

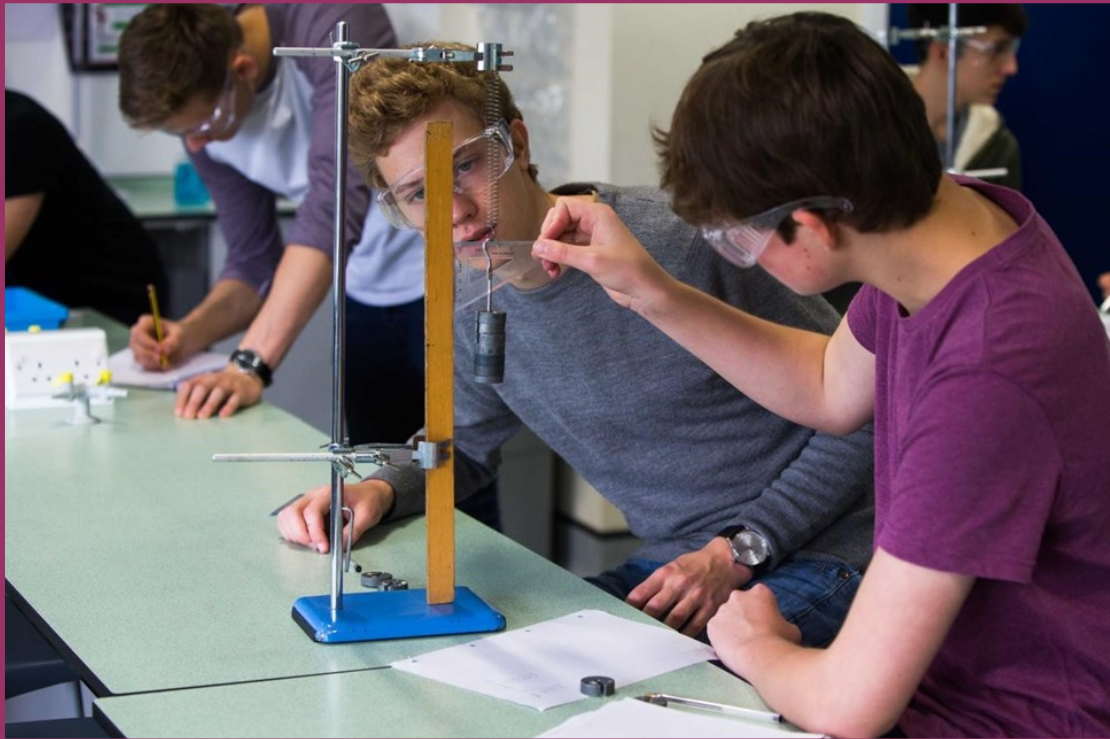


WOLLASTON SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: James Birkett

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Kieron Beeby

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER: Shazia Lydon



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING 2019



GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Contact Number: 01933 663501 Email address: sixthformteam@wollaston-school.net

Welcome from the Head of Sixth Form

Now is an exciting time to join Wollaston School Sixth Form – with excellent examination results, higher numbers than ever securing places at top universities and every student moving onto further education, employment or training, students at Wollaston Sixth Form achieve success at all levels.

We pride ourselves on being a Sixth Form that helps all students develop, whatever your interests or areas of expertise. As a result, it is not only A Level results that are impressive but the vocational grades too. 44% of A level grades were graded A*-B, with Vocational grades being an average of Distinction. Consequently, we are happy to offer an extremely broad range of subjects knowing that we have the expertise to help students achieve to their highest possible standards; whether it be History, English Language (top 10% of schools in 2019) or Core Maths, EPQ, Photography, Health and Social Care or Media Studies (top 25% of schools in 2019), we know that we can help guide you to ultimate success.

Our Sixth Form continues to be a varied, exciting and aspirational community: a Careers Fair in July 2018 with over thirty local, national and international employers, university and training providers. Visits to Universities and the Midlands UCAS Higher Education Convention; the Wellingborough inter-school Sixth Form Olympics. Over the past year students have enjoyed events ranging from visits to the CERN laboratory in Switzerland, theatre productions in the West End and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

As a student, your Sixth Form years offer greater freedom and opportunity, but along with this freedom comes more responsibility. It is a time for you to take control of your own destiny; an exciting time when you will make big decisions as you prepare for higher education, employment and your future career.



