



Balcarras

From strength to strength

**Sixth Form  
Open  
Evening 2024**



**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

**SCHOOLS  
GUIDE  
2021**

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**SOUTHWEST  
STATE  
SECONDARY  
SCHOOL  
OF THE DECADE**





## Our Aims:

- Academic excellence
- An enjoyable and enriching experience
- Outstanding pastoral support





**ENJOYMENT**



**ACHIEVEMENT**



**SUPPORT**

# CONSISTENCY

## A-level results 2016

- 30% A\*-A Grades
- 62% A\*-B Grades

## A-level results 2017

- 34% A\*-A Grades
- 67% A\*-B Grades

## A-level results 2018

- 40% A\*-A Grades
- 69% A\*-B Grades

## A-level results 2019

- 37% A\*-A Grades
- 71% A\*-B Grades

## A-level results 2020

- 43% A\*-A Grades
- 74% A\*-B Grades

## A-level results 2021

- 52% A\*-A Grades
- 77% A\*-B Grades

## A-level results 2022

- 45% A\*-A Grades
- 72% A\*-B Grades

## A-level results 2023

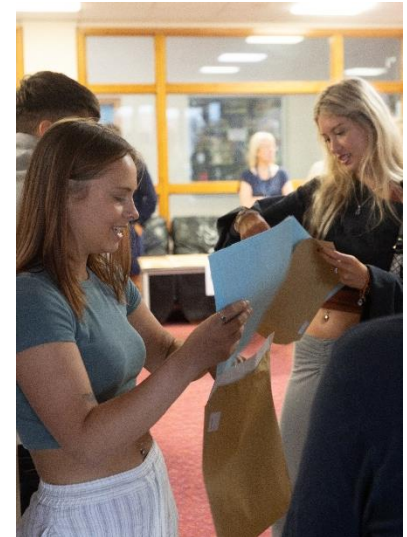
- 28% A\*-A Grades
- 64% A\*-B Grades

Balcarras is consistently in the top 10% of Sixth Form providers adding value each academic year.

Each year 75%+ of our Year 13 students apply to go on to university, with over 50% securing places at Russell group universities, a number of whom secure places at Oxford and Cambridge.

Balcarras' consistent record of excellence, both academically and pastorally, was recognised this year as we were awarded the accolade of The Sunday Times Schools Guide Southwest State Secondary School of the Decade.

All post-18 destinations are important to us – so regardless if you are seeking to go to university, an apprenticeship or to go into employment, you will receive all our support.





***The sixth form is outstanding. The quality of teaching, leadership and what the school provides is exceptional. Students gain a very high standard in examinations.***

OFSTED May 2014

***Teachers are experts in their subjects.***

OFSTED May 2014

***Leadership and management of the sixth form are outstanding. Academic and pastoral support is woven into each day and students are consulted at regular intervals as to what would benefit their sixth form experience. Comprehensive procedures are in place to support students going on to university.***

OFSTED May 2014



# SUBJECTS



**Art**

**Biology**

**Business Studies**

**Chemistry**

**Computer Science**

**Drama and Theatre**

**Economics**

**English Literature**

**Environmental Science**

**Food and nutrition science**

**French**

**Further Mathematics**

**Geography**

**Health and Social Care**

**History**

**Mathematics**

**Music**

**Photography**

**Physical Education**

**Physics**

**Politics**

**Product Design**

**Psychology**

**Religious Studies**

**Russian**

**Spanish**

**Textiles**

# SUBJECTS

## STEM

**Mathematics**  
**Further Mathematics**

**Biology**  
**Chemistry**  
**Environmental Science**  
**Physics**

**Computer Science**

## Design & Technology

**Food & Nutrition**  
**Product Design**



## Social Sciences

**Business Studies**  
**Economics**

**Health & Social Care**

**Physical Education**

**Psychology**

# SUBJECTS

## Humanities

English Literature

Geography

Government and  
Politics

History

Religious Studies  
(Philosophy & Ethics)

## Modern Foreign Languages

French

Russian

Spanish

## Arts & Performing Arts

Art

Photography

Textiles

Drama

Music



# SUBJECTS

## The rare and “new”

Drama

Environmental Science

Food

French

Music

Photography

Politics

Psychology

Spanish

Russian

Textiles



## **Vocational**

Health and Social Care

Food and nutrition science



## **All Y12 take 4 x A-level / L3 courses**

The combination of courses is up to you, and we create a timetable around your preferences.

