

The Ilfracombe Church of England Academy

SIXTH

The Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form Prospectus



OUR ALUMNI - LUCY

"I graduated from The Ilfracombe Academy in 2023 and started a degree in veterinary medicine at Liverpool University. A slight change in scene, you could say, but being at Liverpool has been brilliant so far, as a location as well as a university.

Studying veterinary medicine has involved placements all over the country, from working on a stud yard in Suffolk to looking after dairy calves in Wiltshire. During the degree I have learnt a huge amount about animal anatomy, physiology and husbandry, but also had loads of fun doing it. I am super grateful to Ilfracombe for helping me get here and look forward to looking after the cows of North Devon when I graduate!"





Welcome to The Ilfracombe Church of England Academy and Sixth Form. We are committed to serving our community and providing an education filled with success, enjoyment, positivity and ambition.

As an 11–18 Church school serving Ilfracombe and the surrounding areas, our Christian values underpin our vision: "learning together for life in all its fullness." These values guide our decisions and relationships with students and staff.

We believe every child deserves an exceptional education, regardless of background. Our 16–19 Bursary helps remove barriers to learning, while our Sixth Form students achieve excellent grades and secure places at their first-choice universities.

We are proud of our warm, friendly school community and our strong GCSE and A-Level results, which place us among Devon's top-performing schools. We aim to help every student succeed in a positive, supportive environment where they can dream big and make the most of every opportunity.

Students enjoy a wide range of experiences, including residential trips, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Ten Tors and sporting fixtures. Our Music and Drama departments also deliver outstanding productions and concerts, celebrating individual talent and teamwork.

We warmly invite you to visit the Academy and experience our excellent teaching, enriching opportunities and dedicated staff. Our students are welcoming, friendly and engaged, and we look forward to meeting you. Prospective students and parents are welcome to visit at any time.

Mr Steve Rogers - Headteacher



At Ilfracombe Sixth Form we offer exceptional learning opportunities that lead to successful futures. We encourage students to aim high, work hard and be kind. This is the best job that I can imagine – it is so rewarding to help students find their purpose, discover their next steps and then achieve the results that will get them there. We are going from strength to strength and our ex-students go on to succeed in the full breadth of industry, academia and employment.

Nick Beesly - Head of Sixth Form



Pastoral Support

Student Support is at the heart of our approach, and we know that Level 3 academic studies are tough.

We aim to ensure that students feel safe, secure and happy and we do this by making sure that they are individually known and cared for; our size and set-up allow this to be done well. Each student has a Tutor, Head of Year, Pastoral Co-ordinator and Study Support Supervisor.

Support Areas:
- Safeguarding
- Attendance
- Wellbeing
- Academic
- Super-curricular
- Careers
- UCAS
- Work experience


“I gained the confidence, motivation and discipline required to pursue a creative pathway at University”
OUR ALUMNI - CHRISTOPHER

Meet our experts

Our students learn from experienced professionals who bring real industry knowledge, passion and expertise into every lesson. From accomplished teachers to visiting specialists and guest speakers, you'll benefit from insights that go beyond the classroom, helping you develop the skills, confidence and connections needed to succeed at university, in apprenticeships and in your future career.



Ed Liddon – A Level Physics Teacher

I hold a First-Class MSc in physics from the University of Exeter, where my studies fuelled a lifelong passion for the subject. I thoroughly enjoy teaching the challenging concepts of physics that govern our universe, such as nuclear and particle physics.

Outside the classroom, I am a keen football fan, both playing and watching the game, and an enthusiastic gamer.



Zoe Bullamore – Sociology Teacher

I hold a BSc (Hons) in sociology, which incorporates strong elements of psychology and behavioural sciences, this provides a strong academic foundation for my teaching of sociology.

I enjoy teaching A Level because it provides the opportunity to explore subjects in greater depth and encourage independent, critical thinking. I like creating an environment where ideas are explored, opinions are valued, and every student is encouraged to achieve their best.



Tim Baker – Music Teacher

I hold a Masters in music from the Royal Northern College of Music. I love teaching A Level music because it gives students the opportunity to explore the breadth and depth of academic musical study while also developing their own performance skills and pursuing their individual musical interests.



Bill Bright – BTEC Level 3 Sport Teacher

Before teaching, I worked as a lead trainer and personal trainer in a private health club. Outside of school, I enjoy reading, staying active through running and the gym, following rugby, and spending time with my family on North Devon's beaches.

What I love about teaching Level 3 Sport is the passion of our Sixth Form students for the subject. It is also the closest I get as a secondary school teacher to covering undergraduate level content which is brilliant.



Young Enterprise stall



Ocean Bloom jewellery



The Village - How it started

Young Enterprise – Turn Your Ideas Into Reality

For over 10 years, our Young Enterprise programme has given Sixth Form students the opportunity to experience the excitement of running their own business. With our teams reaching the National Finals on three occasions and winning countless awards along the way, our students have a proud history of innovation, teamwork and success.

