

A group of five students in school uniforms are walking along a paved path. In the background, there is a large, light-colored building with arched windows and a dark roof. The scene is outdoors with greenery and trees.

Sidcot School Key Information for International Students

sidcot.org.uk



Sidcot
Live Adventurously



What matters at Sidcot when educating children for the future...

- What kind of intelligence and skills will students need to flourish?
- How can students make a positive contribution to society beyond school?
- How can we help them to become the leaders of tomorrow?

Whilst we are justifiably proud of our students' academic record, we are equally proud of their social skills, their emotional intelligence, their resilience and their determination to make a difference in the world.

It's no surprise that these personal qualities go together with academic excellence. It's our experience that curiosity and the confidence to enquire fearlessly – to live adventurously, as our Quaker philosophy puts it – lead children to be better motivated and more at ease with themselves as thinkers and learners.

Academic skills will certainly continue to be important and, for the foreseeable future, exams will remain the standard measure of achievement. We proudly provide the highest quality support for our pupils' academic ambitions, whilst helping them develop their emotional intelligence and the skills they will need for their futures.

That's why we keep the curriculum as broad as possible for as long as possible. Our pupils understand that education is about expanding possibilities and discovering potential, not just passing tests.

I hope you enjoy finding out more about how we live and learn at Sidcot. We would welcome students to come and experience a taste of Sidcot and find out what makes us so distinctive.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'J' followed by a horizontal line.

James Jones
Head of Sidcot School

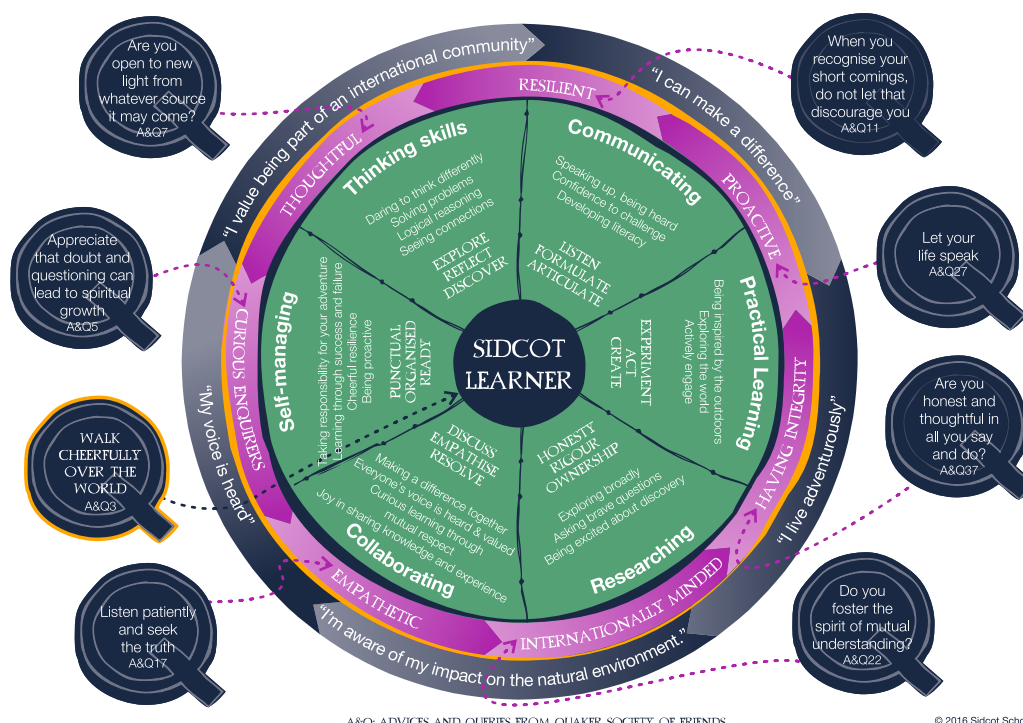


At a glance

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Age range of boarders: | 11 to 18 | Educational programmes: | Long/short term boarding from Year 7 Pre-GCSE Pathway (Specialist English Language Course) Year 11 Pathway (one year GCSE programme) Two year GCSE course International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) A Levels BTEC Sport and BTEC Business |
| Total number of students: | 620 Percentage of international pupils 24% 139 students in Sixth Form | Outstanding reputation: | Creative Arts, Maths and Science |
| Number of boarders: | 115 | Extras: | Onsite Equestrian Centre and top class equestrian team competing at national level. Centre for Peace and Global Studies. |
| Fees: | Visit sidcot.org.uk/admissions/fees | Nearest airport: | Bristol – 7 miles |
| Religion: | Quaker. We accept students and staff of all faiths and none. | Nearest railway station: | Yatton – 8 miles and Bristol Temple Meads – 20 miles |
| Setting: | Rural | | |
| Nearest cities: | Bristol and Bath | | |
| Travel time to London: | 2 hours by train | | |