We will offer plenty of advice though, tonight and in post-application consultations.

You can select one subject from each published option block.

Some students trial 5 subjects in September.

Most students continue 3 subject in Y13, though some do continue with 4.

**In your application, indicate 4 'Firm' subject choices, and 2 'Reserve' subject choices**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
Biology	Art	Applied Science	Biology	Art
Business	Business	Biology	Business	Biology
Chemistry	Computing	Chemistry	Chemistry	Drama
Drama	Geography	Economics	English	English
English	History	French	Food	Economics
Further Maths	Maths	Geography	Geography	Maths
History	Physics	Maths	Maths	Music
Health & Social Care	Product Design	Photography	Psychology	Physics
Physics	PE	Psychology	Russian	Politics
Product Design	Psychology		Phil & Ethics	
Psychology	Phil & Ethics		Textiles	
	Spanish			

**Your choices are indications, which allow us to construct our timetable.**

**All subject choices will be discussed in pre-admission interviews.**

**Please do select 6 different subjects and avoid repeating subjects.**

**(Please note - these Option Blocks are to illustrate how you will select your options – the 2024-25 blocks may differ.)**

## Post-16 Application Subject Choices Matrix

<b>Enjoyment</b> Which subjects do I most enjoy? Why?	<b>Aptitude</b> In which subjects am I progressing best? Why?	<b>Aspiration</b> Do I have particular career I aspire to? Most relevant subject choices (if any)?
<b>Enjoyment</b> Which subjects do I least enjoy? Why?	<b>Aptitude</b> In which subjects am I progressing least? Why?	<b>Questions?</b> Is there anything I want to ask the Sixth Form team?

## **Enrichment Curriculum includes:**

- **Games & Enrichment**
- **Personal Development**
- **PHSE**
- **EPQ**
- **Speaker Sessions**
- **Lots of ‘special events’ like ‘Balktoberfest’**





## Extra curricular activities available: Sports Teams & Games

Language classes – Italian,  
Mandarin

Engineering in Education Scheme  
Expedition

House Languages competition

Young Designer competition

Arkwright scholarships

MUNGA

Theatre visits

BOOST

Bristol University classes

University events

Ball Committee

Duke of Edinburgh

Young Enterprise

School Productions

KS3 Paired Mentoring

Christmas Concert

Midsummer Music

House Music

Volunteering

Mentoring Year 7 student

Bar Mock Trial competition

Debating competition

5-a-Side Soccer

Green Group / People and Planet

Amnesty International

Work shadowing

Senior Maths Challenge

House Music

Folk Band

Orchestra & Choir

Science Olympiads

String ensemble

Wind ensembles

Variety Show

Chamber choir

'Tisch-Tennis'

OAP Tea Party

### Enrichment

- Athletics
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Hockey
- Netball
- Football
- Rounders
- Cross Country
  - Skiing
- Kickboxing
- Basketball
- Tag Rugby
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Yoga/Pilates
  - Dance
- Table-Top Gaming



Balcarras  
From strength to strength

# Extra curricular activities: The school production



# Extra curricular activities: Dress-Up Day





**PRIVATE STUDY**

# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of 2 grade 6s and 3 grade 5s (full course GCSE).
- At least a 5 in mathematics and English (Literature or Language).
- There is no requirement about your geographical location!
- Everyone studies 4 A-levels in Y12.



