



Dunottar School



Sixth Form Prospectus 2023-24

THE DIFFERENCE IS DUNOTTAR



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*I loved my time in Dunottar
Sixth Form the most - great
memories and a wonderful
community spirit*

JOE

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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Preparing for the Future

Your two years in the Sixth Form are exciting times. Studying A Levels allows you to explore your chosen subjects in depth and to build a rounded, varied set of skills and knowledge to prepare you for higher education, future careers and adult life.

Sixth Formers at Dunottar receive individual, pastoral encouragement. They work, socialise and collaborate in a tailored setting within our new, very well-equipped Sixth Form Centre.

One aspect of life at Dunottar of which I am immensely proud is our commitment to every student as an individual and how we encourage you to become outstanding leaders and Warrior Learners. As well as A Levels, there are opportunities to achieve further qualifications such as the Extended Project Qualification, ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, the Level 3 Sports Leader certificate and the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award. Some students have been known to do all of these as well as playing in our sports teams, our orchestras and performing on stage!

We believe that your time in the Sixth Form should be as useful, interesting and valuable as possible. This means we are as flexible as we can be in supporting student choices and we encourage a healthy balance between time for academic work and time for co-curricular activities. Our Sixth Form is about more than just academic learning. We want you to be involved in as many aspects of school life as possible, to be contributors, to become leaders and mentors and to give something back to the school and wider-community.

I hope that you find this booklet useful and that you are excited to hear about the opportunities of life in the Sixth Form at Dunottar.

Headmaster





The Sixth Form Difference

We want the Sixth Form years at Dunottar to be the pinnacle of our students' school careers. The opportunity to specialise and delve deeper into academic subjects, coupled with the chance to broaden their life experiences through a wide range of co-curricular activities and leadership opportunities, make these two years very special.

Students in the Sixth Form at Dunottar benefit from:

- **Individually tailored teaching and support** – small class sizes and our personalised approach allow every student to work in a way that best suits them and achieve their potential
- **Close monitoring and high levels of contact time** which enables students to achieve the best outcomes
- **More than just A Levels** – we offer a diverse range of opportunities to develop their interests, learn new skills, have fun and build confidence
- **Becoming role models** to our younger pupils and being encouraged to contribute fully to school life – they are leaders, ambassadors, mentors and buddies
- **Historically, 90% of students reach their first-choice university** – outstanding levels of support with UCAS applications and university selection, ensuring students make the best choices for their future pathways. Routes to apprenticeship for those looking to go straight into the world of work
- **An exciting enrichment programme** with Level 3 Sports Leaders award, ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, Accreditation in Languages for Business and Extended Project Qualification
- **A dedicated, state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre** with quiet study rooms, collaborative work areas, social spaces, Pelican café and recreational room with pool table



The Difference is Dunottar

Your Sixth Form years are an exciting time – studying your favourite subjects, learning new skills, becoming more independent and making plans for your future. At Dunottar we will enable you to:

Be Your Best

As we know every student as an individual, Dunottar Sixth Formers receive personalised support from teachers and tutors. Our small class sizes enable us to tailor our teaching to inspire the passions of our students and develop their intellectual confidence. We provide extension work and additional tuition to help students to be the best that they can be.

Dunottar believes in creating Sixth Formers who are independent, who are eager to learn new skills and who are ready for life beyond school.

Be Together

Playing a key role in our friendly Dunottar community, Sixth Formers are mentors, leaders, role models and decision makers, gaining invaluable experience of responsibility in a supportive and fun environment.

Our Sixth Form Heads of School and Ambassadors provide an important link between the student body and the Senior Leadership Team, representing pupils across all year groups and bringing their ideas forward for consideration.



Be Involved

As a vibrant and growing school, Dunottar offers a plethora of opportunities to participate in and lead numerous clubs as well as sport, music, drama, volunteering, trips and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We also have an exciting enrichment programme with Sports Leadership and the ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, Accreditation in Languages for Business along with the Extended Project Qualification.

By being involved in an array of activities, Sixth Formers have a rewarding and exhilarating experience at Dunottar.

