




Shape
the
future

2024



Hills Road
Sixth Form College
Cambridge



"The teachers at Hills Road are so knowledgeable and passionate about their subjects. They've made learning so engaging and exciting for me."

Josh

Shaping the future

Jo Trump, Principal

Thank you for your interest in Hills Road Sixth Form College.

We want our students to be changemakers: to take an active role in shaping a brighter future, whether that's environmentally, socially, creatively or economically.

Hills Road is a stepping-stone between school and your chosen future pathway, be that university, an apprenticeship or full-time employment. Whatever it is, we're focused on helping you to grow into adulthood and secure your goals.

You'll find that the College is a busy, vibrant community of young people. With an exciting range of A level subject

choices and extra-curricular activities, plus new social and study facilities, and our 'Future Ready' programme underpinning your educational journey, we know that you will have two fantastic sixth form years and leave us brilliantly prepared to take your place in the world.

I hope that this prospectus conveys something of the unique flavour of Hills Road and its unrivalled opportunities. We're very much looking forward to supporting you with the next stage of your educational journey, starting with your application to join us!

**Read on to
find out about
our fantastic College
or find out more at
www.hillsroad.ac.uk**



What makes Hills Road *outstanding?*

In February 2022, Ofsted rated the College 'Outstanding' in all key judgements.

We are extremely proud of the feedback we received. The following is a selection of statements from the report.

Curriculum and teaching

The College has developed a highly ambitious, inspirational and effective curriculum that extends well beyond the high academic expectation they have for students.

Hills students

Students value the highly ambitious and inclusive college community. They enjoy leading and taking part in a broad range of inclusive societies and enrichment activities.

Extended Project Qualification

The College includes the EPQ as a vehicle to develop students' ambitions and wider skills. They develop high levels of time management, self-discipline and skills in research, academic writing and communication.

"Students say that it is a privilege to study at Hills Road. They enjoy studying alongside other like-minded students who challenge and inspire them."

Ofsted 2022

Wellbeing

The College has taken decisive and highly effective action to support students' wellbeing to enable them to excel academically.





Celebrate **our success**

100% A*-E
grades
awarded
in 2022

85% A*-B
grades
awarded
in 2022

73
Oxbridge
offers
in 2023

93% of
students
progress
to Higher
Education

91% of graduating Hills
students achieved a 2:1
(upper second-class
degree) or better at
university in 2022

50% of graduating
Hills students were
awarded a first-class
honours degree at
university in 2022



Creative and confident learners

We encourage you to think harder and challenge what you already know. We give you the opportunity and space to explore ideas and interests that fire your imagination and inspire you to set ambitious goals.



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When you join Hills

Developing skills to become a resourceful, independent learner will help you to thrive at university and throughout your employment.

Our expert A level specialists will support your transition from secondary school to advanced level study and help you make the most of our post-16 learning environment, designed to enable you to become the best independent learner that you can be.

“Having more independent study time was a step up from GCSE.”

Alex

When you join the College, you will learn to manage your time effectively. We recognise that some of you may have less experience with directing your own independent study time and we are here to help with that.

We will work with you on how to manage your time effectively to ensure you make the most of your independent study time.



Your **Future Ready Programme**

During your time at the College,
we aim to support you to achieve
the A level results you need
while equipping you with vital
personal development skills.

Key facts



1:1 dedicated
tutor support

6 'Future Ready'
modules to equip
and empower



Individually tailored
advice and guidance





“Our Future Ready Programme aims to develop you personally and socially and to prepare you for further study and the workplace.”

Lucy, Progress & Support Tutor



Your dedicated tutor

Joining Hills will feel exciting – and possibly a little daunting. That's why your tutor will be ready to welcome you from day one and will be your go-to person throughout your time at the College.

Your tutor will meet with you regularly, either in your tutor group or on a one-to-one basis, and they will be key to supporting you with your sixth-form experience and your onward plans. Your tutor will also be on hand to make sure that you are receiving the right level of help and guidance for your needs so that you can make the very best of your time at the College.



The Future Ready Programme


Underpinning your educational journey at Hills is our Future Ready Programme which will help you to develop personally and socially and will equip you with valuable life skills to support you after A levels, whatever you decide to do.

Being equipped for the workplace, an apprenticeship, university or any other destination you might be considering takes work, just like A levels. Completing the Future Ready programme will help

you to be prepared with the skill set for whatever comes next.

The Year 12 programme consists of six modules, covering topics such as sustainability, community and life after Hills, plus the Extended Project Qualification and Enrichment activities. Learning occurs through a combination of student input, tutor guidance and external experts and speakers.

You will be encouraged to find your own voice while developing your sense of social and moral responsibility as part of Hills and the wider community. You will also be provided with extensive support with your onward progression plans.



“My tutor has been an amazing source of support and guidance, I don’t know where I’d be without them!”

Amy

Module one:

Getting started

Learn how you will thrive at Hills Road by developing the skills you need to be a successful A level student and how to make the most of the transition from secondary school to sixth form.

We understand that change can be a challenge – at the same time as being fun and exciting – and getting settled into your new environment will take time. During this period of adjustment you will be fully supported to learn about life as an A level student at Hills Road. You'll meet your tutor on your first day and start spending time with your peers in Future Ready sessions.



Topics covered

- Breaking the ice
- The campus
- Induction and orientation
- Getting to know you
- Meeting your tutor

Future Ready skills

- Independence and time management
- Managing change
- Social communication
- Navigating new spaces
- Active participation

Get involved **Getting Started day**

A day at the beginning of term full of social activities and outdoor fun to help you settle in at Hills.

Module two: **Community**

All students are encouraged to be active members of our dynamic community. The Hills calendar is full of opportunities for you to get involved so that you feel part of something bigger than just your studies.

Future Ready sessions will give you a broader understanding of diversity as part of a tolerant and inclusive society. By learning more about your responsibility to others, you will be able to act as an informed, global citizen exploring important issues. Future Ready will deepen your understanding of factors standing in the way of equality and mutual respect, equipping you with the tools to make a difference.

Topics covered

- Equity, diversity and inclusion
- Neurodiversity and disability
- Racism and discrimination
- LGBTQ+ issues
- Allyship and activism

Future Ready skills

- Compassion and open-mindedness
- Tolerance and understanding
- News sense
- Public speaking
- Working with a group

Get involved **Social Action Week**

A week-long project challenge to raise at least £10,000 for charities.



Module three:

Health and wellbeing

Maintaining your health and wellbeing is a vital life skill that can take some practice. Future Ready sessions will help you enjoy a happy and healthy two years of A level study.

Through these sessions, you will be encouraged to explore your thoughts and feelings to gain a deeper understanding of yourself. Coping with challenges is a valuable life skill, and maintaining our mental health can help us feel more connected, positive and empowered both when things are difficult and when everything is going well. Throughout the Future Ready programme, you will build confidence, resilience and resourcefulness with the support of your tutor and classmates.

Topics covered

- Consent and sexual health
- Staying physically and mentally healthy
- Support and coping strategies
- Drugs and alcohol awareness
- Healthy relationships

Future Ready skills

- Being mindful and present
- Communicating with sensitivity
- Developing empathy and patience
- Expressing yourself well
- Recognising risks and staying safe

Get involved **Wellbeing week**

More than 20 activities to enjoy, from yoga and mindfulness to meditation and walking.



Module four: **Sustainability**

Building a more sustainable future is something we all play our part in at Hills Road and it starts with us working together to effect meaningful change.

Hills Road has aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals to raise awareness of the many threats to the future of our planet. As part of the Future Ready programme, you will engage in fascinating conversations around the global climate crisis and many other issues, learning more about what we can all do to reduce the environmental impact of our lives and make a difference both locally and globally.



Topics covered

- Sustainable Development Goals
- The climate crisis
- Taking action
- Carbon literacy
- Green futures and careers

Future Ready skills

- Effective research
- Debating confidently
- Planning events
- Developing a growth mindset
- Critical thinking

Get involved
Eco-Week

Climate-friendly
fundraising for
ecological causes.



Resourceful and resilient individuals

We encourage you to learn more about yourself and your capabilities. We support you to develop critical and creative thinking skills, to become more organised and to take on responsibility.



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Module five:

Future progression

Wherever you are in the process of deciding your next steps, the Future Ready programme gives you access to information, advice and guidance to prepare you for life after Hills.

A levels open a lot of doors, and we want you to have all the information and support you need for your next steps. Exploring your passions and interests with our expert careers guidance team – and working with your tutor – will help you enjoy a range of opportunities and experiences while you are here and when you leave. If you don't know what you want to do after Hills, that's fine – we're here to help with that as well.

Topics covered

- Finding valuable work experience
- Writing job applications, CVs and covering letters
- Making university applications with UCAS
- Writing a personal statement
- Exploring a range of options for progression

Future Ready skills

- Preparing for university, apprenticeships and employment
- Researching using software such as Unifrog
- Honing your interview skills
- Understanding working life
- Comparing and weighing up opportunities

Get involved **Careers week**

Talks on a range of progression routes and universities.



Planning your future

Believe it or not, your time at Hills will go by pretty quickly. That's why our specialist careers team start working with you to explore your next steps in the Spring term of Year 12.

Don't worry if you're not sure what you want to do next – what's important is that you research your options and keep the future in mind while you study. Your careers programme includes one-to-one appointments with our qualified advisers, as well as a range of related activities covering university, employment and apprenticeships.

University and Further Education

Our programme of guest speakers from different universities will help you to decide where you might want to apply.


- Qualified careers advisers support with UCAS applications and admissions tests

- Industry professionals host mock interviews with feedback
- Guidance on writing a personal statement is provided by guest speakers, your tutor and the careers team
- You will have access to Unifrog – a great platform for exploring career opportunities
- Parents and carers are invited to sessions on UCAS applications and student finance.

“Any time I have been into Careers, they were always so kind and welcoming, which really helps put you at ease.”

Will





“Every student I spoke to was kind, professional and very pleasant to chat with.”

**Alex, Voluntary Services,
Addenbrookes Hospital**

Employment and apprenticeships

We create opportunities for you to meet employers and apprenticeship providers at the College.

- CV writing and interview workshops are provided by the careers team
- Visiting professionals host practice interviews so you can hone your technique

Work experience

During Year 12, you will be encouraged to arrange at least three days of work experience. This can take place at any time before starting Year 13. Our careers team provides information, advice and guidance, encouraging you to approach employers and arrange your own placement.

- Our employer fair gives you the opportunity to speak directly to local and national employers about a huge range of opportunities.

Taking a gap year

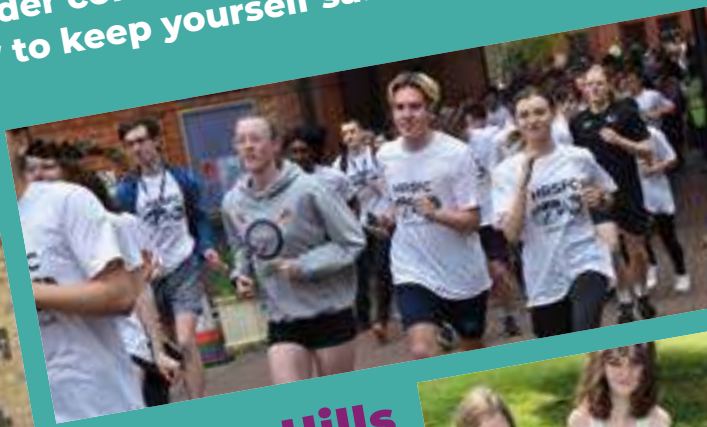
The careers team host an advice evening open to all students who are interested in planning a gap year. Parents and carers are also invited to learn about how students can make the most of their year out.

- Guest speakers from organisations running gap year programmes share information on some of their exciting opportunities
- Our careers team continue to support UCAS or employment applications during a students gap year
- No matter what you decide to do when you leave Hills Road, we help you make decisions and advise you on how to plan ahead to achieve your goals.



Responsible and active citizens

Alongside your core subjects, you'll learn more broadly about the world around you and contribute to the College and its wider communities. You'll build networks and learn how to keep yourself safe.



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Module six:

Getting ready

Exams allow you to shine academically. They can be exciting and busy periods of time and you will receive plenty of support through the Future Ready programme.

At the end of Year 12, you'll sit formal assessments to allow you and your teachers to renew the progress that you have made. The Future Ready programme will steer you through your exams, the results of which play a significant part in determining your predicted A level grades. These assessments are a great chance for you to sample the experience of sitting final exams and to demonstrate all that you have learned so far.

Topics covered

- Organising your workload
- Emotional wellbeing
- Planning effective revision
- Motivation and focus
- Working with your teachers

Future Ready skills

- Self-awareness
- Revision techniques
- Managing stress levels
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Perspective and awareness

Get involved **Exam support**

Exam technique and emotional support groups and drop-ins.



What will you do for your EPQ?

▶▶ Turn the page for info

"My project was to personalise a pair of trainers inspired by a TV show."

Kaycee

"I made Pokémon terrariums for my EPQ and was able to sell them on Etsy!"

Jade





"I made a full-scale K9 using robotics which I now intend to pursue further."

