YOUR BRIGHT FUTURE STARTS HERE!

United College Sixth Form
PROSPECTUS

United College Sixth Form
Your bright future starts here
Part of Swindon Academy & United Learning
Beech Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1JR

Ofsted Good Provider

Welcome



I'm immensely proud to lead United College Sixth Form (UCSF), where we champion the values of *hard work, kindness,* and *responsibility.* Our mission is to empower young people to aim high and achieve their bright futures.

At UCSF, we've meticulously designed our curriculum and environment to nurture the development of high-performing skills and qualities. Through dedication and hard work, we enable our students to emerge as confident and competent individuals, ready to start the next stage of their lives.

We understand the challenges of transitioning from GCSE to A Levels, which is why we offer exceptional support to keep our students on track academically and nurture their well-being.

Within our tight-knit UCSF community, students find a supportive atmosphere in our dedicated Sixth Form centre. Here, they have access to resources like their own library, study rooms, and ICT facilities, as well as a common room where they can collaborate and cultivate kindness through interactions with peers.

Beyond their own studies, we encourage our students to fully engage in the life of the Academy, embodying responsibility as leaders and role models for younger students. Our robust student leadership team, led by the Student Presidents, offers opportunities for involvement in initiatives ranging from student well-being to charitable and cultural events, instilling values of kindness and responsibility.

Being part of UCSF is an exhilarating and rewarding experience that will equip you with the skills needed for the future. My team and I welcome you and look forward to supporting you on your journey towards your bright future.

Helen Green
Assistant Principal
United College Sixth Form

www.swindon-academy.org/unitedcollege6f/welcome

Contents

Destinations	4
Career Pathways	6
Allied Healthcare	8
Business & Finance	9
Communications	10
Creative Industries	11
Criminal Justice & Psychology	12
Cyber Technologies	13
Education & Teaching	14
Engineering & Architecture	15
Medicine	16
Science	17
Sports & Leisure	18
Character Programme	19
Scholars Programme	22
How to Apply & Entry Requirements	28

Destinations

2025/26 A Levels were very strong with students gaining university places at top destinations.

Our students have proudly applied their talents to such a variety of courses and locations, here are just a few of them...

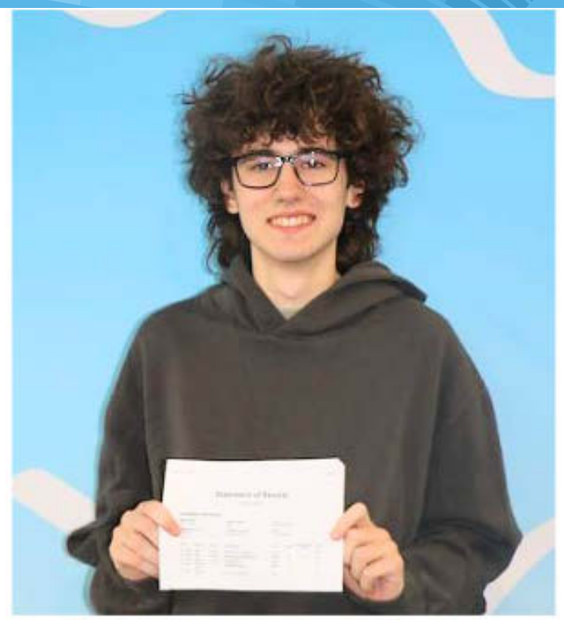
An impressive 80% of our 25/26 leavers chose to pursue higher education, and we are proud that all secured University offers.



Rowan - University of Southampton, Physics



Haneen - University of Birmingham, International Law and Globalisation



Aston, University of Reading, Meteorology & Climate



Iva - UAL, Interior Design

Career Pathways

In our pursuit of excellence, we are dedicated to providing unparalleled learning experiences tailored to our students' individual needs. We believe in offering the perfect balance of support and challenge, fostering an environment where every student can thrive and cultivate a genuine passion for learning.

