

Information about the sixth form colleges within the Windsor Forest College Group for University Admissions Tutors

The Windsor Forest Colleges Group was formed in March 2017 from the merger of Strode's Sixth Form College in Egham and East Berkshire College, a FE College located in Slough with a sixth form provision in Windsor. Each of the Colleges within the group retain their own identity.

Strode's College

Strode's College is a small to medium-sized sixth form college situated on a single site in Egham, in north-west Surrey. The College primarily serves the needs of full-time 16-18 year old students and part-time adult students who live in the boroughs of Runnymede and Spelthorne. The College also attracts a significant number of students from Berkshire and the London Borough of Richmond. In 2021-22 around 40% of the 16-18 year old students came from minority ethnic groups in comparison to the local population figure of 15%.

Strode's College has strong links with its six partner schools in Runnymede and Spelthorne, which provide approximately 47% of its students.

Socio- economic information

Approximately 14% of our learners claim the 16-18 Discretionary Bursary. The College sets the threshold at household income of £30,000, which is considered low income for this part of the country.

Last year 51 students claimed Free College Meals (certain household benefits qualify a student for these, for example, employment support allowance etc.).

As stated above, approx. 50% of our students come from the local authorities of Runnymede and Spelthorne. In the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) produced by the Department of Communities and Local Government, these two local authorities in 2019 are the fourth and seventh most deprived areas in Surrey. Likewise, income and employment scores for areas within these LAs are amongst the lowest in the area.

Course offer and Programmes of Study

In September 2021, there were 944 full-time students aged 16-18 at Strode's College with the majority studying advanced level courses. While most students study A Level course, a significant number of students take Level 3 BTEC courses. A small number of students take BTEC courses at Level 2 alongside GCSE courses.

Strode's offers 30 A Level subjects and 15 BTEC subjects. The EPQ is available in Year 1 and 2 to students who are appropriately qualified.

16-18-year-old students follow programmes of study, which consist of main qualifications, group and 1to1 tutorial sessions (known as Core Studies), GCSE Maths and English (as required), independent study as well as enrichment or extension activities, which support career aspirations and develop employability skills; for example, the extended project qualification (EPQ) at Level 3, team sports or a range of voluntary activities. The College encourages students to blend A Level and BTEC qualifications if appropriate. This is very popular and enables students to develop vocational knowledge and skills, which effectively complement their academic studies. Students study three subjects (or equivalent) in Year 1 and Year 2, with a minority doing 4 subjects if they are very able.

Windsor College

Historically, East Berkshire College consisted of Windsor College and Langley College serving the towns of Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead.

Windsor College is a small-sized sixth form college situated on a single site in Windsor, which attracts many of its students from the local towns of Maidenhead, Slough and Windsor. It has a growing cohort of 16-18 year old learners and also provides part-time courses for adults who live in the local area.

Socio economic information

The unemployment rate in Slough is higher than the southeast rate and just above the national rate. The main regional employment is in the service sector including distribution, hospitality and public administration.

Slough is an area of high deprivation and many students attending Windsor College live in this area. Approximately 118 students are eligible for free college meals at the College. Approximately 21% of our learners claim the 16-18 Discretionary Bursary.

In 2021-22, 66% of Windsor College 16-18-year-old students came from minority ethnic groups.

Course offer and Programmes of Study

At Windsor College most of the 560 full-time students study A Level courses, although a significant number of students take Level 3 BTEC courses. A sizeable number of students take BTEC courses at Level 2 alongside GCSE and Level 1 courses in Maths and English.

Windsor College offers 21 A Level and 9 BTEC subjects. The EPQ is available in Year 1 and 2 for able students.

16-18-year-old students follow programmes of study, which consist of main qualifications, group and 1to1 tutorial sessions, GCSE Maths and English (as required), independent study as well as enrichment or extension activities, which support career aspirations and develop employability skills; for example, the extended project qualification (EPQ) at Level 3 or a range of voluntary activities.

The College encourages students to blend A Level and BTEC qualifications if appropriate and where possible.

WFCG policy on predicted grades

Students are predicted a grade at the end of Year 1 based on performance in internal exams, external exams, current progress and the likely grade they will receive at the end of Year 2 based on this knowledge.

College statement on predicted grades

UCAS predicted grades are based on a student's expected achievement at the end of their Level 3 study programme. UCAS predicted grades are positive predictions and the best possible expected final grade for a student. UCAS predicted grades will take into account the progress made by a student during their first year of study and achievement at the end of Year 1. For students studying A Levels this will, for example, mean that if a student has achieved a strong grade C at the end of the first year of study, their UCAS predicted grade is likely to be a grade B. For students studying Level 3 BTECs this will, for example, mean that if a student has achieved a Merit at the end of the first year of study, their UCAS predicted grade is likely to be a Merit/Distinction. We will, however, assess each student individually to ensure that all UCAS predicted grades accurately reflect a student's true potential.