



**Peter Symonds College**  
Owens Road  
Winchester  
Hants S022 6RX  
Sixth Form College Telephone: (01962) 857500  
Adult Education Telephone: (01962) 886166  
www.psc.ac.uk

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE COLLEGE**

### **Vision: Counting in Ones**

'Counting in Ones' is our motto and is the key principle which guides everything we do. Each student is an individual with their own distinctive personal needs. We aim to work in the best interests of each individual, helping them to fulfil their potential and realise their aspirations. High expectations are at the heart of our vision for the College and all of its students and staff.

We aim to promote and support high achievement, providing an environment in which learners can grow in confidence and independence, and develop the knowledge, skills and aptitudes needed to progress to higher education or employment.

We seek to develop well-rounded, open-minded individuals with ambitious goals and a sense of social responsibility towards the local, national and international communities of which they are a part. As a large college we are able to offer a wide range of both curricular and extra-curricular opportunities, enabling students to broaden their horizons and try new experiences.

Our reputation as a popular and highly successful sixth form college is well established. We aim to be leaders in the sector in promoting, developing and sharing high quality, innovative teaching and learning and highly effective student guidance and support.

### **Background**

Peter Symonds opened as a sixth form college in September 1974, having previously been a boys' grammar school with a history traceable back to 1607. In 1992 the sixth form college took on the responsibility for adult education in Central Hampshire, with the successor to the free-standing adult education institute now forming part of the College. In common with all sixth form and FE colleges, Symonds became an independent corporation in April 1993 and is now funded by the Education Funding Agency (EFA), the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The College grew rapidly in the 1990s to its current size of over 3,800 full-time 16-19 year old students, plus some 3,000 (mostly) part-time adult students.

Our intention is to limit future 16-19 enrolments so that the student roll does not exceed our capability to provide a quality sixth form education, given the physical and human resources available. Thus, it is probable that the College will continue to have a full-time sixth form roll up to around 4,000, plus some 3,000 part-time adult students, including those on short courses run for local businesses and in co-operation with the SFA. In recent years there has been significant growth into HE courses for adults. We continue to receive applications from more students than we can accommodate.

*"Peter Symonds College is outstanding"*  
**Ofsted Inspection Report 2005**

*"Overall effectiveness is outstanding"*  
**Ofsted Inspection Report 2008**

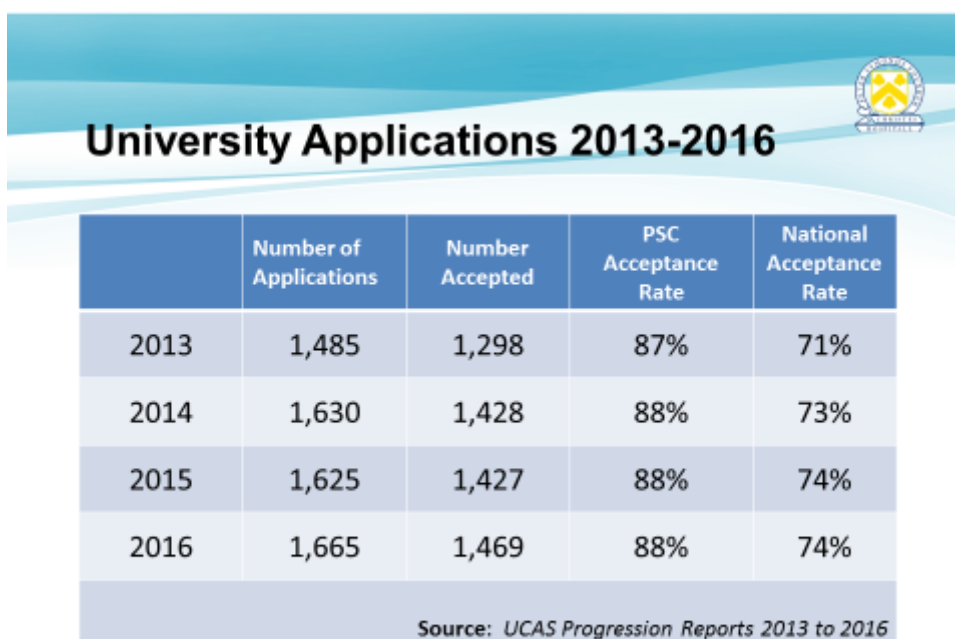
There is a conscious division between provision for full-time and part-time students, with the

maintenance of a full-time ethos in the **sixth form** college being an aim. All of the day time part-time provision is based at a separate site some one mile from the main site.

Approximately 45% of our full-time students come from Winchester 11-16 schools, with the rest coming from towns such as Southampton, Basingstoke and Andover. Approximately 15% of each year's intake comes from the private sector.