A Level History students, Berlin 2017

Our Study Centre provides an ideal place to work and is the hub of our activities. With dedicated and experienced staff there to help with every aspect of Sixth Form life, this resource is open until 5.15pm, meaning you can take advantage of the resources beyond the normal school day. A Sixth Form Café now operates throughout the school day for our students helping you to develop greater independence in the way you structure your day. In addition, students will be given opportunities to develop personal skills through our leadership programme. With positions that range from Head Boy and Girl and charity organisers to leaders of the Social committee and Media representatives, there will be positions available that will help you flourish in your chosen field.

Everything is in place at Wollaston School to help you make these adjustments. We are not a Sixth Form College and our smaller size allows us to retain a genuine sense of community and for teaching staff to offer focused individual support. Our dedicated and experienced team offers advice that will guide you through your Sixth Form studies.

Yes, there will be high expectations, but we want you to leave Wollaston School believing that everything you strive for is possible. You will explore exciting and extensive opportunities, be encouraged to be inquisitive and to innovate, to face challenges, take responsibility and show leadership, and to be a force for good in the school community.

Welcome to our Sixth Form. I am sure you will enjoy your time here.

Mr T Mills – Head of Sixth Form



Mr Tony Mills

Assistant Headteacher,
Head of Sixth Form

Mr Sam Braham-Nicoll

Assistant Head of Sixth
Form

Miss Dani Stone

Assistant Head of Sixth
Form

Mrs Jo Melia

Sixth Form Centre
Manager

Mrs Julie Jefferies

Sixth Form HTLA

The Sixth Form Curriculum

The majority of our Sixth Form students complete 3 or 4 A Level courses chosen from a range of over 20 subjects, but vocational courses are also popular, including BTEC courses in subjects such as Public Services and Health and Social Care. It is possible to study a mix of both A Levels and BTEC subjects and, increasingly, this is becoming more common as students can create a package to suite their specific career plans. Detailed subject information for all subjects is available on our website and handouts will be available this evening from the subject stands or in the Sixth Form Centre.

Entry Requirements

Our concern is for students to succeed. Entry thresholds are set at a level which ensures that students who are accepted into our Sixth Form have the necessary academic qualifications to achieve well in their chosen courses. Our general advice is based on prior evidence that students who do not meet these requirements generally do not succeed on A Level (or equivalent Level 3) courses.

Entry to the Sixth Form: Average of your best 8 GCSE grades of at least a grade 4 is required for entry into the Sixth Form.

Entry to A Levels:

- It is normally required that you secure at least a grade 5 in the subjects you wish to study. If you chose subjects at A level that you have never studied before, then we would expect you to secure at least an average of a grade 5 in your GCSEs.
- For some subjects there are slightly higher requirements based on previous performance of students across the country. It would be expected that you would secure at least a grade 6 in order to study languages, Mathematics or one of the Sciences.
- Entry to study 4 A Level subjects: Average of at least a grade 5.5 is required.

Entry to BTEC/OCR technical courses:

- It is normally expected that you secure at least a grade 4 in the subject you wish to study. If you chose BTEC/OCR subjects that you have never studied before, then we would expect you to secure at least an average of a grade 4 in your GCSEs.

If you wish to study a subject but fall below our normal requirements, then we will take a decision based on your GCSE grades, a discussion with your specific Year 11 class teacher and an interview with you and your parents.

Student Experiences

“The Sixth Form is a key strength of the school”

Ofsted 2017

The External Student



Starting at Wollaston Sixth Form, and coming from another school, was daunting at first - but I had no reason to worry. The staff at the Sixth Form are amazing, so incredibly helpful and friendly so you know you always have the support and guidance if you need it. The students at Wollaston Sixth Form are so welcoming to new people, meaning I never felt like an outsider because everybody made me feel included and part of the brilliant Sixth Form community we have here at Wollaston, right from the first day. The opportunities you are given here at Wollaston are extensive, from applying for a senior leadership role as I did, to completing outside work experience - Wollaston allows you to have your say and express yourself in so many ways. Therefore I can truly say that Wollaston has helped me mature and develop into the person I am today, and I will be leaving Wollaston, not only with academic readiness for university but with skills in independence, organisation, team work and perseverance.

