



City of Norwich School Sixth Form
An Ormiston Academy – Excellence in all

CITY OF NORWICH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

Prospectus 2025–26

Excellence in all... achieving the very highest standards in everything we do

Welcome

Welcome to the sixth form at City of Norwich School, An Ormiston Academy (CNS); our school motto of **excellence in all** reflects our vision of achieving the very highest standards in everything we do. You are now embarking on a new period of your life making major and significant choices; selecting the most appropriate sixth form is one of these decisions. The broad, balanced and enriching curriculum available at CNS will enable you to grow in academic and creative depth, as well as confidence and independence. Our stimulating subject curriculum and diverse co-curricular provision will equip you with the necessary skills to enable you to assuredly follow your chosen path, taking the next steps towards a deeply rewarding life. The information in this prospectus will help to give you an insight into our very successful and popular sixth form. To get an even better understanding, I invite you to come and see the sixth form for yourself and meet our staff who take immense pride in their school, subjects and the students they teach, support and celebrate.

Jo Philpott, Headteacher



It is an incredible privilege to work within the sixth form at CNS. We are proud of our students, the results that they achieve and the wonderful opportunities that they experience while with us. You are able to choose from an incredibly broad list of subjects at CNS and have a free choice to mix and match subjects to suit your strengths and aspirations. As a sixth form, we thrive in offering you the chance to be more independent in your approach to learning. We are well-suited to help with the transition to higher education and beyond and have excellent facilities for you to use during your independent study periods to

ensure that you have space to work. You will have access to a study hall, study centre and library during study periods, as well as all the subject resources you need. Sixth formers have their own café and library area in our dedicated sixth form building. Moving to sixth form at CNS will give you the opportunity to meet new people, benefit from excellent teaching (with hours well over the national average) and study in a friendly and vibrant atmosphere.

Kate Nichols, Deputy Headteacher, Sixth Form



Results

In 2023: A* – B: 52%

The average over the last two years is a **B-** and **Distinction** (Average Point Score 37)

Leaders have put in place a broad and well-designed curriculum. They have identified what pupils should know to be ready for their next stage of learning. This includes the sixth form, where the curriculum ensures students learn what they need to be successful when they leave school.

Ofsted 2021

Choosing CNS Sixth Form

Thank you for reading our prospectus. If you would like to find out more about us, you can visit our website at www.cns-school.org/sixth-form-applications.

Applications should be made via **Help You Choose** at www.helpyouchoose.org, between 1st October and 20th December. Should you wish to visit the school at any point or make an appointment to discuss options in more detail, please email Mrs Kym Blake at k.blake@cns-school.org.

CNS Sponsor

CNS is a member of Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT), one of the largest not-for-profit multi-academy trusts in England.

Its aim as a charity, alongside its schools, is to help provide local children with a great education. OAT is one of the longest established trusts which has been sponsoring academies since 2009. Its mission is to become the trust that makes the biggest difference, both inside and outside the classroom.

OAT's mission and values

OAT believes that strength and impact are maximised by working as one team – from which comes its commitment to achieving more together – underpinned by its values:

- **Anyone can excel:** unwavering belief that everyone can achieve
- **Enjoy the challenge:** perseverance pays dividends
- **Share what is best:** we achieve more from working together
- **Be inclusive:** celebrating our diversity and practicing equity



CNS sixth form will give you the opportunity to meet new people, benefit from excellent teaching and study in a friendly and vibrant atmosphere.

Learning as a Young Adult

Ethos and expectations

As a member of CNS sixth form, you are treated as a young adult with a view to preparing you for either university life, apprenticeships, or the world of employment. You will be treated with respect and considered a mature and responsible member of your school community. However, we are also clear that, at CNS, you have chosen to continue your education in a school-based environment, and as such we will carefully monitor your academic progress through assessment and regular tutorials. This monitoring is crucial to ensure that you are supported in maximising your opportunities for success in both your academic work and your personal development.

Independence and behaviour

At CNS, we foster independence, high-quality learning and teaching, supported transition in and out of sixth form, consistency of care, open communication, respect for our community and a culture of high standards. Students are expected to be punctual to registration and all lessons and 100% attendance is expected to achieve well at A-level.

The school day

The school day starts at 8.35am twice a week for sixth form students. Students are only expected in school when they have lessons. Lessons in sixth form can go to 4:05pm on any day.