The growth and success of the College have been inextricably linked, with students being attracted to Winchester from a wide surrounding area. The College has been placed first or second in the Hampshire A level results league tables for state colleges in each year of publication and is often placed as the top college in the South of England. In the 2015 and 2016 league tables, Peter Symonds was the only Sixth Form College in Hampshire where value added was statistically significantly positive for both A level and vocational courses for two consecutive years.

Around 45-55 students are offered Oxbridge places each year, more than at most selective independent schools. We are the largest supplier nationally of students to the Russell Group universities. The large majority of our students progress to university:



The chart displays university application statistics from 2013 to 2016. It includes a table with columns for Year, Number of Applications, Number Accepted, PSC Acceptance Rate, and National Acceptance Rate. The data shows a consistent high acceptance rate for the college, often exceeding the national average. The source is cited as UCAS Progression Reports 2013 to 2016.

	Number of Applications	Number Accepted	PSC Acceptance Rate	National Acceptance Rate
2013	1,485	1,298	87%	71%
2014	1,630	1,428	88%	73%
2015	1,625	1,427	88%	74%
2016	1,665	1,469	88%	74%

Source: UCAS Progression Reports 2013 to 2016

Ex-Symonds students are twice as likely to gain a place at Russell Group universities as students from elsewhere.



## Destinations figures from Sutton Trust report

	% to University	% to top 30 Universities
Peter Symonds	83	41
England all schools / colleges	68	24
Independent Schools	76	48
Other Hants SFCs	55	20

Students at Peter Symonds are almost twice as likely to gain a place at one of the prestigious Russell Group universities as students elsewhere

Ex-Symonds students' achievements surpass those of other young people from the state sector and also those from the independent sector.



## And at the Russell Group ...

Percentage	First class honours	Upper second class honours	First class and upper second class honours
Peter Symonds College	21.24%	60.38%	81.62%
Sixth Form College	19.94%	56.53%	76.47%
Independent	18.02%	57.95%	75.96%
State	20.78%	54.51%	75.30%

Figures from Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures are for those students completing degrees in 2011-12

## Beyond Peter Symonds ...



Percentage	First class honours	Upper second class honours	First class and upper second class honours
Peter Symonds College	18.62%	59.57%	78.19%
Sixth Form College	15.85%	52.73%	68.58%
Independent	16.27%	56.15%	72.42%
State	15.86%	50.57%	66.43%

Figures from Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures are for those students completing degrees in 2011-12

### Boarding Education

Symonds is the only state sixth form college to offer boarding: current capacity being around 80. The College provides sixth form education for the Falkland Islands, with 15 boarders coming from the islands each year. Boarding was inspected by Ofsted in 2015 and graded as outstanding in every category and overall.

'Retention rates are outstandingly high'

Learners 'attain even higher grades than would be expected based on their GCSE grades'

**Ofsted Inspection Report 2015**

*"Outstanding"*

**Ofsted Boarding Inspection Report 2010**

### Accommodation

Adult and Higher Education (AHED) is based in a refurbished ex-infant school at Stoney Lane, Weeke. The AHED Centre includes 10 classrooms including IT facilities, complementary therapy facilities and hair and beauty salons. The Centre is close to local shops and is served by local buses from the town centre every 10 minutes.

The main College site covers some 25 acres close to the centre of Winchester, within easy walking distance of the station. The buildings cover the full architectural range from Victorian splendour to the most modern designs, via contributions from virtually every decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. All our accommodation is of a very high standard. There are extensive playing fields and the campus provides an extremely pleasant working environment. There was a £4.4 million Learning & Resource Centre built in 2008 and further refurbishment around the campus over recent summers. In 2013 a new science extension was built. In 2014 we opened a new classroom block and in 2015 we opened a new classroom and quiet study block, fully equipped with IT.

### Courses

Within the sixth form division of the College, 'A' levels are still by far the most common courses. The vast majority of our full-time, teenaged students are with us for two years, studying A levels chosen from the 45-50 on offer each year. With well over 3,800 candidates sitting these examinations each year, Peter Symonds is one of (if not *the*) largest centres for A level in the country. A significant minority of our students take vocational equivalents as single or double awards or as full BTEC Diplomas or Extended Diplomas.

Approximately 60 of our students are admitted for one year, initially at least, taking level 2 courses. Each year, some 40 or so of these do well enough to then be re-admitted to the College on two year advanced programmes.

