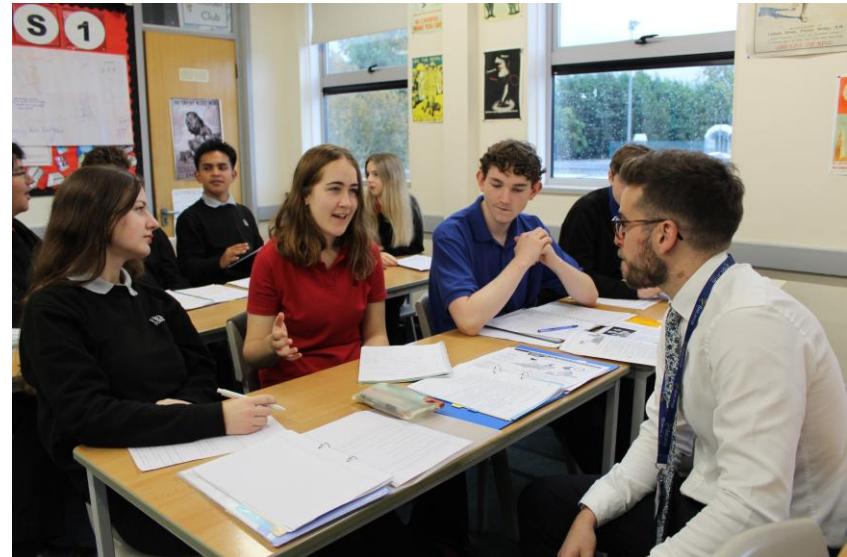


Sixth Form Open Evening 2026





Our Aims:

- Academic excellence
- An enjoyable and enriching experience
- Outstanding pastoral support

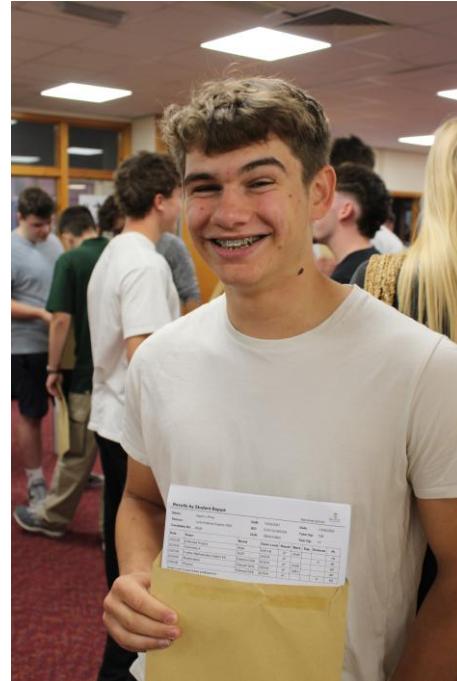




ENJOYMENT



SUPPORT



ACHIEVEMENT



CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT OUTCOMES

Balcarras is consistently in the top 10% of Sixth Form providers adding value each academic year.

A-level results 2015-16

- 30% A*-A Grades
- 62% A*-B Grades

A-level results 2018-19

- 37% A*-A Grades
- 71% A*-B Grades

A-level results 2021-22

- 45% A*-A Grades
- 72% A*-B Grades

A-level results 2024-25

- 36% A*-A Grades
- 69% A*-B Grades

A-level results 2016-17

- 34% A*-A Grades
- 67% A*-B Grades

A-level results 2019-20

- 43% A*-A Grades
- 74% A*-B Grades

A-level results 2022-23

- 28% A*-A Grades
- 64% A*-B Grades

A-level results 2017-18

- 40% A*-A Grades
- 69% A*-B Grades

A-level results 2020-21

- 52% A*-A Grades
- 77% A*-B Grades

A-level results 2023-24

- 30% A*-A Grades
- 60% A*-B Grades



Headlines 2025

A-Level

A*- A	35%
A* - B	69%
A* - C	88%
A* - E	99%

CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT DESTINATIONS

Each year 80%+ of our Year 13 students apply to go on to university, with over 50% securing places at Russell group universities annually, a number of whom secure places at Oxford and Cambridge. Many others secure enviable apprenticeship opportunities.

Balcarras' consistent record of excellence, both academically and pastorally, was recognised this year as we were awarded the accolade of The Sunday Times Schools Guide Southwest State Secondary School of the Decade.

All post-18 destinations are important to us – so regardless if you are seeking to go to university, an apprenticeship or to go into employment, you will receive all our support.