Josh



"Interviewing people from around the world for my EP helped me to write my university applications."

Imogen



"I felt the Ffestiniog Railway lacked engagement for children, which led me to write a guidebook for them."

Ash



The Extended Project Qualification

At the heart of our study programme is the requirement for every student to develop and realise a Level 3 project entirely of their own devising.

Delivered in Year 12, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) offers the chance to develop real independence, resilience and maturity as an advanced level learner, while pursuing a topic of your choosing. From staging a fashion show or designing a carbon-neutral house to researching ground-breaking cancer therapies or starting the novel you've always wanted to write, the EPQ presents a fantastic opportunity to pursue your interests and spread your wings.

Try something new

No matter where your interests lie, the Extended Project is your chance to try something different and is at the heart of students' study programmes at Hills Road. You decide the topic, you assess your progress, and you determine what your final dissertation, artefact, performance or event will be.

Learn new skills

Taught in a university style through seminars and one-to-one sessions, this qualification prepares you for both higher

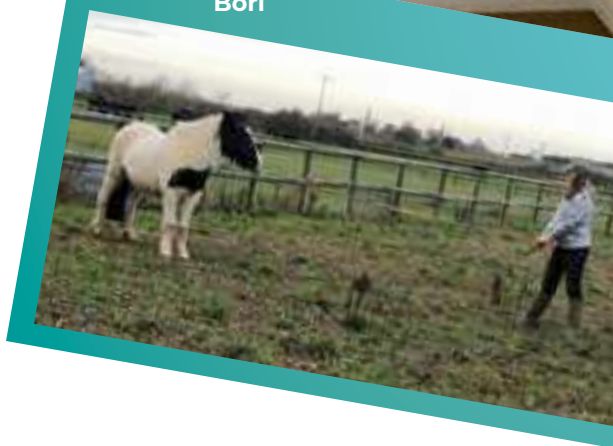
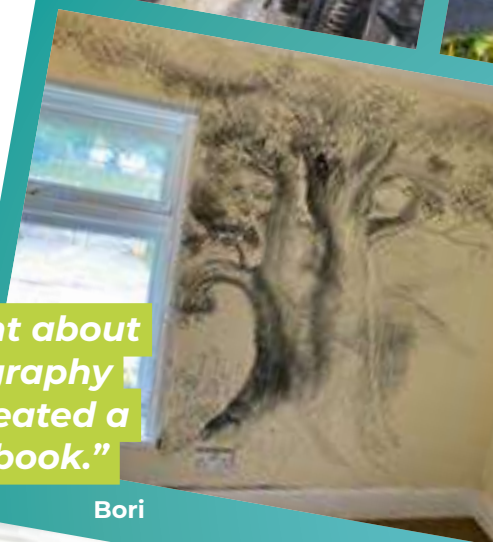
"I learnt about photography and created a photo book."

Bori

education and employment. It focuses on all of those crucial, transferrable skills asked for by employers, which you'll develop as you take a project from the drawing board to delivery.

Gain extra UCAS points and impress employers

The EPQ is well-regarded by universities and is equivalent to half an A level.





"I learned how to use a vintage sewing machine and made an 1890s doll's dress."

Rozzi



"Using Python, I built and programmed an electronic variometer."

Aiden



The project provides evidence that the transition from college to university will be a smooth one for students who have successfully demonstrated their aptitude for independent learning.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
extended-project](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/extended-project)

Discover something new

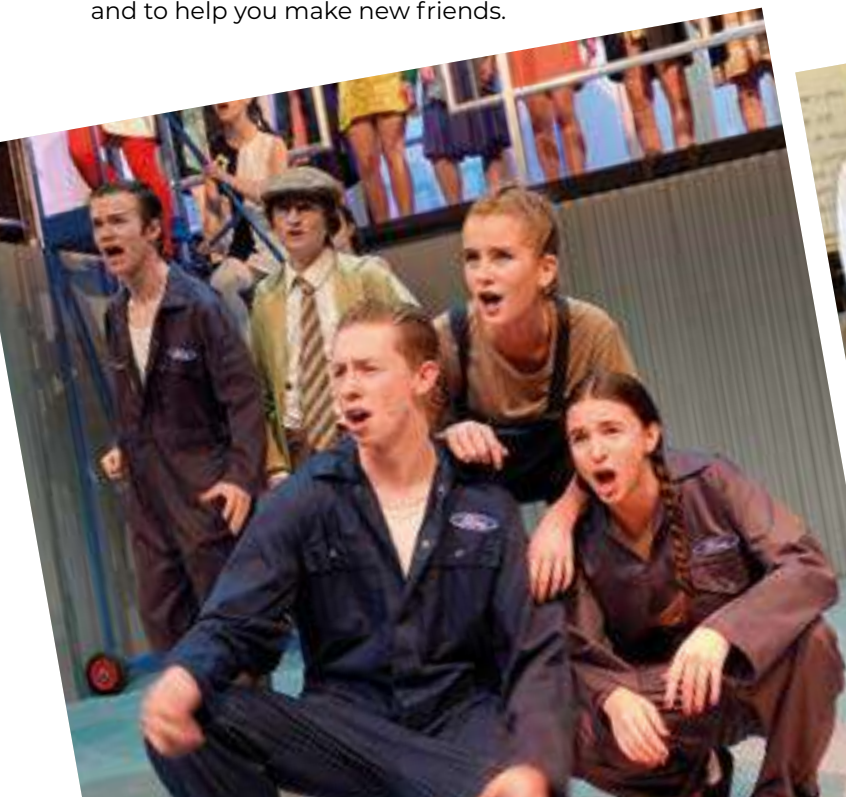
All students in Year 12 undertake Enrichment as part of their study programme and there are lots of activities to choose from.

Skills and talents develop in different ways and they're not always related to your A levels. It could be that you find a new talent or skill through Enrichment that you decide to turn into your EPQ.

Enrichment aims to be fun and relaxing, to give you the chance to try a new experience or expand an existing interest, to explore new skills such as independence, creativity and resilience, and to help you make new friends.

"Enrichment is a great opportunity to meet new people outside of your subject classes."

Thomas





A taster of what's in store

There are more than 50 different Enrichments to choose from, including:



Active: sports ● dance ●
Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Community: volunteering ●
social action ● sustainability

Creative: ceramics ● drawing ● 3D
structures ● garden design

Languages: Chinese ● French film ●
Italian ● Japanese

Music and performing arts: choirs ●
orchestras ● music technology ● DJ
skills ● drama productions

Thinking: debating ● chemistry in
action ● assistive technology

STEM: genetics and genomics ● robotics

Performing arts

If you love acting, singing, dancing, or technical theatre, there are many opportunities to be involved in productions as part of your Enrichment programme.

Drama productions

Directed by staff, Year 12 Enrichment students put on two large-scale productions each academic year. At the end of the Autumn term students perform a musical and, in the Summer term, a play.

Year 13 students also get two staff-directed opportunities: a Spring production, and our annual Summer show with our resident Edinburgh Fringe company, Babolin Theatre.

Technical theatre

As part of Enrichment we will train you to become a member of our production crew, where you will work with industry-standard lighting and sound equipment. Students can also be invited to work on College performances.

"During Y12 I took part in two Enrichment plays; they were in completely different styles and were both amazing experiences."

Mary

What performances could I be part of?

Recent performances include:

Staff-led productions: Made in Dagenham

● Candide ● Under Milk Wood ● Spamalot ● Dido, Queen of Carthage ● Measure for Measure

Student-led (and sometimes written) productions:

The History Boys ● Sweeney Todd ● Eight Hours ● Beautiful Little Fools ● Little Women ● Drag 101





Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/performing-arts



Elevate dance company

If you are a confident contemporary dancer, this is an exciting Enrichment opportunity for you. Open to all experienced dancers, the group meets throughout the academic year to create dynamic work for public performance.

Student-led productions

If you have ever wanted to write, direct or perform your own production, this could be your chance! In the Autumn term of Y12, you will be invited to pitch your idea and, if successful, you'll stage your production in our fully equipped theatre, assisted by the technical team.

Music

We have a diverse range of opportunities for all musicians, from performing with the Symphony Orchestra to playing in the Folk Roots Group and Jazz Orchestra.

As part of your timetabled programme of Enrichment in Year 12, you can choose to join a music group which could include the College Choir, Jazz Orchestra, Wind Orchestra or Folk Roots Group. Auditions are not required for these ensembles – you just need to sign-up!

Auditioned ensembles

Chamber Choir, Symphony Orchestra (woodwind and brass sections, and string principal positions) require you to submit a short video audition. The Symphony Orchestra string section and Wind Orchestra may also require auditions. You will be invited to sign up for our ensembles in June 2024.



Which groups could I join?

Symphony Orchestra ●
Wind Orchestra ● Jazz
Orchestra ● Folk Roots Group ●
Instrumental Award Scheme
● College Choir ● Chamber Choir





Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
music-enrichment](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/music-enrichment)

***"I think anyone
who has even a tiny
bit of interest in
music should join
College Choir."***

Eric

Concerts and tours

Our ensembles play in formal and informal concerts held at venues such as Ely Cathedral, St John's College Chapel, West Road Concert Hall and the College, with plenty of opportunities for solo performances.

The Chamber Choir and a group of instrumentalists typically tour overseas every two years, alternating with the Jazz Orchestra and Folk Roots Group.

In the Autumn term each year, a full-scale musical theatre production is planned in conjunction with the Performing Arts department.

Instrumental Award Scheme

The Instrumental Award Scheme brings together musicians to create small ensembles of the highest quality. Find out more at www.hillsroad.ac.uk/musical-activities

Instrumental and singing tuition

We offer tuition for a variety of instruments and singing. For our full programme, visit www.hillsroad.ac.uk/music-tuition

Sport

Hills Road students achieve sporting excellence in equal measure to their academic success, supported by the fantastic facilities available at the College.

Sport for Enrichment is an ideal opportunity to enjoy recreational sporting activities in a social environment – the perfect way to make friends and play non-competitively. Ever fancied trying ultimate frisbee or having a go at lacrosse, badminton, social netball or tennis? Now's your chance!

Competitive sports and teams

While we offer a wide range of social sports, the College also has a regional and national reputation for sporting success. We pride ourselves in providing high-quality, competitive sports. We have 37 teams covering 24 different sports, with students competing at county, regional and national levels.

Hills Road is the holder of the coveted Association of Colleges Clifford Dixon Trophy, awarded after our students amassed the highest number of points

for competitions in the region, making us the most successful sports college in the East of England.

In recent years, we have put forward national representatives in cross country, hockey, cricket, tennis, rugby, netball, table tennis, volleyball, badminton and basketball.

Sports trials take place in the Summer term, so you can take part in selection before you start with us, and be ready for training straight after induction in September. Teams meet for weekly training sessions and match play.



Which teams can I join?

Badminton ● Basketball ●
Cheer ● Cricket ● Five-a-side football
● Football ● Hockey ● Netball ●
Rowing ● Rugby ● Table tennis
● Tennis ● Volleyball



"I joined the cheer team when it was an enrichment activity and watched it develop into the sports team it is today. I've been a cheer captain for a year now."

Freya

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/sport



Club sports

If you are passionate about a club sport, then we will do our best to support you. Some of the most popular club sports are athletics, bouldering, cross-country running, equestrian, golf, korfbal, lacrosse, netball, skiing, squash, swimming and ultimate frisbee. Enrolment is offered at the start of the academic year, with some club sports teams having regular training sessions, and others meeting on an ad-hoc basis.

Life at Hills

You will find everything you need to make studying for your A levels memorable, fulfilling and rewarding at Hills Road.

Key facts

High-speed **WiFi** throughout the campus



Study spaces for independent learning

New café and study centre





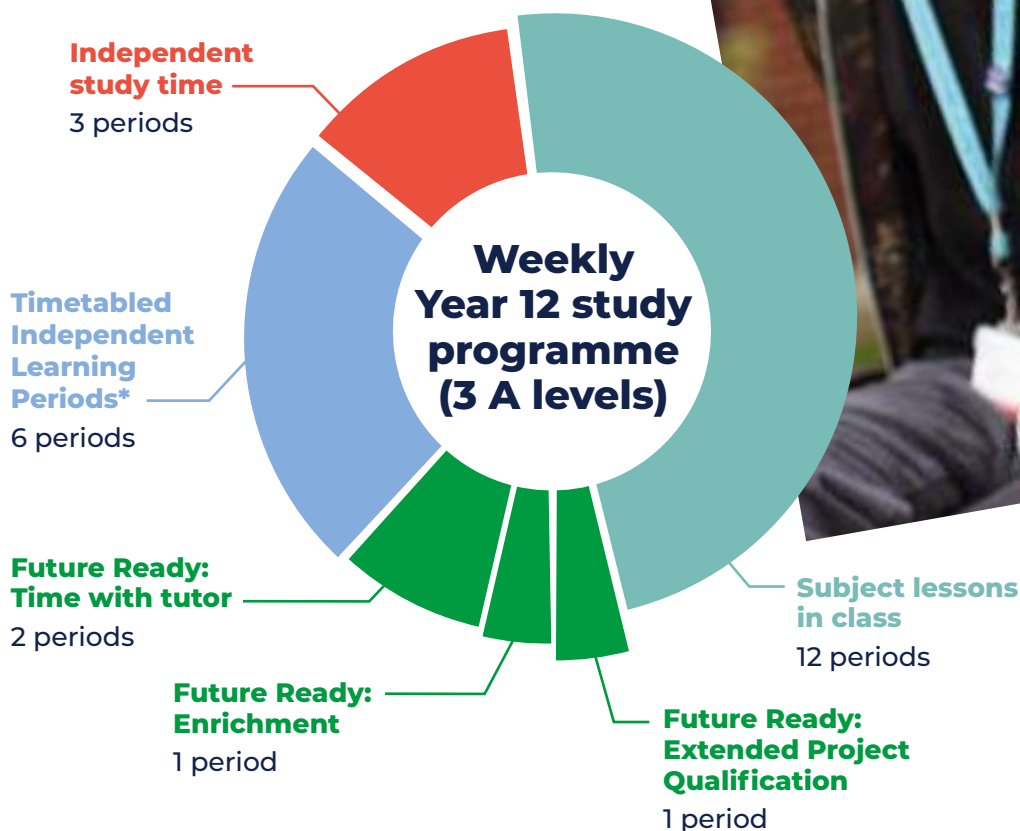
***"Hills Road is truly
a wonderful place to
study and grow."***

Rafael

Your study programme

As a specialist A level college, we make sure that every student's study programme is full of opportunity.