The Adult and Higher Education (AHED) Division offers a remarkably wide range of (mostly) part-time courses, ranging from leisure or recreational courses in topics such as dressmaking or painting, right through to professional, accredited courses, teacher training, complementary therapies, hairdressing and beauty therapy, counselling or literacy and numeracy. AHED is based at our Stoney Lane site in Weeke, but also runs courses in local outreach centres in the Winchester area. In recent years, there has been a dramatic growth in demand for employment related courses such as childcare and adult care. Both College sites are very well-equipped with the latest computer technology including a highly effective network and intranet. There is also a flourishing Access course for adults wishing to go on to Higher Education and we have developed a range of Foundation Degree and Full Honours Degree programmes, with our first full honours students graduating in September 2012. We also have approval to run a Masters degree. Our HE work is run in conjunction with Middlesex, Chichester and Greenwich Universities.

The college 'provides an environment where learners can grow in confidence and independence'.  
'The college seeks to develop well-rounded, open minded individuals with ambitious goals'

**Ofsted Inspection Report 2015**

## **Student Life**

In spite of unremitting financial pressure in response to the government drive for efficiency gains, the College remains committed to the highest standards of pastoral care for its students.

In addition to pastoral and learning support, the College offers an extremely wide range of "enrichment" activities: short additional courses or activities such as First Aid, community service, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, music etc. Sport is extremely strong with teams in all the major and many of the minor sports. Many of those teams are regional and national champions or cup winners.

## **Staffing Structure**

In the sixth form college, subjects are grouped into four faculties with the teacher in charge of each subject being responsible in the first instance to the appropriate Head of Faculty. Heads of Faculty have responsibility both for curriculum and the pastoral well-being of students in tutor groups in their faculty. Virtually all full-time and some part-time teaching staff act as tutors to a group of students and the role of the group tutor is critical in the support given to our students. In addition there are non-teaching staff with managerial, administrative, technical, clerical and financial responsibilities.

The large Adult and Higher Education Division is led by its own Head of Division with separate curriculum managers and administrative staff dealing with adult students.

*In an anonymous survey of staff satisfaction, 97% said they would recommend the College to others as a good place to work.*

## **Conditions of Service**

Please note that detailed conditions of service will be issued to the successful candidate, and are available at interview on request. This section is intended merely to give a broad picture.

Peter Symonds subscribes to the Sixth Form Colleges' Association. The Governors have adopted the form of contract agreed by both employers and unions nationally.

Current conditions of service for teachers are not dissimilar to those of school teachers, in that teaching staff are required to be on site for 195 days in each year, 190 of which will involve teaching as such. Of course, as with school teachers, there is an expectation of a large amount of preparation and marking etc outside "directed time". The main differences between sixth form college teachers' and school teachers' conditions lie firstly in the facility for the College to require, if needed, up to 2 evenings a week (6 hours total) evening class teaching as part of a teacher's timetable, and secondly,

in the fact that our pay and conditions are, of course, not within the remit of the School Teacher Review Body.

Similarly non-teaching staff conditions are broadly similar to Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical (APT&C) conditions as common in local government.

Please note that for substantial part-time and for full-time teaching posts in any department of the college, a recognised full teaching qualification is normally a prerequisite (eg Cert Ed., B Ed., PGCE).

In all cases it is possible for a strong candidate to be appointed without the relevant teaching qualification, but only on the understanding that such a qualification will be obtained within two years of appointment (four years if part-time).

Typically, an unqualified candidate who is successful in gaining an appointment to a permanent post will be given a two year fixed term contract if full-time, and four year fixed term contract if part-time. Such a contract will be made permanent on proof of the qualification being achieved. The College will give assistance in obtaining the qualification.

'Equality, diversity and inclusion are embedded throughout all aspects of college life.'

**Ofsted Report 2015**

*"Excellent pastoral care"*

**Ofsted Report 2015**

## **Beacon Status**

The College was awarded beacon college status by the Minister for Further/Higher Education in July 2006 having previously been awarded accredited status by the FEFC in 2001. Both awards recognise the high quality of the college.

Ofsted graded the college as outstanding in every single respect as a result of inspections 2004 and 2008. We have also receive numerous 'good practice survey' visits and are regularly inspected separately in respect of our boarding provision. Since 2004 the college has never been rated as less than outstanding in any such assessment in no fewer that 14 inspection visits of one sort or the other since 2004. Under current Ofsted policy we are not in scope to be inspected in the foreseeable future.

## **Other Matters**

The whole College campus is strictly non-smoking, apart from one small designated outdoor area.

Winchester is considered a very desirable place to live, and is within one hour's train journey of Waterloo. Thus prices of houses within easy travel of the City centre and station are high by national standards, on a par with outer London suburbs. However, there is a considerable drop in prices outside Winchester itself, with neighbouring towns such as Basingstoke, Eastleigh or Andover being much more easily affordable.

'a highly effective and strong leadership team operates with a passion for the learners to succeed'

**Ofsted Report 2015**

*Stephen Carville*  
*Principal January 2017*