At the heart of our educational approach lies our innovative Career Pathways system. This pioneering framework simplifies the process of selecting subjects by aligning them with each student's unique career aspirations. By carefully curating a selection of Core subjects essential to their chosen pathway, supplemented by complimentary courses that enrich their learning journey, we empower our students to chart a course toward their desired futures with clarity and confidence.

Students are encouraged to select at least one Core subject recommended by their chosen pathway, ensuring a solid foundation in key areas of study. Additionally, they have the flexibility to choose two further subjects from either the Core subjects or the complimentary courses, enabling them to tailor their educational experience to suit their interests and goals.

www.swindon-academy.org/unitedcollege6f/united-college-sixth-form/career-pathways

But our commitment doesn't end there. We understand that true learning extends beyond the confines of the classroom. That's why we offer a diverse array of super-curricular activities designed to deepen our students' understanding of their subjects and bolster their chosen career paths. From workshops to seminars, competitions and visits, these experiences serve as invaluable supplements to traditional coursework, equipping our students with the skills, insights, and perspectives they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

With our unwavering support and a comprehensive suite of resources at their disposal, our students emerge not only as academically accomplished individuals but also as well-rounded, resilient, and confident young leaders poised to make a meaningful impact in their chosen fields.

Students can select from the following Career Pathways:

- **Allied Health Care**
- **Business & Finance**
- **Communications**
- **Creative Industries**
- **Criminal Justice & Psychology**
- **Cyber Technologies**
- **Education & Teaching**
- **Engineering and Architecture**
- **Medicine**
- **Science**
- **Sports & Leisure**



Allied Healthcare

Allied Healthcare Pathway

Students need to pick at least one science. Most allied health core courses want biology. Some University Courses require at least two sciences so we recommend two subjects from this list :

- **Chemistry**
- **Biology**
- **Psychology**

Complimentary Subjects

Students need to study 3 subjects in total, so they will need to top up their core subjects with complementary subjects. For example, if a student selects 2 core subjects, they will only need to select 1 complementary subject to study from the list below.

- **Pure Maths**
- **Further Maths**
- **Psychology**
- **Sociology**
- **Geography**
- **Philosophy**
- **English**
- **History**

Who is the Allied Healthcare Pathway for?

The Allied Healthcare Pathway is for students who are interested in following a career in Midwifery; Nursing; Occupational Health; Pharmacy; Physiotherapy; Radiography; Dietitians; Speech and Language Therapy; Paramedics.

Business & Finance

Business & Finance Pathway Core Subjects

Students must study both of the core subjects below, plus at least one complementary subject:

- **Pure Maths**
- **Business Studies**

Complimentary Subjects

Students must study three subjects in total, so they will need to top up their core subjects with at least one complementary subject from the list below.

- **Further Maths**
- **Psychology**
- **Geography**
- **Sociology**
- **Chemistry**

Who is the Business & Finance Pathway for?

The Business and Finance Pathway is for students who are interested in following a career in Business Management; Accountancy; Auditing; Banking and Finance; Economics or Insurance; Corporate financial management; Start-up enterprises

Communications

Who is the Communications Pathway for?

This Pathway is for students who are interested in following a career in Advertising; Charities and non-profit organisations; Media; Communications Agency; Copy writing; Publishing; Journalism; Marketing; Public & Media Relations; Teaching; Broadcasting & presenting; Author, Social media.

Students must pick 1 core subject and at least 2 complimentary subjects, to study 3 in total.

Core Subjects

- **English Language**

Complimentary Subjects

- **Drama**
- **Photography**
- **Business Studies**
- **Further Maths**
- **Psychology**
- **Art**
- **Sociology**
- **Philosophy**
- **Criminology**
- **History**
- **Spanish**
- **Photography**

Do you speak another language fluently? We can offer you the opportunity to enter for an A Level in your home language*. Let us know in your application.

