briefs
- International visits and opportunities
- Use of University of Plymouth Art facilities
- University of Plymouth lecturers

## *Where can I go with this?*

Wide range of art based careers including: graphic design, architectures, jewellery and costume design, interior design, fashion design, photographer to name a few!

## *Subjects linked to this pathway include:*

Art works well with any subject but you can also select to study more than one art subject at Tor Bridge High, becoming a full time artist through the combination of Art and Design, Art Graphic Design and Photography A levels.





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