Your Hills timetable has as its foundation your A level subjects. These are combined with our Future Ready programme to give you a blend of activities, guidance and development opportunities individually tailored to your interests and progression plans.



* Independent Learning Periods are timetabled sessions in which students can continue their learning in College (using the College's resources) or at home.





What does a Y12 student study programme look like?

We asked current Year 12's Koen (left), Demi (middle) and Oren (right) about their study programmes.

What subjects are you taking?

Koen: History, Politics and Sociology

Demi: Chemistry, Economics and Maths

Oren: Drama and Theatre, Maths and Media Studies

Which Enrichment activity have you chosen?

Koen: Dungeons & Dragons

Demi: Team sport

Oren: College choir

Have you joined a club or society?

Koen: Philosophy society

Demi: Volleyball and basketball clubs, K-pop and Afro-Caribbean societies

Oren: Taylor Swift society

What are you doing for your EPQ?

Koen: Making a fictional history book for my own new fantasy land 'Orakosa', including maps and character art

Demi: Studying and self-improvement with the aid of human psychology

Oren: Learning nine different accents and putting them together by reading a children's book, switching accents on every page

Which space do you like to use for independent study?

Koen: The Hub or the library

Demi: The Zone or the Café

Oren: The Atrium, the Hub, or the Study Centre

A vibrant College community

We encourage all students to become active members of our dynamic community.

Being at sixth form is a brilliant opportunity to make a difference. You are encouraged to get involved by taking part in initiatives that empower you to build strong communities, participate in activities for social change, and fundraise to support the wider community through social action.

#HillsSocialAction

All Year 12s get involved in Social Action Week – a week-long challenge to raise £10,000 for charities. The fundraising event provides a strong opportunity for students to connect with a cause they feel passionate about and gives them the chance to make social action part of their learning experience at the College.

Student Council

Every Year 12 student can stand for election to join the Student Council. The Council is a group of 10 elected students who work as a team to improve the College community and represent students to Hills Road's management and outside observers. This is a great role if you are passionate about your sixth-form experience and would like to contribute to the decisions being made by the College.

HR4.5K Fun run

The annual HR4.5K Fun run is the perfect activity to bring the whole College community together to have fun and raise money for charity. Students and staff walk, run or go three-legged around the 4.5km route in a costume of their choice.





“The Fun run was a great opportunity for the college community to come together and help the environment.”

Sambor

Eco Week

The HR4.5K Fun run kicks off Eco Week – a week filled with activities to raise money for charities and encourage students to become more eco-aware and active in the community. Enterprises include an eco-fair, a charity shop fashion show and a book swap.

Culture Fest

Organised by the Student Council, Culture Fest is a celebration of the global diversity of the student body. From performances and music to food stalls and games, all students are invited to share their culture and be proud of the College's vibrant and diverse community.



Clubs and societies

We've got lots of clubs and societies that you can join – and if there isn't one that sparks your interest, you could start your own!

The College has many established groups, from LGBTQIA+ and debating to musical theatre and horror – but if you think something is missing, then set one up yourself! The vibrant diversity of our student body means you're likely to meet someone with similar interests to help get your new activity off the ground. Here's just a selection of what we offer:

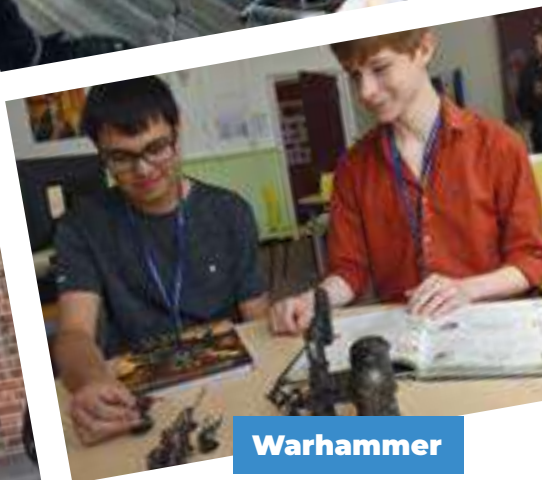
Robotics



K-Pop Dance



Warhammer



vegan Film Franchise Asian
Desi/Bollywood Languages Horror
one Direction

Gaming LGBTQIA+
Dungeons & Dragons

Harry
POTTER

47

Taylor Swift



K-POP

Taylor
SWIFT

crochet

K-POP
Dance

"Societies are great
ways to meet people:
even if you don't
know much, you can
go just along."

Sophie

PUBLIC SPEAKING

VOLLEYBALL

Warhammer

Feminist

SOUTH AFRICAN

DEBATE

MUSIC THEATRE

ARCHITECTURE and DESIGN

ROBOTICS

MODEL

FIRST AID

UN

conservative

Societies supporting career choices

The College has a variety of clubs and societies that you can join to help you with your progression planning.

Medical Society (MedSoc)

MedSoc is an ideal society to join if you are considering a career in medicine, dentistry, nursing and other related health careers.

- A speaker programme with talks from clinicians and academics
- Student-led events and discussion groups
- One-to-one support with applications, personal statements and university choices
- Interview preparation including panel interviews and multiple mini-interview role play
- Admissions test advice and BMAT essay practice with feedback
- Advice and guidance on work experience and volunteering
- Membership of The Medic Portal MedSoc to help with preparation for medical school applications
- External links with Addenbrooke's Hospital and Cambridge University, including a lecture and dissection practical at the Physiology Department.

Speaker example: Prof Robert Rintoul, Professor of Thoracic Oncology, University of Cambridge and Consultant at Royal Papworth Hospital: *'How are we going to cure more people from cancer?'*

Subject-focussed societies

Subject societies offer a range of activities including hosting talks from industry professionals, Hills alumni and university students, who discuss their areas of specialism and progression pathways. Subject societies include Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classics, Computing, Economics, Geography, History of Art, History, Maths, Philosophy, Photography and Robotics.

Speaker example: Prof Andrew Balmford, Cambridge University Dept of Zoology: *'Feeding the world without costing the Earth'.*





“We had the pleasure of inviting a criminal judge into College who gave a deeply insightful and thought-provoking talk on sentencing.”

Ariana

Veterinary Society (VetSoc)

With similar opportunities to MedSoc, VetSoc is for students interested in a veterinary medicine career.

Speaker example: Dr Jackie Demetriou, Professor in Small Animal Soft Tissue at University of Nottingham: *‘Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome: why is it such a current problem in dogs?’*

Law Society

Open to students interested in a law career, the society includes:

- Discussion and sharing of work experience ideas
- Super-curricular activities and ideas to support university applications
- Mock trials for a human rights case
- Support with the Law LNAT university entrance exam
- Lunchtime presentations by former students and industry professionals
- Information routes into law.

Speaker example: HHJ Grey, Cambridge Crown Court judge: *‘A day in the life of a criminal judge’*

Digital support resources at Hills

- Personal 365 Outlook email account
- Personalised progress and guidance network
- Microsoft 365 available on all your personal devices
- 1Tb of space on your OneDrive
- Upgraded WiFi providing exceptional connectivity across the site.

Bring your own digital device

To enhance your access to digital learning, all students are required to bring a digital device to College to support their lessons and independent learning time.

There are many important benefits to a digital learning approach:

- Skills development ready for higher education and employment
- Increased range of teaching, assessment and feedback options
- Better organisation as cloud-based Microsoft software is used by teachers to distribute resources
- Reduced environmental impact
- Fewer learning resources for students to bring to college each day

Device requirements

The most important functionality you'll need from your device is digital inking. This process enables you not only to type work, but also to use a stylus or digital pen to write formulas and equations, or sketch diagrams. Digital inking is provided by devices such as iPad, Android tablets and touchscreen laptops, and devices can be added to existing laptops.

Further information about appropriate devices will be shared with you before you join the College.

Bursary Fund support

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is available to students who may need financial support to enable them to study at the College.

Any young person can apply to the Bursary Fund providing they satisfy the eligibility criteria detailed on our website, which relates to household income. The amount of money available to each eligible applicant will depend on individual circumstances and financial need.

The Bursary Fund is made up of two parts:

1. Bursaries for students in defined vulnerable groups

Students who meet the criteria, and who have a financial need, can apply for a bursary for vulnerable groups.

2. Discretionary bursary

The College makes a discretionary bursary award to students to help them overcome individual barriers to participation.

Support will normally be provided for students who cannot stay in education without financial help, and can cover a range of needs and resources such as:


- Transport
- Meals
- Essential educational activities linked to chosen A level courses
- Student learning resources, including books
- Tests required for university entrance
- Loan of a digital device for use in college and at home.

For full details about the 16-19 Bursary Fund and to see if you meet the eligibility criteria, visit www.hillsroad.ac.uk/bursary-fund



Support services

Taking the step up to A levels can be challenging. Our experienced and dedicated support teams are here to help and guide you practically, academically and emotionally.



"I received emotional and practical support from the Student Services Team, who were really helpful, positive and confidential."

Karolina

"Maybe you're not sure where your next lesson is or you're having a down day and need a chat, our door is always open."

Tallulah

Our Student Services team

At the centre of the College is Student Services. The team is here to provide answers to any questions you might have about college life or to help if you're feeling unwell, unsure, or you just need someone to speak to. The team also works with students to support their attendance at the College and will contact home if there are any concerns.

**How to contact
Student Support:**

t: 01223 247251

e: StudentServices@hillsroad.ac.uk



Our wellbeing and counselling teams are here whenever you need someone to talk to. Whatever is on your mind, a member of the wellbeing team will be able to offer support.

Wellbeing Service

The Wellbeing Service offers a listening ear for anything that may be troubling you. There is no obligation and no commitment – it can be a one-off chat or regular ongoing support, whatever works for you. You will always be taken seriously – we are non-judgemental and here to help in whatever way we can.



How do I access support?

- Book an appointment by emailing the wellbeing team at studentwellbeing@hillsroad.ac.uk
- Drop in on the wellbeing team at break or lunch
- Talk to any of your teachers or your tutor
- Talk to a member of the Student Services Team
- Resources, information, and self-help materials are also available

Counselling Service

Our Counselling Service offers focused, in-depth support for students experiencing persistent mental health problems. These might be triggered by a sudden life event or ongoing issue, but every situation is individual and different.

Ella the wellbeing dog

Being around animals can benefit your wellbeing in many ways, and our wellbeing dog, Ella, is here for you to walk, stroke, hang out with and just say 'hi' to! Ella loves spending time with students when she's in college, and she's also available for appointments and drop-ins.



“The wellbeing support team has helped me develop healthy coping strategies that have had a positive impact on all areas of my life.”

Emma

Award-winning support

Hills Road received the AcSEED award for promoting best practice in supporting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young people at the College.



Study Skills support

The Study Skills team provide a range of support, including assistance for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Study Skills and SEND support

The team offer group workshops on issues such as organisation, time management, exam technique and revision. They also meet one-to-one with students to help them set individual targets and support them to make progress in areas they find more challenging.

Qualified staff carry out assessments for exam access arrangements and offer appropriate follow-up support, including supporting students with using assistive technology.

Every student with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will have a key worker from the Study Skills team assisting them.

Supported independent learning

We recognise that not all students can adjust to the demands of advanced learning as quickly as others. The Study Skills team offer timetabled supervision and support for students finding the expectations for completing independent study outside lesson time challenging. The team work with students to help prioritise their learning effectively, so they feel more confident and able to complete their studies.



“The new study space is quiet which means I can focus and there is excellent support from staff.”

Ben

Disability

The College is committed to meeting the needs of students with disabilities and recognises that a disability can affect students in different ways. We encourage you to make relevant staff aware of your needs so that full and appropriate support can be provided.