Be Ready

Being a Sixth Former provides new and diverse challenges and our state of the art Sixth Form Centre has transformed the experience for our students studying for A Levels. Enjoying the university-style environment, students thrive on the independence of having their own discreet working spaces, social areas and café.

Our extensive and contemporary Careers and UCAS programmes are based upon individual preferences, providing tailored paths into higher education and the world of work, to ensure our students fulfil their potential.

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Dunottar believed in me. It has encouraged me to take risks, develop passions and interests and build my self-confidence.

SOPHIE





Academic Courses

Studying for A Levels provides students with the opportunity to identify and develop their own interests by concentrating on and studying in depth the subjects they enjoy. Learning at this level involves greater contribution from the students and our small teaching groups allow full participation in lively and interesting discussions about the topics being studied.

We offer over 20 different subject options*, with most students electing to study three A Levels and one enrichment option.

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|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| • Art: | • Drama | • Mathematics |
| • Fine Art | • Economics with Business | • Further Maths |
| • Art, Craft & Design | • English Literature | • Music |
| • Photography | • Food Science & Nutrition (Level 3 Diploma) | • Philosophy & Ethics |
| • Textiles | • French | • Physical Education |
| • Three Dimensional Design | • Geography | • Physics |
| • Biology | • Government & Politics | • Psychology |
| • Chemistry | • History | • Sociology |
| • Computer Science | | • Spanish |

*Courses are dependent on viable numbers opting for the subject.

Scholarships

Our Scholars' programme has been designed to provide Dunottar Scholars with an enriching experience that will bring out the best in our most able students.

Academic Scholarships

Our Sixth Form Academic Scholars have access to a varied and inspiring programme which encourages their passions and intellectual development. Academic Scholars meet fortnightly at our Scholars' Lunch - a forum where students engage with new and cutting-edge academic developments, exploring subject matter beyond that delivered as part of the curriculum.

To widen their experiences beyond school, we curate and suggest lectures, memberships and competitions where our Scholars can meet peers with similar interests, to deepen and hone their knowledge. We also encourage students to attend summer schools and seek work experience which we feel the scholars will benefit from.

Providing bespoke support, we are able to guide and prepare our scholars for their next steps. Working together, we identify courses and institutions which best suit their interests. We ensure that they write personal statements tailored to elite institutions and that, where appropriate, students are fully prepared for entrance examinations and interviews.

Music Scholars

Music Scholars play a vital role in the life of the Performing Arts Department, contributing to school productions, a variety of concerts and workshops. Creating an enriching portfolio of opportunities for our Music Scholars is something that is very important to us and there are lots of events throughout the year that help support this, such as masterclasses, recitals, concert trips, showcase evenings and opportunities to take on leadership roles within our ensembles to allow students to develop their conducting skills.

Performing Arts Scholars

Performing Arts Scholars play a leading role in school productions, performances and concerts and benefit from a rich tapestry of enrichment outside the classroom including co-curricular productions, workshops with industry professionals and theatre trips. Our Scholars receive regular support from the departmental team and are supported in their ambition to secure a career in the arts.

Sports Scholars

Sports Scholars will attend a series of inspirational seminars and workshops delivered by professional sports people along with sports nutritionists and psychologists, to develop and enhance their knowledge. Working with our personal trainers, our Sports Scholars will receive bespoke training programmes to identify key areas for improvements in their chosen sporting pathway. Our performance athletes will also visit St George's Park and have access to MVP Analytics to better understand the science behind sporting performance.

Art Scholars

Art Scholars are encouraged to develop their own creativity and personal style through an exciting and inspirational enrichment programme. The programme includes workshops with local practicing artists, guidance and support to complete the Bronze Arts Award, visits to artists' studios and exhibitions, competitions, in-house workshops and TED talks.





Enrichment Options

We have spent time talking to students and staff to create an enrichment programme which we believe will be both enjoyable to study and valuable in terms of the skills acquired. The enrichment qualifications are designed to be well-received by higher education institutions and future employers.

