
THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BISHOP'S CASTLE



PROSPECTUS 2026-2027

01588 638257
WWW.CCBCSHROPSHIRE.COM
ADMIN@CCBCSHROPSHIRE.COM



"The Community College is an exciting and stimulating place to learn, one that treats all students as individuals, challenges and actively supports them, and provides the widest range of educational opportunities possible. It is a safe and tolerant society, which operates on the basis of mutual respect, with high expectations of conduct, a high regard for moral courage and teamwork. It is a place that supports, and is supported by, its local community, but also seeks to develop students' understanding of the wider world, where creativity, adventure and new ideas are encouraged.

We believe the best way to prepare our young people for the future is to encourage high aspirations, help them achieve outstanding results and develop the necessary skills and attributes to be the best that they can."

The Community College
Governing Body



'TO SUCCEED, TO CARE, TO INSPIRE'

**"...GOVERNORS AT THE SCHOOL HAVE
SUITABLE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE"
OFSTED 2023**

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



We are a proud and very successful 11-16 school situated in Bishop's Castle covering a wide geographical area, with children from more than 20 English and Welsh primary schools.

The Values of the College are "To Succeed, To Care, To Inspire", they underpin everything that we do both in the classroom and across the wider aspects of the school. Our most recent Ofsted inspection confirmed the school as Good and stated that our excellent reputation for achievement and inclusion was because our staff care passionately about the well-being of our students

Excellent teaching and learning is always at the heart of everything we do. We know our students very well and provide a rich and rewarding environment in which all abilities, including the more able, are encouraged and supported to achieve their very best. This is a school that welcomes its parents and is well supported by them.

Thank you for considering our school as the place for your child to continue their education. We hope that you find this prospectus helpful and informative. All of us associated with The Community College are proud of what we have created and we would be delighted if you decided to join us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'R. Thorley'.

Reuben Thorley
Headteacher

**"...LEADERS ARE AMBITIOUS FOR ALL PUPILS IN THE SCHOOL"
OFSTED 2023**

THE SUBJECTS

"We strive to ensure that students better understand the world they're living in, to appreciate and come to love its diversity, challenge and beauty."

ENGLISH

We encourage our students to become confident, independent learners through a wide range of individual, paired and group activities. These activities are designed to assess students on the three skills areas in English: Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing. Students will:

- study a range of non-fiction and literary texts;
- develop their ability to speak and listen in a variety of different contexts including discussion, presentation and role play;
- write creatively as well as for 'real-life' contexts.



MATHEMATICS

Students will learn through practical exercises, theoretical investigations and ICT based virtual learning experiences. They will actively develop their skills to approach problems systematically, learning to choose appropriate well honed techniques.

GEOGRAPHY

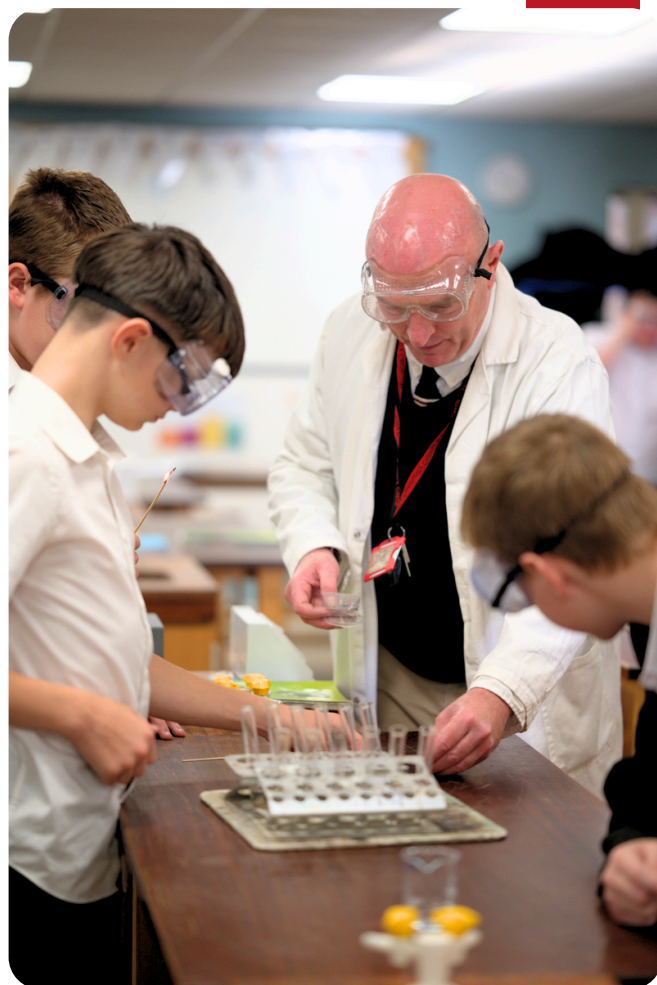
We stimulate a sense of curiosity and wonder, through the examination of a range of topics including volcanoes and earthquakes, weather and climate, population and migration, water conflict and eco-systems. Students' gain an understanding about their role as a global citizen.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We aim to help develop our students knowledge of the world's principal religious traditions and worldviews to help promote tolerance and understanding of all.