The Sidcot Learning Wheel

Sidcot's approach to teaching encourages individual thought and exploration, whilst making sure all students have the support they need to grow as individuals with their full range of talents recognised and celebrated.



A&Q: ADVICES AND QUERIES FROM QUAKER SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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The Sidcot Learning Wheel below links our values to the teaching and learning that goes on throughout the School, everyday. The **Centre for Peace and Global Studies** develops this approach further. Students are encouraged to explore broader issues with a global perspective and to express their values in action.

With an emphasis on outdoor activity and a full extra-curricular programme, all students are encouraged to take part in many outdoor pursuits, including riding. We are fortunate to have our own **Equestrian Centre** within the school campus and the benefit of a beautiful 160 acre rural setting offering a range of inspirational learning spaces.

Student success 2025

This information gives an indication of how the School has performed in external examinations.

GCSE

9 to 7 (A* to A) 29% | 9 to 4 (A* to C) 89%

- 72% of grades were grade 5 and above
- In all metrics, Sidcot achieved significantly higher than the national average

YEAR 13 RESULTS

Across the entire range of courses undertaken by our Year 13 cohort, including A Levels, BTEC, and IB, grades achieved were equivalent to:

A* to A 31.5% | A* to C 75%

- The combined Value Added for A Level and BTEC was 0.64. This means, on average, students achieved an additional half a grade higher than predicted

International Baccalaureate Diploma

- 100% of students passed the IB Diploma
- Top score of 43 out of a possible 45 in the IB
- Sidcot continues to significantly overachieve the world average of 30.6 in the IB

A Level

- A Level top performer achieved A*, A*, A, A
- One student accepted a place at the University of Cambridge
- Two students accepted places to study Medicine

L3 BTEC Business & Sport

- BTEC top performer achieved a Distinction*, Distinction

Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ)

A* to A 57% | A* to C 86%

The EPQ, or Extended Project Qualification, offers students the opportunity to produce a project on a topic of their choice and provides the equivalent of half an A Level. Each student will embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project taking responsibility for choosing a topic, planning, researching and developing their ideas into a finished product.

SIXTH FORM LEAVERS

Our Upper Sixth students took a wide variation in routes for their next steps – evidence that our students have been brave and bold in following their own personal dreams and the breadth of our careers support.

95%

of UK applicants secured places at their preferred university or institution



PASS (Programme of Activities for Sidcot Students)

The Programme of Activities for Sidcot Students (PASS) has been designed to provide all students throughout the School with an exciting opportunity to live adventurously, to live out the School's core values, to play an active part in our Ashoka Changemaker School, to develop leadership skills and become excellent team players.

The programme has been designed to be fun and active, which will help boost the health and wellbeing of our students. It will enable them to be happy, positive individuals and equip them with the skills and attitude to be able to thrive at School and enjoy their learning experience.

The students have the opportunity to opt into a range of activities on Thursday afternoons throughout the school year alongside their peers across the Whole School. The vertical nature of this programme (Third Form to Sixth Form) promotes the Sidcot community spirit throughout, allowing them to live, learn and grow alongside one another in a supportive environment.



Equestrian

Sidcot has a thriving Equestrian Centre in the heart of the school. Our Equestrian team compete at the highest level, winning top places in national competitions.



For students interested in learning to ride but who don't have their own horse or haven't ridden before, we offer a full riding programme on our school horses or at a local equestrian yard.

Boarders can benefit from our full livery service and bring their own horse to Sidcot, riding on-site with coaching from our highly qualified team of trainers.

Sidcot Equestrian is affiliated with both the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) and British Showjumping Just for Schools (BSJFS), where we have been incredibly competitive at both regional and national levels.

