

DISCOVER THE COMPLETE
YOU, DISCOVER YOUR
FUTURE



WOLLASTON SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING

3RD NOVEMBER 2022

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 students moving onto exciting apprenticeship and employment opportunities, those 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. In 2022, 56.8% of A level grades were graded A*- B with an average grade of 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 or core maths, EPQ, health and social care or media studies, we know that we can help guide you to ultimate success.

Our Sixth Form continues to be a varied, exciting and aspirational community: events include an annual Careers Fair with over thirty local, national and international employers, universities and training providers. Visits to universities and the Midlands' UCAS Higher Education Convention; the Wellingborough inter-school Sixth Form Olympics. In recent years, students have enjoyed events ranging from visits to Italy and Poland, 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.

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 Students 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

Your Sixth Form Team



Mr Tony Mills

Assistant
Headteacher
Head of Sixth



**Mr Sam
Braham-Nicoll**

Assistant
Head of Sixth



Mrs Dani Alston

Assistant
Head of Sixth



Mrs Jo Melia

Sixth Form
Centre Manager



Mrs Julie Jefferies

Sixth Form HTLA

Student Leadership

"Sixth Form students are excellent ambassadors for the school" Ofsted 2017



Ryan Lack
Head Boy



Holly Moultrie
Head Girl



Cairan Kennedy
Deputy Head Boy



Millie Backshall
Deputy Head Girl



Morgan Flett
Deputy Head Girl

We believe in providing students with the opportunity to develop **leadership, maturity and commitment** during their time in the 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, as well as organising 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.

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 suit their specific career plans. Detailed subject information for all subjects is available on our website.

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. For example it would be expected that you would secure at least a grade 6 in order to study languages, mathematics, computer science or one of the sciences. Please do carefully study each of the subject specific requirements.

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.

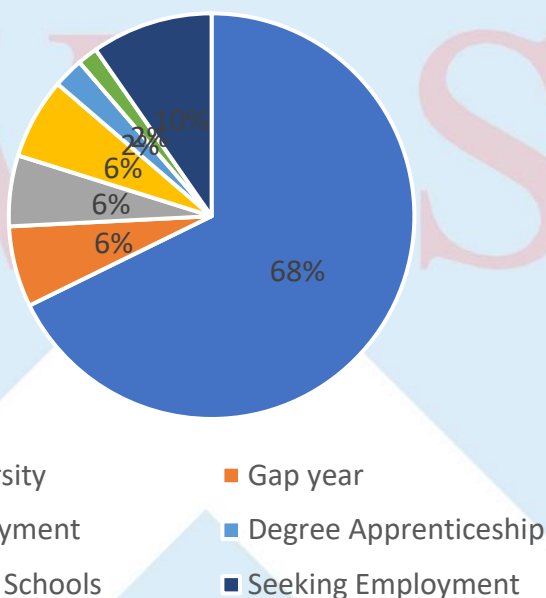
If you wish to study a subject but fall below our normal requirements, then we will take a decision based on your GCSE grades, a discussion with your specific Year 11 class teacher and an interview with you and your parents/ carers.

Entry Requirements

Subject	Entry Requirements
Art	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Biology	GCSE Grade 6 or above
Business	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Chemistry	GCSE Grade 6 or above
Computer Science	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Dance	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Drama	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Economics	GCSE English Grade 5
English Language	GCSE Grade 5 or above
English Literature	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Food & Nutrition	GCSE Science Grade 5 or above
French	GCSE Grade 6 or above
Geography	GCSE Grade 5 or above
German	GCSE Grade 6 or above
Health & Social Care (BTEC)	Average GCSE Grade 4 or above
History	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Maths	GCSE Grade 6 or above
Media	GCSE English Grade 5 or above
Further Maths	GCSE Maths Grade 8 or above
Music	GCSE Grade 6 or above
PE	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Philosophy	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Physics	GCSE Grade 6 or above
Psychology	GCSE Biology and GCSE Maths Grade 5 or above
Sociology	GCSE English Language Grade 5 or above
Sport	GCSE Grade 5 or above
Uniformed Protective Services	Average GCSE Grade 4 or above

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

Onward destinations of our students



It is of great importance to us that our students make progress throughout their school life. When students go on to other destinations at age 18, we make sure that they have the skills to take 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 advice.