MORALS, ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY

This is delivered to all year groups, through the IAG and Enrichment programme. A philosophical approach is used to engage students, offering them the opportunity to consider for themselves the role Morals and Ethics plays in the 21st century and its place in the modern world.



ART

Art and Design provides a fantastic opportunity to foster professional practice. Students follow GCSE style projects in Key Stage 3; they are encouraged to develop ideas and creativity independently.

MUSIC

We generate an appreciation of music in all our students through the integrated activities of listening, performing and composing. Students build self esteem through being a member of one of the many instrumental or vocal ensembles.

DRAMA

Drama is a creative and challenging subject, allowing students to develop technical performance skills and to work confidently with others. Students regularly rehearse, perform and evaluate pieces of drama and are given opportunities to perform in whole school productions.

ICT

ICT is a relevant, stimulating and motivating subject that develops students skills using multimedia, real-life applications and projects which will prepare students to aspire to the demands of modern ICT technology in all aspects of life.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A challenging, practical, team-working subject area which incorporates traditional school sports such as hockey and football, plus a variety of modern sports across both key stages.

There are fun clubs available at lunch times for all abilities and after school clubs for school teams and squad training sessions. The College annual sports' day takes place in July and is the culmination of the House competitions for the year. Students benefit from having use of the SpArC leisure centre facilities during the school day.

TECHNOLOGY

Students gain practical life skills through our Food and Resistant Materials courses. They have a chance to design, make and evaluate work to meet the philosophy of finding environmentally friendly solutions to everyday problems.



HISTORY

We take students on a captivating journey through history. Students develop essential history skills to explore Medieval England and the Wider World, History of Slavery and the ramifications of its legacy, World War I and the Rise of the Third Reich, World War II, the Cold War and the makings of Modern Britain.

LANGUAGES

We develop students' French skills in an encouraging and practical way. They can also experience French life by taking part in one of our trips to France.

Students in Year 9 will have the opportunity to study German and may continue their studies to GCSE level.

SCIENCE

Science is an opportunity for all students to develop their innate curiosity through an appreciation of the extent of human knowledge, discovery and endeavour, and through application of the scientific method. We encourage learning through problem solving and discovery.



TRANSITION PROGRAMME

At The Community College we work closely with our primary school colleagues to make sure transition from primary to secondary school is as smooth as possible.

Although many primary school pupils are already regular visitors to The College, for Year 6 pupils we have a full liaison programme with the aim of providing a seamless progression for all students. This programme includes sample days and taster sessions, specialist teaching and learning projects, and visits to all primary schools by senior staff to speak to pupils and their teachers about their work. We also offer additional sessions for those pupils who might find transition more difficult than others and there is close liaison early on between our Special Educational Needs staff and primary school teachers/families.

We believe the more we know about our students and the more familiar the child is with their new surroundings, the better their start in their new school.



In the summer term we hold two formal Induction Days, where students take part in two days of learning at The College that include as broad a range of subjects as possible. On the evening of the second induction day parents/carers are invited to meet their child's Head of House.

The College continues to work closely with its primary schools. Some of the events we have held in the past have included: fortnightly lessons and tours for primary pupils; sports training and festivals; science projects; an engineering challenge; primary enrichment days.

STUDENT SUPPORT

At the Community College we have four traditional 'houses', and a vertical coaching group system. Whereas houses are particularly good at promoting competition, a vertical coaching system allows us to focus on ensuring all students are properly supported and can make outstanding progress.

Coaching groups are an excellent way of working. All other coaching groups are made up of around 27 students of varying ages whilst still treating each student as an individual by supporting, challenging and intervening as necessary.

A key part of the role of a Learning Coach is linking academic support and guidance with a thorough knowledge of each child, and coaching conversations with individuals are a regular part of their work. Learning Coaches are also a key point of contact for parents, and vice versa.

**“THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAFEGUARDING ARE EFFECTIVE”
OFSTED 2023**

The pastoral development provided to students by the Head of House and Coach is enhanced by the students support staff who provide additional interventions relating to mental health, wellbeing and behaviour. Our ELSA trained staff can work with individual students to support them through issues so that they are able to maintain engagement with their education.