Benefits of enrichment options:

- Helps students learn how to project manage and take more responsibility for their learning
- Develops study skills
- Helps prepare for future study at university or for the workplace
- Adds value to their University application
- Allows the development of an interest beyond their A Level studies
- Develops their critical thinking skills
- Provides the opportunity to develop their presenting skills

Accreditation in Languages for Business

16 UCAS points*

The Accreditation in Languages for Business delivers a qualification which reflects practical and authentic application of French or Spanish in today's workplace. It aims to boost candidates' linguistic skills and employability prospects and is designed to give learners an insight into the world of international business. Students usually further their GCSE knowledge (although GCSE not essential) in reading, listening, speaking, and writing and apply this to a business context.



Extended Project Qualification

Up to 28 UCAS points*

Through our Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) students have the opportunity to really engage with an idea that they are passionate about which may extend on from one of their chosen A Level subjects or may simply be something completely different that has sparked their interest.

The EPQ allows students to carry out an independent research project alongside support from a supervisor and a taught programme of skills to help them achieve the successful completion of their project. The project can either be in the form of a written report or the production of an artefact (with an accompanying report).

The EPQ is equivalent to studying for an AS level and requires 120 hours of guided and independent work. The qualification has the added benefit of strong Higher Education support and can earn students up to 28 UCAS points (graded from A*-E, the number of points allocated is dependent on the grade achieved).

Sports Leadership

16 UCAS points*

The Sports Leadership qualification is designed to use sport to help young people develop and hone leadership skills whilst helping themselves and others stay physically active through delivering coaching sessions. By undertaking this nationally recognised qualification, students will learn and be able to demonstrate important life skills such as effective communication and organisation, whilst learning independently to lead purposeful and enjoyable sport and physical activity sessions for younger people, their peers, older generations and within the community.

ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

16 UCAS points*

The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) is a substantial, nationally recognised level 3 qualification in skills development. It enables students to practise, develop and demonstrate six important skills that are required for success in higher education, training or employment: teamwork, problem solving, discussion, research, oral presentation and self-management.

* If the full qualification is completed.





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*The dedicated facilities make
you feel more responsible,
independent and prepared for
the outside world.*

EMILY



Developing Future Leaders

Leadership Opportunities

At Dunottar, our aim is to bring out the best in every student, enabling them to be the very best they can be. Being part of our Sixth Form gives students the opportunity to take on positions of responsibility which will enable them to help shape the future of the school, to be involved in many aspects of school life, and to leave a lasting legacy for future sixth form students to emulate and build upon. Students will develop their leadership skills alongside their studies and be encouraged to move out of their comfort zone in order to grow and flourish.



Opportunities for Responsibility

There are numerous opportunities for Sixth Form students to take on additional responsibilities and leadership roles. The process begins at the start of Year 12, with a leadership programme which prepares students for the opportunity to apply for a Prefect and Ambassador role. Our Prefects work closely with students in the lower years through Student Voice, assemblies and in tutor time.

As students move towards Year 13, there are further opportunities to expand and develop their leadership skills, with positions including the Heads of School Team, House Captains, Sports and Arts Captains (performing and creative). Through these opportunities, we see our students grow in self-confidence and develop the skills they need for life beyond school.

Future Choices

In addition to providing an excellent education, we want to provide our students with the necessary skills to succeed in life after Dunottar. Through a tailored programme of activities, we aim to inform our students in their choice of post-18 education, support them in the application process and instil them with the confidence they need to fulfil their future ambitions.

UCAS

Our bespoke UCAS programme starts in the Spring term of Year 12. Students receive individual support and guidance from their subject teachers, tutors and the Director of Sixth Form to help them throughout the application process. During the summer term of Year 12, students take part in a range of activities designed to prepare them for making informed decisions about the next step in their educational journey including:

- Visiting a University and Apprenticeship Fair
- Attending presentations and workshops designed to help them choose the right course and university
- A three-day UCAS programme in June focusing on how to write their personal statement
- A two-day work experience programme
- Hearing from external speakers to support the application process
- Regular one-to-one support meetings to help with the personal statement and making decisions about their next steps

All Sixth Form students are encouraged to gain additional work experience and to take their learning beyond the classroom to enhance their university application. We know that universities expect more than just academic knowledge, and this is an area we support and encourage our students to focus on and develop throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

Apprenticeships

For those students exploring alternative options after A Levels, we provide advice and support on apprenticeships from our Head of Careers and through workshops run by external speakers. Students are also offered one to one support throughout the process from researching their options, preparing CVs and writing letters of application.