"The most able sixth form students achieve particularly well"

Ofsted 2017

Extra 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 such as:

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

Trips and Non Curriculum events

At Wollaston Sixth Form we believe in delivering a wide range of non curriculum events to enhance your growth in to young adulthood, these include our annual Rag Week which includes such delights as Strictly Come Dancing, Bushtucker Trials and a Talent Show (staff as well as students taking part makes an interesting watch) We raise a considerable amount during this week for both local and national charities, last year we raised just over £5,000.

We also hold many Charity Days including Children in Need, Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Research, Wear Yellow for mental Health Awareness as well as organising a present donation through the Salvation Army for those less fortunate than ourselves.

We run a number of trips in Sixth Form, including the UCAS Convention at the University of Bedford, an annual Christmas Shopping Reward Trip which is usually to Birmingham, our annual Sixth Form Auschwitz trip, a trip to Italy which includes Rome, the Amalfi Coast and Pompeii.

We hold a Summer Ball each July as a formal send off to departing Year 13 students as well as an fun packed Leavers Day and a formal Presentation Evening to distribute exam certificates and trophies for excellence.

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 student's 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, HTLA, 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.

Student Experiences

The External Student

Starting any new school can be a nerve-wracking experience, but Wollaston Sixth Form made me feel at home from the minute I stepped through the gate. I immediately had support from the incredible members of the Sixth Form team, making me feel comfortable asking any question that I had, whether that be directions to a new class, or guidance with my Oxbridge application.

Just as the Sixth Form staff were a wonderful support team, so were the students themselves. I have never felt so welcomed by a student body before, a realisation that made me eager to become part of the wonderful Sixth Form community, and it did not take long to settle in at all. Wollaston offers amazing opportunities, which I would strongly recommend taking advantage of, including interview-style applications for senior leadership roles as well as offering guidance to find work experience outside of school.

Throughout my time at Wollaston, I have noticed myself becoming the confident, independent, and best version of myself, allowing me to leave the school with not only academic achievements, but also the life skills and self-belief to use them.

Maddie Nakash

The Non University Student

At the start of year 12 I thought that University was the place for me. I wanted to study Environmental Sciences and move a step closer to my then-aspiration of teaching Geography.

However, the range of personal development days, careers fairs, and trips to universities, have enabled my eyes to be opened to the opportunities there are outside of the traditional University route. The annual careers fair in Year 12, enabled me to talk to a variety of people, with the accountancy company sounding appealing. After getting in contact over the summer, I was able to complete 2 weeks of work experience, consolidating that an apprenticeship was what was right for me.

The Sixth Form have been so supportive, organising sessions with careers advisors, and offering a sounding board to help aid the decisions for my future.

Niamh Standen

Student Experiences

The Year 13 Student

After 5 years at Wollaston school I decided I wanted a change and moved to another Sixth Form but within 1 week I was already back at Wollaston, the other school just did not have the same welcoming atmosphere I was used to at Wollaston and I just had to come back.

The Sixth Form itself has provided me with many opportunities and facilities from the private Sixth Form Centre to the library that all have computers for all students to access. I believe these facilities and the Sixth Form staff themselves are the reason why I have excelled in and have been motivated to continue my studies at university.

When we aren't working hard, we have many events run by Sixth Form students ourselves, such as our annual charity week known as Rag Week, organising such diverse events as Strictly Come Dancing, Bushtucker trials and a Talent Show.

As part of the Sixth Form community, you have the opportunity to get involved or even run different events across the school to help raise money for charity and our own Sixth Form Summer Ball.

Overall, I believe Wollaston Sixth Form is a welcoming, vibrant and collaborative Sixth Form and I could not recommend it enough

Ryder Haldane

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.

Bradley Pearce

Bradley achieved A*A*A in his A Levels and went to Hull York Medical School to study Medicine in September 2017. Bradley is currently continuing his studies working at Northampton general Hospital and is a qualified Doctor.

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.

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>