How to contact our Study Skills team:

t: 01223 247251

e: StudySkills@hillsroad.ac.uk





“Study skills support has definitely helped me to find my way of learning and what methods work for me, especially for revision.”

Izzy

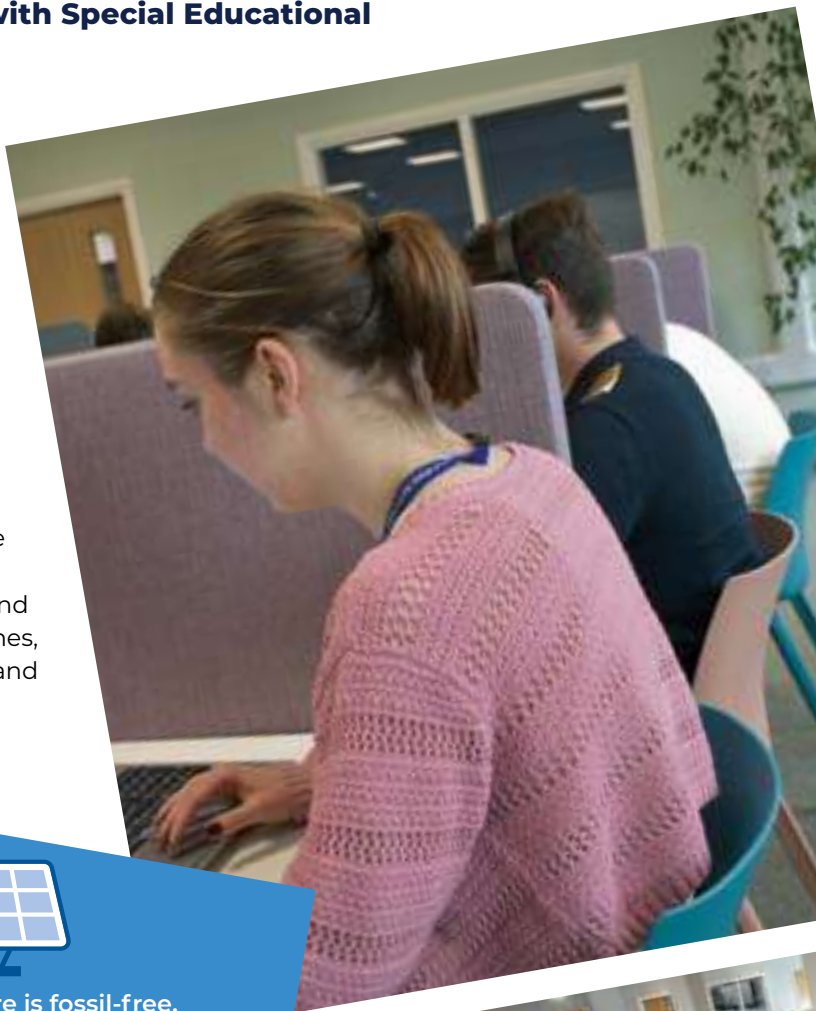
New Study Centre

Our new Study Centre opened in April 2023, and is a dedicated learning space for all students, with specialist facilities for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Low-sensory study area

Our purpose-built, low-sensory study area is designed to welcome and support students, particularly those who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The desks, table dividers, booths and carrels have been deliberately chosen to give the area a quiet and comfortable feel. The study area seats around 45 students in well-spaced zones, decorated with neutral tones and with lots of natural light.



Built to be sustainable



The new modular study centre is fossil-free, using solar power and renewable air and ventilation consistent with the College's Climate Pledge. Designed for sustainability and constructed to minimise the environmental impact of our growing campus, the new building is a state-of-the-art learning space that further enhances our commitment to environmental sustainability.





“The new study space is a great environment to work in and you receive excellent support from staff.”

Katie



Seminar room for group work

The Study Centre also provides a space for group work.

Silent study space

With 89 spaces for silent study, the new centre helps to enhance the College's provision for students to complete their independent learning periods whilst they are on the College campus.

Dedicated study spaces

In addition to the study centre, the College provides many purposeful spaces where students can work autonomously or collaborate on group projects.

Many students take advantage of the College's study spaces during their independent learning periods, whether they are completing homework or working on their EPQ. Our dedicated study areas are purposeful learning environments, with charging points for digital devices – just like you might expect at university.

"I sometimes struggle with motivation trying to revise at home; the quiet Study areas really help me to focus on my work."

Renee





The Zone

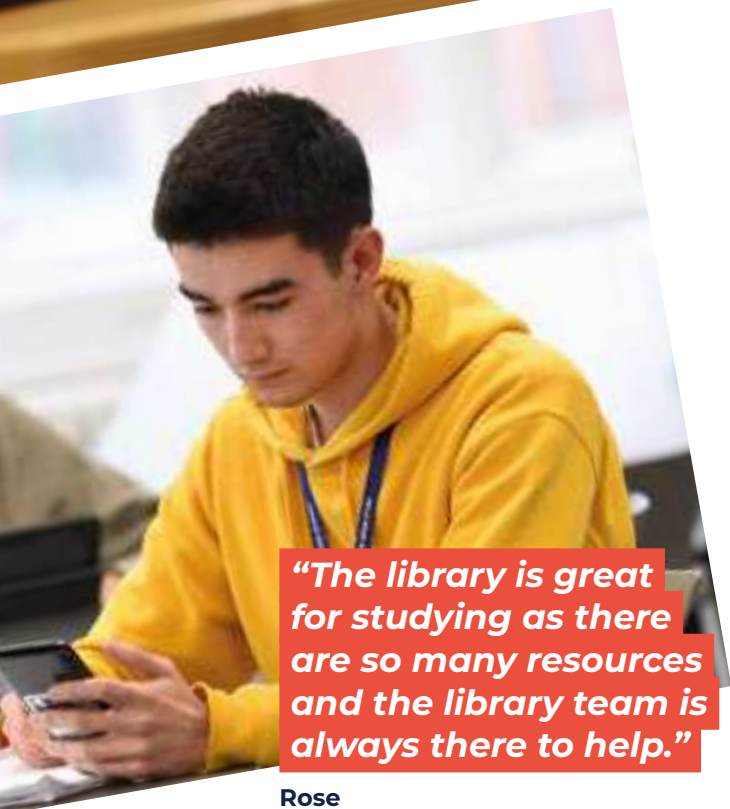
Located opposite Student Services, this space is for silent study.

The library

Located on the first floor of the main building, the library has a fantastic range of resources, from digital subscriptions to online journals, as well as regularly updated books. Staff are always available to help students locate specific resources.

Open-access resource areas

These areas within subject departments can be used for independent study between lessons.



“The library is great for studying as there are so many resources and the library team is always there to help.”

Rose

The café and social spaces

Our campus has been designed to help you manage your time effectively – great social spaces help you to get the balance right between work and play, which is essential preparation for university!

Café

The café is located at the centre of the College, opening out onto the quad. Featuring an array of hot and cold drinks (including Frappuccinos from Starbucks), delicious hot and cold food and a wide selection of pastries and cakes, we aim to cater for every palate.

Social spaces

The Atrium: centrally located in the College, the Atrium is the ideal space to meet up with friends or to study during independent learning periods.

The Hub: a relaxed space and the perfect spot to socialise and study.

The Link: located near the café, this is a welcoming space to take some time out with friends and eat lunch.

Outside spaces: enjoy walking, sitting and relaxing on the lawned areas at the College, if you feel like it! We encourage you to make the most of the great outdoors, especially when the sun is shining.

Where can I go for a bit of time out?

The tranquillity garden is a quiet place for you to sit and relax during your busy day.





"I think the café is great! The menu is both affordable and creative."

Brandon





**Only outdoor
clay tennis
courts in
Cambridgeshire**

First-class training facilities

Take advantage of some of the best sports facilities in East Anglia at the College – they're here for all students to use.

There are nine acres of football, rugby and cricket pitches at our Luard Road playing fields. We also have access to St Catherine's College hockey pitches and a 4G rugby pitch at Shelford Rugby Club. Our Sports and Tennis Centre includes four indoor and six outdoor tennis courts and the sports hall hosts activities including volleyball, basketball, five-a-side football, netball, circuits, aerobics, table tennis and badminton. In addition, there is a cricket hall with two bowling machines. Finally, the refurbished gym is perfect for fitness enthusiasts!



**Nine acres of
football, rugby and
cricket pitches**

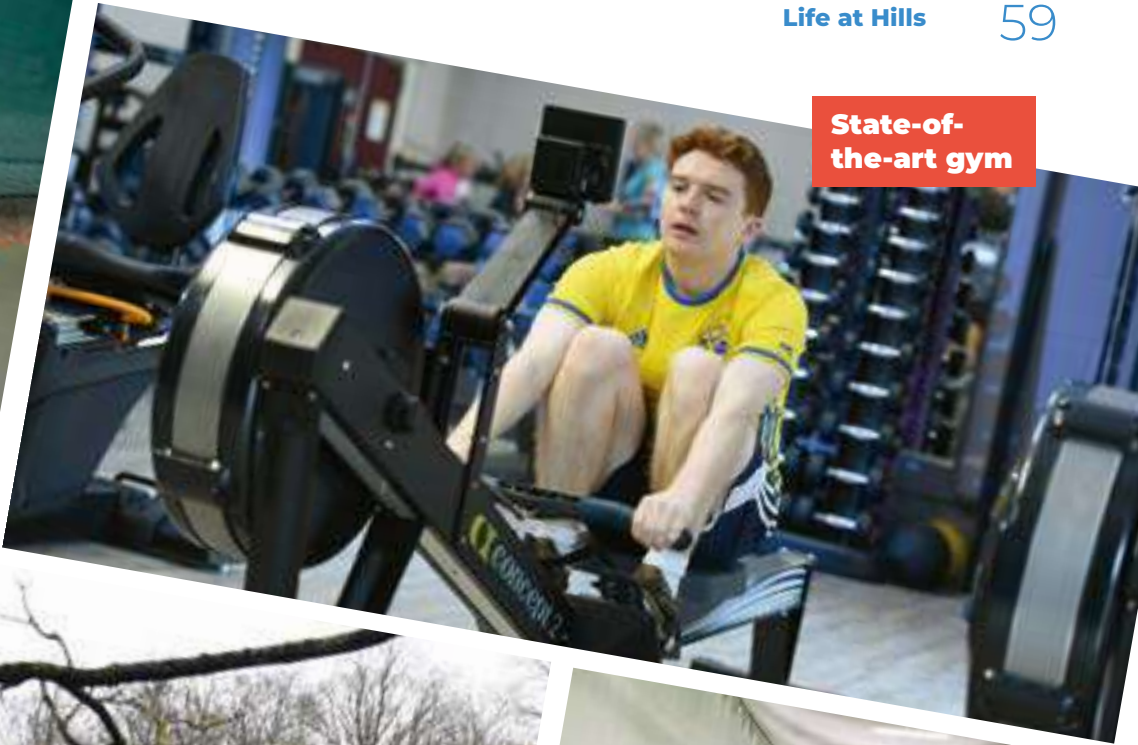


**Sports
hall**

**Use of hockey
pitches at
St Catherine's
College**



State-of-the-art gym



Fantastic cricket hall



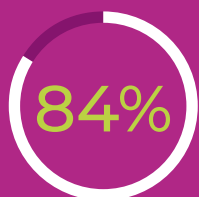
Four indoor tennis courts



Apply to us

In this section you can read about your application journey and what happens at each stage, from now until enrolment in August 2024.

Key facts



of students take
three A levels

The application
deadline is



Apply online at
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/apply



"Thanks to the College's Open Event in July, I was able to plan ahead and prepare a successful application in January."

Anna

Your application journey

There are many opportunities to find out more about the College and to decide if Hills Road is right for you.

**Before
you
apply**

1 Open Events

July 2023

Our open events are the best way to start your research. Getting a feel for the College and exploring the subjects you are interested in will help you to gain a better understanding of what it's like being a student at Hills Road.

2 Do your research

September to November 2023

Post-16 evenings

Hills Road is part of the Cambridge Area Partnership (CAP), and members of the College's team attend all of the Post-16 evenings hosted by our partner schools.

Watch our videos at
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/subjects

On every subject page on our website, A level teachers have recorded a short video to share information about their course.

There are also lots of FAQs!

More info:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/apply

3 Submit your application

January 2024

**2 January if you attend
any other school**

**9 January if you attend
a CAP school**



**After
you
apply**

4

Guidance meetings

February 2024

No offers are made at guidance meetings – the purpose of these sessions is to discuss your subject choices and make sure they support your progression plans.

5

Confirm your subjects

February 2024

After your guidance meeting, we ask you to reconfirm the A levels that you would like to study. If you want to change your subjects at this stage, don't worry, you can.

6

Offers published

March 2024

Offers will be emailed to applicants by the end of March 2024.

7

Welcome to Hills

July 2024

Experience life as a Hills Road student for the day – an essential and exciting step in your journey with us.

8

GCSE results day

August 2024

Congratulations! When you've got your results, online enrolment begins. You'll need to upload your results to our enrolment platform and, once we've checked these, we'll contact you about completing the process.