*(*If offered by an exam board)*

Creative Industries

Creative Industries Pathway Core Subjects

Students study at least three subjects in total. They must pick at least one core subject from the list below:

- **Drama**
- **Music**
- **Art**
- **Photography**

Complimentary Subjects

Students top up their core subjects with at least one complementary subject. For example, if a student selects two core subjects, they will need to select one or more complementary subjects to study from the list below:

- **Product Design**
- **English Literature**
- **English Language**
- **Psychology**
- **Sociology**
- **Philosophy**
- **Criminology**

Who is the Creative Industries Pathway for?

This pathway is for students who are interested in pursuing a career in advertising; animation; art curating; costume design; fashion design; fashion photography; fine artist /sculptor; graphic design; interior design; multimedia journalism; product design; surface pattern design; textile artist; acting and performing; arts administration; composing; music therapy; stage management; teaching; theatre work.

Criminal Justice & Psychology

Criminal Justice & Psychology Pathway Core Subjects

Students study at least three subjects in total. They must pick at least one core subject from the list below:

- **Psychology**
- **Sociology**
- **Philosophy**
- **Criminology**
- **English Literature**

Complimentary Subjects

Students choose at least one for these subjects to study 3 subjects in total.

- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Physics**
- **History**
- **Geography**
- **Maths**
- **English Language**

Who is the Criminal justice & Psychology Pathway for?

This Pathway is for students who are interested in pursuing a career in Law, e.g. Solicitor or Barrister; Civil Service; Government; Company Secretary; Conveyancer; Investment Banking; Paralegal; Police Officer; Probation Officer; Prison Officer; Youth Worker & Social Worker; Psychologist; Forensic Scientist; Immigration, Customs & Border Roles.

For Law they are advised to choose :

- **Philosophy**
- **History**
- **English Literature**
- **Ethics**

Cyber-Technologies

Cyber-Technologies Pathway

Students need to choose three A levels, 2 core subjects below:

- **Pure Maths**
- **Physics**

Complimentary Subjects

Students need to study 4 subjects in total, so they will need to top up their core subjects with complementary subjects. For example, if a student selects 3 core subjects, they will only need to select 1 complementary subject to study from the list below.

- **Engineering**
- **Product Design**
- **Further Maths**
- **Art**
- **Psychology**

Who is the Cyber-Technologies Pathway for?

The Cyber-Technologies Pathway is for students who are interested in following a career in Artificial Intelligence; Data Science; Engineering; Physics; Robotics; Software Engineering; Solutions/ Systems Architecture or Games Design.

Education & Teaching

Education & Teaching Pathway Core Subjects

Students need to pick a minimum of one core subject from the list below:

- English Literature
- Physics
- Pure Maths
- English Language
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Geography
- History
- Sports

Complimentary Subjects

Students need to study three subjects in total, so they will need to top up their core subjects with complementary subjects from the list below:

- **Further Maths**
- **Psychology**
- **Sociology**
- **Philosophy**

Who is the Education & Teaching Pathway for?

This Pathway is for students who are interested in following a career in being a teacher; teaching assistant; nursery worker; childminder; youth worker; sports coach; outdoor activities instructor; lecturer or careers adviser.

Engineering & Architecture

Engineering & Architecture Pathway

Students need to choose at least three subjects/ two from the core subjects below:

- **Pure Maths**
- **Physics**

Complimentary Subjects

Students must select one complementary subject from the list below.

- Product Design
- Further Maths
- Geography
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- Business Studies

Who is the Engineering & Architecture Pathway for?

The Engineering and Architecture Pathway is for students who are interested in following a career in Acoustics Engineering; Civil Engineering; Design Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering or Architecture.

Taking a 4th subject of extended qualifications is recommended.

Medicine

Medicine Pathway Core Subjects

Students need to pick a minimum of two core subjects from the list below and they must take the EPQ in Year 12.