Careers Events

A series of careers evenings are held throughout the year where high-profile speakers from a wide range of backgrounds present to our students and answer any questions they may have. The interactive workshops cover a range of industries from Digital and STEM to Business, Sport and Creative Arts, providing students with real-life insights into the qualifications required to access jobs in these sectors and guidance on work experience opportunities from industry experts.

Platforms to Support Careers Programme



Students are encouraged to participate in Morrisby Profiling, a series of aspirations and aptitude tests, to help them investigate options at 18+. Students are invited to book a session with our careers advisor, to help students consider options available to them and discuss various pathways.

We also use Unifrog, an online platform which brings together a wealth of information to allow students to make the best choices about their future pathways. Both students and parents have access to Unifrog.

MOOC

Alongside their A Level subject choices, we recommend sampling at least one free Massive Online Open course (MOOC). These courses either provide a deeper understanding of the careers that students wish to pursue or showcase their interests as individuals. Whichever course they elect to study, they will stand out from the crowd.

Sixth Form Life

VESPA

Success at A Level depends on students' habits, routines, attitudes and approaches to study. We run a programme focusing on study skills (VESPA - vision, effort, systems, practice and attitude) throughout Year 12, which is designed to encourage our students to become motivated and independent learners. The sessions allow students to reflect on their own mindset and provide them with the opportunity to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and to give them ideas on how they can develop as learners. These sessions also look at study habits, SMART targets, goal setting and how to manage deadlines.

Learning for Life (Sixth Form PSHE)

All students also participate in a weekly Learning for Life lesson which covers a range of topics such as RSE, careers, politics, preparedness for life after Sixth Form, finance and many more. This programme is enriched by external speakers such as Fearless, the Surrey Fire Department and the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation. The sessions are predominantly discussion based and aim to build on their current knowledge and understanding of the issues being covered.

Games Afternoons

To support the mental wellbeing of our students they enjoy a games afternoon each week, where a variety of options are on offer including competitive team sports such as rugby, lacrosse, football and netball. Running alongside this, is a more tailored programme of alternative options designed to meet the interests of the students including activities such as rock climbing, dance and boxercise.



Co-curricular

The co-curricular programme gives our students the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities including music, sport and dramatic productions. Sixth Formers can also take part in the well-established Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Gold Scheme is open to students over the age of 16 and comprises five sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and Residential. Students can choose from a wide-ranging list of activities, embracing sports, music, hobbies and personal interests.

The residential element of the Award involves four nights away, undertaking a project with a new group of people. It's great fun and a real chance to do something different! Examples of previous and potential projects include:

- A week-long cooking course
- Community projects in Zambia
- National Citizen Service
- Leading Summer Camp activities in the USA
- Elephant care in Thailand
- Volunteer to help orangutans in Peru
- Respite holidays for disabled people
- Ship racing in Norway

Achieving the Gold Award is a fantastic accomplishment as it shows you have the skills, determination and mentality to really succeed. Award presentations take place at Buckingham Palace in London with a member of the Royal Family in attendance.

Pastoral Care

Whether a student is new to Dunottar or coming into the Sixth Form from Year 11, the challenges and increased autonomy of life in the Sixth Form marks an exciting new start for everyone. Each student is allocated to a tutor who is their first point of contact throughout the year.

The tutor/student relationship is an important one in the Sixth Form; tutors get to know their students well and act as a trusted supporter and adviser. Tutor times provide the opportunity for a useful interchange of ideas and is often a time of lively discussion. The tutors work closely with the Senior Leadership Team on all aspects of pastoral care.

Sixth Form Centre

Students have access to a state-of-the-art Sixth Form centre, which provides a modern, university-style working space with both silent study and collaborative work rooms, social spaces, the Pelican café and a recreation room with pool table.

Sixth Form life differs immensely from time spent in the Senior School. Students are handed an independence that they haven't experienced previously; the freedom to pursue subjects that really excite them, study periods and the ability to choose their next step in life. Relationships with teachers become more rewarding and informal, whilst still providing support and guidance when required.







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