9

Getting started

September 2024

Your first day as a Hills student! You'll meet your tutor and new classmates, and you'll find out more about Year 12 at the College before your lessons begin.

More info:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/apply

Making your application

When you apply to Hills Road, it's important that you refer to our Admissions Policy as your application will be assessed against our entry criteria, a summary of which can be found below.

Our entry criteria

- **Subject:** You satisfy the minimum grade requirements for at least three of the A level subjects that you have applied for, eg. by the predicted GCSE grades supplied by your school.
- **Admissions score:** You meet the admissions score relevant to the subjects that you would like to study.
- **Closing date:** Applications must be submitted by 2 January 2024, or 9 January 2024 if you attend a Cambridge Area Partnership (CAP) school.

More info:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/admissions-policy

- **Centre preference:** Hills Road should be placed as your first choice A level centre, or second choice behind a CAP school sixth form.
- **Travel-to-learn:** You live, or intend to move to live, with your parent or carer within sustainable commuting distance of the College.
- **Home address:** Your application is made from the address you are living at with your parent or carer at the time of applying.
- **Living arrangements:** You will be living with at least one parent or carer for the duration of your course.

Frequently asked questions

Q My admissions score is slightly low for the subjects I want to take – should I still apply?

A Yes. These admissions scores are just an indication of the levels that could apply.

Q I only want to take one science subject, does the Higher score apply?

A Yes. The Higher score is required for science subjects.

“We are here to help with everything from questions about A level courses to the application process.”

Kate, Head of Admissions

Calculate your
admissions score at:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
calculator](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/calculator)

Admissions scores

We have four admissions scores, which are relevant to specific subjects. Our scores are determined by the annual application patterns for each subject and are therefore subject to change. The following is an indication of the scores required in 2023:

- Minimum entry: 58
- Maths: 60
- Higher: 71 (Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Physics)
- Four A level programme: 78

Keep your options open and include up to five subjects on your application form. You'll make your final subject selection if you are invited to a guidance meeting in February.

Selecting your subjects

Deciding which A levels to apply for can be challenging. We've listed a few tips to help you:

1. Make a list of the subjects you enjoy

Rank them in preference order.

2. Highlight the subjects you are good at

This will give you a shortlist of subjects to research.

3. Find out more about our 36 A levels

Read all about our A level subjects in this prospectus.

4. Watch our subject videos

Learn more about each subject at www.hillsroad.ac.uk/subjects.

More info:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/subjects

5. Check the entry requirements

To make sure you qualify – see pages 70-114.

6. Talk to current A level students

Find out how A levels differ from GCSEs.

7. Research your career options

Speak to your parents or carers, teachers and your careers adviser about your future pathway.

8. Find out which subjects support specific career paths

Visit www.informedchoices.ac.uk to discover which A levels are required for certain degree programmes.

Where are they now?

Wondering what studying at Hills could lead to? We asked four former students where their studies took them.



Scientist

Holly Rees

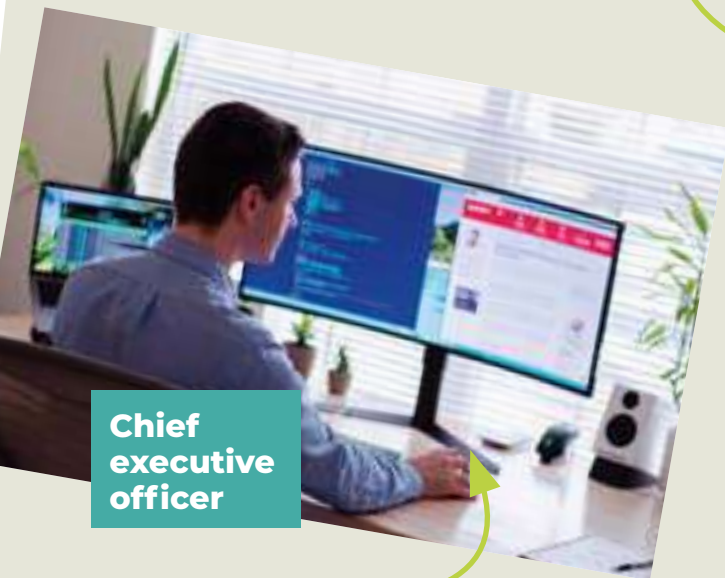
Time at Hills: 2009-2011

Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Enrichment activity: Cross country running

After Hills: I went to the University of Cambridge to study Natural Sciences and did a PhD at Harvard University

Where are you now? I am a scientist at Beam Therapeutics, Cambridge.



Chief executive officer

Giles Barker

Time at Hills: 2007-2009

Subjects: Business, Economics, History

Enrichment activity: Rugby

After Hills: I studied Business Management at the University of Reading

Where are you now? I co-founded a start-up software company, which I now run as Chief Executive Officer.

Photographer



Ibrahim Rahman

Time at Hills:
2007-2009

Subjects: Computer Science, English Language, Maths

Enrichment activity:
Computer programming

After Hills: I studied Security and Forensic Computing at Anglia Ruskin University

Where are you now? I am a Social Media Coordinator at the University of Cambridge.



Social media coordinator

Philippa Hogg

Time at Hills: 2006-2008

Subjects: Drama and Theatre, Music, English Language

Enrichment activity:
Jazz choir

After Hills: I started working as a professional performer and theatre maker in Cambridge.

Where are you now? I am an actor, musician and theatre maker. I work consistently in the industry and have developed projects with the Old Vic, The Almeida, and Battersea Arts Centre to name a few!

Oli Kearon

Time at Hills: 2010-2012

Subjects: Art and Design, Photography, Sociology

Enrichment activity:
Fashion photography

After Hills: I assisted at Spring Studios in London and saw the best photographers in the industry at work.

Where are you now? I'm a photographer. I shoot mainly fashion stories and portraits for magazines, as well as for well-known brands.



Actor-musician

Choose your subjects

At Hills Road we offer an incredible range of 36 A levels. Turn the page for an in-depth look at each subject, including the grades needed to study them at the College.

Key facts



36
subjects
available in almost
every combination

Face-to-face teaching
time per subject is
4 hrs, 20 mins



88%
of students
achieved A*-B high
grades in 2022





"The teachers at Hills Road are so knowledgeable and have a real passion for their subjects."

Sam

Art & Design

Art & Design

This course presents you with an exciting and challenging opportunity to become a creative and imaginative visual artist. We welcome the wide variety of experiences and diverse backgrounds students bring to their learning, and our course is designed to build on your creativity and enthusiasm. We'll help you to acquire new skills, broaden your knowledge, and support you to develop the confidence you need to achieve your full potential in this rich and exciting subject area. Original ideas, experimentation and risk-taking are encouraged. All our staff are practising artists, and bring with them a wide range of specialist interests and expertise.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 or merit in Art or Design or similar subject title.

Option b: Applicants may complete our A level Access Project.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Art and Design is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

The ability to think creatively alongside the observational skills learnt through this subject are considered valuable in a whole spectrum of professions. For example, those students who want to pursue scientific subjects will find Art a welcome and useful contrast that equips them with a complementary set of skills.

Where could this course take me?

Many students complete an Art Foundation course after Hills, which can lead to a wide variety of degree specialisms. Employment opportunities in the creative arts industries include design, fashion, TV and film, alongside the museum and gallery sectors.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
art-design](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/art-design)





"I absolutely love Art & Design – the teachers are supportive and allow you to flourish as an artist."

Esther

Art & Design



History of Art

History of Art provides you with an exciting opportunity to better understand the world around you through looking at a wide range of artists and architects, from classical antiquity to the modern day. Classes are highly interactive and you are encouraged to discuss and present your ideas to both your teacher and to each other. As a result, you will gain a better understanding of painting, sculpture and architecture in the context of their historical periods. Learning takes place both in galleries and museums and in the classroom, using digital slides and films. The course will also teach you vital essay-writing skills, preparing you not just for examination, but also for life beyond A level.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for History of Art is 58.

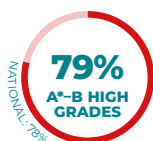
What opportunities are unique to this course?

The course will give you the chance to study a diverse range of topics, covering philosophical, political and aesthetic awareness through to documentary, conceptual and spiritual concerns. Not only does this provide a rich and diverse educational experience, but it also provides an excellent opportunity to develop transferable skills.

Where could this course take me?

History of Art gives students a broad range of transferable skills, valuable in any career. Employment can be found in a range of areas such as the museums and gallery sectors, journalism, art conservation and many more.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
history-of-art](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/history-of-art)





"Photography is a great subject to take at Hills. They have a dark room and a studio, and they can provide everything you need."

Lilly

Photography

Studying Photography will give you a greater understanding of the world we live in and your place within it. We actively encourage individual project themes, ideas and experimentation, with a variety of discussion-based activities to support your creative journey. There is also the opportunity to take part in several study visits. We have a photographic studio, darkroom and dedicated computer suite, plus a range of film and digital cameras, accessories, and lighting equipment available for loan. The course is essential in preparing you for degree-level study, and is also ideal if you have a love of photography and wish to develop your skills further. No previous knowledge is necessary, but a keen interest in the subject is a must!

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

Option b: GCSE grade 6 in Photography or Art (or a similar subject title).

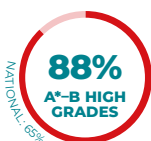
2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Photography is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Everyone has a story to tell – and sometimes words are not enough. Studying Photography gives students a platform for visual self-expression and discovery. Exploring the world through a lens, and communicating and documenting a moment in time using visual language, can help students gain confidence. It can also help students with organisation and building teamwork, as well as subject-specific creative and technical skills.

Where could this course take me?

Students who study Photography could go on to become commercial and fine art photographers, or work in advertising, art direction, film and television, graphic design, web design, multimedia, museum and gallery curation, art therapy, community arts, digital marketing and project management.



Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/photography

Business and Economics

Business

The business world is constantly evolving as economic, technological, political and environmental developments alter the commercial landscape. As a result of the changing global climate brought about by Brexit and the pandemic, businesses have been required to adapt in a variety of ways. This course will provide you with an understanding of how businesses, large and small, can successfully deal with these challenges. Among the issues you will consider are: how might the way people work change after having worked from home for so long? Is a recession always damaging for business? Are emerging economies an opportunity or threat to businesses based in developed economies? You will learn through case studies, research assignments, class discussions and group activities.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 4 in Mathematics.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Business is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Students research real businesses rather than taking a purely theoretical approach. Small groups will have a marketing challenge where they will create a marketing campaign for an actual entrepreneur, which reflects the challenges of business.

Where could this course take me?

Many Business students go on to take the subject at university, and an increasing number enjoy modern apprenticeships in business management or marketing. Other students choose to go onto higher education to study international relations, logistics or supply chain management.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/business



"Economics is an incredibly interesting subject that adds a special layer of depth into politics and the world around us."

Abs

Economics

There has never been a more exciting time to study Economics. Whether your interests lie in global warming or global trade, you will broaden your horizons through the study of the concepts in this fascinating subject. This course aims to stimulate your interest in how economies work – at a personal, national and global level. Some issues that you will investigate include: why are footballers paid more than nurses? Why do some consumers act irrationally by smoking? How has the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the UK and global economy? Why is the debate around global fish stocks so important? Most news headlines are about economics, and by studying this subject you'll gain a greater understanding of what's happening in the world.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 6 in Mathematics.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Economics is 58.

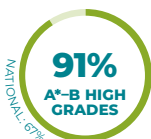
What opportunities are unique to this course?

Economics students will gain valuable analytical skills, such as interpreting a range of graphic forms and being able to digest essential information from texts, which are highly desirable in the workplace. There are also opportunities to participate in the Cambridge University Festival of Ideas by participating in a challenge to run the economy.

Where could this course take me?

Many students choose to study Economics at university and there are extension activities for those applying to more competitive universities. Other students explore the opportunities of apprenticeships (with the Bank of England for example), or choose to study international relations, business management or accounting and finance.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/economics



Classical and Contemporary Humanities

Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation explores the literature, history, culture and thought of ancient Greeks and Romans. With their unique composition and exciting tales of gods and heroes, Homer's Iliad, Virgil's Aeneid and the drama produced in 5th century Athens form an excellent grounding for exploration of the classical world. If you want to examine in detail the anger of Achilles, tragic heroism of Dido and Oedipus, Cato's stoicism, Caesar's anti-Republican behaviour, and critically explore the ways in which classical texts might be interpreted, then this is the A level course for you. Many students find the subject complementary to History, English Literature, Politics, Philosophy and Art, while for others it is a pleasing contrast to science-based subjects.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Classical Civilisation is 58.

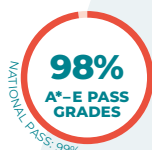
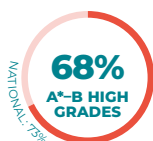
What opportunities are unique to this course?

We regularly host guest speakers and leading academics in their fields of expertise. You will have the chance to attend lectures, events and theatre performances, especially those closely related to our areas of study. Our thriving student-led Classics Society also hosts regular lectures and debates.

Where could this course take me?