- **Chemistry**
- **Biology**
- **Physics**
- **Pure Maths**

Complimentary Subjects

Students need to study 3 subjects/ Chemistry is a required subject so they must take it but they may take 4 in total, so they will need to top up their core subjects with complementary subjects.

- **Psychology**
- **Geography**
- **Product Design**
- **English**
- **History**
- **Further Maths**
- **Spanish**
- **Sociology**
- **Engineering**
- **Philosophy**

Who is the Medicine Pathway for?

The Medicine Pathway is for students who are interested in following a career in Medicine; Dentistry or Veterinarian Science.

Science

Science Pathway Core Subjects

Students must select a minimum of 2 core subjects, from.

- **Chemistry**
- **Biology**
- **Physics**
- **Pure Maths**

Complimentary Subjects

Students need to study 3 subjects in total if they do not want to take 3 from the core subjects above , so they will need to top up their core subjects with complementary subjects. From the list below

- **Psychology**
- **Geography**
- **Product Design**
- **Further Maths**
- **Spanish**

Who is the Science Pathway for?

The Science Pathway is for students who are interested in following a career in Biochemistry; Biomedicine; Clinical Science; Ecology; Materials Science; Microbiology and Environmental Science.

Sport & Leisure

Sport & Leisure Pathway Core Subjects

Students must take the Double Sports BTEC as their core subject.

Complimentary Subjects

Students will need to top up their core subjects with at least one complementary subject.

- **Psychology**
- **Biology**
- **Chemistry**
- **Business studies**
- **Geography**

Who is the Sport & Leisure Pathway for?

This Pathway is for students who are interested in following a career as an Athlete; Sports Coach; Sports Psychologist; Leisure Centre or Gym assistant; Personal Trainer; Outdoor Sports Coach; Sports Teacher; Physiotherapist; Sports Development Officer.

If you want to be a physiotherapist you must take Biology alongside sport.

Character Programme

The Character Programme is deeply rooted in our core values of *hard work, kindness,* and *responsibility,* guiding students through their journey to independence with these principles at the forefront.

At the heart of our programme lies the goal of holistic development, ensuring that students not only excel academically but also grow into compassionate and conscientious individuals ready to embrace the challenges of adult life. As our students embark on the transition to higher education or careers at the end of KS5, we aim to equip them with the necessary tools and values to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Our character programme is delivered through weekly tutorials and assemblies. The assemblies are important gatherings where students receive guidance and support from their leaders. These assemblies foster community, instil values, and celebrate achievements. We also explore current events in the world we live in. Through discussions, reflections, and motivational talks, students are encouraged to overcome challenges and excel academically and personally.

Each student receives a weekly Tutor session, to provide them with guidance and mentorship, fostering a supportive environment where they can flourish. Through this personalised approach, our programme focuses on nurturing the skills and attributes essential for success.

Character Programme

(continued)

Our Character Programme encompasses several core learning themes:

1. **Improving Health & Wellbeing** We prioritise the physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing of our students, empowering them to lead balanced and fulfilling lives.

2. **Building Positive Relationships** We emphasise the importance of fostering meaningful connections and understanding the dynamics of healthy relationships, both personal and professional.

3. **Living in the Wider World** We provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of the modern world, including financial literacy, civic engagement, and cultural awareness.

4. **Academic Success** While character development is paramount, we also recognise the importance of academic achievement. Through tailored support and guidance, we empower students to excel in their studies and pursue their aspirations with confidence.

5. **Careers & post 18 destination support**

Careers Education enables our students to make well-informed choices about their career and study options and to be well prepared to make these transitions as they move beyond UCSF. Students are supported with their UCAS or Apprenticeship applications. They also have 1-1 careers advice. In the summer of year 12, students enjoy a week of work experience.

By integrating these values of hard work, kindness, and responsibility into our Character Programme, we strive to inspire and empower students to become resilient, compassionate, and socially responsible individuals prepared to make a positive impact on the world.