Higher Education and Post-18 2025

Cohort	-	218
Applied to UCAS-	-	189 (87%) plus 19 alumni
Placed	-	189 (92%) inc. 16 alumni 173 Y13 (79% of cohort / 92% of Y13 applicants)
Placed FIRM	-	169 (78% of cohort / 89% of applicants)
Placed INS.	-	20 (9% of cohort / 11% of applicants)
Unplaced	-	17 (8% of cohort / 9% of applicants)
Oxbridge	-	3 (of 5 offers)
MDV courses	-	2 (of 3 offers)
Russell Group	-	111 inc. 8 alumni (59% of placed)

Higher Education and Post-18 2025



Most popular destinations

2018-19

Cardiff (15)
Leeds (10)
Birmingham (8)
Manchester (7)
Swansea (7)
Exeter (5)
Liverpool (5)

2019-20

Bristol (13)
Bath (7)
Leeds (7)
L'borough (7)
Birmingham (6)
Cardiff (6)
Southampton (5)

2020-21

Cardiff (20)
Bristol UWE (9)
Gloucestershire (6)
Sheffield (6)
Bristol (6)
Leeds (6)
L'borough (5)

2024-25

Exeter (23)
Birmingham (15)
Cardiff (10)
Leeds (10)
Swansea (9)
Manchester (8)
Liverpool (5)
Sheffield (5)
Warwick (5)
York (5)
Bristol (4)
Southampton (4)

2021-22

Cardiff (14)
Bristol (11)
Bristol UWE (8)
Leeds (8)
Exeter (7)
Sheffield (6)
Oxford (5)

2022-23

Cardiff (11)
Bristol UWE (8)
Birmingham (6)
Leeds (6)
Nottingham (6)
Bristol (5)
Liverpool (5)

2023-24

Bristol UWE (10)
Birmingham (8)
Cardiff (8)
Exeter (8)
Bristol (7)
Reading (7)
Sheffield (7)

Higher Education and Post-18 2025



Secured Apprenticeships 2025

Degree Apprenticeship	-	Crowe (Accountancy) GE Aviation (Engineering) Merchant Navy (Engineering)
Higher Apprenticeships	-	Britannia Row (Audio Engineering) Hazelwoods (Accountancy) Heidelberg Materials (Construction) Safran (Engineering) Thales (Digital Business Analysis)



The school specifically plans reading to deepen pupils' knowledge of the subjects they study. For example, the sixth-form geography reading group discusses texts that are preparing them to think about concepts they may study beyond A level.

OFSTED May 2014

The sixth form offers a broad range of A-level subjects. Students learn widely around their subjects and engage with opportunities to enhance this. For example, many students complete the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They continue to their chosen pathways at a wide range of universities and institutions.

OFSTED March 2025

The sixth form is outstanding. The quality of teaching, leadership and what the school provides is exceptional. Students gain a very high standard in examinations.

OFSTED May 2014

They have many experiences with employers and providers of further education throughout their time at the school. For example, the 'boost' programme supports students to develop their confidence through giving presentations to employers in a formal setting.

OFSTED March 2025

Teachers are experts in their subjects.

OFSTED May 2014

Pupils and students actively take on roles of citizenship within the community. For example, working with the parish council, they support members of the community with computer skills or run a chess club.

OFSTED March 2025

Leadership and management of the sixth form are outstanding. Academic and pastoral support is woven into each day and students are consulted at regular intervals as to what would benefit their sixth form experience. Comprehensive procedures are in place to support students going on to university.

OFSTED May 2014

SUBJECTS

Black = A-Level
Red = Vocational

Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Drama and Theatre
Economics
English Literature
Environmental Science
Food and nutrition science
French



Further Mathematics

Geography

Health and Social Care

History

Mathematics

Music
Photography
Physical Education
Physics
Politics
Product Design
Psychology
Religious Studies
Russian
Spanish
Textiles

SUBJECTS

STEM

Mathematics
Further Mathematics

Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science
Physics

Computer Science

Design & Technology

Food & Nutrition
Product Design



Social Sciences

Business Studies
Economics

Health & Social Care

Physical Education
Psychology

SUBJECTS

Humanities

English Literature

Geography

Government and
Politics

History

Religious Studies
(Philosophy & Ethics)

Modern Foreign Languages

French

Russian

Spanish

Arts & Performing Arts

Art

Photography

Textiles

Drama

Music



SUBJECTS

The rare and “new”

