

Francis Holland School: How to Inspire Sixth Form Pupils

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Katharine Woodcock, the headmistress of Francis Holland School Regent's Park, talks about the importance of an inspiring sixth form

The sixth form experience can rightly be described as the best that education has to offer, having the potential to be the most exhilarating stage in a school career. Sixth form should light up a world of intellectual and personal opportunities, bringing greater academic freedom, increased personal responsibility and more independence.

Upgrade facilities



Here at [Francis Holland](#), Regent's Park, we're thrilled to have opened our doors to our new, state-of-the-art sixth form centre, Linhope House. We've created an environment designed to bridge the gap between school and [university](#), as well as the transition from year 11 to year 12. With an impressive common room, which doubles up as a contemporary seminar and lecture space, Linhope House has it all.

Students have their own catering facility, a think lab to engender [creativity](#) and innovative thinking, a [reading](#) room, collaborative teaching and learning spaces, as well as study booths. A dedicated team is on hand to support in every possible way, including with an ever-increasing range of further education and career opportunities, in the UK or [overseas](#).

Motivate pupils



[Empowering](#) every student to reach their potential at this stage in their school life is paramount, balancing the importance of increased independence with the requisite academic and [pastoral support](#). Realising individual [ambitions](#) is crucial, and paving the way for students to thrive in their future lives is integral to a sixth form education.

The sixth form is a challenging, intense and enriching next phase of an educational journey. It's a key period of academic as well as personal development, and with the seismic shift in expectations comes an exciting treasure trove of academic and [co-curricular enrichment](#).

Through an engaging and relevant sixth form [curriculum](#), we have a chance to future-proof sixth formers so that they're not only equipped with knowledge, but also with [skills](#) to lead, adapt and cope with an ever-changing global landscape.

Widen opportunities



There's a balance to be struck between examination preparation and schooling for life. [Creativity](#), curiosity, compassion, perseverance, dexterity and fostering a lifelong love of learning are key components of a successful sixth form, as is a co-curricular programme that complements what's taking place in the classroom.

Integral to any sixth form is the capacity to broaden horizons. Our students are encouraged to immerse themselves fully in the experience, be that through volunteering, leadership opportunities, running clubs for the younger years, partnership work, attending our lecture programmes, most recently featuring Lady Hale (former president of the Supreme Court), Young Enterprise, [Duke of Edinburgh](#), the Extended Project Qualification and more.

Our students work hard, play hard, make lasting friendships, gain life skills and above all, recognise their place in the world and the value of a social conscience. Our sixth form is a springboard towards a bright and confident future, where the hopes and aspirations of every student are central to all we do.

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