Classical Civilisation is highly regarded by both universities and employers. History (both modern and ancient), Politics, Literature, Law and Finance are just some of the courses this unique subject could lead to.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/classical-civilisation





“Classical Civilisation is a great mix of English, drama and history. I love the stories that are told, and the teachers are all so lovely.”

Maya

Classical and Contemporary Humanities



Latin

In Latin, you will learn to think logically and analytically about language and literature. You will develop a critical approach to the ideas of Roman society and compare them with those of today. The opportunity to read original Latin texts, written more than 20 centuries ago, by authors such as Virgil, Cicero, Caesar, Ovid, Tacitus and Livy is challenging but rewarding. Although the course focuses on language and literature, historical context and Roman ideas and values are studied as part of the background. Some students go on to study Classics at university, others choose courses in medicine, law or modern languages. Latin is a rare qualification, offered by few state schools and colleges, and valued by universities and employers alike.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in Latin (short course GCSE acceptable).
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Latin is 58.

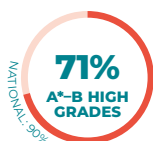
What opportunities are unique to this course?

We regularly welcome academics and guest speakers to share their expertise. Latin students are also encouraged to enter national competitions, both in essay writing and Live Latin Reading, in which Hills has previously excelled.

Where could this course take me?

Highly appreciated by universities and employers, Latin will automatically make you stand out from the crowd. Depending on the subject you take alongside it, Latin could lead to a career in classics, science, politics, finances, law or linguistics.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/latin





"Probably the most fun I've ever had in my entire school life. The teachers are absolutely amazing and really take the time to help you whenever you're struggling."

Simeon

Philosophy

Philosophy examines a rich treasure trove of answers to questions such as: what is the nature and limitation of our knowledge? How do we decide what is right? Does God exist? What is human consciousness? Philosophy A level will appeal to you if you enjoy thinking deeply, reading critically and expressing your ideas clearly in essays and discussion. Your opinions will be challenged in lively classroom discussions as you are led through the maze of philosophical puzzles. A level Philosophy is an antidote to learning facts and figures. The course is complementary to both arts and humanities, as well as science A levels.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Philosophy is 58.

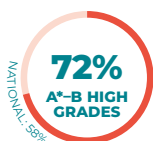
What opportunities are unique to this course?

You can deliberate and discuss questions you may never have considered before! Exploring answers to questions such as 'How do we know we are not dreaming right now?' or 'Could everyone else be robots?' will enable you to establish standards of evidence, provide rational methods of resolving conflicts, and create techniques for evaluating ideas and arguments.

Where could this course take me?

Students go on to study a wide variety of subjects at university, with many choosing Philosophy itself or PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). Philosophy's transferable skills will also benefit you in a broad range of fields including teaching, law, civil service and journalism.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/philosophy



Classical and Contemporary Humanities

Politics

Politics is the way in which a society or a group manages different views, conflicts and disagreements over resources. We study UK and global politics, examining the political structures and issues of debate. You will develop research and communication skills through a balanced handling of political questions, an interest in citizenship, an up-to-date knowledge of current affairs and an understanding of the political ideas that have shaped the world. You will develop your analytical skills by evaluating political concepts and arguments from competing viewpoints. These are skills highly valued by universities and employers. Politics students go on to study a wide variety of subjects at university, including PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics), International relations, Law and History.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Politics is 58.

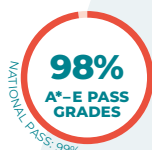
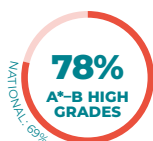
What opportunities are unique to this course?

By studying Politics you will improve your analytical and debating skills through up-to-date knowledge of current political events and issues. There are also opportunities for external visits to Parliament and Brussels or The Hague.

Where could this course take me?

Politics students go on to study a wide variety of subjects at university. The diverse nature of the course provides skills that lend themselves to any professional field of work.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/politics



"Buddhism is an amazing religion to study and Ethics makes you question your own morality."

Seb

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is an attractive option if you are interested in exploring and debating the fundamental questions that we might ask: what or who is God? Why is there suffering and evil in the world? What is the right way to live? Is there anything beyond death? The course includes the study of Buddhism and how this fascinating religion and philosophy has evolved over time. It also introduces you to some of the great debates and thinkers in religion, philosophy and ethics. This subject will appeal to you if you want to understand the deeply held convictions of others, and to examine your own assumptions and beliefs.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Religious Studies is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will explore and discuss what religious people believe including why and how beliefs relate to religious practices and ethical decision-making. You will learn to cogently evaluate a variety of viewpoints and to give your own opinions supported with reasoning. The skills you gain will enable you to consider different views in an open-minded and fair way.

Where could this course take me?

The skills gained from Religious Studies are invaluable for a wide range of degree courses and careers. They can help with the development of skills in critical thinking and analysis, and the understanding of people and customs.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/religious-studies



Earth Sciences

Environmental Science

In studying Environmental Science A level, you will explore the key challenges facing our planet. You'll learn how the environment supports us, how we threaten these support systems and how we can embrace technologies and strategies that deliver a more sustainable lifestyle. Studying wildlife conservation, resource management, energy use, pollution and food production, you will develop an in-depth understanding of the problems the planet faces and the solutions. We will look at the many aspects of the world around us, including conservation methods, land-use conflict, global climate change, pollution, energy resources, sustainable biological resources, evolution, biotechnology, ecosystems and population dynamics.

Entry requirements

Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and one Science.

Option b: GCSE grade 6 in Geography and grade 6 in Mathematics or one Science.

Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Environmental Science is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Students will undertake regular lab work to study specific parts of our environment such as soil, water and living organisms. Fieldwork will form an essential part of the course, in areas such as Wicken Fen Nature Reserve and Epping Forest.

Where could this course take me?

Environmental Science has clear pathways towards several degree areas, including zoology, marine biology, biotechnology, animal science, sustainability, journalism and urban landscape design. The demand for environmental experts is increasing in business, industry and government sectors.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
environmental-
science](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/environmental-science)





Earth Sciences

Geography

This is a true study of places, people, and the connections between them. To quote British geographer Danny Dorling, "Geography is the study of energy; how it builds mountains and then destroys them. It's also the energy that flows through our atmosphere, bringing us our weather and changing our climate." The course combines physical and human geography, along with integrated fieldwork and an independent research project. Geographers investigate issues such as climate change, population growth and landscape degradation. Understanding the processes behind these changes means that you will gain true essential skills necessary to contribute to the management of these issues in future. You will also develop your numeracy, literacy and learn how to use geographical information systems.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in Geography and grade 4 in Mathematics.

Option b: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, grade 4 in Mathematics and grade 4 in Geography if studied.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Geography is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

We offer a one-day field trip to Hunstanton in Year 12 to study coastal landscapes, shortly followed by a half-day field trip to the CB1 redevelopment in Cambridge to study placemaking processes. Students complete a minimum of one day of independent fieldwork for their non examined assessment. Annual international visits also take place, the most recent one being to Amsterdam.

Where could this course take me?

A level Geography opens up many pathways for further study and employment. Geography provides the cornerstone of related subject areas, such as Earth and environmental science, and social sciences degrees. The transferable skills that geographers acquire also enhance employment opportunities.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
geography](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/geography)



"Geography offers amazing trip opportunities. In Year 12 we went to Hunstanton and in the summer we have the opportunity to go to Amsterdam!"

Thomas

Geology

Studying Geology at A level provides a unique opportunity to learn a new and dynamic science subject. In your first year of study, you will investigate the rock cycle and how minerals, rocks and fossils provide information on Earth's history and evolution. In the second year, you will build on your knowledge to investigate the subject better, applying a problem-solving approach. You can enhance your understanding of geology by studying in our specialist laboratory, which contains a rich collection of mineral, rocks and fossils, and provides exciting opportunities to investigate and analyse a wealth of geological materials.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and grade 6 in one Science.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Geology is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Studying Geology gives a unique insight into the processes of how planet Earth formed and has evolved over the past 4.5 billion years. The course provides a hands-on approach to investigating materials either in the laboratory or on fieldwork in North Norfolk and Dorset's Jurassic Coast.

Where could this course take me?

Geology is a physical science and provides an alternative route into a vast array of science degrees. These include Earth and environmental sciences, oceanography, volcanology, palaeontology, forensic science and resource-based courses such as oil, mining and hydrogeology.



Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/geology

English

English Language

Is English Language for you? If you're up for open-minded investigation of what the language was in the past, is now, and may become in the future, then the answer is yes! Are technology and young people ruining the language? Will English be the world language? Are children hard-wired to work out language for themselves? Do women and men communicate differently? Is accent discrimination the last acceptable prejudice? Is the rhetorical question an overused stylistic device? During this course, you'll get to carry out your own language investigation project, discuss issues in class and write evaluative essays and analyses of spoken, written and electronic texts. You'll also produce original writing in a genre of your choice. It's both analytical and creative – what's not to like?

Entry requirements

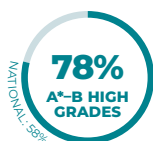
- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for English Language is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

We invite experts in language and linguistics from universities – including Cambridge – to come and inspire students. We put on talks from Hills alumni on studying linguistics at university, and conduct field research into regional accents and dialects. You'll have a unique opportunity to conduct your own independent research project, and students can also enter departmental creative writing competitions.

Where could this course take me?

English Language is an excellent foundation for a variety of career paths. Specialisms could include journalism, law and publishing, whereas some former students have gone on to become teachers, speech therapists and lexicographers. Forensic linguistics is an exciting emerging field.



Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
english-language](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/english-language)



“A level English Language has allowed me to look at texts in a completely new light.”

Robert

English

English Language and Literature

English Language and Literature is a course that will allow you to study a wide range of genres, while learning how to craft your own unique writing. You will draw on both linguistic and literary study to develop your interpretive and analytical skills. Across the course, you will have the chance to study a non-fiction anthology that covers everything from articles, screenplays, podcasts, interviews and speeches to classic fiction, drama and poetry texts. The coursework gives you the opportunity to write your own fiction and non-fiction inspired by our reading list, and to treat yourself as a writer worthy of analytical discussion.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for English Language and Literature is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

English Language and Literature provides a unique opportunity to analyse texts from both a linguistic and literary point of view. Blending these two sides of English studies will enhance your understanding of writers' methods and approaches, while giving you the tools to develop yourself as a writer.

Where could this course take me?

Journalism, media, the arts, law, education and any other careers where analytical and writing skills are required.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
english-language-
and-literature](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/english-language-and-literature)



"Being able to share insights with fellow students has been a wonderful experience. All the texts studied have helped me grow and mature immensely."

Amy

English Literature

Do you enjoy reading and discussing the great works of literature? Do you want to expand your understanding of texts, contexts, ideas and to improve your writing? Then English Literature is for you. During your study, you will explore eight texts while being encouraged to read independently, widely, and in-depth. We will cover the genres of poetry, drama and prose across a range of periods, and we will include a selection of contemporary poetry written since the year 2000. We'll also look at the romantic poet John Keats, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and the thematic exploration of either 'Science and Society' or 'Women and Society' in the novel. Coursework forms part of this course, with the theme of 'belonging'.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language and English Literature.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for English Literature is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will gain the skills of close analysis and a broader understanding of culture from Shakespeare to the post-colonial era. We have frequent visits by academic speakers – last year Professor Victor Sage, expert on the gothic, spoke on *Frankenstein*. We take groups to theatres to see relevant productions, and organise trips to hear prominent writers speak.

Where could this course take me?

Writer, journalist, law, politics, careers of conscience such as working for a charity, public relations, teacher, academic, content provider, media, and work in theatre and entertainment.



Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
english-literature](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/english-literature)

Film and Media

Film Studies

Film Studies is a well-established academic subject that offers you the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of different films and gain confidence with a range of critical approaches. You will learn how to 'read' a film, considering cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound and performance. You will also analyse the relationship between the text and the spectator, and production contexts. The course covers texts from early cinema history, experimental film movements and contemporary cinema. Some of the texts you will look at include *Vertigo*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Breathless*, *The Hurt Locker* and *Skyfall*. The course also allows you to express your creativity through the production of a short film or screenplay.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Film Studies is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Students can participate in courses with the British Film Institute, work for Watersprite Film Festival and meet visiting industry professionals. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in projects within the college, nationally and even internationally as part of the wider film community.

Where could this course take me?

Many students go on to study Film at university, progressing to a range of areas within the creative industries, including visual effects, journalism and film production. Studying Film at A level also evidences a student's ability to write extended prose.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/film-studies





"Film Studies is a truly brilliant subject. I've learnt so much in such a short time and the trips and opportunities have been incredible."

Ariana

Media Studies

Our Media Studies course offers you the experience of a range of media forms, including newspapers, TV, video games, music video, advertising and online media. You can also work creatively to produce print and video products. Media Studies equips you with the skills and knowledge to engage critically with the wide range of media you encounter in everyday life. You will learn to use digital video cameras and digital editing equipment to create your own video work, and there will also be opportunities for trips and extra-curricular activities.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Media Studies is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Students on the course have opportunities to meet and learn from music video directors, TV directors and many more industry professionals. Opportunities to participate in regional and national courses with the British Film Institute and Watersprite film festival are also possible.