Drama

Environmental Science

Food Science & Nutrition

French

Health & Social Care

Music

Photography

Politics

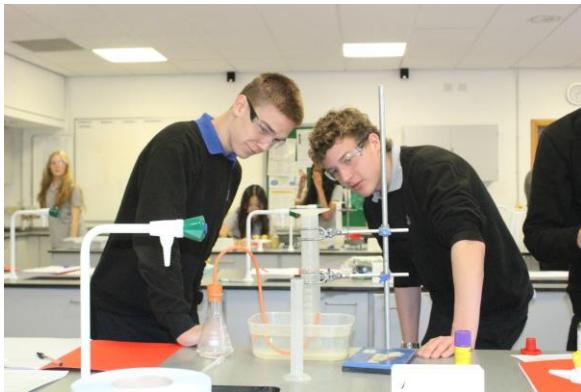
Psychology

Spanish

Russian

Textiles





All students take 4 x A-level / L3 courses for the duration of Year 12

We firmly believe this model increases breadth of choice and opportunity post-18, develops rigour and study methods, and contributes hugely to successful student outcomes.

The combination of courses is up to you, and we create a timetable around your preferences.

We will offer plenty of advice though, tonight and in post-application consultations.

Some students trial 5 subjects in the first two weeks of September, capacity permitting.

Most students continue 3 subjects in Y13, though a small number do continue with 4.

In your application, indicate 4 'Firm' subject choices, and 2 'Reserve' subject choices

A	B	C	D	E
Biology	Art	Applied Science	Biology	Art
Business	Business	Biology	Business	Biology
Chemistry	Computing	Chemistry	Chemistry	Drama
Drama	Geography	Economics	English	English
English	History	French	Food	Economics
Further Maths	Maths	Geography	Geography	Maths
History	Physics	Maths	Maths	Music
Health & Social Care	Product Design	Photography	Psychology	Physics
Physics	PE	Psychology	Russian	Politics
Product Design	Psychology		Phil & Ethics	
Psychology	Phil & Ethics		Textiles	
	Spanish			

Your choices are indications, which allow us to construct our timetable.

All subject choices will be discussed in pre-admission interviews.

Please do select 6 different subjects - 4 'firm' and 2 'Reserves' - and avoid repeating subjects.

Please note - these Option Blocks are to illustrate how you will select your options.

The 2025-26 blocks may differ from the 2024-25 illustration above.

Post-16 Application Subject Choices Matrix

Enjoyment Which subjects do I most enjoy? Why?	Aptitude In which subjects am I progressing best? Why?	Aspiration Do I have particular career I aspire to? Most relevant subject choices (if any)?
Enjoyment Which subjects do I least enjoy? Why?	Aptitude In which subjects am I progressing least? Why?	Questions? Is there anything I want to ask the Sixth Form team?

Look to select subjects that you like!

Look to select subjects that you are good at!

Be informed by future career aspirations, but don't be fixated!

Enrichment Curriculum includes:

- **Games & Enrichment**
- **Personal Development**
- **PHSE**
- **EPQ**
- **Speaker Sessions**
- **Lots of 'special events' like 'Balktoberfest'**



Performing Arts

Theatre visits

School Productions

House Music

Christmas Concert

Midsummer Music

Orchestra

String, Wind & Brass ensembles

Boys Choir

Chamber choir

Y12 & Y13 Xmas Variety Show

MFL

Additional MFL:

Arabic

Cantonese

Italian

Mandarin

Polish

Portuguese

Spanish

Russian

Turkish

House Languages competition

STEM

- Maths Olympiads
- Hawking Society
- Ritangle
- Med-Soc
- Bio-Soc
- Science Olympiads
- STEM Ambassador Programme
- Arkwright scholarships

Humanities

- English Book Club
- Geography Book Club
- History & Politics Society
- Law Society
- Lessons from Auschwitz
- Philosophy Fortnight

Post-18 Pathways & Employability

Y12 Speaker
Careers Fair
UCAS Application Clinics
University Outreach visits
Apprenticeship Workshops
Interview Workshops & Support

Boost

Work-shadowing Week

Volunteering opportunities

Sixth Form Prospectus

National Opportunities

Young Enterprise

Duke of Edinburgh Gold

Personal Opportunities

We support students pursuing additional qualifications outside of school eg Dance diplomas

Extra curricular activities available:

Inter-tutor Competitions

The Quiz
Preditka

Taskmaster Challenges

Ice-Breaker (September)
Un-Sports Day (February)

Debate Competition
(Jan – April)