The Non University Student



The Wollaston Sixth Form environment has enabled me to discipline myself, ready for not only a role within the Royal Navy, but for any path. Here, an individual is encouraged to independently study for their future goals, whether it be university, or an apprenticeship. During my time in Year 12 I was uncertain on what route I would have liked to take, and I was considering a place at university. However, I discovered later on that that would have been an ill-matched path for me to take, as some students do. Wollaston Sixth Form is not only a place to study, but also a place where the staff inspire for multiple options, and not just university. Wollaston Sixth Form has prepared me for my future, and I would honestly recommend it to anyone who is considering applying. It is hard work, however if you are willing to put in the effort, it is extremely rewarding.

Student Experiences

The Year 13 Student



Looking back, I'm very glad I was accepted to stay on at Wollaston Sixth Form and I enjoyed my time here a lot! So, how was it different?

The school provides lots of facilities for you to use during independent study, such as the Sixth Form Centre for quiet work and computer access and the library space for silent work, which I found very useful when I wanted to knuckle down and get on! Lessons in A Levels differ in the fact that they are more intense but enjoyable as you are in an environment with people who are interested in the subject like you are. The Sixth Form community is very welcoming. There are so many events that you can get involved in such as the Sixth Form Olympics, Rag Week, the Team Building Assault Course and also attend the socials which helps fund the Summer Ball at the end of the year!

As you can probably see, I loved being at Wollaston Sixth Form and can't recommend it enough to you!

The Medical Student



When I was in Year 11 at Wollaston, I was determined to try out other Sixth Forms in the area before settling on a decision of where to take my A Levels. I took entrance tests, went to Open Evenings and even Induction Days at other schools but something didn't feel right. In the end I decided to stay at Wollaston because it offered a welcoming and friendly environment with staff and students who I was familiar with. Wollaston was the best place for me, Sixth Form was more than studying for A Levels, it prepared me for further university study, helped build my confidence in my own abilities and achieve my best. I would wholeheartedly recommend Wollaston Sixth Form to anyone who wants to further their education, whatever their plans for the future.

Sixth Form Pastoral System

Mentoring

The pastoral and emotional well-being of all our students is of paramount importance to us. The cornerstone to success in the Sixth Form is the Mentor. Mentors see students on a daily basis during registration, but in addition to this, they will meet with each student at least once per half term to discuss their academic progress. The purpose of this meeting is to focus on students' academic progress and to identify the student's strengths and weaknesses, as well as any barriers to achievement. The Mentor will agree targets with the student and ensure they understand how to achieve them. Morning registration provides an opportunity to check on the progress of these targets in an informal way.

For a parent the Mentor should be the first point of contact with the school, they will liaise with subject staff and, through their regular Mentor meetings, will be best placed to support their Mentees in school.

We have an established Mentor programme with themes delivered on a fortnightly basis to support students personal, social and emotional (not to mention academic) development.

Each week the students meet for an assembly with a framework of themes based on academic, community values and personal learning. Awards assemblies are held once a term to celebrate the success of the year group. We believe this creates a positive community spirit, a strong sense of belonging, where individual success can be recognised, rewarded and enjoyed.