Enrichment

Wellbeing Wednesdays

Every Wednesday we offer a diverse range of activities tailored to cater to student interests and holistic development. From engaging in various sports or the on-site gym, to exploring activities such as reading, mindfulness exercises, yoga, dance, cooking, and artistic endeavours, students are encouraged to nurture their physical, mental, and creative well-being in an environment that promotes personal growth, health and fulfilment.

Extra-Curricular

Twice weekly, we offer all our students the opportunity to do 'something different'. The choices available over their two years at UCSF ensure students leave us with more than just an excellent grade profile and help them stand out from the crowd.

- **Online self-study courses**
- **Community activities (voluntary service)**
- **Young Enterprise**
- **Subject specific masterclasses**
- **First Aid**
- **Model United Nations**
- **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)**
- **Student-led societies**
- **Peer mentoring of younger students**
- **Academic mentoring of younger students**
- **In-person and online subject and career talks**



Scholars Programme

The Scholars initiative is designed to empower our high-achieving students to reach for the stars, guiding them towards prestigious educational institutions like Oxbridge and the top Russell Group universities.

Who is the programme for?

Students need to be performing at 7.5 APS to be considered. The programme is aimed at those wishing to secure a place at Oxbridge (Cambridge or Oxford University) or pursue a career in an extremely competitive field. Our focus is on preparing students for the top universities, and specifically entering those degree courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Science which are very difficult to get into.

In collaboration with Marlborough College, the Scholars Programme offers a unique extra-curricular programme that goes beyond the standard syllabus, ensuring that every student receives a well-rounded education and develops personal experiences that set them apart.

Key components of the Scholars Programme include comprehensive seminars, university visits, academic competitions, online masterclasses, and inspiring guest speakers. Through these elements, we aim to foster academic excellence, critical thinking, and personal development.

www.swindon-academy.org/unitedcollege6f/scholars-at-ucsf

Scholars Programme

(continued)

Here are some of the opportunities and benefits that the Scholars Programme provides:

- **Access to the UNIQ Programme:** High-achieving students are supported in applying for the prestigious UNIQ programme, offering unique academic experiences and insights that enhance university applications.
- **Online Mentoring from Oxbridge Launchpad:** Personalised guidance from experienced mentors helps students navigate the complexities of Oxbridge applications, improving their chances of success.
- **Personal Statement Workshops:** Tailored support is provided to help students craft compelling personal statements that highlight their academic achievements and aspirations, increasing their competitiveness in university applications.
- **1-1 Mentoring for Personal Statement Development:** Through individualised sessions, students receive focused feedback to refine their personal statements, ensuring they effectively showcase their strengths and suitability for their chosen courses.
- **Interview Workshops:** Students learn valuable interview techniques and strategies to excel in university admissions interviews, building confidence through practice and feedback.
- **Admission Test Support:** Guidance and resources are offered to help students prepare effectively for admission tests like the BMAT, UKCAT, or SAT, ensuring they are well-prepared to demonstrate their abilities.
- **Mock Interviews:** Authentic mock interviews provide students with realistic practice and constructive feedback to improve their communication skills and performance in actual interview scenarios.
- **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Completion:** Undertaking an EPQ allows students to delve deeply into a topic of interest, showcasing their intellectual curiosity and research skills, and enhancing their academic profiles.
- **Oxbridge Application Talks:** Informative sessions provide students with valuable insights into the Oxbridge application process, helping them make informed decisions and tailor their applications effectively.
- Support with a **Bursary Scholarship of £200** towards student studies.