**“TEACHERS WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THAT
LESSONS ARE RICH IN CONTENT”
OFSTED 2023**

ATTITUDE TO LEARNING

The College has a regular reporting system to parents which, rather than commenting on their child's behaviour, effort and homework, looks more in-depth at their engagement, curiosity, collaboration, resilience and self regulation.

These are our 'Attitudes to Learning', the criteria for which were co-constructed with our students and are unique to us. We think that if we can make sure a student's attitude to learning is right, then success will inevitably follow. Parents receive a report from each subject on these 'Attitudes to Learning' four times a year and, coupled with estimated grades and progress measures, we find these give everyone a much better understanding of how a young person is performing.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

The school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities and sports clubs/fixtures. There are also numerous day and residential visits, both home and abroad, academic and social. We believe visits are an excellent way to broaden the minds of our young people and that common experience brings all of us closer together. Be it London, France, Iceland, Tanzania, New York, Outward Bound or simply ice-skating in Telford, staff give over a huge amount of time organising and running events, and these are always well supported by students and families.



We maintain regular communication and visits to our link school in Macechu, Tanzania. Students, staff, parents and local businesses have raised funds to enable these visits to take place as well as return visits to Bishop's Castle by Tanzanian students and staff.



We also provide a fortnightly 'Enrichment' afternoon for all students. This is a wonderful part of our curriculum, when all staff and students take part in a variety of enrichment activities based around the personal development areas of Moral & Ethical, Health & Wellbeing and Environment & Community. This allows students to experience greater breadth or depth in existing parts of the curriculum or experience opportunities outside the normal curriculum. Key Stage 4 students are supported to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme during this time. Some of the enrichment activities on offer at present are:

Philosophy & Ethics, CREST Award, Debating, Young Engineers, Natural History, Girls Football, Martial Arts, DofE, Zumba, Fitness and Gardening.

ACHIEVING SUCCESS

ATTAINMENT 8 SCORE (AVERAGE GRADE ACHIEVED)	4.5
5 OR MORE GRADES 4 AND ABOVE (INCLUDING ENGLISH & MATHEMATICS)	55%
GRADE 4 AND ABOVE IN MATHEMATICS	63%
GRADE 4 AND ABOVE IN ENGLISH	76%

Students in 2026 performed well and achieved results that enabled all to access the next steps in education, employment or training that they were seeking.

We are particularly proud of the progress students make at The Community College across the full range of subjects taken.





THE CURRICULUM

At The Community College we offer students a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of individuals whilst creating the best conditions for all our students to excel and succeed to the best of their ability.

We have a highly qualified and committed team of specialist teachers and support staff who work together to the benefit of the students. Academic interventions take place throughout all year groups to support students from vulnerable groups to engage and access the curriculum.

All students study French and many students will also have the chance to study German; others will be given additional support to extend and deepen students learning by organising academic visits, external speakers and getting involved in local/national competitions.



**A BROAD AND WELL-ORGANISED CURRICULUM GIVES ALL PUPILS
OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN WELL”
OFSTED 2023**

KEY STAGE 4

In Years 10–11 we offer students further opportunities within the curriculum. Students must study English, Maths, Science, PE and IAG, but they also have a choice from a wide range of optional subjects covering both traditional academic subjects at GCSE and vocational areas such as Design and Technology, Child Development and ICT. Many students will also take a language at GCSE. A full list of the Key Stage 4 courses currently on offer is as follows:

Art & Design ~ Drama ~ English Language ~ English Literature ~ French ~ Geography
~ History ~ ICT ~ Mathematics ~ Physical Education ~ Resistant Materials ~
Combined Science (Trilogy) ~ German ~ Child Development ~ Triple Science
(Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

In Year 10, students will participate in work experience for up to 2 weeks and throughout Year 10 and 11 there are opportunities to visit different universities and other careers both in and out of school.

In our extensive programme of learning outside of the classroom, encompassing everything from visits linked to curriculum areas to residential trips which encourage confidence and independence, our curriculum offers a wide range of opportunities for every student.



STUDENT VOICE

Students help in a myriad of different ways around school, often making a significant contribution to the way the school is run and what we provide; they are an invaluable asset and accepting responsibility is great for their development.

The College Senate is our school council, led by the Head Boy and Head Girl and is made up of student leaders from Years 8 to 11. It represents the voice of students at the highest levels and plays a major role in deciding school policy. Every year the group grows in autonomy, so much so that the Headteacher is now only occasionally 'requested' to attend. The Head Boy and Head Girl are elected representatives of the student body and are the leadership for the school Prefects.