Our Facilities

The Elkins Centre

Our purpose-built sixth form block is within the main school grounds, separated from the main school. This single story, state-of-the-art building provides the sixth form entrance, reception, library, study area, toilets, classrooms and café.

The study hall

The study hall is a bespoke area for our sixth form students and complements our ethos of developing our students into independent learners. This excellent facility is designed to feel like a university library, with space for independent computer work, silent reading and working spaces; journals, textbooks and course materials are available to support our students with learning. Study pods are available for students to book. These are fantastic private areas which facilitate excellent group work.

The Fisher Centre

A showpiece auditorium for music, dance and drama, with a professional sound and lighting room.

Computer facilities

The sixth form has a computer suite and access to the school's PC network with over 700 workstations. Students will have their own account allowing them access to the internet and email. Students will also benefit from a creative digital suite, allowing students studying creative subjects, access to the most up to date software.

The Study Centre

The study centre is a multipurpose area open to sixth form students exclusively. The aim is to create a dual-purpose space where quiet research, computer work or reading can take place. Students can work with peers, as well as eat and drink more socially in this space. It has a dedicated sixth form reference and resources section.

Outdoor sporting facilities

Our outdoor sporting facilities have recently undergone a full refurbishment, providing five tennis courts and two netball/basketball courts with specialist lighting, that is available to both CNS students and the local community. These facilities further enhance our excellent sporting and sports leader opportunities at CNS.

Personal Development and Support



Progress coordinators

The sixth form leadership team ensures that students are working to reach their full potential during their time with us. The team will monitor student progress carefully and support them in their studies.

Tutor and Study support

All students will be assigned to a tutor group which is subject based. Students also have a fortnightly assembly led by the sixth form leadership team. In addition, students benefit from a compulsory 'VESPA' study skills session once a fortnight which is designed to help develop the core study skills that will enable them to become successful A-level learners.

Pastoral support

The teenage years can be hard to navigate for some, and for a few there will be times when additional support is needed. Believing that the emotional welfare of each student is paramount to their ability to fulfil potential, and that each student is unique, we aim to provide a safe environment where students are able to find someone to listen to their concerns, seek advice or receive appropriate signposting and reassurance. Our dedicated sixth form pastoral managers work closely with students and parents to enable every student to get the most out of their time in sixth form.

Preparing for the Future

Apprenticeships and employment

We are dedicated to ensuring that we inform our students about all of the post-A-level options that are available to them. Workshops, talks and visits are all part of the careers and guidance provision. In recent years, they have included:

- Information assemblies and workshops
- Careers fairs
- Careers encounters programme each June





- Opportunities to explore gap year options
- Support for work experience

Higher education

We have a strong tradition of sending students to higher education and provide excellent support, guidance and opportunities to ensure students are making successful applications to university.

In 2023:

- 75% of our students went on to study at university, of which 83% were placed at their first choice and 92% were placed at either their first or insurance choices.
- 35% of those went to a Russell Group university
- Four students went to Oxbridge

The broad, balanced and enriching curriculum available at CNS will enable you to grow in academic and creative depth, as well as confidence and independence.



Our higher education programme includes:

- Visits to universities including the UEA, University of Oxford and Anglia Ruskin University
- Taster lectures by visiting academics as part of our Pathway Programme
- Presentations and support on student finance by UEA
- Parent forums on supporting your child on student finance and choosing a university
- UCAS day with workshops on personal statements and navigating the UCAS website
- Personal exit interviews by the Sixth Form Leadership Team to check all applications before they are sent to UCAS

There is also a specialist programme of support for Oxbridge, medics, and veterinary students. This includes:

- Weekly tutorials
- Mock interviews
- Workshops to prepare for entry exams

- Subject workshops to prepare for interview
- Summer School opportunities
- Co-ordinating work experience

Applying for Competitive Universities and Courses

Oxbridge

Oxbridge is the abbreviated form of the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, world renowned and highly competitive institutions. They can have a collegiate system and you can apply to individual colleges or be part of the open pool system. In the last four years, 16 of our students have gone on to study at either Oxford or Cambridge.

Oxbridge success stories

Mabel Lea was shortlisted as Norfolk Student of the Year in the EDP's Norfolk Education Awards 2023. She studied biology, chemistry, maths, and EPQ at A-level,



achieving two A*s and two A grades and has gone on to study biochemistry at Oxford university. Mabel was head student at CNS and led a successful legacy project in promoting the Expect Respect group at CNS to tackle harmful sexual behaviours. She was also editor of our award-winning School magazine EXiA.

