



BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED • EXCEED

SIXTH FORM HANDBOOK
2020 - 2021



“ Good teaching challenges students' thinking. Teachers use their expert subject knowledge to ask probing questions and test students' understanding. ”

OFSTED 2017

Message from the Head of Sixth Form: **Mr Lee Huckle**

The Samuel Whitbread Sixth Form ethos can best be summarised in four words: **Believe – Achieve – Succeed – Exceed**. Every student in our Sixth Form is encouraged to believe in their abilities and to achieve and succeed with a positive mental attitude. We believe that successful Sixth Form students aim for more than just good academic results, they strive to work effectively as part of a team, to lead, listen and to be creative.

The success of all of our students both personally and socially is of vital importance to our Sixth Form team and we are very proud of our students' academic achievements.

As Head of Sixth Form, my aim is to ensure that every student leaves Samuel Whitbread with the best possible set of qualifications and range of skills to compete in the modern world, as well as the strength of character to thrive under pressure and the self-belief to be a leader. Along with my dedicated Sixth Form team, including tutors and Progress Leaders, we aim to support our students' dreams – whatever they may be!

I believe passionately in the importance of a vibrant, dynamic learning environment and our highly qualified staff offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities which ensure students are individually challenged and stretched in academic study and beyond.

Students in the Sixth Form need to feel comfortable to learn from their mistakes and should have no fear of failure. They need to have a respect for and a desire to push their learning boundaries, so they can challenge themselves and define their own set of values.

On the school website you will find a flavour of what is on offer in the Sixth Form at Samuel Whitbread. If you would like to arrange a visit to see for yourself what life is like in the Sixth Form then please contact the Sixth Form admissions team on swa-sixthformadmin@bestacademies.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you.



WHY SWA Sixth Form?

Last year our students gained excellent KS5 results with 74% entries gaining A* - C grades (or equivalent) and 21% entries gaining A* - A grades (or equivalent). This success has allowed students to progress either onto their chosen university or into a career pursuing professional qualifications. This year 98% of the Year 13s who applied went to one of their top choice universities. Other students went onto some amazing apprenticeships, further education and degree programmes.

We have a wide range of academic and vocational courses to suit students' individual learning needs and a comprehensive range of enrichment and extra curricular activities (Please see enrichment booklet on the website). We encourage our students to get involved and play a productive role in our community.

Student Voice

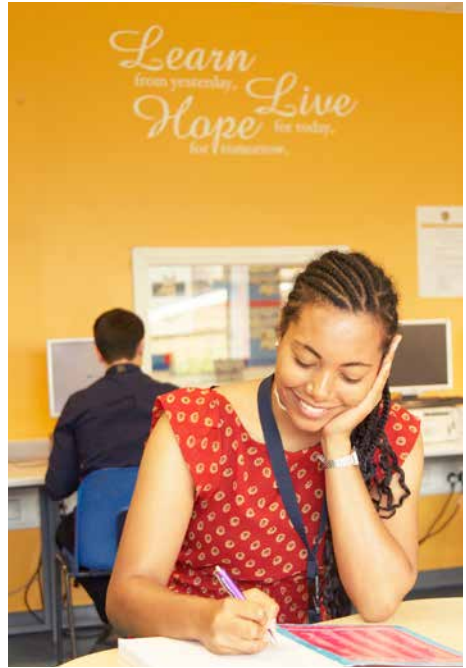
In the Sixth Form there is a range of opportunities for students to become involved in academy life and the wider community, which we call 'Student Voice'. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for improving the learning environment and 'Student Voice' is an excellent platform for this type of activity. Leadership roles include; Students as Researchers, Students as Interviewers, Student Leadership Group, House Captains, Senior Student Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl team.

KS5 RESULTS (2017-19 COHORT):

%	2019
A*-A (or equivalent)	21%
A*-B (or equivalent)	46%
A*-C (or equivalent)	74%
A*-E (or equivalent)	97%

“*Students have very positive attitudes to learning. They work hard in lessons and they contribute to the wider life both of the Sixth Form and of the main school.*”

OFSTED 2017



The Head Boy & Head Girl Team and Prefects

Student Prefects promote the academy as ambassadors and are role models for fellow students at all times. Dedication, confidence and flexibility are important qualities for these Prefects and they are involved in many areas of the academy including frequent liaison with the Principal, Vice Principal and the Head of Sixth Form. The Head Boy and Head Girl team lead the Student Leadership Group and the School Council meetings, attend Governors meetings and make public speeches at events. Prefects also assist staff with the organisation of academy, charity and house events and school tours. All students are encouraged to apply for these positions to enrich their learning, confidence and personal development.