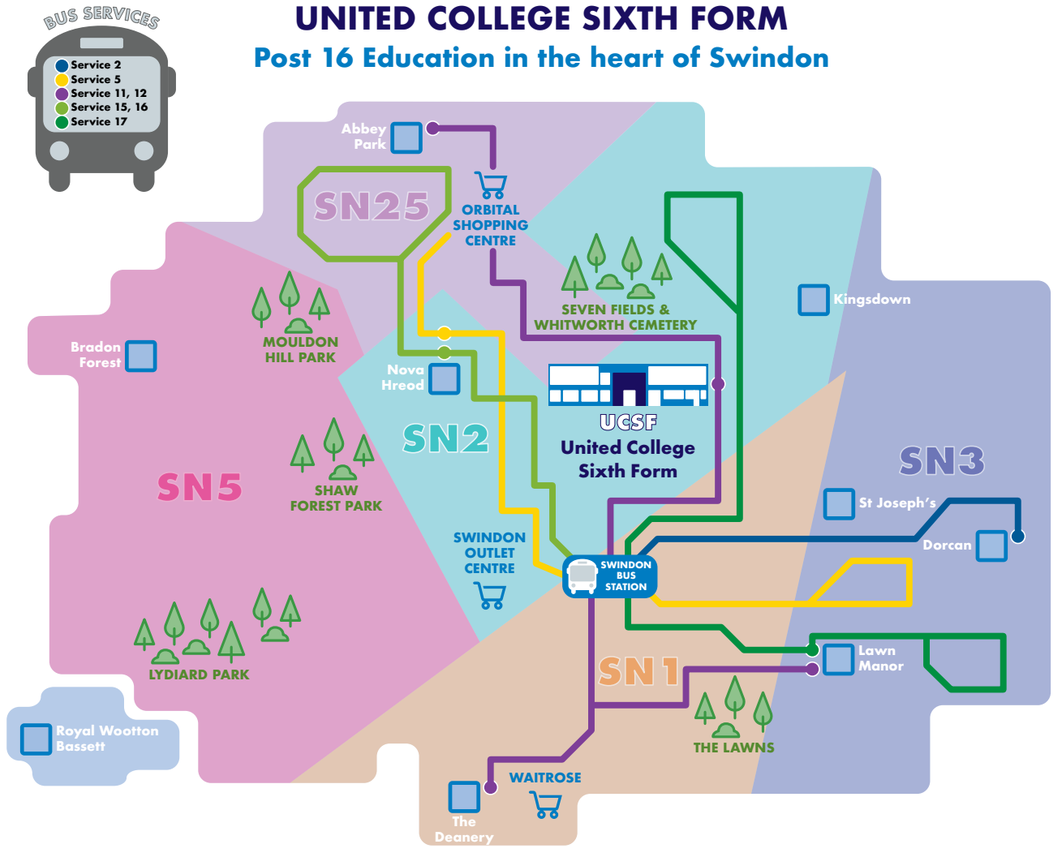
Through the Scholars Programme, we are committed to developing the talents and aspirations of our high-ability students, guiding them towards a future filled with academic success and personal fulfilment.

How to find us

United College Sixth Form sits behind the Swindon Academy campus on Beech Avenue, SN2 1JR. We can be reached easily via local bus routes from all over the borough.



Find your nearest bus route on this map:



How to Apply & Entry Requirements

Entry Requirements

We treat all students as individuals and ensure that the advice we give suits their qualifications, interests, career aspirations and skills. To Join, students must gain at least Grade 5 in five or more GCSEs including English and Maths. Students will need to achieve at least Grade 5 in the subjects they wish to study at A Level. If they want to study a new subject, their achievement in a similar GCSE subject will be considered. Those wishing to study a Science based subject and/or Maths must have a Grade 7 in that subject. For entry into the Scholars Programme students should have an average GCSE point score above Grade 7.5.

Get in Touch

If you are ready to apply, go straight to our website and you will find an online form to complete. Students or parents who have any queries please contact:

Helen Green, Assistant Principal
Helen.Green@swindon-academy.org

United College Sixth Form
Swindon Academy
Beech Avenue, Swindon
SN21JR

www.swindon-academy.org/unitedcollege6f/united-college-sixth-form/how-to-apply

United College Sixth Form
Your bright future starts here
Part of Swindon Academy & United Learning
Beech Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1JR

Ofsted Good Provider