Student Leadership

House Music Competition
House Languages Competition

Maths / English Mentoring

STEM Ambassadors Programme

Y12 & Y13 Councils

Student Leadership Team

Leavers' Hoodies

Y13 Ball Committee

Community & Charity

Welcome Brunches (September)
'Balktoberfest' Bonding BBQ

Green Group
People & Planet

OAP Tea Party

Holocaust Education Trust &
'Lessons from Auschwitz'
programme

Sports Teams

Basketball
Football
Hockey
Netball
Rugby

Athletics
Cross Country
Golf
Swimming

Extra curricular activities available:

Games Enrichment

Athletics	Cinema Club	Boxing
Badminton	Dance	Climbing
Basketball	Dodgeball	Cycling
Football	Pilates	Equestrian
Hockey	Table-Top Gaming	Golf
Netball	Ultimate Frisbee	Gymnastics
Rounders	Yoga	Judo
Rugby		Karate
		Kickboxing
		Rowing
		Sailing
		Skiing
		Skateboarding
		Swimming

Extra curricular activities: The school production



Extra curricular activities: Dress-Up Day



Extra curricular activities: Dress-Up Day





PRIVATE STUDY



STUDENT TESTIMONY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of 2 grade 6s and 3 grade 5s (full course GCSE).
- At least a 5 in mathematics and English (Literature or Language).
- The better your GCSE outcomes, the more choice you will have with your A-Level programme of study.
- Applicants who meet all the subject entry criteria for their chosen subjects will be offered their conditional place in line with our admissions policy.



ADMISSIONS AND OVER-SUBSCRIPTION

Each year, many students apply from schools other than Balcarra's. The benefit they bring to the Sixth Form, both socially and academically, is immensely valued.

Our admissions policy guarantees that we will enrol a minimum of 50 students who have applied to join the Sixth Form from other centres.

In the event that more than 50 students wish to take up a place in Year 12, students will be allocated places based on the over subscription criteria set out on the school's website.



ADMISSIONS AND OVER-SUBSCRIPTION

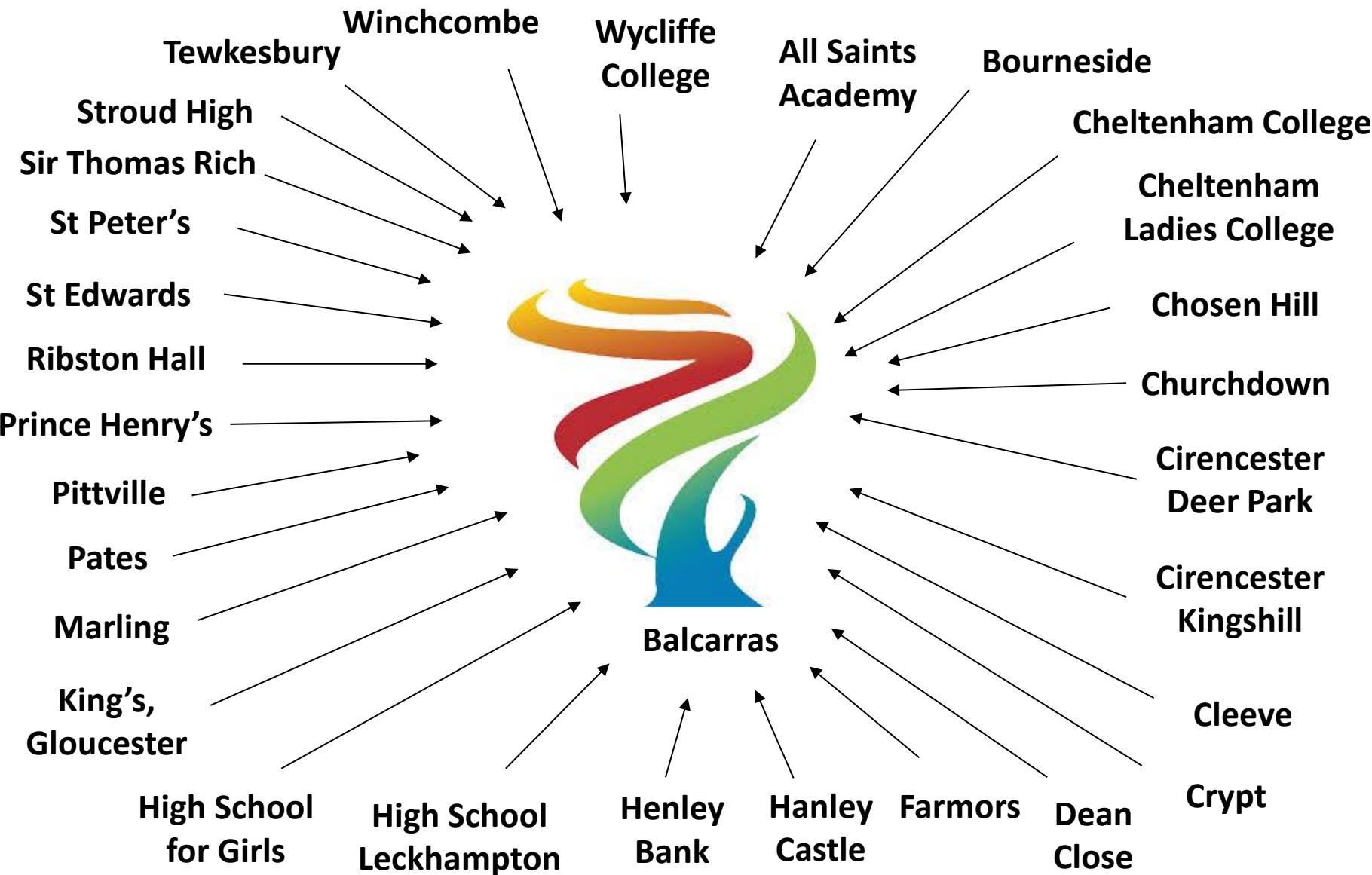
Our oversubscription criteria in a nutshell:

- This applies to applicants from centres other than Balcarras;
- Students who have an EHCP or are / have been LAC are prioritised;
- Applicants will then be prioritised by the distance of their home address to Balcarras (data to be provided by GCC)

Note: this applies to applicants who meet the entry criteria for their offer.



ADMISSIONS AND OVER-SUBSCRIPTION



OUR PROSPECTUS

Enjoy the Open Evening and visits to our subjects. Please take or download our new Prospectus. Please read it carefully, speak to our students and teachers, and get as much advice as you can. There is a lot more information on our website.



Course Consultation Meetings and Taster Day

We will invite all applicants to course consultation meetings to ensure that the choices are the best possible selection for success, after which conditional offers of admission will be made, along with invitations to our Sixth Form Taster Day in July 2026.

These conditional offers will be confirmed after the release of GCSE results in the autumn.



Applications

- Your application needs to reach us by **FRIDAY 6th February 2026.**
- We will do everything we can to give you your preferred four choices.
- All applications received **AFTER** this date will be placed on our waiting list.



A-Level Results 2025

Students securing all
A* - A Grades



Matthew Arraya

A - Music
A* - Psychology
A* - Russian
A - EPQ

University of Leeds
Music



Mason Baikie

A - Computer Science
A - Maths
A - Physics

University of Bristol
Physics



Nigel Boateng

A* - Chemistry
A* - Further Maths
A* - Maths
A* - Physics
A - EPQ

University of Warwick
Mathematics



Laura Cadogan

A* - Further Maths
A* - Maths
A* - Russian

University of Birmingham
Mathematics



Kyle Chong

A - Computer Science
A* - Further Maths
A* - Maths
A - Physics
B - EPQ

University of Bath
Computer Science



Timothy Cowling

A - Maths
A* - Music
A* - Physics

Liverpool Institute of
Performing Arts
Music



Holly Cox

A - Chemistry
A - Drama
A - Psychology
A* - EPQ

University of Birmingham
Arts and Sciences



Emily Crook

A* - Chemistry
A - Economics
A* - Maths
A* - EPQ

University of Oxford
Law



Amber Forde

A - Drama
A - English
A - Politics

University of Leeds
Social & Political Sciences



Martha Gale

A - Drama
A* - History
A - RS

University of Exeter
Philosophy & Sociology



Celeste Hamer

A - Art
A - Maths
A - Physics

University of Sheffield
General Engineering



Adi Harris

A* - Chemistry
A* - Maths
A* - Product Design

University of Leeds
Chemical Engineering



Barnaby Heath-Smith

A* - Maths
A - Physics
A* - Product Design

University of Exeter
Mechanical Engineering



Tom Hopkinson

A - Business Studies
B - Maths
A - Physics

GE Aviation
Degree Apprenticeship



Izzy Johnson

A - Biology
A - Chemistry
A - Maths

University of Birmingham
Biochemistry



Ricky Lo

A* - Further Maths
A* - Maths
A - Physics

University of Warwick
Mathematics



Alex Malden

A* - Biology
A* - Chemistry
A - Maths