Where could this course take me?

Students can progress to studying Media courses at university through a practical or theoretical route. This can lead to a choice of careers within the creative industries, such as video games design, TV production, journalism and film marketing.



Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
media-studies](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/media-studies)

History

History: Crisis, Conflict and Communism

This course focuses on life under communist regimes in the twentieth century, including democracy and dictatorships in Germany from 1919-1963 and tsars, revolution and communists in the Soviet Union from 1855-1964. You will also study England in revolution: the early Stuarts, civil wars, and Cromwell from 1603-1660, and you will be able to choose from a range of coursework topics, which typically include: witch hunts in early modern Europe c.1450-1750; the French Revolution, Robespierre and the Terror 1793-94; the origins of the Cold War, and the end of the British Empire in Kenya.

Students can only take one History course at the College.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in History.
Option b: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 4 in History if studied.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for History is 58.

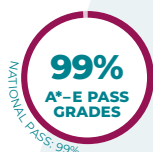
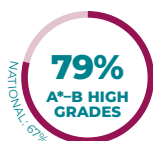
What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will be provided with a wealth of resources and individual support to help you get the most out of this course. There is a thriving student-run History society.

Where could this course take me?

History graduates pursue a wide range of careers including journalism, law, accountancy, management, the civil service, teaching, research and heritage work.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
history-crisis-conflict-
and-communism](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/history-crisis-conflict-and-communism)





"I loved the fact I could learn another significant point in history for my coursework, that isn't in either course."

Summer

History: Rights, Race and Revolutions

This course focuses on the USA in the twentieth century, especially the struggle for Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992, and the Cold War in Europe 1941-1995. You will also study the UK at the crossroads of revolution or reform in the years 1783-1852 and you will be able to choose from a range of coursework topics which typically include: witch hunts in early modern Europe c.1450-1750; the French Revolution, Robespierre and the Terror 1793-94; the origins of the Cold War and the end of the British Empire in Kenya.

Students can only take one History course at the College.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in History.
Option b: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 4 in History if studied.

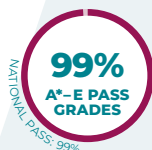
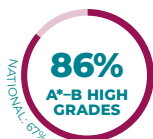
2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for History is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will be provided with a wealth of resources and individual support to help you get the most out of this course. There is a thriving student-run History society.

Where could this course take me?

History graduates pursue a wide range of careers including journalism, law, accountancy, management, the civil service, teaching, research and heritage work.



Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
history-rights-race-
revolutions](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/history-rights-race-revolutions)

Mathematics

Mathematics

The Mathematics A level consists of Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics in Mechanics and Statistics. In Pure Mathematics you will deepen your knowledge of some GCSE topics such as trigonometry and sequences, while branching out into new, unfamiliar areas such as logarithms, calculus and mathematical modelling. You will use algebra and problem-solving in a wide range of abstract situations, honing your mathematical communication skills. In Applied Mathematics, Mechanics will allow you to explore the mathematics behind Newtonian ideas of motion and forces. Statistics will enable you to analyse and interpret the real world through data and probability models.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Maths adjusted admissions score is 60.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Maths helps to develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills: the kind of analytical processes that have helped solve problems for thousands of years. You will have the opportunity to enter the Senior Maths Challenge and the Ritangle competition. You will also be able to attend the Maths Inspiration show in Cambridge and Maths Fest in London.

Where could this course take me?

Maths is a much sought-after qualification for entry to a wide variety of courses at university and many areas of employment. Such courses and careers include economics, medicine, architecture, engineering, accountancy, teaching, psychology, physics and computing.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/mathematics





"It has been so interesting learning about how all of the different topics of Maths all link together. The teachers are really supportive and enthusiastic."

Rachel

Further Mathematics

As a Further Mathematics student, you will cover the A level Maths course in one class, and Further Maths in a separate class, meaning you will have the equivalent of two subjects' worth of teaching time. It can be extremely rewarding for you if you love studying maths and want to go into greater depth. Further Mathematics builds on the Pure Maths covered in A level Mathematics, while also exploring exciting new areas such as matrices and complex numbers. You will also study Applied Maths in the form of Discrete Maths, and the option of Further Mechanics or Further Statistics.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 8 in Mathematics and grade 8 in all Sciences. Applicants must have studied a minimum of two Sciences.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Four A Level Programme adjusted admissions score for Further Mathematics is 78.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Lunchtime enrichment sessions are available where you can work with other students to solve complex and interesting maths problems. If you wish to study Mathematics at university, you will be able to attend preparation classes for admissions tests and have the option of having practice interviews.

Where could this course take me?

Further Mathematics is essential for a small minority of university courses and is useful for careers in maths, economics, computing, physics and engineering.



Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/further-maths

Modern Languages

French

Would you like to speak French fluently? Or maybe work or study abroad? Studying French will help to make this happen. Debates and discussions in the classroom will give you a broad perspective on a wide range of issues, and you will gain in-depth knowledge of France and French-speaking countries. You will develop your language skills through group work, the study of grammar, and language lab sessions. Topics will include social issues such as immigration and politics, as well as cultural themes such as music and cinema. You will also develop your writing skills through the study of a film and a novel.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in French.
Option b: applicant is bilingual or has recently lived in a French-speaking country*.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for French is 58.

* Eligibility will be discussed with you if you are invited to a guidance meeting.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

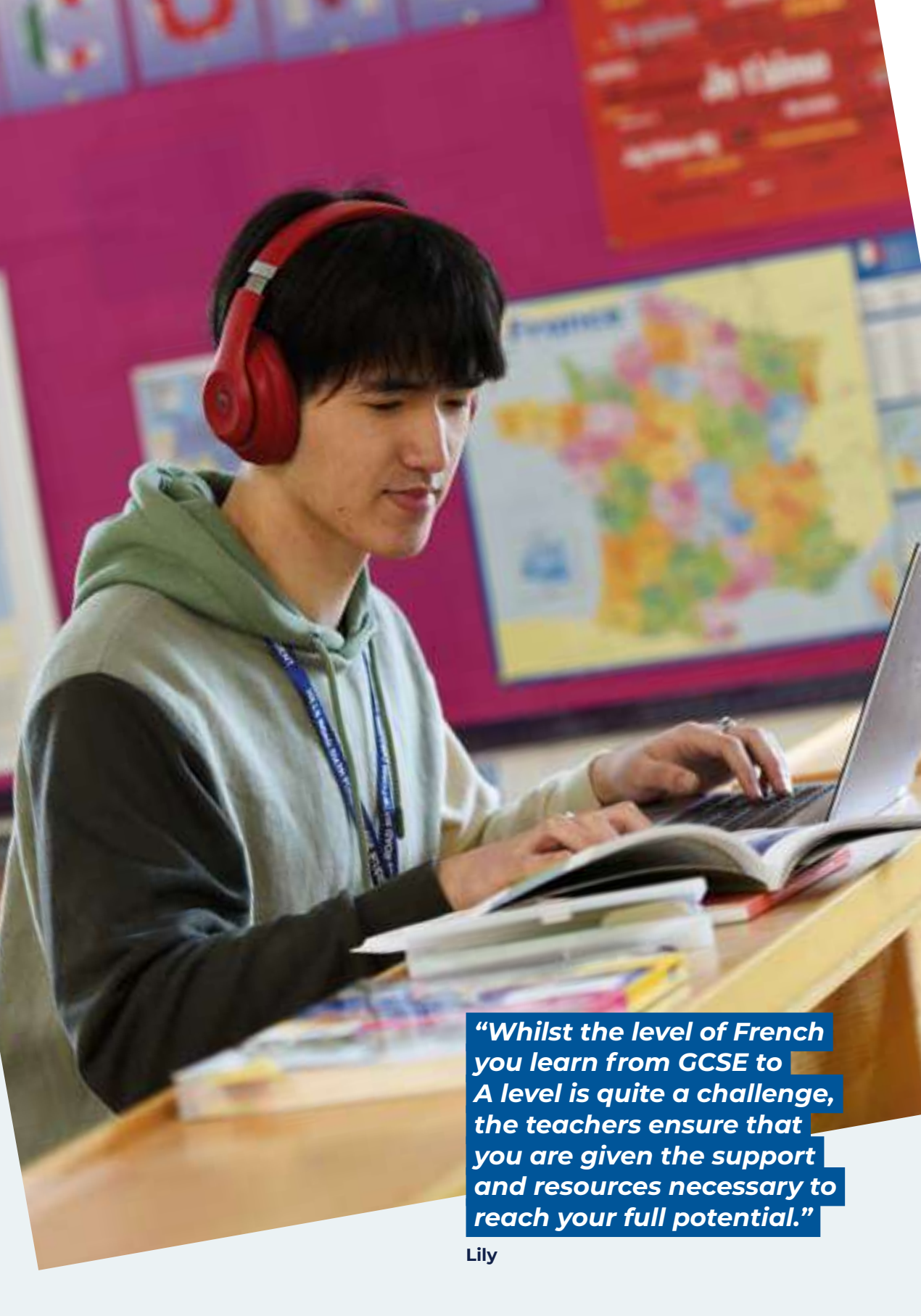
We offer a small weekly group conversation class with our French native-speaker language assistant to boost your confidence in speaking. Extensive peer mentor group or individual support is also provided. You can get involved with competitions, talks, a student-led society and a group exchange trip to Paris for eight days, or an individual exchange to Montpellier.

Where could this course take me?

You could study various degree courses, including French, linguistics, a new language, combine a language and another subject, or even study abroad for a year. You could go on to work for an international company in this country or abroad.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/french





“Whilst the level of French you learn from GCSE to A level is quite a challenge, the teachers ensure that you are given the support and resources necessary to reach your full potential.”

Lily

Modern Languages

German

Would you like to speak a foreign language fluently? Perhaps work abroad? Studying German could help make this a reality and equip you with invaluable skills for the future. Germany's society and culture form a core part of this course, from contemporary youth culture and Germany's role in the EU to architecture and epic theatre. Through discussions and debates in the classroom, small group work with our native speaker language assistant, partner work and language lab study, you will develop your fluency and become better informed on a wide range of issues and topics. There are workshops for individual and group support, and extension classes in Year 13 to prepare for university language courses. We also have a student-led German Society.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in German.

Option b: applicant is bilingual or has recently lived in a German-speaking country.*

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for German is 58.

* Eligibility will be discussed with you if you are invited to a guidance meeting.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You may have the opportunity to be part of our Hamburg work experience exchange! Stay with a student at our partner school in Hamburg and enjoy a seven-day work placement. Placements range from schools and nurseries to research centres, pharmacies and a GP's or solicitor's office. We also offer speaking classes with a native speaker – all students have a weekly 30-minute class with our German assistant.

Where could this course take me?

You will be able to work or study abroad, and have the skills and confidence to learn new languages. You can progress to a wide range of degree courses. Career options include interpreting, business, teaching and the diplomatic service.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
german](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/german)



"I've learnt so much about all different aspects of Spanish culture and improved my comprehension and speaking, with great support from the teachers."

Nina

Spanish

If you dream of speaking fluently and impressively in a language spoken by 450 million people in the world, look no further! Studying Spanish can help you to achieve this, and can also increase your job prospects, making you a more desirable employee. Debates and discussions in the classroom will give you a broad perspective and in-depth knowledge of a wide range of issues about Hispanic society. Native-speaking language assistants in the modern languages department are available to support you with small group conversation work, too.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 in Spanish.
Option b: applicant is bilingual or has recently lived in a Spanish-speaking country.*

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Spanish is 58.

* Eligibility will be discussed with you if you are invited to a guidance meeting.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

You will experience life as a local, thanks to our wonderful exchange link to Santander in Spain! And you will also enjoy the opportunity to participate in Spanish society, with films, talks, literary competitions, and a wide range of activities to help you dive into Spanish culture.

Where could this course take me?

The advantages of taking A level Spanish are huge, as it pairs well with arts-based subjects such as History of Art, English literature and History. It also goes well with sciences as it will open the door to participate in research across Latin America.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/spanish



Music

Music

If you love music and are keen to evolve your skills in performing and creating music, this is the course for you. In addition to practical music-making, you will explore a broad range of set works, from popular music to film, fusions and works written in the Western classical tradition. Fifty per cent of the course allows you to work in your preferred musical style; you will also build your aural, analytical and essay-writing skills through collaborative lessons on set works. Performance is a key part of the course, so you must have regular lessons with a suitably qualified professional on your main instrument or voice. You will be encouraged to take part in our lively and diverse extra-curricular music programme.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: Option a: GCSE grade 6 in Music and grade 5 instrument or voice.

Option b: grade 5 instrument or voice and grade 5 Music Theory (or equivalent).

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Music is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

The course allows you to develop your practical skills in performance and composition, alongside the academic study of a range of musical styles. There are ample opportunities to take part in live music-making and an enticing array of concerts at venues such as Cambridge University Concert Hall.

Where could this course take me?

Most students continue to higher education, perhaps to study Music, or to a Music Conservatoire to specialise in an instrument, voice, or composition. Many A level Music students also choose to pursue different subjects at university, but continue with music as a hobby.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/music



"The staff are so kind and they are always ready to assist you in reaching your potential."