Each year, many students apply from schools other than Balcarras. The benefit they bring to the sixth form, both socially and academically, is immensely valued. However, we are only able to accommodate 50 external students.

In the event that more than 50 students wish to take up a place in Year 12, students will be allocated places based on the over subscription criteria set out on the school's website.

- Download our prospectus
- Read it carefully
- Gets lots of advice
- Speak to teachers, parents, older brothers/sisters

## Course Consultation Meeting

There will be course consultation meetings following your application to ensure that the choices are the best possible selection for success, after which conditional offers of admission will be made.

These conditional offers will be confirmed after the release of GCSE results in the autumn.



## Applications

- Your application needs to reach us by **5th February 2024**
- We will do everything we can to give you your preferred four choices



# A-Level Top Performers 2023



**Matthew Baxter**  
A\* - F. Maths  
A\* - Maths  
A\* - Physics  
A - EPQ  
Edinburgh  
Maths



**Kate Chiu**  
A\* - F. Maths  
A\* - Maths  
A\* - Physics  
UCL  
Physics



**George Hadden**  
A\* - Computer Science  
A\* - F. Maths  
A\* - Maths  
A\* - Physics  
Bristol  
Computer Science



**Matthew Baxter**  
**A\* - F. Maths**  
**A\* - Maths**  
**A\* - Physics**  
**A - EPQ**  
**Edinburgh**  
**Maths**



**Anya Bolton**  
**Di - Food**  
**A - PE**  
**A - Psychology**  
**Sheffield**  
**Psychology**



**Ethan Cheale**  
**A - Economics**  
**A - F. Maths**  
**A\* - Maths**  
**A\* - Product Design**  
**Bristol**  
**Data Science**



**Kate Chiu**  
**A\* - F. Maths**  
**A\* - Maths**  
**A\* - Physics**  
**UCL**  
**Physics**



**Erin Dutton**  
**A - Maths**  
**A - Politics**  
**A - Textiles**  
**C - EPQ**  
**Leeds**  
**Graphic Design**



**Lottie Ephgrave**  
**A - Biology**  
**A - Chemistry**  
**A - Maths**  
**B - Textiles**  
**Sheffield**  
**Medicine**



**Ella Grainger**  
**Di# - H&SC**  
**Di - H&SC Double**  
**A - Psychology**  
**Exeter**  
**Psychology**



**George Hadden**  
**A\* - Computer Science**  
**A\* - F. Maths**  
**A\* - Maths**  
**A\* - Physics**  
**Bristol**  
**Computer Science**



**Jake Harris**  
**A - F. Maths**  
**A - Maths**  
**A\* - Product Design**  
**Bristol**  
**Design Engineering**



**Toby Heusen**  
**A - Computer Science**  
**A - Maths**  
**A - Physics**  
**A - EPQ**  
**Cardiff**  
**Computer Science**





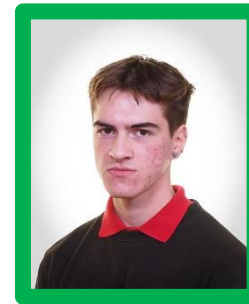
**Amena Ireland**  
A\* - Art  
A - Maths  
A\* - Product Design  
Arts London  
Art, Media & Design



**Charlie Jones**  
A - Chemistry  
A\* - F. Maths  
A\* - Maths  
A - Physics  
Exeter  
Physics



**Amas Law**  
A - Biology  
A\* - Business Studies  
A - Chemistry  
Bristol  
Biomedical Science



**William Lockyear**  
A - Economics  
A - History  
A - Politics  
Bristol  
History



**Maddie Lovemore**  
A\* - Biology  
A - Chemistry  
A - Psychology  
B - EPQ  
Veterinary Science  
Nottingham



**Oliver Madle**  
A - Economics  
A - Maths  
A - Politics  
Sheffield  
Politics



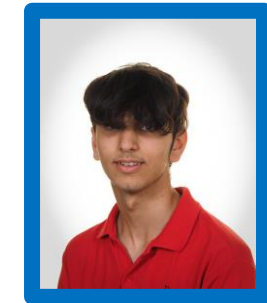
**Yasmin Mohamed Ali**  
A - English  
A - Politics  
A - Spanish  
A\* - EPQ  
Edinburgh  
Politics & Arabic



