



## The Sigma Scholars Programme

In an increasingly competitive world, we want to ensure that we guide and support our able students so that their applications for higher education and employment are wide-ranging and distinctive. To achieve this, we have created a bespoke programme for our more able students called the Sigma Scholars Programme.

Students who achieve an average GCSE score that places them in the top 5-10% of the national cohort can join Sigma Scholars and benefit from expansion of subject skills, specific enrichment and extra-curricular activities to fuel their ambitions and love of learning. We also work with students' families to provide parents and carers with the tools to support their child in making aspirational goals a reality.

### The Sigma Scholars programme uses the 'Three A's':

#### Advance

- Additional guidance to ensure that curriculum choices match students' needs and aspirations.
- Teaching and learning approaches tailored to motivate, extend skills and develop independence.
- Additional challenge through independent learning tasks and wider reading.

#### Achieve

- All staff conduct effective monitoring of Sigma Scholars as a discrete group.
- Academic mentoring to ensure that students maintain high levels of achievement.
- Strategic intervention to improve student progress where needed.

#### Aspire

- Early support for applying to UCAS/apprenticeships and completing personal statements.
- Individual support in applying to competitive Summer Schools at a range of institutions, including Cambridge University, Oxford University and Imperial College London
- Further support in applying to recognised mentoring schemes, such as Oxford UNIQ, Cambridge summer school and shadowing programme and Realising Opportunities
- Range of visits to universities to broaden horizons and aspirations.
- Inspirational lectures from leaders in a range of high-performing fields.
- One-to-one support in the completion of the Extended Project Qualification with exceptional outcomes.

Students involved in the Sigma Scholars Programme move on to a range of destinations with the majority of students choosing to go to university. We also have students securing apprenticeships and employment with a range of businesses locally and further afield. Some of our students also take a gap year with a variety of volunteering programmes. The Sigma Sixth Team will support students in making these next steps.