Annelise

Music Technology

Music Technology is a creative and innovative subject that provides you with the skills needed to compose, produce and record music. You will gain an understanding of a wide range of popular musical styles and how to create them. The course is practical, with much of the work carried out at computer workstations. We aim to offer several trips and a residential study trip in Year 12. There are excellent opportunities to learn to operate a wide variety of music hardware and software, all in superb facilities, including a teaching room with a suite of computers and two recording studios. Both studios are equipped with Logic Pro X, a range of high-end hardware, and Native Instruments KOMplete.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 or Merit in Music (or similar subject title).

Option b: grade 5 Music Theory or grade 5 instrument.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Music Technology is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Music Technology offers the unique chance to develop your skills as a producer. You will have access to exceptional equipment and resources and be provided with opportunities to use them. Our Music Tech students often support recordings and live sound at college events and in the wider community.

Where could this course take me?

There are a variety of career paths for Music Technology students. Common routes include studio and live sound engineering, and some of our former students have gone on to become film score composers and video game sound designers.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
 music-technology](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/music-technology)



Performing Arts

Dance

A level Dance is intellectually stimulating, physically demanding and – most importantly – fun. The course is highly practical: you will develop your technique, expand your movement vocabulary and explore your skills through regular performance. Through analysis of professional works by the world's greatest choreographers, you will understand their techniques and apply them to your own creative work, developing confidence to become an inspired dancer and choreographer. You will also learn to write analytically, succinctly and insightfully about the processes of dance. Trips to live professional performance, workshops from visiting practitioners, and a range of exciting extra-curricular technique classes – alongside additional opportunities such as our in-house dance company – all enrich this highly practical and creative course.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 6 in Dance if studied.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Dance is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

Strong transferable skills will be nurtured, including teamwork, problem solving, creative thinking, leadership and meeting deadlines. Going to the theatre, performing and creating your own work are all key parts of the course. Developing a sense of community is important in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Where could this course take me?

A natural progression would be to study dance, choreography or musical theatre at university or vocational college. Other pathways include creative industries, analytical courses, and those that require teamwork, confidence and listening skills, such as counselling, midwifery, psychology or education.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/dance





"This course really makes you appreciate the genius, art and importance of drama. If you're passionate about theatre, I'd highly recommend it!"

Phoebe

Drama and Theatre

Drama encompasses all human experience. As the world becomes more complex, our need to understand ourselves through the mirror of stage or screen becomes ever more urgent. Through Drama, you will develop intellectually, artistically and socially, as you explore ethical issues in a way designed both to entertain and to make your audience think, challenge and question. In Drama, you will explore everything that goes into making great theatre, from text and performance to technical elements and design. You will study superb plays by brilliant playwrights and perform them alongside your own devised work. You will explore the work of the most influential directors of the modern age, supported by a dynamic programme of theatre trips and professional workshops.

Entry requirements

- 1. Subject:** GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 6 in Drama if studied.
- 2. Admissions score:** The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Drama is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

It's the many opportunities to experience and create live performance that make this course so dynamic. You'll be part of a community of more than 150 drama devotees, creating up to 10 shows a year, seeing up to 10 professional performances, staging your set texts and participating in exciting extra classes in improvisation, screen acting and physical theatre.

Where could this course take me?

Former Hills Road Drama students have formed more than 30 professional drama companies, and attended all of the top drama schools – RADA, Central, Rose Bruford – in addition to top universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Bristol, Exeter and Birmingham. They are now appearing on TV, in film and in professional theatre venues around the globe.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/drama-theatre



Physical Education

Physical Education

Are you interested in human biology, biomechanics, sports psychology, nutrition, skill acquisition and sports commercialisation? A level PE will provide you with a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Whether you aspire to work within the sports sector or are looking for a varied, challenging and fun third subject, PE represents the first step towards your future career. Our students go on to study sport-related courses at some of the UK's leading universities.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 6 or Merit in PE (or similar subject title) and grade 6 in Mathematics or grade 6 in one Science.

Option b: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, grade 6 in Mathematics or in one Science, and grade 4 in PE if studied.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Physical Education is 58.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

The sheer range of topics you will cover is one of the distinctive aspects of this course. They include anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, sport psychology, skill acquisition and history of sport. Additionally, the first-class resources and support on offer enables PE students to progress and exceed their potential.

Where could this course take me?

Career pathways of PE students include physiotherapy, journalism, osteopathy, sports marketing, medicine and veterinary science. Hills Road PE students have progressed onto a diverse range of other career paths including politics, chemistry, law, corporate management and the civil service.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/physical-education





"English is my second language and the teachers are amazing; they help to explain things clearly to me."

Nastya

Psychology

Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and experience. This stimulating subject combines fascinating content with a rigorous scientific approach to investigation. A broad range of topics are covered, from discovering why we are more likely to obey those in uniform, to the multifaceted approach of explaining and treating schizophrenia, as well as explanations for criminal behaviour. Through studying the biological structure of the brain, you will also discover what happens when the brain is damaged and how it repairs itself. Psychology continues to grow in popularity at both A level and undergraduate study, with an average 25 percent of Hills Road Psychology students continuing with the subject at degree level.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature, and grade 6 in Mathematics or one Science.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Psychology is 58.

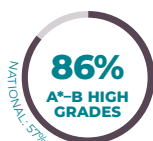
What opportunities are unique to this course?

Psychology, for many, offers a new science subject focused on the working of the human mind. You will develop your research skills through carrying out psychological investigations and – using statistical analyses – come to informed conclusions about your findings. Alongside this you will develop an ability to formulate a written argument by critically evaluating and comparing research.

Where could this course take me?

Psychology is a very useful basis for a psychology or related degree, leading many students to neuroscience, clinical, sports or forensic psychology. It is a well-respected A level for many other further study choices and occupations, from medicine to AI advisor.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/psychology





“Psychology is so interesting and I love how it has direct applications to my own life.”

Mathilde

Sciences

Biology

If you enjoy Biology at GCSE and you want to know even more about how life does what it does, and why life is the way it is, then A level Biology is for you. We'll explore molecules, cells, organs, organisms and ecosystems, as well as central concepts such as how structure relates to function, evolution and inheritance. Biologists will play an important role if we are to overcome some of the great challenges of our time, such as climate change, food and water security, antibiotic resistance, and how to live more healthily for longer. If you want to be part of finding solutions to these challenges, then choosing A-level Biology may be your first step to saving the world!

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 7 in Biology and grade 6 in Chemistry and grade 6 in Mathematics.

Option b: GCSE grade 7 in both Combined Sciences and grade 6 in Mathematics.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Higher adjusted admissions score for Biology is 71.

What opportunities are unique to this course?

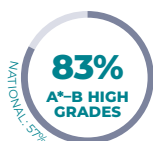
A weekly visiting speakers' programme lets you hear from a wide range of scientists, from Nobel laureates to early career scientists. In addition, there are opportunities to engage with the local scientific community through visits, masterclasses and Big Biology Day. We also build our own community through student-led societies such as BioSoc, MedSoc, VetSoc and the Environment Society.

Where could this course take me?

A level Biology provides a strong foundation for further study and a career in any area of the life sciences, including medicine, plant science, ecology, environmental science, conservation, biochemistry, physiology, neuroscience, immunology, computational biology, genetics, veterinary medicine, and evolutionary biology.

Read more:

www.hillsroad.ac.uk/biology





"Biology is great and the practicals are always interesting and fun to do."

Daniel

Sciences



Chemistry

Chemistry is the study of the properties, composition and structure of substances, as well as how they interact, the transformations they undergo, and the energy changes that accompany these processes. Chemists provide many of the materials used in everyday life, and search for solutions to improve healthcare and tackle future challenges. A deeper knowledge of this fascinating subject will give you a greater understanding of the world in which you live. If you are interested in finding out about how the world around you works, and relish challenges such as recognising and explaining different patterns of behaviour, then you will enjoy Chemistry. Throughout the course, you will also carry out practical work to develop your skills and enhance your enjoyment and understanding.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 7 in Chemistry and grade 7 in Mathematics.

Option b: Grade 7 in both Combined Science GCSEs and grade 7 in Mathematics.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Higher adjusted admissions score for Chemistry is 71.

What opportunities are unique to this course?


As well as your A level, you will also be working towards the Practical Endorsement in Chemistry. You will develop competence in a wide range of practical skills and laboratory practices during the many practical assessments you complete as part of your course.

Where could this course take me?

The vast majority of students move on to higher education to study courses that are either chemistry-related (such as forensic chemistry, pharmacy, biochemistry or chemical engineering), STEM-related (such as biological sciences, physics, mathematics and engineering) or require Chemistry (for instance, medicine, dentistry or veterinary science).

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/chemistry





"I really enjoyed the non-examined assessment. The topics get more interesting and it's definitely worth doing if you want to learn about modern devices."

Rafael

Computer Science

Computer Science is an exciting and challenging subject in which you will develop valuable skills in problem-solving as well as learning how computers work. You will learn how to design and develop new software to solve problems, as well as how complex computer systems work at the hardware level. You will discover how to analyse problems, design algorithms and write programs. Some students have no previous programming experience – and we assume none – so we start from the beginning. We offer excellent support in the form of workshops and one-to-one help. We also provide strong challenges for the most able students, including Olympiads, competitions and extension opportunities.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and grade 4 in Computing or Computer Science if studied.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Higher adjusted admissions score for Computer Science is 71.

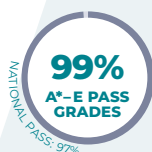
What opportunities are unique to this course?

Studying Computer Science enables you to develop your analytical thinking and problem-solving skills – all highly valued by employers and universities. Throughout the course, you will work on projects that gradually become more substantial, thus allowing you to grow into a well rounded individual capable of undertaking new challenges, both within and outside of Computer Science.

Where could this course take me?

Common career paths include software engineering, and app and web development. There are many fields that our alumni have pursued careers in, including the sciences, engineering, business and healthcare sectors. Some have also become data analysts and artificial intelligence engineers.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/computer-science



Sciences

Physics

Do you want to understand how the world around us works? Do you have an inquiring mind and enjoy solving problems? Are you interested in cutting-edge discoveries happening right now in the world? By performing experiments and collecting data, physicists deduce the fundamental laws that explain everything we see, from the expansion of the universe to the tiniest particles known in existence. At A-level, you gain an in-depth knowledge of a broad range of topics, and develop your logical thinking, problem-solving and investigative skills. These skills open doors to a world of opportunities, including a wide range of degrees such as physics, engineering, chemistry, biology and maths, together with subjects such as design, computing, medicine, economics and law.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: **Option a:** GCSE grade 7 in Physics and grade 7 in Mathematics.

Option b: Grade 7 in both Combined Science GCSEs and grade 7 in Mathematics.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Higher adjusted admissions score for Physics is 71.

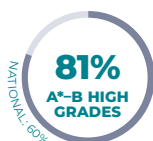
What opportunities are unique to this course?

Students can participate in several external competitions such as the Physics Olympiads and the UK Space Design Competition. We host talks from various guest speakers and organise trips to organisations such as the Diamond Light Source. Students can work with industry experts through Launchpad and Industrial Cadets, or explore university life through the Headstart taster courses.

Where could this course take me?

Perhaps a games studio, designing the next Minecraft? Or the Met Office, creating simulations to predict climate change? How about a hospital, using physics to help to save lives? With thousands of rewarding physics-related careers to choose from, picking one is hard.

Read more:
www.hillsroad.ac.uk/physics





***“Doing Physics at Hills
is the best decision
I have ever made.”***

Carolina

Sociology

Sociology

Sociology is essential for understanding today's interconnected yet unequal world. Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way that it does, and they examine issues of social injustice. They conduct research into and evaluate the extent to which behaviour and opportunities can be shaped or limited by class, age, gender, sexuality and race. You will study six key topics: education, family, theory, methods, beliefs/religion and crime. This is an essay-based subject and the final assessment takes the form of three two-hour exams. Throughout the course you will be assessed in class by a range of different essays.

Entry requirements

1. Subject: GCSE grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

2. Admissions score: The indicative Minimum Entry admissions score for Sociology is 58.

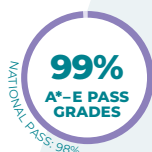
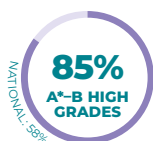
What opportunities are unique to this course?

Sociology offers a unique opportunity to really examine the life chances of different groups in society, and you will leave the course with a much better understanding of the political landscape of Britain. You will also learn valuable essay-writing skills, including evaluation and analysis.

Where could this course take me?

The courses and employment that our students embark on after studying Sociology are incredibly diverse, from law and politics to midwifery and medicine. Understanding the social make-up of society is essential to many different courses and career paths.

Read more:
[www.hillsroad.ac.uk/
sociology](http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/sociology)





*"I have never enjoyed
a subject more than
Sociology at Hills."*

Robyn

Collect your subject stickers

During our Open Event, grab a sticker from each subject department and scan the QR code to find out more information about each A level from our virtual subject leaflets!

Subject sticker to go here

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