Young Enterprise is about much more than business. Students develop valuable skills in leadership, communication, problem solving, creativity and financial management; all of which help prepare them for university, apprenticeships and future careers. From developing an initial idea to launching a product or service, students gain real-world experience, build confidence and discover their potential.

It's also a fantastic way to meet new people, make lasting friendships and become part of something exciting in Sixth Form. Whether you're an aspiring entrepreneur or simply keen to try something new, Young Enterprise offers the chance to challenge yourself, work as a team and turn your ideas into reality.

'The Village' Sixth Form Community

Our students started their after-school study group in December 2024. It grew gradually as the founders, jokingly called the 'village elders', set the tone and modelled great study habits. By Easter almost half the cohort were working most evenings from 4-6pm on top of the normal school day and with the help of cake and tea, these habits have embedded to create an increasingly academic culture; regular 'villagers' have been some of strongest performers in the summer results.



OUR ALUMNI - JAMIE

"I grew up in Combe Martin and graduated from The Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form in 2013 with A*s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths, and Art. I went on to study medicine at the University of Birmingham, graduating in 2019 with MBChB (hons) and BMedSci (hons). During my studies I also completed a marathon, was head of graphic design for the UK's first student-run record label, and met my amazing wife, Emily.

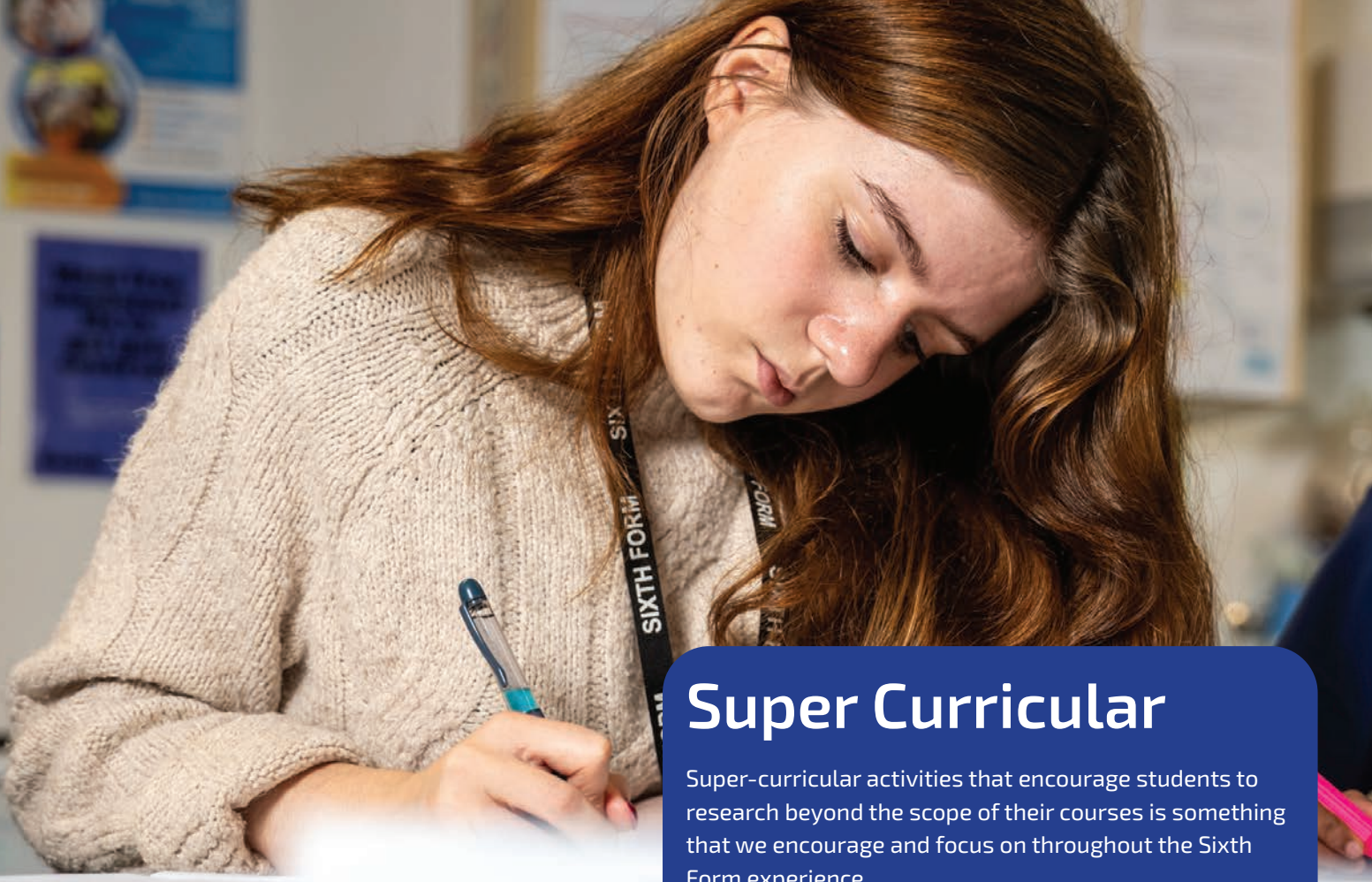
I worked as a junior doctor at Salford Royal Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Having recently passed my postgraduate medical exams I have been accepted into the Royal College of Physicians. I now work at the nationally-renowned Walton Centre, where I aim to specialise in neurology."