MONEY MATTERS

16-19 BURSARY FUND

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a scheme to help young people facing financial hardship to stay in full time education. Full details, including the Sixth Form 16-19 Bursary Fund application form, can be found on the Samuel Whitbread Academy website.

CARE TO LEARN & CHILDCARE

If you are a young parent, Care to Learn can help pay for your childcare and related travel costs while you are learning. Samuel Whitbread Academy has an excellent nursery with outstanding facilities onsite offering safe, caring and stimulating childcare and first-class early years education for children from two to five years old. Further information can be obtained by calling BEST Nursery on 01462 815637.

WHAT NEXT? Please contact a member of the Sixth Form team for further advice.

QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

A LEVEL (REFORMED)

The new reformed Advanced Level qualification consists of modules studied over two years. At the end of Year 13 the reformed A Level courses are examined.

A levels are awarded pass grades A* to E.

BTEC & APPLIED GENERAL AND TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS LEVEL 3

BTEC & applied general qualifications and tech awards are work-related qualifications equivalent to A levels, and are also studied over 2 years. These courses are predominately assessed by coursework. We offer the following qualifications: BTEC Certificate, Diploma, Extended Diploma and Level 3 Qualifications. They are awarded Pass, Merit and Distinction grades. You cannot study a BTEC course for one year.

We offer the following subjects:

- Sport
- ICT
- Health and Social Care
- Music Technology
- Business
- Media
- Applied Science (Applied course)
- Engineering (Technical Award)
- Food Science and Nutrition

Please see our Sixth Form Subject Handbook for full details on our courses.



“Students spoke very positively about the wide range of extra-curricular activities that are on offer to them and of the individualised support that they receive from staff.”

OFSTED 2017

LIFE RULES

BE HAPPY

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

HELP OTHERS

ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH

BE SWEET

KEEP YOUR PROMISES

LAUGH A LOT

WORK HARD

BUT PLAY HARD

THINK BEFORE SPEAKING

SMILE

SAY PLEASE & THANK YOU

EAT YOUR VEGGIES!



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

LEVEL 3 COURSES

Please see specific minimum entry requirements and APS for further guidance. These are on pages 8 and 9.

Please Note Any students who have not achieved their Maths and/or English Language GCSE at grade 4 will be expected to resit these in the Sixth Form until a grade 4 is achieved. Without GCSE English and maths at grade 4 it will restrict access to a lot of courses or further higher education opportunities after Sixth Form.

ENRICHMENT STUDIES

All students are expected to take an additional course to enrich their Sixth Form experience. For September we plan to offer: Extended Project Qualification, L3 Core Maths, the Northampton Saints Rugby Development Programme, the Samuel Whitbread Football academy and the Wasps netball academy.

Enrichment opportunities that cannot be timetabled but which we encourage our students to do include:

