



The College

The Sixth Form College, Farnborough is an outstanding Ofsted rated specialist Sixth Form College, providing mainly academic education for 16-18 year olds, with some level 3 vocational subjects. Based in Farnborough, Hampshire, the college is part of the Prospect Trust which is a Multi Academy Trust and attracts students from over 200 secondary schools across North East Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey. There are approximately 4,000 students enrolled at the College where they can choose from 32 'A' level and 14 Vocational subjects. Alongside this they have excellent pastoral support and all students complete the award winning Prospects Diploma careers education programme.

At The Sixth Form College, Farnborough

The Sixth Form College, Farnborough is a lively and purposeful place which offers a range of options and opportunities. It is an ambitious college, with high aspirations for students and ourselves; it provides a big space in which its students can grow tall. The College wants its students to develop themselves so they feel ready to meet the demands of a changing world with confidence. Transferable skills are developed by the Prospects Diploma which helps students to identify, develop and log their employability skills. They do this via work experience, volunteering and enrichment.

The College is inclusive and does not operate a highly selective and restrictive admissions policy and entry criteria.

Mission Statement and Values

The College's mission is:

"To be a distinguished provider of the highest quality education, enriching the lives of all students within a lively, caring community and enabling all to develop the skills to meet the demands of a changing world with confidence."

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The College has held the national **Quality in Careers Standard** for the last 15 years, most recently being successful in achieving re-accreditation in February 2022. For the College, achieving the **Standard** is national recognition of the high quality, independent, impartial, advice and guidance services that it provides to all of its students. The rigorous process allows the College to review its careers programme every 3 years. This enables the College to reflect upon and highlight new initiatives and developments that have been added as well as taking time to identify any potential gaps that need addressing.

The College strives for excellence in all that it does and the Head of CEIAG says:

*“We constantly ask ourselves “How are we doing and what can we do better?” It’s important that we provide a service that is relevant, up to date and comprehensive to meet the needs of our students. We’re currently achieving 100% on all of the Gatsby Benchmarks and the **Standard’s** alignment to the Benchmarks was particularly helpful.”*

Below are extracts from the recent (2022) successful **Quality in Careers Standard** assessment report:

“The Head of CEIAG leads a team of fully qualified careers advisers who provide 1:1 careers guidance interviews to students at the College and who also work in local secondary schools. The Careers Education programme is delivered by tutors during tutor time, as part of the Prospects Diploma. There is a comprehensive work-related learning programme, which includes work experience for all students in Year 12”.

“Strengths: *There are many areas of excellent practice at the College, including:*

- *Strong Senior Management and Governor support and a whole college approach to CEIAG.*
- *An experienced and committed Head of CEIAG, who is herself a fully qualified careers adviser, and who leads a team of other careers advisers to provide a comprehensive careers guidance programme. She and her team work closely with other members of staff to raise the profile of careers across the College and provide support as required.*
- *The Prospects Diploma, through which students can work towards bronze, silver and gold levels and includes the careers education programme and access to careers and labour market information.*
- *A well-organised work experience programme for all students in Year 12 and work-related learning events that are built into the annual College calendar (e.g. the Moving On Day and the TEA Fair)”*

“Learning from career and labour market information: *Extensive evidence was provided to demonstrate that all students have access to up to date career and labour market information*

about career pathways covering the full range of opportunities in education, training, and employment. This included:

- The TEA Fair and Moving On Day
- LMI Careers Pathway tool
- Displays within curriculum areas
- During careers education lessons (as part of the Prospects Diploma)
- LMI information within the weekly Careers Newsletter
- On the Careers page of the student Study Directory
- As part of work experience
- During 1:1 careers guidance interviews

Parents and carers can also access information via the College website and Careers Newsletters”.

“Addressing the needs of each student: Students' stereotypical thinking and low aspirations are challenged on an ongoing basis, during 1:1 careers guidance interviews, within curriculum areas, during tutorials and as part of specific programmes (such as 'Stretch and Challenge' and 'Aspire'). Lessons on equality and diversity, and stereotyping, are included within the Prospects Diploma, as part of careers education.”

“Linking curriculum learning to careers: Extensive evidence was provided to show that careers education is embedded within all areas of the curriculum, to a high standard. This included:

- A cross-curricular audit, carried out by the Head of CEIAG once a year
- Noticeboards showing careers linked to specific subject areas (e.g. Accounting)
- Employability skills linked to curriculum areas displayed (e.g. Chemistry)
- Chat rooms to enable the team of careers advisers to share CEIAG information with teaching staff
- The ENTHUSE Partnership, set up to raise awareness of careers linked to STEM subjects, which includes the College, 4 secondary schools, 2 primary schools and a representative from industry”.

“Experiences of Workplaces: The highly experienced Work Experience Lead works closely with the Careers Team and two support staff to deliver a well-established, comprehensive work experience programme for Year 12 students. All students must record a minimum of 37 hours work experience during their two years at College, which can be a mix of virtual and face-to-face. Virtual placements can be accessed through the recently purchased Springpod system. The College has now moved from a paper based application process to a platform called 'GROFAR'. All placements have Health and Safety checks from the work experience team, who are fully qualified to do so”.

“Encounters with employers and employees: All students have the opportunity to have at least two meaningful encounters with employers/employees during their study programme through a range of activities and events, which include:

- The TEA Fair (Training, Employment and Apprenticeship Fair), an annual event attended by local and national employers, around the time of National Apprenticeship Week. During Covid, it still went ahead as a virtual event, in 2020.

- *The Moving On Day – an annual progression event for Year 12 students, to help them to decide upon Post-18 options. It includes a careers exhibition and speakers.*
- *Subject teachers also invite speakers from business and industry into lessons and a cross-curricular audit has been carried out by the Careers Team to get an overview of how this is working.*
- *The Springpod Virtual Programme was purchased by the College during Covid to support students, and this included an employability module”.*

“Personal Guidance: *All students have the opportunity to have a 1:1 careers guidance interview with a fully qualified Careers Adviser. They are made aware of this entitlement by watching a video produced by the Careers Team (in tutorials), through the weekly Careers Newsletter, via the College website and by displays in tutor rooms and curriculum areas. All of the 4 Careers Advisers hold the level 6 qualification in IAG and are members of the CDI (Careers Development Institute)”.*

“Destinations: *The Destination Report 2020 was included within the evidence and is shared with governors and a wider audience (e.g. at College open days). The top 30 universities that students go on to attend are recorded each year and shared with staff and students. There is a map showing this information in the Careers department. More than two thirds of students go on to Higher Education, but more are starting to consider Higher and Degree Apprenticeships”.*

“Evaluation: *The CEIAG programme is evaluated annually with key staff, senior managers and governors and on an ongoing basis. The Compass self-assessment tool has been used very effectively to monitor progress against the achievement of the Gatsby Benchmarks. The College has achieved 100% for each of the 8 Benchmarks”.*

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February 2023