

Parkwood

6th form

A-LEVEL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Welcome

At Parkwood we are rightly proud of our student's achievements. We offer Advanced Level courses in a wide range of curriculum areas which we feel provide students with the requisite independent learning skills and comprehensive knowledge to set them on their way to a successful future in further education or in the workplace.

Whether our students decide to move forward in the world of education by applying to university or selecting an alternative pathway for themselves, we pride ourselves on the bespoke care, advice and guidance we afford each and every one of them. Offers from universities are already flooding in for our year 13 students who aspire to the life of an undergraduate in subjects as diverse as civil engineering, animal conservation and biodiversity, exercise nutrition and health, the performing arts, government and history, mathematics and medicine. Our appeal to students who seek uncompromising quality of teaching and pastoral support is clear; high expectations balanced with the human touch.

Many of our students have been keen to maintain contact with us as they pursue their studies all over the country and beyond. So, who better to give you an idea of what studying at Parkwood can lead to than some of our current students and those who have gone on to experience the excitement and challenges of university life.

Parkwood 6th Form - A Level Centre of Excellence



I hope to get a Masters degree in Chemistry

I'm studying Chemistry at the University of Southampton. It's a 4 year course where year 3 is spent on an assessed UK industry placement and at the end of the 4th year I'll receive a Masters degree (if I do well that is).

The course is very well structured and really good fun, things you once read about in books you now do yourself and machines that cost from £50,000 to £500,000 are there for you to use. (Apparently there is some £7,000 000 equipment but we are not allowed near it for now!)

Career plans are very broad since having a chemistry degree opens a lot of doors in very many different fields; from laboratory (beauty, pharmaceuticals etc) to teaching to chemical law, nutrition, art restoration, food chemistry (dyes etc), fuels, environmental science.

Personally, I will apply for Graduate Entry Medicine degree

after I have finished my chemistry masters.

6th Form helped me a lot by providing me with the correct A-levels but also with support all the way through from the teachers. Every resource was available to me and every exam I was prepared for. Of course A-level and especially degree level is about personal research but I think the level of teaching and help with the personal work was excellent in preparing me for the harsh reality of reading and referencing 20 books that uni expects you to be able to do.

I would say going to university was one of the best decisions I ever made and 6th Form undeniably offered the best support they could.

Liisa Niitsoo
University of Southampton



A Family environment

Clare Bambrugh
Parkwood 6th Form



I went to Claverham Community College, moving on from secondary school to a 6th Form can be difficult but Parkwood 6th Form is a completely different environment to any other college. I had a first hand experience by going to another college for a week but for me it was too large and a little impersonal. When I came to Parkwood I found the smaller environment better to learn in and it felt more like a family. All the staff and students here are very welcoming and everybody fits in well.

I am studying English Literature, Modern History and BTEC National Diploma in Children's Care Learning and Development. The 6th form has helped support me in my ambition to become a primary school teacher. Any help that I have needed with exams, work or my personal statement for UCAS they have given. So I am one step closer to reaching my goal of going to university.

Parkwood 6th Form is a friendly environment where everyone can learn easily. I am glad that I came to Parkwood, I have gained many close friends, the experience has been unforgettable and I love it here.

Friends from all over the world!



I'm studying History at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

The range of History available to study is fantastic; I can choose anything from Ancient History right through to recent History which makes studying at degree level far more interesting because I can choose what I'd like to study.

I would definitely recommend going to university because of the level of studying and the way that it's structured around the individual and what they choose to learn. I'm still undecided what I'd like to do career-wise but I hope to get some work experience throughout the year to help me get more of an idea.

I've met loads of people from all over the country and all over the world on my course which has been great. Making new friends and the social side of university has been one of the best things about it, everyone's really friendly and welcoming.

Grace Dennis
University of Kent, Canterbury

New York, New York...

by Tom Hagues, Parkwood Student

Most people would find it a chore to wake up and meet Uncle Bumble in a dark, cold car park at 5 o'clock in the morning, but due to the circumstances, we saw it as the start of what would hopefully be a fantastically fun half term week in New York City.

It was a big College trip - so naturally there was a rather significant problem right at the start - not all of the bags could fit in the coach taking us to the airport. But with a bit of shuffling and jiggling around, we all drove off with faces pressed against windows and sitting on each others' laps with suitcases balanced here there and everywhere. Upon arriving at the airport, it was smooth running. We boarded the plane and in the blink of an eye, we were landing in America. We knew we were in America because we had to hand over our fingerprints and endure a vigorous question and answer routine - vigorous enough to give Jerry several hernias.

Our first view of Manhattan was from the motorway - or 'freeway' - as we approached New York City, it was a pretty incredible sight. Hotel Edison, the much needed place of resting, right in the heart of Times Square which we would call home for the next few days was... fine. Times Square, however, was far from being just 'fine'. It was magnificent. The lights, the thousands of people, the shops and the restaurants all added to the atmosphere.