**Amelie Powys**  
A\* - Biology  
A - Chemistry  
Di\* - H&SC  
Sheffield  
Speech & Language Therapy



**Rachel Purnell**  
A - Maths  
A - Politics  
A - RS  
A - EPQ  
Birmingham  
Philosophy & Politics



**Rafferty Uppal**  
A - Computer Science  
A - Maths  
A - Physics  
Bath  
Robotic Engineering

# Sixth Form Team



**Mr Darren Leatherbarrow**  
**Mr Mark Constance**  
**Mr Will Rothwell**  
**Mrs Cheryl Crowley**  
**Mr Alex Boughton**  
**Miss Clare Shields**  
**Mrs Gill Dean**

**Head of Sixth Form**  
**Head of Year 13**  
**Head of Year 12**  
**Sixth Form Administrator**  
**UCS Advisor & Sixth Form Attendance & Study Supervisor**  
**Sixth Form Attendance & Study Supervisor**  
**Sixth Form Attendance & Study Supervisor**



# Balcarras

Sixth Form Open Evening  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024



## Sensible Course-related and Curriculum Questions to ask:

**What are the strengths / weaknesses of your department?**

**What specific topics does your syllabus focus on? What skills will I need to succeed?**

**How well do students make progress and what outcomes do they achieve?**

**What routes and career opportunities does your subject offer beyond A-level?**

**What are the typical post-18 destinations of students who do your subject?**

**What sort of feedback do your students give you about your course?**



## Sensible Extra-Curricular and Pastoral Questions to ask:

**What extra-curricular opportunities does the Sixth form offer?**

**How broad a range of student societies does the Sixth Form have?**

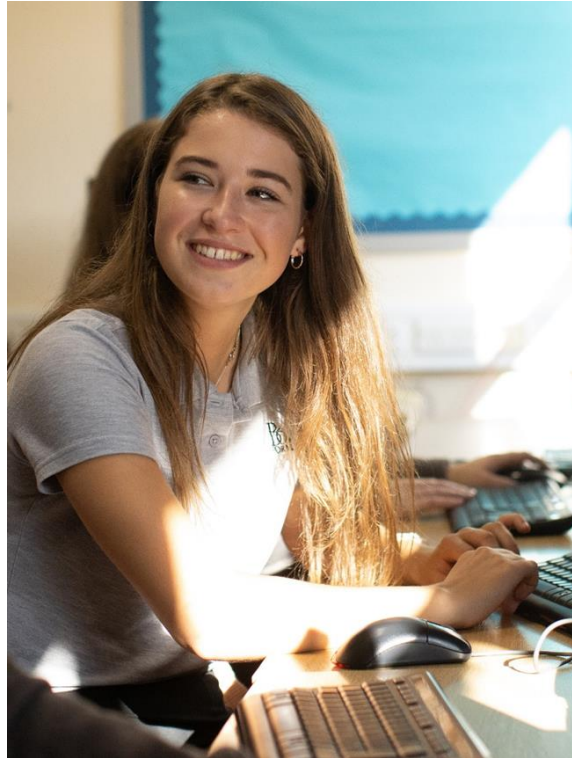
**How does the Sixth Form promote and support student wellbeing?**

**What types of pastoral support does the Sixth form have?**

**How does the Sixth Form welcome and integrate new students into the community?**

**How does the Sixth Form support and guide post-18 destinations?**

## **Any Questions?**



**Email [dl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:dl@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)**

**We hope to hear from you!**