Gabriel Moore is currently reading history at the University of Cambridge having studied A-levels in geography, history, politics and government and an EPQ. Gabriel achieved four A*s. Gabriel was a modest and conscientious student who modelled exemplary study habits to his peers. He also helped lead the German speaking group at lunchtime to help students improve their MFL skills.

Idabell Binns is studying for a history degree at the University of Oxford. Idabell achieved three A*s in her A-levels in English literature, history and philosophy and ethics. Idabell was a model student, contributed to all things sixth form and was a very talented writer and historian. She was a subject ambassador for the history department and was also a Year 7 tutor of literacy.

Russell Group Universities

There are 24 UK universities in the Russell Group which strive to provide outstanding research and teaching. They have large amounts of funding for research. Graduates from these institutions have very good prospects for postgraduate progress and employability. They are increasingly competitive and have high entry requirements. 35% of our students go on to Russell Group universities.

If you have any questions about the support we provide for our students to ensure that they reach their full

potential during their time with us, please contact Mrs Kym Blake at k.blake@cns-school.org.

A Varied and Rich Curriculum

We offer a diverse range of courses with a variety of combinations at A-level. We encourage students to consider their choices carefully based on individual areas of strength and any future aspirations. The sixth form leadership team can offer informed guidance to any future student regarding this.

How do I choose my subjects?

There are many subjects to choose from. Some of them will be familiar subjects such as history, mathematics, and English literature, whereas others will be new subjects available at A-level such as psychology and law. The best thing students can do is talk to people such as subject teachers and current students at the open evening. They should make sure they know what the subject involves, use the library, or read around the subject. If unsure, the sixth form team can help with advice. A full list of all our subjects can be found on our website where you will find a one-page summary and accompanying video for each subject.



We do not ask students to choose from pre-designed blocks of subjects; instead students have a free choice from all of the subjects that we offer. The majority of students will study three A-level subjects. However, we do have capacity where appropriate for students to study a fourth subject or either core maths or an EPQ. Use the subject sheets on our website to check context and topics.

Creative Technologies

Inspiring the talent of tomorrow to program, design, create and build.

Subjects

- A-level Product Design
- A-level Art
- A-level Photography
- A-level Computer Science
- WJEC Food Science and Nutrition (Diploma)



Common topics and skills across the faculty

Analysis; design; problem solving; research; communication and concept realisation.

Co-curricular activities and trips

- Strong links with industry, regular speakers, and lectures from practising designers/professionals.
- Previous CNS students who are now studying at university visiting, acting as coursework advisors and hosting seminars.
- Close links with NUA and visits to support university applications and portfolio advice.
- Trips linked to competitions, for example Design Ventura, museum and gallery visits to London and a biannual visit to the New Designers exhibition.

Contact

Richard Martin: r.martin@cns-school.org

English and Languages

Communication in all forms is the basis of all our courses in the languages faculty. Speaking, reading, writing, visual communication, individual communication, social communication and media. Our courses can take you almost anywhere in the future – they are academic subjects which are highly regarded by universities but also have enormous practical potential in the workplace

and across the globe. English and languages related subjects will develop you as a thinker, a citizen and as a person and can take you far.

Subjects

- A-level English Language and Literature Combined
- A-level English Literature
- A-level Film Studies
- A-level French
- A-level German
- A-level Spanish
- A-level Classics (new for 2025)

Common topics and skills across the faculty

- Communication skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- Critical thinking
- Group work and collaboration
- Interpreting and analysing a range of texts
- Ability to assimilate and synthesize information from a range of sources
- Ability to creatively produce written and media texts
- Ability to use industry standard software

Our courses can take you almost anywhere – they are academic subjects which are highly regarded by universities but also have enormous practical potential in the workplace and across the globe.

Co-curricular activities and trips

- There are many outreach opportunities including visits from television directors.
- There is also a partnership programme between CNS, Cinema City and UEA Film and TV which includes six lectures and screenings across the school year. These are led by international experts on film history, complementing and deepening our film studies curriculum. Open to Years 11–13.
- We run a range of day trips including a literature study day in London, theatre visits, BBC visits where students go for a tour of the studios in Norwich and the BFI academy.

Contact

Esther Jillett: e.jillett@cns-school.org

Humanities

A vibrant faculty renowned for excellence helping to create passionate geographers, philosophers, and historians.