Student Independent Learning



Post-16 marks a significant transition for students as they prepare for university, apprenticeships, or the workplace. Students study fewer subjects compared to earlier school years, specialising in A Levels and some other Level 3 qualifications. Their subject choices usually align with their future career and/or university goals.

Period 6 is a well-established part of our timetable for Year 13 as part of our exceptional teaching offer. Students are supported to achieve independence in their learning by having study periods timetabled in our dedicated study space - the Sixth Form Library. This allows students to complete more of their work whilst they are on-site, giving them time to enjoy their free time away from Sixth Form or do paid work.



Super Curricular

Super-curricular activities that encourage students to research beyond the scope of their courses is something that we encourage and focus on throughout the Sixth Form experience.

We are developing a growing Sixth Form Library that give students the opportunity to read around both A Level courses and also popular university courses. This is particularly important for students wishing to go on to read subjects at university that are not available at A Level, from forensic investigation to zoology.

This not only helps students to develop and understanding beyond their course but may also prepare them for UCAS applications and university interviews.





Extra Curricular

We aim to offer extra-curricular experiences that broaden students' horizons and that comes in a wide variety of forms. Year 12 students have been invited each year to attend an ice-breaker event that doubles as an adventurous training opportunity when we visit the North Devon Wake Park in September each year. This helps students who have come from other schools to get to know a wider range of students from within their cohort. This is soon followed by trips to universities such as Bath or Exeter and before Christmas each term there is a Sixth Form trip to London where students always amaze us with the breadth and variety of the cultural experiences that can be seen in one day – students visit museums, art galleries, West-End shows, iconic shops and even architecturally significant buildings to name just a few.

We also enter a Young Enterprise team each year to the National competition and have reached Regional and National finals on several occasions with amazing products being produced and sold from hedgehog houses to jewellery to greetings cards infused with wild-flower seeds.

We have started annual inter-sixth form football and netball fixtures with other sixth-forms and students often play and train for these on Friday afternoons throughout the school year.

Music, theatre, art and photography all feature as part of our extra-curricular offer under a number of different guises including theatre trips, visits from the National Youth Orchestra (who scouted one of our incredible A Level musicians), a school band, local photography competitions and more.

16-19 Bursary

We are keen to promote the 16-19 Bursary and have a Bursary Fund Policy that aims to be as inclusive as possible and ensure that students from low-income households are able to sign-up to the bursary quickly and easily. Any student whose household income is less than £38,000 per year will be eligible and should apply. Any student whose household income is less than £60,000 per year can apply for a Sixth Form laptop and will be provided with one (stocks allowing).

The aim of the 16-19 Bursary is to remove barriers to education for eligible students by providing the kinds of resources that a wealthier peer would have including, but not limited to, laptops, textbooks, stationery and paid travel. Application forms are available on our website together with the Bursary Fund Policy.

Travel

Students who wish to travel to school using the school bus network will need to apply as early as possible for what is called 'a vacant seat' through Devon County Council. 16-19 Bursary students can apply to have the cost of their travel covered through the bursary.









Hear from our Students



Jack

"Sixth Form has been an extremely enjoyable experience, with excellent facilities, teaching and support helping me reach my potential. From applying to UCAS for biomedical engineering to representing the school as Head Boy, I have been supported every step of the way. The hardworking staff and students create a motivating atmosphere that encourages success. I highly recommend The Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form."



Madeleine

"Joining Ilfracombe Sixth Form was the right decision for me, providing a welcoming and supportive environment where I feel motivated to succeed. Studying biology, chemistry and geography has strengthened my interest in marine life and will help me pursue my ambition of studying marine biology at university."





Eddie

"Ilfracombe Sixth Form provides a supportive environment, with dedicated teachers who offer individual guidance and help prepare me for university. The independence and freedom encourage me to take responsibility for my learning and develop valuable skills for the future."



Ellie

"Ilfracombe Sixth Form has boosted my confidence, supported my academic progress and inspired me to study sociology at university. Opportunities such as trips to London and Poland, netball and debate club have also helped me develop valuable skills beyond the classroom."

The Ilfracombe Academy
Worth Road, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 9JB
T: 01271 863427
E: admin@ilfracombeacademy.uk



Sixth