



**LARKMEAD
SIXTH FORM**
THE RIGHT CHOICE
FOR YOUR FUTURE

WHAT DO OUR SIXTH FORMERS PAST AND PRESENT SAY?

“

I will look back on Larkmead as a place that not only helped me to develop academically but also mentally and prepared me for my next step in life.

”

“

I have genuinely never felt so supported in my studies and development as a person. The combination of a uniquely connected student-teacher relationship and a constant productive, friendly and sociable atmosphere really makes the Sixth Form an exciting place you want to be in.

”

“

Morale is always high in our Sixth Form, a direct result of the diverse and vibrant group of passionate students that we feel embodies the school motto- **‘One community, individual minds, creating futures’.**

”

“

Larkmead Sixth Form has provided me with innumerable opportunities, both in and out of school. From singing in the amazing Coventry Cathedral to going to see our set plays in English Literature performed live, the extra-curricular activities are what really set Larkmead apart. The opportunity to partake in activities that supplement my A Level studies has really helped me find interest in my subjects. On top of all this, the teacher commitment, level of teaching and support available really allowed me to thrive and grow as a person.

”

“

Larkmead Sixth Form is definitely hard work and requires perseverance, but the experiences and opportunities it gives you are invaluable. On top of this, the teachers are constantly pushing you to do your best and are always ready to help you with anything and support you whenever you might need it.

”

“

The opportunity to spend time with lower years is something Larkmead encourages, whether it's a reading project or peer mentor support. Overall it was an incredible experience and really helped all of us to engage with the future community of Larkmead and be able to motivate them to really make the most of their time here. Seeing the Year 7's enjoy their life and thrive at Larkmead really highlighted to me how far I have come at this school and how none of it would have been possible without the incredible community of teachers and students.

”

“

Larkmead 6th form is welcoming, fun and has excellent teaching. The staff care about each student personally and give up so much of their time to ensure that we, as students, are always prioritised. During my time, teaching staff would always find time to answer questions and bring the best out of me. There is a perfect balance of intensity and fun, allowing for a learning environment that ensures individuals feel at ease whilst also developing themselves.

”

“

The progress I have made, jobs I have secured and person I am is without doubt because of Larkmead 6th form and I would recommend it to everyone I could.

”



Larkmead Sixth Form – the right choice for your future

Larkmead Sixth Form embodies the values of our ambitious, happy and successful school.

Students thrive as part of '**one community**', with great friendships as part of a truly comprehensive Sixth Form. Our new Common Room provides a great social area for you to recharge between lessons and study, be with your friends and enjoy the special Sixth Form atmosphere. Your tutor group and House foster that sense of community and togetherness, and you will benefit from opportunities to work with other students across our school, inspiring them and learning from them at the same time.

The Sixth Form exemplifies our principle of '**individual minds**'. We value every student and what they bring to our school. Whether you are continuing your studies with us or joining us from another school, at Larkmead you are known, cared for and supported to follow the right path to enable you to achieve your ambitions. You will find like-minded friends and the place to shine. As well as our consistent core programmes we adapt to get the best for and from you. This individual approach runs through our fantastic pastoral care and the extra opportunities you will enjoy.

The outstanding value-added results that students achieve show just how much progress every individual makes at Larkmead.

At Larkmead you are part of a team with a great track record of '**creating futures**'. A Level lessons at Larkmead are all taught by specialist teachers who will work tirelessly to support and encourage you. Duke of Edinburgh Gold, the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), work experience and a rich range of extra opportunities will develop your character, your CV and your confidence. Larkmead's award-winning careers service is a very special feature of our school, helping you to achieve your goals.

As the Larkmead Promise says:

Larkmead's vibrant Sixth Form is an inspiring pathway to success. You will make the most of our specialist study facilities and enjoy time with friends in our renovated Sixth Form social centre. You will benefit from the pastoral care, high expectations, wider enrichment and dedicated teaching that achieves outstanding value-added results. You will take a lead in school and in collaboration with our wider partnerships. You will move on from Larkmead to university, apprenticeship or employment with great qualifications, great friends and great memories, ready to meet your next challenge and enjoy the opportunities ahead of you.



What makes Larkmead Sixth Form the right choice for you?