Subjects

- A-level Geography
- A-level History
- A-level Philosophy and Ethics

Common topics and skills across the faculty

- Understanding, explaining, and critiquing a line of argument
- Identifying patterns, trends, and processes

- Independent research and wider reading
- Analysing and interpreting a range of source materials and evidence
- Extended essay-writing
- Deploying detailed factual information

Co-curricular activities and trips

- We run residential co-curricular trips to various countries such as Iceland.
- We organise a range of day visits to relevant museums and organisations, such as the Holocaust Memorial.
- Field work is also integral to success in the humanities.

Contact

Hannah Dimsdale: h.dimsdale@cns-school.org



Mathematics

Mathematics is fundamental to much of our lives and an advanced understanding of mathematics can complement study in a range of other A-levels. The maths department are experienced in helping students secure top grades at A-level and supporting students in making the transition to maths at university.

Subjects

- A-level Maths
- A-level Further Maths
- AS-level Core Maths

Common topics and skills across the faculty

- Algebra
- Numeracy and problem-solving skills
- Statistics
- Mechanics
- Calculus
- Decision maths

Core maths

Core maths is an AS level and is taken in addition to your three A-levels. Students would benefit from taking core maths if they do not intend on taking the full A-level, but do psychology and STEM based subjects. Students should opt for this on Help Me Choose as their fourth subject.



Co-curricular activities and trips

- Students have a chance to compete in individual and team challenges.
- We host the Senior Team Maths Challenge on behalf of UKMT and have a great record with our team placing fourth last year. They are also supported in completing the Ritangle Challenge.
- There are job opportunities in school to be a numeracy tutor for the younger years.

Contact

Ian Rollison: i.rollison@cns-school.org



Performing Arts

Performing arts incorporates a range of subjects which all require a base level of skill and an interest in the wider discipline. All performing arts subjects require students to pursue their interests outside of the classroom through playing in teams or sports, taking part in productions, or playing in ensembles and bands.

Subjects

- A-level Music
- A-level Sports Science and Physical Education
- A-level Theatre Studies

Common topics and skills across the faculty

PE incorporates a range of disciplines, from psychological, physiological, and social aspects of sport as well as practical application. Music and theatre studies look at the historical analysis of the discipline as well as the creative and performance side. Each subject asks students to contemplate the wider context of the discipline. All subjects contain analysis, planning and extended writing skills.

Co-curricular activities and trips

- Work with specialist providers including the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.
- Trips and experiences to live theatre (e.g. Hamilton), Music, and Essex University and Wimbledon.
- Co-curricular residential trips, including a European music tour.
- Shows and productions.
- Recreational and competitive sport.

Contact

Rachel Clarke: r.clarke@cns-school.org

Science

At CNS, the science faculty aims to support students in becoming skilled critical thinkers who are effective problem solvers.

Subjects

- A-level Biology
- A-level Chemistry
- A-level Environmental Science
- A-level Physics

Common topics and skills across the faculty

The practical application of theory runs throughout the science faculty at CNS and is an integral part of learning within lessons. The content for the practical

endorsement is successfully taught alongside theory in all of our science A-levels; this provides students with the skills and knowledge to be able to successfully work in a laboratory setting either in a university or in an apprenticeship when they have completed their A-levels.

Co-curricular activities and trips

Biannually, students have the opportunity to travel to Switzerland to visit CERN.

- Students have the opportunity to participate in the Gold Youth STEMM award which is an achievement-based award designed to inspire and support the next generation of STEMM professionals.
- Biannually, students have the opportunity to travel to Switzerland to visit CERN.
- Field work takes place regularly in environmental science.

Contact

Debbie Spinks: d.spinks@cns-school.org

Social Sciences

The faculty of social sciences aims to nurture students to be critical thinkers, who are socially aware, ready to embrace diversity, and seek to understand the society in which they live.

Subjects

- A-level Business
- A-level Economics
- A-level Politics
- A-level Health and Social Care
- A-level Law
- A-level Psychology
- A-level Sociology
- AS-level Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)



Common topics and skills across the faculty

- Discussion and investigation of current events
- Critical thinking
- Extended writing and building an argument
- Analysis and interpretation of quantitative data
- Evaluation of differing viewpoints
- Theories and models, and their limitations
- A critical awareness of how individuals and society behave

Co-curricular activities and trips

- A wide range of trips that are often inter-disciplinary.
- Politics and Law to the USA.
- Freud Museum.
- Houses of Parliament.
- High Court and Supreme Court.
- Workshops and partnerships with local stakeholders including business mentoring, student leadership during school and national elections, volunteering with vulnerable members of the community and national student conferences.