Personal, emotional or social concerns

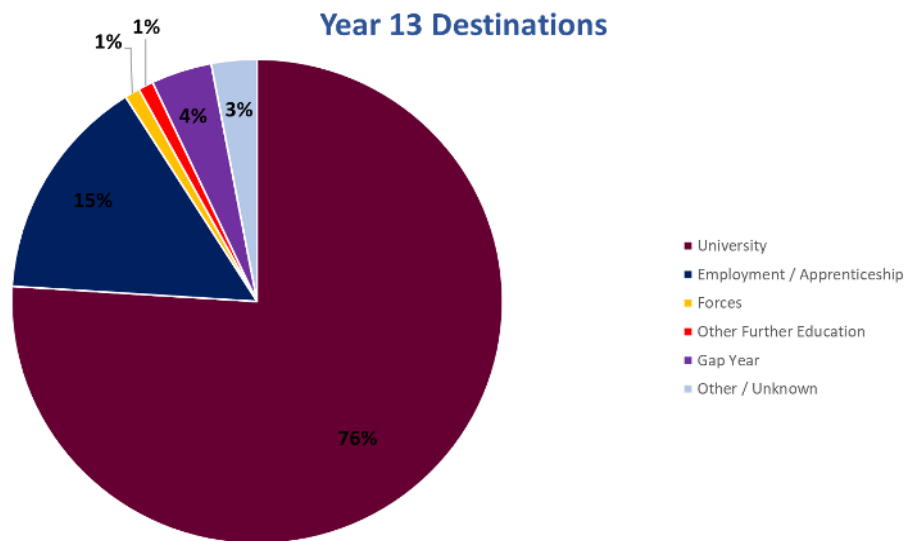
We are fully aware that life can be very complex for young adults in the 21st century; the changing nature of their friendships, work-life balance, online communications, future plans, exams, changing family arrangements – all these, and more, can have an impact on student happiness. The Sixth Form operates an 'open door' policy for all students; students may, and do, speak with the Sixth Form Centre Manager, Assistant Heads of Sixth Form or Head of Sixth Form at any time, for advice, support and guidance and we will do our utmost to help students solve any problems they may have. We have good relationships with a range of outside agencies and do work with parents and students to access such support where necessary.

*"The most able sixth form students
achieve particularly well "*

Ofsted 2017

Onward destinations of our students

It is of great importance to us that our students make progress throughout school life. When students go on to other destinations at age 18, that they have the skills to take the into the workplace or on to higher education destinations. We carefully support all of our students' decision making about future career paths and only very small numbers of students leave Wollaston without having secured places in employment, education or training for work when compared to national trends. In the autumn term we follow up students who have not found a place in employment, training or further education and provide them with careers guidance.



Extra and Super Curriculum

Wollaston Sixth Form is about much more than lessons and academic study. We offer a wide range of extra and super curriculum opportunities designed to enhance student experience, support applications to university and develop personal qualities of leadership, maturity and independence. All students will be expected to take part in some form of enrichment:

- Community Leaders Award
- Student support eg acting as a Buddy reader or Numeracy Buddy
- Supporting in lower school lessons
- Running/supporting school clubs
- Editing the school newsletter and Staff Bulletin
- Mentoring a Year 11 student

Student Leadership

“Sixth Form students are excellent ambassadors for the school”

Ofsted 2017



Cole Dilley
Deputy Head Boy



Anya Titmuss
Head Girl



Sam Thompson
Head Boy



Louise Sutherland
Deputy Head Girl

We believe in providing students with the opportunity to develop **leadership**, **maturity** and **commitment** during their time in Sixth Form. Our students play a vital role in improving, not only the Sixth Form, but also the wider school. There are a wide range of ways in which they do this; Senior students have a major role within the Sixth Form; they present the views of the Sixth Form to staff, represent the school at official events, eg Open Evenings, and organise Sixth Form events such as Rag Week, Sixth Form socials and the Summer Ball.

The Senior Students are a selected group of Sixth Form students who each have a role within our community. Each have their own area of responsibility of Sport, Social, Teaching and Learning, Charity and School Community.



Useful Information

Dress Code

Unlike the rest of the school, the Sixth Form does not have a formal uniform, however, there is a dress code, reviewed regularly by both staff and the student body, and we expect all students to adhere to this.

As a general rule dress should be of a smart 'office' standard. In addition a 'modesty' rule applies. Skirts must be of a reasonable length and tops should have appropriate necklines and be of an appropriate length to ensure modesty.

'Dress Down Friday' takes place every week to allow students to wear their more casual clothes. It should be noted that the modesty rule still applies. **Full details may be found on our website.**

Communication

Developing and maintaining good communication between home and school is crucial in ensuring students do the best they can. Parents will always be kept informed of both successes and concerns, in a variety of ways:

- E-mail contact with your son/daughter's Mentor
- Reports on academic progress, twice yearly
- Parents Evenings
- Letters, e-mails, postcards or phone calls from teachers
- Whole Sixth Form letters or newsletters

We always discuss progress directly with students and use the opportunity of regular Mentor meetings to both praise and challenge students. We also try, where possible, to give students the opportunity to make improvements before calling home about any academic concerns.