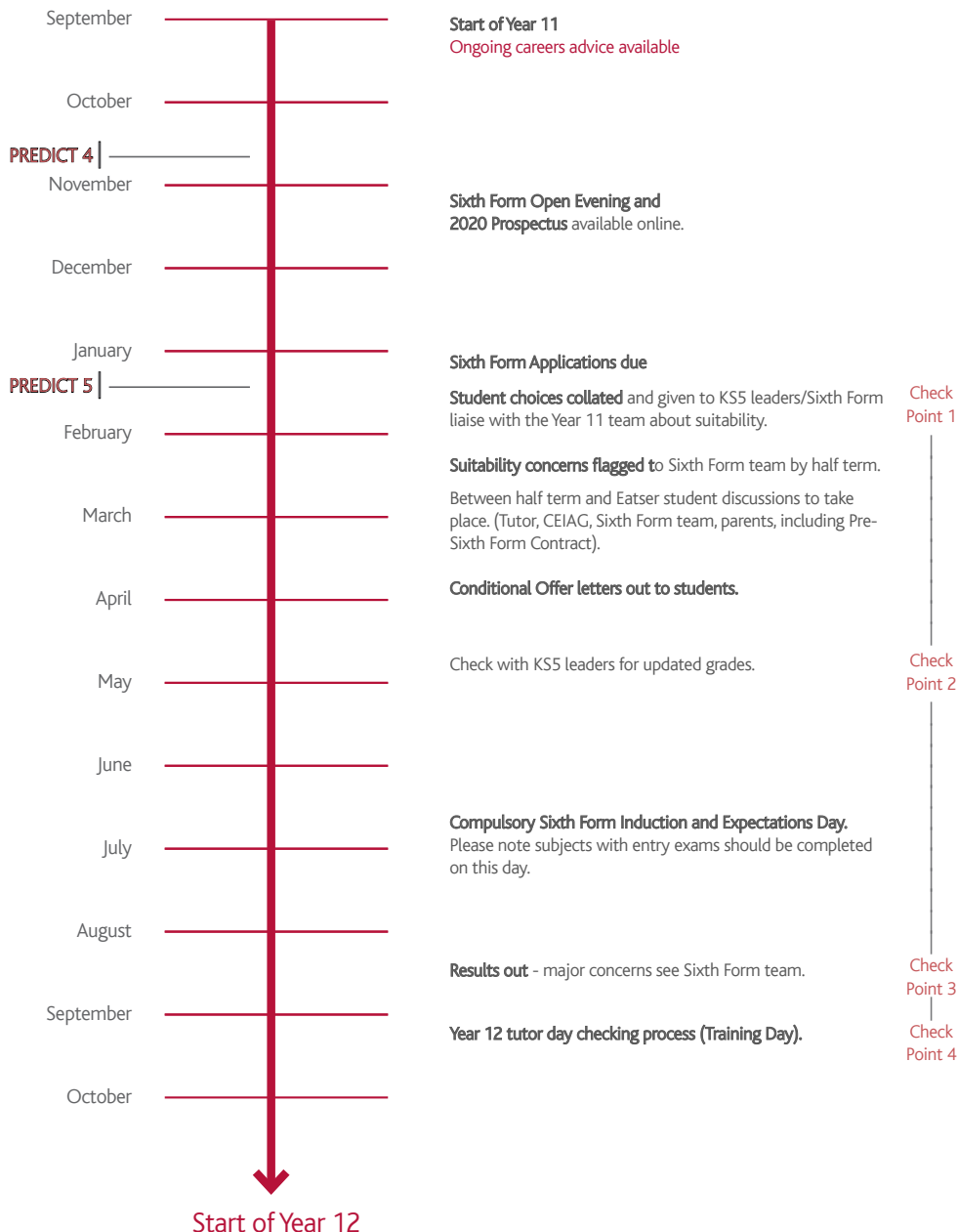
- MOOCs – Massive Open Online courses
- Teachers 4 Tomorrow
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Sports Leaders
- Dance Ambassadors
- Learning Partners

Please note that these opportunities may be subject to change.

“*Students are supported to make appropriate course choices when they join in Year 12 and, consequently, the number of students completing their studies is high. Last year, the majority of Year 13 students progressed on to university.*”

OFSTED 2017

YEAR 11 SIXTH FORM APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE



Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements

Subject/Course	Average Points Score – Guidance	Minimum Entry Requirements
Applied Science – Level 3 Certificate	4.2	Two grade 4s in GCSE Sciences. Grade 4 in GCSE Maths Grade 4 in GCSE English Language & Literature.
Fine Art	4.4	Grade 5 in GCSE Art
Biology	5.3	Two Grade 6 in GCSE Sciences (if Triple Science is studied one must be Biology). Grade 6 in GCSE Maths Pass the entry exam.
Business	4.2	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature If Business is studied at GCSE a grade 5 is needed.
BTEC Level 3 Business	4.2	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature Grade 4 in GCSE Maths
Chemistry	5.3	Two Grade 6 in GCSE Sciences (if Triple Science is studied one must be Chemistry). Grade 6 in GCSE Maths Pass the entry exam.
Computer Science	5.3	Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science Grade 6 in GCSE Maths (discussion with department if a grade 5 is achieved)
Drama & Theatre Studies	4.2	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Engineering Single Award	4.5	Need to have studied design or engineering and achieved a grade 5 Grade 4 in GCSE Maths Grade 4 in GCSE Sciences
Engineering Double Award	4.5	Need to have studied design or engineering and achieved a grade 5 Grade 4 in GCSE Maths Grade 4 in GCSE Sciences
English Language/Literature	4.5	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature
English Literature	4.5	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
Film Studies	4.2	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Literature If studied GCSE Film Studies a grade 5 is needed
BTEC Level 3 Food & Nutrition	4.0	Grade 4s in GCSE English Language & Literature Grade 4s in GCSE Sciences Grade 5 in Food (if taken)
French	5.3	Grade 6 in GCSE French
Geography	4.7	Grade 5 in GCSE Geography Grade 5 in GCSE Maths Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
Graphic Communications	4.2	Grade 5 in GCSE Art, Graphic Communications or DT Graphics.