University of Leeds
Medicine



Freya Paul

A - Product Design
A - Psychology
A - RS

Cardiff University
Business Management



Max Penwarden

A - Maths
A - Physics
A* - Product Design

University of Liverpool
Product Design Engineering



Adam Price

A* - Chemistry
A* - Further Maths
A* - Maths
A* - Physics
A* - EPQ

University of Cambridge
Natural Sciences



Damon Richards
A - Computer Science
A - Maths
A - Physics
A - Product Design

University of Nottingham
Mechanical Engineering



Elsa Rumsey
A* - Business Studies
A - Geography
A - Maths

University of Leeds
Accounting and Finance



Harriet Salter
A* - Biology
A* - Chemistry
A* - Psychology

University of Liverpool
Medicinal Chemistry



Lilly Sanders
A* - Geography
A* - Psychology
A - RS

University of Birmingham
Geography



Sam Suzuki-Thomas
A - Biology
A - Maths
A - Physics

University of Southampton
Civil Engineering



Mark Tarnavskyi
A* - Computer Science
A* - Further Maths
A* - Maths
A* - Physics

Kings College London
Artificial Intelligence



Robin Torres
A - Biology
A - Maths
A* - Physics
A* - EPQ

University of York
Psychology



Henry Young
A - Economics
A - Maths
A - Spanish

Crowe
Degree Apprenticeship



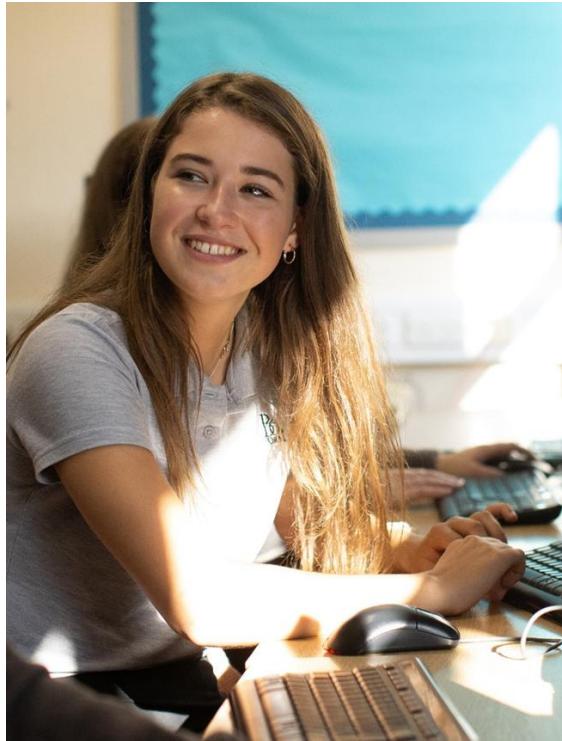
Sixth Form Team



Mr Darren Leatherbarrow
Mr Mark Constance
Mr Will Rothwell
Mrs Cheryl Crowley
Mr Alex Boughton
Miss Clare Shields

Head of Sixth Form
Head of Year 13
Head of Year 12
Sixth Form Administrator
UCS Advisor & Sixth Form Attendance & Study Supervisor
Sixth Form Attendance & Study Supervisor

Any Questions?



- **Mr Constance & Mr Rothwell are in the Common Room for general queries, pastoral enquiries and SEND / Exam Access questions**
- **Mr Baxter is in the Common Room re: Admissions and Over-Subscription**
- **Email dl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk and / or cc@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk**

We hope to hear from you!



Sixth Form Application Process: 2026 Admissions

Attend Balcarras Sixth Form Open Evening (no need to make an appointment)
Thursday 15th January 2026, 7-9pm



Spend some time thinking about your post-16 options and the subjects you wish to study, review the materials available on the Sixth Form tab of the school website, utilise your subject teachers, tutor and Sixth Form team for advice



Fill in the Sixth Form Application Form (this will be live the day after the open evening)
Deadline: Midnight on Friday 6th February 2026



Attend a consultation meeting with a member of the Sixth Form team or SMT (the date and time will be emailed to you nearer the time)
March/April 2026



Following a successful consultation meeting, receive a conditional offer letter detailing grades required
May 2026



Attend Sixth Form Induction day
Tuesday 30th June 2026



Receive results and confirm to Sixth Form that you would still like your place
Thursday 20th August 2026



First day of Year 12, Balcarras Sixth Form
Wednesday 2nd September 2026