- You can access a broad range of A Level courses to help you achieve your ambitions.
- Our established track record of success means that you will enjoy your learning, develop new skills and knowledge and be ready for the next stage in your life.
- Great teaching by specialist teachers in every subject helps Larkmead students achieve consistently impressive value-added score places us in at least the top 15% of A Level providers across the country.
- Our A Level mind-set and study skills programme supports that transition into Sixth Form.
- As well as A Level subjects you can follow the blended offer of technical qualifications with Abingdon and Witney College.
- Students progress to Oxford and Cambridge, Russell Group Universities and to specialist courses at Art, Design & Technology, Drama and Performing Arts colleges, amongst many others.
- Students also secure advanced apprenticeships across many sectors, including BMW, Civil Service, Microsoft, The National Grid, SSE, Thames Water, UKAEA Harwell.
- Higher Education Statistics Agency shows that Larkmead students achieve more First Class and 2.1 Honours Degree, and that more Larkmead students move into higher earning jobs 6 months after graduation than the UK average.
- You can study the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which gives you the chance to explore one of your passions in further detail and earn additional points for university application.
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold provides memorable experiences as you tackle challenges, make a great contribution to your community and enjoy working with others.
- You will have the support of our award winning careers programme, access to work experience and the chance to be part of the Young Enterprise Scheme.
- Larkmead students take part in the National Citizenship Service Programme
- Our UCAS fair, visits to universities and support with developing your personal statement and applications support your ambitions and the successful move to university.
- You will enjoy educational trips and visits as part of your courses and Sixth Form life.
- Our Personal Development Curriculum covers the topics you need to know, including finance, well-being, cooking, managing a budget, teambuilding and debating.
- You will work with other schools, including the OX14 Partnership of Abingdon School, St Helens & Radley College and King Alfred's School.
- You'll enjoy the special sixth form atmosphere and the chance to contribute to your school and wider community, developing leadership skills.
- You can continue to take part in whole school productions and other performing arts events.
- The Sixth Form Common Room, IT room and study space are all new and air conditioned facilities to help you get the best from your studies and social time.



Larkmead Sixth Form FAQs

How many subjects can I study/should I study?

Most students study 3 A Levels although some chose to study 4 subjects. You will make these choices as part of your personalised induction into Larkmead Sixth Form.

What grades do I need to join Larkmead Sixth Form?

Entry criteria at Larkmead are 5 or more GCSE's at grades 9-4, together with positive records of attendance, engagement and behaviour. Some A Level subjects have specific criteria, for example in maths and Science where you will be expected to have at least a strong grade 5 or 6. Each student is considered on an individual basis.

Can I study subjects outside of Larkmead?

Our options grid is set up so that you can pursue your subject choices at Larkmead and also study in our partner schools to help you access your preferred combination of subjects.

Do I have to have studied a subject at GCSE to take it as an A Level?

Larkmead Sixth Form offers a wide range of A Levels, including those familiar at GCSE and new opportunities. You do not have to have studied a subject at GCSE to be able to study it at A Level, although if you aim to study either music or a modern foreign language you would need to demonstrate some degree of proficiency when applying.

Do I have to study GCSE English and maths if I do not get a grade 5 in Year 11?

The regulations mean if you don't achieve a grade 4 in either English or maths in Year 11 then you have to study the subject at GCSE until you gain a grade 4. Students who don't gain a grade 5 are advised to study the GCSE, although this is not compulsory.





What opportunities are there beyond academic study?

At Larkmead Sixth Form you will enjoy a wide range of extra opportunities. These include Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, the Extended Project Qualification, educational trips and visits as well as work experience or volunteering placements.

Sixth Form students benefit from the OX14 Partnership, training as peer mental health support leads and student coaches as well as collaborating with students from Abingdon School, St Helen's & St Katherine's and Radley College. The Mock United Nations and Vale Academy Trust Parliament help you to develop as campaigners. You can develop leadership through the Senior Team, House system and supporting our school clubs. Larkmead Sixth Form is very sociable, with a well-equipped Common Room, sports fixtures, Sixth Form Panto and social events such as Balls twice a year.

Will I still have a tutor and access to pastoral care?

At Larkmead Sixth Form you are valued and nurtured as an individual. Pastoral care and attention are a key part of that experience. All students have a personal tutor who is responsible for your personal development and welfare, providing support, encouragement and guidance. Our highly experienced Head of Sixth Form oversees your progress and success to help you make the most of life at Larkmead. Other support networks such as the school nurse are also available.




If I have extra time or other access arrangements for my GCSE exams, will I still get these in the sixth form?

Sixth Form students continue to access our Learning Support Department for support on transition and over their two years. If you had access arrangements in the past it is most likely that these will continue, supported by our exams officers and SENCo.

What do students typically do after A Levels?

Our university preparation programme and award-winning careers service support you in achieving the next stage of your ambitions. Larkmead students progress into higher education or higher-level apprenticeships, further education or employment.





What support can I access to help me prepare for Oxbridge university applications?

You will access individualised support from our experienced team in applying for all universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Active links with our partner college at Oxford University, our UCAS fair and university visits support you in your ambitions, nurturing confidence and providing practical advice. This programme is supported by the OX14 Partnership, with specialist masterclasses including medicine, law and the sciences, as well as sessions on university interviews and Oxbridge applications.



What support is there if I plan to take a different route from university?

Larkmead careers service provides fantastic levels of support as you prepare for your future. Work experience or volunteering placements will help you further develop your skills and confidence. You can attend a number of career events to support your progression to apprenticeship or other employment, with specialist, individualised guidance from our Careers Coordinator. You can even become one of our Careers Champions, developing your skills and experiences while supporting other students.





Larkmead School
Faringdon Road
Abingdon
Oxfordshire OX14 1RF

Tel 01235 520141
Email office.4125@larkmead.vale-academy.org

www.larkmead-school.com