Subject/Course	Average Points Score – Guidance	Minimum Entry Requirements
BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature
History	4.7	Grade 5 in GCSE History Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Literature
BTEC Level 3 Information Technology	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Literature
Mathematics	5.3	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths Pass the entry exam
Further Mathematics	6.1	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths Pass the entry exam
BTEC Level 3 Media	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Literature.
Music	4.5	Grade 6 in GCSE Music
BTEC Level 3 Music Technology	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE Music or Level 2 Pass in BTEC Music
Physical Education	4.5	Grade 5 in GCSE PE Two grade 5s in GCSE Sciences (discussion with department if a grade 4 and 5 achieved) Must play a competitive sport at a high level.
BTEC Level 3 Sport - Single	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature. One Grade 4 in GCSE science.
BTEC Level 3 Sport - Double	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE Language or Literature. One Grade 4 in GCSE science.
BTEC Level 3 Sport - Triple	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature. One Grade 4 in GCSE science.
Physics	5.3	Two Grade 6 in GCSE Sciences (if Triple Science is studied one must be Physics). Grade 6 in GCSE Maths Pass the entry exam.
Product Design	4.2	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature Grade 4 in GCSE Maths Grade 5 in a Design or Art subject.
Psychology	4.7	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature If studied Psychology at GCSE a Grade 5 is needed Two grade 4s needed in GCSE Sciences
Sociology	4.2	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature If studied Sociology at GCSE a grade 5 is needed.
Spanish	5.3	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish
Textiles	4.2	Grade 5 in GCSE Textiles or Art

*Please note that we may not be able to run courses with very low demand.

OXBRIDGE AND RUSSELL GROUP

Over recent years, Samuel Whitbread has enjoyed considerable success with applications to Oxford or Cambridge University with students consistently being offered interviews. This year we had successful students taking places at Oxford and Cambridge. For some of our most academically able students, an application to Oxford or Cambridge is the right choice to help them deepen and enrich their intellectual study. We take our responsibility to help prepare all our students for entry to University seriously and this includes our specific provision for those who wish to make an application to Oxbridge. It is worth emphasising that our provision is inclusive, and those even remotely considering application should take advantage of what is on offer since it will help strengthen their application to other, highly competitive institutions. The outline below gives a flavour of the extent of our provision.

Our Oxbridge programme begins in the autumn term of Year 12 when we gather our cohort of potential applicants. Students are invited to join the Individual Learning Programme (ILP) where they are tutored in their prospective specialty. Each student receives a tutorial with preparation guidance individually suited to their needs. Tutorial-style sessions and a series of lectures take place and this may lead to students being asked to read more widely and tackle more demanding problems to help extend their knowledge and understanding. Towards the end of the Summer term in Year 12, students are guided towards some extended project work in consultation with their tutor and this helps to provide them with first-hand experience of independent research. Alongside this support, students have mock interview practice organised by senior staff along with staff from specific subject areas at regular intervals prior to the actual interviews in December of the Year 13.

Preparation for Oxbridge is a demanding endeavour for our students however students report that it gives them skills that are globally useful in higher education and in their chosen careers.

For more details or enquiries, please contact Prof Lee Hubbard via email: lhubbard@bestacademies.org.uk



HOW TO APPLY

Once you have read the Sixth Form Handbook and online prospectus, selected your choices and checked the entry requirements, you are ready to apply! An application form can be found online or by contacting the Sixth Form Office. Once completed either talk to the Academy Reception, Sixth Form Office or send by post to:

Sixth Form Admissions
Samuel Whitbread Academy
Shefford Road
Clifton
Shefford
Bedfordshire
SG17 5QS

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS
6TH JANUARY 2020.**

Interviews

Once we have received your application form, full consideration will be given to every applicant. We will invite all external applicants for an interview and a tour of the school in February/ March and will write to all successful applicants with conditional offer letters in March. All offers are subject to students achieving the minimum entry requirements for each of their subjects. A member of the Sixth Form team may contact you to discuss your course choices and to ensure you are making the best possible decision about your future pathway. Further interviews may also take place after the GCSE results day in August.

Entry Exam

Some subjects may require an entry exam - these will take place during the Sixth Form induction day or within the first week of the new term.

**For Further Information please contact our
Sixth Form Admissions Officer.**

Call: 01462 628059

Email: swa-sixthformadmin@bestacademies.org.uk

Visit: samuelwhitbread.org.uk



In the Sixth Form we currently run the Samuel Whitbread Football Academy, Saracens Mavericks Netball Academy and the Northampton Saints Rugby Development Course and last year 3 students secured professional rugby contracts.

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