Over the last three years, the law and politics results have been in the top 5% of all results nationally.

Contact

James Christopher: j.christopher@cns-school.org

i Extended Project Qualification (Edexcel)

All students studying at CNS sixth form will be given the opportunity to study the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

The EPQ is designed to develop learners' critical, reflective, problem-solving, and independent learning skills, and supports students with the transition to higher education or into the world of work. It also gives students the opportunity to achieve more UCAS points.

Students can either choose an area that extends or expands on their current studies (by linking into one of their A-levels) or, along with their teachers, choose a topic that they have a personal interest or passion in.

The Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project is a stand-alone qualification worth half an A-level. Learners create one piece of coursework on a topic of their choice. At CNS, students will work independently, but they are assigned a mentor who will meet them for regular timetabled tutorials to discuss progress.

Each of the four units offers a different type of project: a dissertation, an investigation or field study, a performance, or an artefact. There are no exams. Instead, learners will produce one piece of coursework that will be marked by teachers at their school and then moderated.

Students are marked on their ability to plan, manage, complete, and review their project.

Contact

Tom Westwood: t.westwood@cns-school.org

Co-curricular Opportunities and Enrichments at CNS

CNS sixth form offers a comprehensive range of co-curricular and enrichment opportunities:

- Partnerships: Guildhall; NUA; UEA
- Trips and visits: Iceland; Paris; CERN
- AS-level Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- AS-level Core Maths
- Subject specific awards: Gold/Silver Crest Award in Physics
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Bronze, Silver and Gold
- Recreational and competitive sport
- Paid literacy and numeracy tutors
- Gold Youth STEMM Award
- LGBTQ+ group
- Debating Society
- Charities events
- Eco group
- Sports: Football, Rugby, Badminton, Yoga, Roller Skating, Basketball, Cross-Country
- Leadership: Student Union, Prefects, Council, Head Students

CNS offer in 2023-24

- Head students and prefects
- Sixth Form Council
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award
- Year 7 tutoring (paid)
- Gold Youth STEMM Award
- Subject ambassadors
- Coffee and Current Affairs

- Environmental Eco Club
- Music ensembles
- LGBTQ+
- EXiA magazine
- Charity events organisers
- Project Pi
- Oxbridge, Vets and Medics
- EPQ
- Expect Respect
- Lab Rats
- Football
- Basketball
- Debating Society
- Badminton
- Cultural celebration
- Yoga
- Philosophy and Life
- Prayer Group
- Core maths
- National maths competition
- Skating club
- Breakfast club

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Students at CNS can take part in DofE all the way from Bronze through to Gold.



CNS is a DofE direct licensed centre, and sixth form students new to CNS can transfer their DofE from a previous DofE centre.

The Gold Award programme involves a volunteering, physical, skill and residential section. The Gold Award practice takes place in the summer term of Year 12, with the Gold Award assessed expedition taking place at the end of Year 13.

Students can apply to be a direct entrant into Gold without completing either Bronze or Silver Awards.

The CNS DofE annual launch takes place at the start of each academic year with all Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students invited to attend and apply for their relevant level.

Partnerships

CNS partnership with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Norfolk Music Service

CNS students enjoy the benefits of a unique three-way partnership with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and the Norfolk Music Service.

The Guildhall is one of the world's leading conservatoires and drama schools. The partnership was launched in 2013.

Guildhall Young Artists

Guildhall Young Artists Norwich (GYA Norwich) meets at CNS every Saturday in term-time.

GYA Norwich is part of Guildhall School of Music and Drama and delivers specialist music education to all young musicians across Norfolk. CNS students are entitled to a discount.

CNS and the Norwich University of the Arts

CNS benefits from a partnership with NUA which allows students to attend a number of trips and visits over the course of the year to look at specific aspects of art and design, such as print making, in detail.

Visiting lecturers and speakers over the course of the year add to the industry experience that students at CNS gain insight into during their creative pathways.

Opportunities for Life

Student Leadership

Becoming part of the student sixth form leadership team is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop organisational, leadership, collaborative, and independent skills, whilst demonstrating a commitment to sixth form.

It also enables students to have the responsibility to make a difference at CNS. These skills can set students apart from other applicants for jobs, university places and apprenticeships.