Some of our successes include:

- 2022 National Showjumping Champions
- 2021 National Jumping with Style Champions
- 2019 & 2018: BS Just for Schools National Champions

ACADEMIC PATHWAY

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

During the first three years of Senior School, prior to commencing study for national examinations, we aim to keep the curriculum as broad as possible. Sidcot Students will study the following:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science – Biology, Chemistry & Physics
- Geography
- History
- Religious Education
- Modern Languages
- Creative Arts
- Music
- Drama
- Design Technology – Product Design, Food Technology, Textiles & Computing

Pre-GCSE Pathway: Specialist English Language Course

The Pre-GCSE Pathway programme is a EAL (English as an Additional Language) Foundation Course for international students.

It has been designed to offer younger international pupils a holistic pre-GCSE curriculum with a strong emphasis on English skills development, and provides excellent preparation for the GCSE course at Year 10 (14+) entry. Pupils will enjoy the advantages of being able to integrate with native English-speaking students for a large part of their timetable and within their boarding house, whilst still receiving intensive specialist language support.

YEAR 7

Ages 11 to 12

YEAR 8

Ages 12 to 13

Y9

Ages
13 to 14

Pre-GCSE
PATHWAY

Year 12 A LEVELS

A Level courses are rigorous, two-year long courses that lead to university entrance. They are specialist academic courses and are therefore an excellent preparation for the demands of top-class universities. Students will normally select three A Levels to study from the below options:

- Accounting
- Art & Design
- Art & Design: Photography (For Native Speakers)
- Art & Design: Textile Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Design & Technology: Product Design
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Literature
- Languages
- Italian, Chinese, Russian
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Music
- Music Technology
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics)

In addition to A Levels some students will select the EPQ, or Extended Project Qualification. The EPQ offers students the opportunity to produce a project on a topic of their choice and provides the equivalent of half an A Level.

Year 12 IB

The IB, or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, is an internationally recognised alternative to A Levels.

It allows students a greater breadth to their Sixth Form studies as they study six subjects: three at higher level and three at standard level. The subject choices are organised to maintain a breadth of study across English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Languages and Arts.

Year 10 & 11

In Year 10 students begin the two year GCSE programme. Sidcot students can choose from the following subjects:

- English Language & Literature*
- Mathematics*
- The Sciences*
- Art
- Art - Photography
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Religious Studies, Philosophy & Applied Ethics
- Textiles (Art & Design)
- English (as a second language)
- EAL (English as an Additional Language)
- BTEC Tech Award in Sport

Alongside their elected subjects students will also take part in PE & Games lessons, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education) and a vast array of extra-curricular activities.

*Compulsory subject for all students.

Year 11 Pathway: One Year GCSE Course

The Year 11 Pathway is a great introduction to the UK education system for international students.

The course allows students to sit up to six GCSEs whilst also preparing them for either A Levels, IB or BTEC. There is a focus on developing English for those in need and the stretch and challenge of completing a two-year programme of study in just one year.

CORE

- IGCSE: English Language OR IGCSE: English as a Second Language
- IGCSE: Maths Extended OR IGCSE: Maths Core

OPTIONS

- IGCSE: Physics OR IGCSE: Humanities (History or Geography)
- IGCSE: Chemistry OR IGCSE: Art
- IGCSE: Biology OR IGCSE: Business Studies
- Plus native language GCSE if available

YEAR 10

Two Year GCSE Course
Ages 14 to 15



Y11

Ages
15 to 16



Y11 PATHWAY

Ages
15 to 16

YEAR 12

Two Year Sixth Form
Courses

Ages 16 to 18

A Level | IB | BTEC



YEAR 13

| | SUBJECTS OFFERED | LEVEL* |
|---|--|----------------------|
| 1 | English A Literature | Standard, Higher |
| | German A Language & Literature | Standard, Higher |
| | Italian A Literature | Standard, Higher |
| | German B | Standard, Higher |
| | French B | Standard, Higher |
| 2 | Spanish B | Standard, Higher |
| | Spanish ab initio | Standard (Beginners) |
| | Italian ab initio | Standard (Beginners) |
| | Economics | Standard, Higher |
| 3 | History | Standard, Higher |
| | Geography | Standard, Higher |
| | Psychology | Standard, Higher |
| | Biology | Standard, Higher |
| 4 | Chemistry | Standard, Higher |
| | Physics | Standard, Higher |
| 5 | Maths - Applications & Interpretations | Standard, Higher |
| | Visual Arts | Standard, Higher |
| 6 | Music | Standard, Higher |
| | Theatre Studies | Standard, Higher |

In addition to their six selected subjects, students will also take part in: **Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and Creativity, Activity and Service.**

Year 12 BTEC

Alongside A Levels, BTEC Nationals are the most widely recognised qualification for admission to Higher Education in the UK.