Our first full and proper day in New York consisted of sailing past the Statue of Liberty, whilst on a Wall Street tour, and visiting Southstreet Seaport in the evening, where many of us purchased designer attire at extortionate prices. Day two took us around the Rockefeller centre where we learnt about its history and other various nuggets of informative gold. The third day started with a breakfast at Mustang Harry's, which was next door to Mustang Sally's. The breakfast was lovely jubbly, and we then went on to follow an energetic and fun-to-watch man bounce his way around Macy's. This, again, was fun, but for many, the shopping afterwards was better. A lesson was learnt by many while shopping in Macy's, due to the fact that as soon as one placed one's hands on an item of clothing, a big, brash American sales person rips it from your grasp, whisks it off to the counter and mentally forces you to hand over large piles of money. This, we learnt from the Macy's tour-guide, is a "very useful selling technique". That it is, that it is.

Leaving Macy's with arms stuffed full of goods, we



headed onwards and upwards - literally. Standing on the 86th floor of the Empire State Building gives you the most wonderful panoramic view of Manhattan and the surrounding areas. Back down a few floors, we traipsed through the gift shop (not being able to make any purchases because we had gambled our money away in Macy's). In the evening, after this fine day, we were enrolled with free time. Some did more shopping, others went sightseeing, some to see a Broadway show, and many other people went to the cinema. American cinemas are, in short, fantastic. Big soft seats, great big screens, and a completely interactive audience. Watching the film 'Red', I could not count on two hands the amount of times one of the New Yorkers in the cinema clapped, laughed hysterically loudly or gave Helen Mirren a celebratory "woo!". It was a great experience. Our final day ended with a trip to Central Park, a peaceful and tranquil place.

It seemed that the week had just flown by, it was incredible how much we had done in such a short space of time. The flight home was quick and easy, and before we knew it, we were rolling into the College car-park.

Everyone said that they thoroughly enjoyed the trip, it really was a remember-for-a-lifetime-trip. Thank you to Greenie, Mother Hen, Uncle Bumble and Scotty for ensuring that we had a tip-top time.

Argentina, Peru, Colombia or Chile?

Suzu Grayburn, Liverpool University



I studied Spanish, History and English Literature A Levels, at Parkwood, having done my GCSEs at Claverham.

I was so pleased to get into my first choice university in September - Liverpool University to study History and Hispanic Studies. The course is great - the history we can study is varied - and there is so much choice. In Hispanic Studies there is the opportunity to study a wide range of aspects of Spanish culture as well as improving my language skills. The fantastic thing about a languages course, apart from the skills you gain, is that you have a year abroad studying in a university in either Spain or South America. I cannot decide between Argentina, Peru, Colombia or Chile.

The social side of university has been great too: I am learning to sail, have joined the juggling and film club and there is so much to do in the city itself. I have already found good friends to share a house with next year, although being in halls for this year gave a sense of security after leaving home for the first time.

My time at Parkwood helped me with the jump to university in terms of getting me organised and becoming more independent. I did the Extended Project alongside my A Levels on How Hastings is presented in the Media and this really helped develop my time management, independent research and report writing skills, which has been invaluable.



Why I love being at Cambridge

Being an undergraduate is challenging

...and at times stressful, but always extremely enjoyable. Our terms are short (8 weeks of lectures) so the learning is intense but very rewarding and because of the supervision system - where 2 or 3 students get weekly tuition on different topics with a Doctor or Professor - we get a lot of individual teaching.

The most impressive thing is the range of facilities and societies available to you. I have joined my college rowing club and got taught how to row last year and rowed for my college first boat this year. Between the college and the whole university there is the chance to try out any sport you can think of and be a part of drama clubs, orchestras, choirs, jazz groups and many other societies. For example there

is a play on basically every day at the ADC theatre produced by Cambridge students!

I have found that the Cambridge stereotype - whatever that really is - isn't true at all. Everyone at my college is very friendly and they all work hard but enjoy going out and having fun. A bonus of the collegiate systems is that we get to go to other colleges for a formal dinner on what is known as a "swap" and meet some new people.

Cambridge provides me with world class education in a beautiful environment, full of opportunity to do whatever you want to do, and that is why I love being an undergraduate there.

Laurence Bargery
Queens' College, Cambridge

Uni is Sweet

I'm studying History & Drama and Theatre Studies at the University of Kent, in Canterbury. The two contrasting subjects work really well to change up your days and give you variety - I would recommend it!

Kent University is pretty sweet, massive campus with literally the chance to do anything you're interested in, and loads of people with similar tastes - no matter how weird you think your tastes are! It's generally an exciting atmosphere and every night there are things happening, there is a choice of places to go and people are always having a good laugh. The independence you gain is unbeatable, and the doors you open through the people you meet is essential - it is so easy to make good friends.

The step up from A levels is not as big as people would fear and



going to university should be considered a reality for everyone. The teachers from 6th form can't be thanked enough, Malcolm Day especially for me personally. Their enthusiasm and encouragement makes the difference in a successful university application and I felt like everyone genuinely cared about my future.

Sam Woodhams
University of Kent

Apply to
Parkwood
6th form

A-LEVEL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

if you are...

...an achiever ...ambitious ...thinking about A Levels

APPLICATION
DEADLINE
January 31st

PASS RATE AT A2
99.4%

A warm welcome awaits students from ALL areas
The Hastings and Rother A Level Centre of Excellence

At Parkwood
you will receive
excellent individual guidance
to reach your full potential

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