Other students are involved in fund-raising for charities: working with our primary school children; supporting as a subject specialist; undertaking eco-projects; or helping to raise money for charities. Coaching time also allows students of all ages to support each other and all younger students take a turn at being the Community Helper, assisting the Administrative Team. Our Sport Captains work closely with the PE staff and organise teams for inter-house competitions, and our Health Champions have conducted pioneering work on mental health, writing lesson plans for teachers and delivering their own assemblies.

Students' views on teaching and learning are also very important to us and these are sampled through regular student voice surveys. Many a good idea has come from the student body and we believe these opportunities, and others, are a very positive way to involve students in our school.

UNIFORM

Our students are ambassadors of The College and are expected to dress and behave in a way that reflects the standards we seek to achieve.

Our Uniform:

- Black blazer with embroidered College emblem.
- White open necked cotton shirt/blouse, tucked in.
- Plain black V neck sweater
- Plain black knee length regulation skirt or plain black regulation trousers.
- Sensible totally black leather or leather type shoes – no trainers or canvas shoes.
- Dark socks or tights.

Outdoor Wear: Genuine outdoor coat, waterproof or fleece with full zip (no large logo on back or front). No hoodies.

Jewellery, Hair and Make-up: One pair of ear studs is allowed.

No other jewellery, make-up, facial piercing, wrist bands are to be worn.

A simple hair band or slide is permitted to tie hair back.

PE Kit:

- Black football shorts, red football/hockey socks, football/hockey boots.
- Red and black shirt with College logo, shin pads, gum shield, plain black tracksuit.
- Indoor trainers with non-marking soles.
- Trunks/One-piece swimming costume.

Additional PE Kit – Boys (Optional): Red and black long-sleeved rugby shirt.

All uniform is available from:

Constructiv Clothing, Unit 50 Mochdre Ind. Estate, Newtown, Powys SY16 4LE

Tel: 01686 610890

Email: enquiries@constructiv.co.uk

Website: www.constructiv.co.uk

On Year 6 Induction days, during the Summer Term, uniform will be available.

School blazers, shirts, blouses, jumpers and PE Kit can be purchased from The College shop.



Transport

Students currently travel to The College using a variety of means including service buses, cars, taxis, bikes and on foot. The existing bus links to and from the school are very good and provide access from a number of areas in and around Bishop's Castle. For more information on the bus routes currently operating to and from school please contact The College main reception and ask to speak to Mrs J Owen.

Shropshire Council is responsible for providing transport for students who reside in the catchment area and in Shropshire. Enquiries about entitlement to, and applications for transport to and from The College should be addressed to:

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport>

Email: schooltransport@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 0345 678 9008

Powys County Council currently does not provide funded transport for catchment students residing in Powys.

Enquiries about entitlement to, and applications for, transport to and from the College should be directed to:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/3879/Apply-for-school-transport>

Email: transport.applications@powys.gov.uk

Telephone 01597 826000

Please ensure you apply for transport from Shropshire Council or Powys County Council when you complete your student application.

Three transport services operate for students who resident in Powys but who live outside the catchment area.

- A coach collect students from Knighton.
- A coach collects students from Leighton, Edderton, Forden, Caerhowel and Montgomery.
- Also, a coach collects students from Berriew, Abermule, Llanmerewig, Kerry and Sarn.

Please contact The College for further details.



HOW TO APPLY

The Community College is an open access community school catering for children ages between 11 and 16. The admissions policy is determined by Shropshire Council, which is the Admissions Authority for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Shropshire.

If you live in Shropshire, applications are made via the Shropshire Councils website:

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-to-start-or-transfer-school/>

All enquiries regarding admissions should be addressed to:
Admissions Team, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

Email : school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel : 0345 678 9008

The closing date for application to Shropshire Council is 31st Oct 2026

**“STAFF AND PUPILS ARE USUALLY FRIENDLY, KIND AND APPROACHABLE”
OFSTED 2023**

If you live in surrounding counties or across the border in Wales, you will need to first apply to Shropshire Council using the link above and then inform your local council, who will then communicate with Shropshire Council regarding your application. Please indicate on the Powys County Council application that you have applied for a place at The Community College Bishop's Castle. Applications from outside the immediate catchment are very common and openly welcomed.

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place>

Powys closing date is 31st October 2026

RESIDENTS MOVING TO SHROPSHIRE

If you are planning to move to Shropshire around the time that your child would like to enrol, please contact the Admissions Team at Shropshire Council.



Email : admin@ccbcshropshire.com
www.ccbcshropshire.com
01588 638257