“Students speak very positively about the quality of teaching they receive”

Ofsted 2017

Bursary

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund supports the most financially disadvantaged 16 to 19 year olds and those young people who most need help with the cost of staying in education. We provide application information for parents and students in July as part of the Induction process, although further information may be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/16-to-19-education-financial-support-for-students>

New to Wollaston School?

If you are a new visitor to Wollaston School, then please collect a Contact Card from a member of staff so that we can keep you informed of when the next stage of the application process occurs.

What happens next?

Following the Sixth Form Information Evening we will start the application process. The deadline for completed applications is Friday 10th January 2020. If you have any questions before this date, then please feel free to come to the Sixth Form Centre to ask or email the Sixth Form Team. Students will then be invited to interview and following this, we will inform students by letter of our decision.

Further advice

There is a wealth of information available online to help parents and students and we have included some of our favourite websites below:

University and Higher Education

Advice on selecting A Levels :

www.russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college

University comparisons:

www.whatuni.com

The Which guide to University choice

www.university.which.co.uk

University rankings

www.timeshighereducation.com

Careers, Training and Apprenticeships

The one-stop shop for everything Apprenticeship related

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

Advice, links and suggestions covering every non-university option

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

Links to over 2,500 opportunities for students from work experience to CV advice

www.studentladder.co.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply?

The application process will begin in January 2020. Students will need to complete an application form and will be asked to attend an interview so we can discuss their subject choices with them and offer advice as necessary.

What do I need to get in?

See page 3. In brief, for most students you will need grade 4 on average at GCSE to secure a place. Certain subject combinations will have different grade requirements. In addition we strongly advise grade 5 at GCSE in the subject you wish to study at A Level. We also look closely at effort scores for our current Year 11 students. For external applicants we will request a reference from your current school.

How do I decide which subjects to pick?

What are you good at? What do you enjoy the most? The answers to these two questions are usually a good indication of what subjects you should consider studying. Certain careers advise good subject combinations, as do certain universities. For further advice, please see the websites listed on Page 11.

What makes a good Sixth Form student?

Well, you need to be organised and committed above all. In addition you need to be prepared to make mistakes, learn from them and learn from feedback. The best students in Sixth Form work in partnership with their teachers and parents.

What careers advice can I get in Sixth Form?

We have a careers library, full of up-to-date resources that can help you. Additionally through our Mentor programme we provide activities designed to help you develop the skills you might need in future. All students will have the opportunity for a one-to-one careers discussion; for some this then becomes an on-going discussion. We have good links with local employers and apprenticeship providers and can therefore help both with work experience and job applications.

How can you help me with applying to university?

We provide help for university bound students in lots of ways. We run a visit to Oxford University for some Year 12 students and we advertise and support students in applying for university summer schools. All our students will have a day at a UCAS Convention in Year 12 and, in addition, we hold a two day 'Future Plans' event for all Year 12 students. Once students have decided to apply we provide help with writing personal statements, mock interviews and choosing a university. We organise specific preparation sessions for students considering an application to Oxford or Cambridge Universities and we also support a Medical society to help students who wish to prepare for this at university.

I'm worried about coping with workload in Sixth Form – what should I do?

Firstly, don't panic! This is a common worry for Year 11 students joining Sixth Form. The Induction Days in July 2020 will introduce you to the demands of Sixth Form study and you will be set holiday homework to be given in when you start Year 12. This will help you gauge the difficulty of the work. Your teachers will be used to new Year 12 students worrying about this kind of thing and will be able to help. Your Mentor is a valuable source of support so please talk to them if you are worried about this. We offer 1-2-1 intervention to certain students where appropriate to help them cope with workload. Additionally we provide supervised study sessions (essentially a supervised lesson where you work independently) to help you manage your time.

I have further questions – who do I speak to?

Mr Mills is the Head of Sixth Form and Mr Braham-Nicoll and Miss Stone are the Assistant Heads of Sixth Form. In addition Mrs Melia is the Sixth Form Centre Manager who can be contacted at meliaj@Wollaston-school.net and Mrs Jefferies is our Sixth Form HLTA. All of these people would be happy to help, please pop into the Sixth Form Centre during morning registration or at break time or lunchtime.



A Level Results Day 2019



Examples of Team Wollaston