Paid tutoring and leadership positions

Students at CNS are able to apply for paid tutoring and leadership positions. At the beginning of Year 12 we advertise for literacy and numeracy tutors to work with Year 7 students to ensure they can catch up with their peers in their core subjects. These positions are very popular and incredibly rewarding.

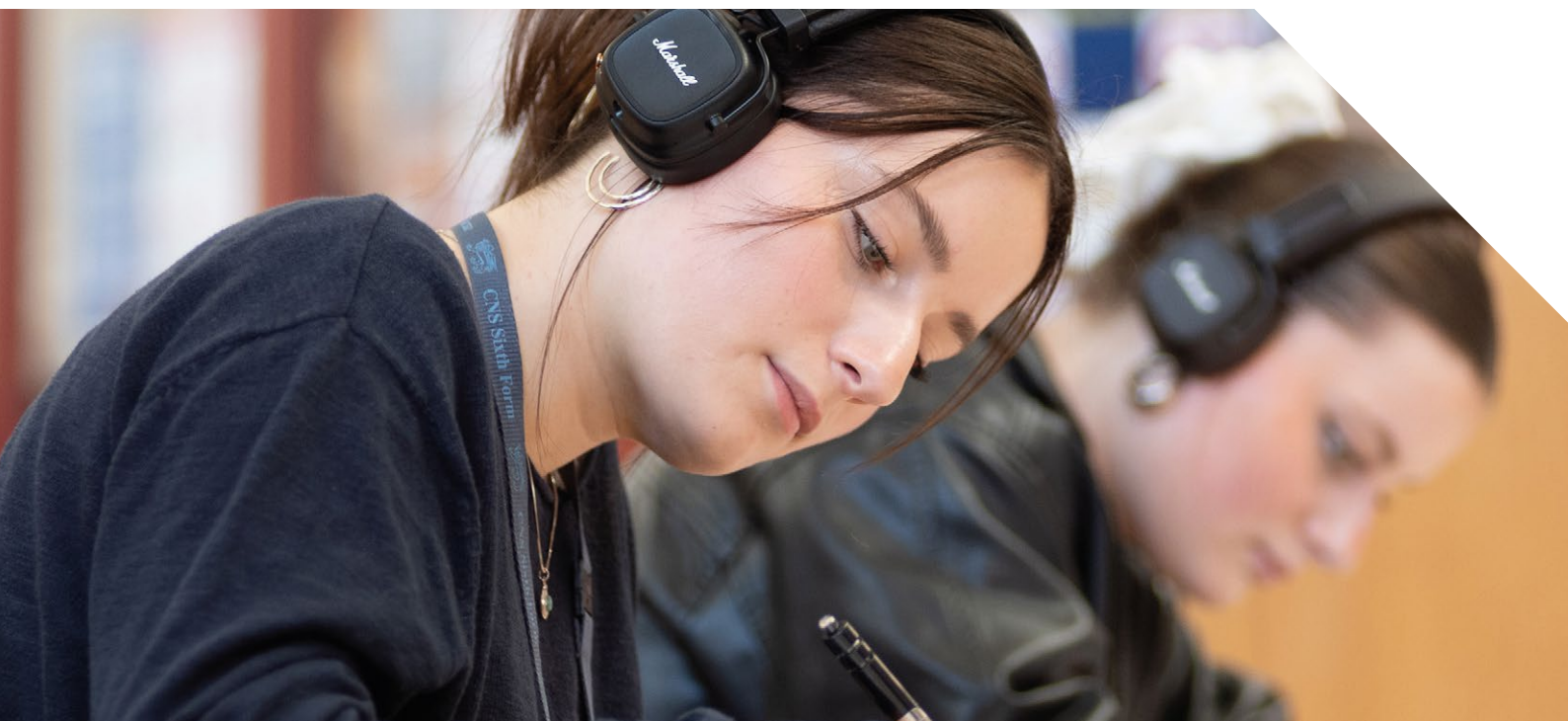
At the end of Year 13 students can apply for Year 6 transition leader roles. Transition leaders spend a week helping Year 6 students make the leap from primary to high school and ensure that they feel confident and prepared for the next step in their school life.

Community Involvement

As part of the CNS sixth form, students will also have the opportunity to support the school and local community through volunteering. This will give them the chance to develop their current skills or provide them with new skills.

Community roles include:

- Reading and subject mentors
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme
- Young Enterprise
- Sports leaders and clubs







[OAT]
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