At Sidcot students can choose been BTEC qualifications in **Business** and **Sport**. BTECs are career-based qualifications designed to give students the practical skills and specialist knowledge they need to progress along their chosen learning and career path.

Leiths Extended Certificate
in Professional Cookery

This course is designed for students aiming for a career in the food industry who want to develop the knowledge and skills required for a wide range of careers as well as a lifetime love of cooking good food. This qualification is accredited by the Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality and is a hands-on practical cookery qualification normally taken alongside three A Levels.



Boarding

When students board at Sidcot School, they join a friendly, family community where they can live, work and play, secure in the knowledge that they are valued and well cared for.

We have four recently renovated boarding houses set within our 150-acre countryside campus. Our boarding houses are overseen by experienced, dedicated staff consisting of a Houseparent, Deputy Houseparent, House matrons, and tutors. They know how daunting it can be for students to live away from home and do everything they can to support our students and help them settle into life at Sidcot School.

NO EXEATS

There are no exeat weekends at Sidcot and no formal lessons on Saturdays. During the weekends, boarding students can participate in various activities such as basketball, swimming, and ceramics, and an exciting programme of weekend trips also takes place throughout the year.



A typical day

Monday to Friday

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 07:30 – 08:00 | Breakfast |
| 08:00 | Back to House to get ready for school |
| 08:25 | Leave the House for School |
| 08:30 – 08:45 | Tutor time |
| 08:45 | Lessons begin |
| 10:25 – 11:15 | Assembly/Meeting for Worship/Enrichment Y7-11 |
| 11:15 | Break time |
| 11:35 | Lessons |
| 13:05 – 14:05 | Lunch |
| 13:15 – 13:50 | House opens |
| 13:55 – 14:10 | Tutor time |
| 14:05 | Lessons (14:00 Thursday) |
| 15:50 – 16:50 | House opens |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | Activities/Prep |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | Activities/Prep |
| 17:35 – 18:30 | Evening meal |
| 18:30 | Roll call/Registration & House meeting |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | Quiet time/Study time |

Saturday

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Breakfast |
| 09:55 – 10:50 | Roll call/Registration |
| 10:00 – 10:55 | Leave House for activities (House closes) |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Activities |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:00 – 17:30 | House opens – Organised activities/Free time |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | Evening meal |
| 18:00 | House opens |
| 18:30 | Roll call/Registration |
| 19:00 | Activities/Free time |

Sunday

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 10:50 | Roll call/Registration |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Brunch (House closes) |
| 11:30 | Activities/Free time (House opens) |
| 17:30 | House closes |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | Evening meal |
| 18:00 | House opens |
| 18:30 | Roll call/Registration |
| 19:00 | Organised activities/Free time |



Co-curricular

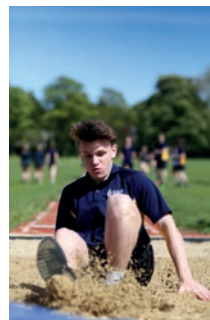
Our excellent rural location, top-class facilities, and strong links with community groups, charities, and businesses mean we can offer an extensive co-curricular programme with over 100 different activities!

Activities run at lunchtime, after school, in the evenings, and on weekends. From archery to adventure club, golf to photography and maths club, our students have plenty of opportunities to try new things and develop existing interests.

Students and their parents can sign up for the activities they are interested in through SchoolsBuddy. When students join Sidcot School, information on how to set up their SchoolsBuddy accounts will be provided.

Below are some examples of co-curricular activities on offer for Sidcot students.

- Adventure Club (Climbing)
- Basketball Club
- Boys' Football
- Hockey
- Drama Rehearsals
- Golf
- Swimming
- Multigym
- Languages Revision Club
- Maths Café
- Photography
- Open Art Studio
- Athletics
- Fencing
- Riding Lessons
- Choirs
- Orchestra



Testimonials

Every year, we welcome international students from over 30 countries. Some of our current students have shared their experiences at Sidcot below.

Valentina | Year 12 | Italy

Hi, I'm Valentina, and I'm a student at Sidcot. I decided to become a boarding student last September, when I realised I wanted to try a new experience. I'm the first in my family to attend a boarding school, and Sidcot was definitely the best choice I could have made.



When I visited the school for the first time in March, I knew this was the right place for me. At first, when I arrived in September, it was difficult: new people, a new home, and a new school, all without my family and friends. However, the people in the boarding house are really lovely, and after a few days, I started to enjoy this place. Whenever you need something, there's always someone ready to help you.

I would choose this experience again and again, and I highly recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity to come and join our school.

Chi | Year 12 | Thailand

For me, Sidcot is a school that is open and respectful of the different abilities of each child. For example, since I play tennis in Thailand, the school found a coach to teach me while I study here. I've met people from different countries, and everyone is very kind and gentle to me. From the very first day I came to study here, many people have given me advice on things I didn't know. Some of the older students took very good care of me, and to me, they were like real brothers. They made me feel at ease in a way I can't explain. Even though I'm very afraid of being judged, no one has ever judged me for trying new things that I'm not good at. No one has ever judged me based on my appearance. It made me feel much more confident. It made me dare to try things I've never done before. It made me grow a lot. I got to see the world from a different perspective than before. I got to spend more time with myself and understand what kind of person I want to grow into. I've learned to solve many problems on my own.



Taisiia | Year 9 | Spain

My experience at Sidcot has been wonderful! Having been a student at Elian's in Spain for over 8 years, having the opportunity to experience a new way of studying, communicating with others, and living in general was very exciting. Throughout my stay at Newcombe House, I've had more time to discover new interests and progress in activities that the School offered, and therefore I began to love philosophy, swimming, and even French, subjects that I never thought I would enjoy or try in the first place. Also, the support of the teachers benefited me greatly, so much so that they helped me with most of the work that I had trouble with and always tried to make me more accustomed to the change of scenery. I met many new people, both friends and classmates, who welcomed me with smiles and happiness in their eyes, and I felt safe, even though I didn't know what to expect in the future. I hope to relive that moment of my life at least once more in the future.



Ken | Year 13 | Hong Kong

I started Sixth Form at Sidcot School last year, and it has been an amazing experience so far. In Sixth Form, there are different options, including A Levels, the IB Diploma, and BTEC courses, so you can choose the subjects you're truly passionate about. The teachers are very supportive, they treat us like adults, encouraging us to take ownership of our learning, while also providing help and advice when needed. As a boarding student at Sidcot, the experience has been wonderful, and I've made a group of lifelong friends. The boarding house is like a big family, the staff help with any problems, and they also organize various activities for boarders in the evenings and weekends, providing a wide range of options to explore the school surroundings and the local area. I will cherish my time at Sidcot, this school has helped me discover my interests, experience life in the UK, and given me the opportunity to become part of the Sidcot family.



Travel Information:

Nearest airport: Bristol International
(15 minute drive, 13 km)

Flights to worldwide destinations.

Easy access to London International Airports and mainline rail services (approx. 2 hours to London Paddington and London Heathrow).

We provide a drop-off and pick-up service to and from Heathrow Airport at the beginning and end of each term and half term

Nearest railway station:

Yatton – 8 miles

Bristol Temple Meads – 20 miles



Zuzia | Year 13 | Poland

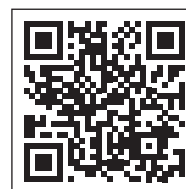
This is my third year at the School, which reminds me of how much my life has changed since I first arrived. I can confidently say that Sidcot is the place where I've undergone the greatest transformation. England has taught me what independence truly means. Although I must admit that I didn't achieve this alone, but with a whole group of people who support me every day at school and in the boarding house. I am very happy with the direction I've chosen by deciding to take A Levels. I love the atmosphere of every lesson where the teacher talks to the student as an equal. I don't feel fear or stress, only respect - which is importantly mutual.

My music tech studies at Sidcot were an incredible journey, and getting offers from all the universities I applied to was extremely satisfying. I'm delighted to have secured a place at my first choice university, Bath Spa to study Commercial Music. This wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of my teachers.



Find out more including specific course brochures and fee information here.

FIND
OUT
MORE



For further information, visit our website
www.sidcot.org.uk, or contact us directly.



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