



BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED • EXCEED

SIXTH FORM HANDBOOK  
2023 - 2024



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

OFSTED 2017

## Message from the Associate Principal - Head of Sixth Form: **Mr Lee Huckle**

The Samuel Whitbread Sixth Form ethos can best be summarised in four words:  
**Believe – Achieve – Succeed - Exceed.**

We strive to develop healthy, resilient and independent learners who read confidently for both learning and pleasure, whilst participating in culturally enriching and diverse activities. 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-sixthformadmissions@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:swa-sixthformadmissions@bestacademies.org.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you.



## WHY SWA Sixth Form?

Last year our students gained excellent KS5 results with 87% of entries gaining A\*- C grades (or equivalent) and 39% of 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

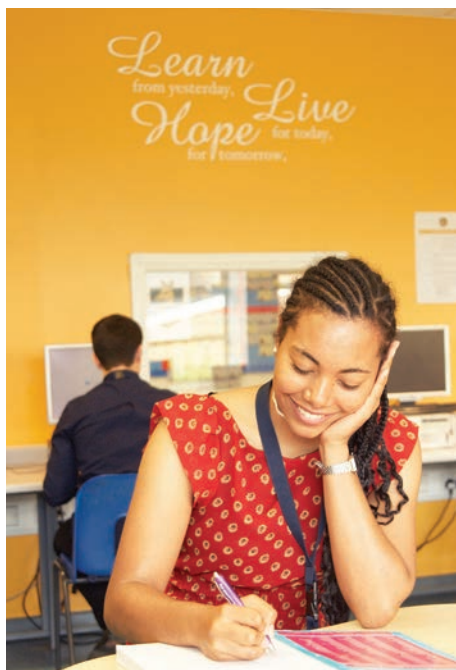
In the Sixth Form there is a range of opportunities for students to become involved in academy life and the wider community, which we call 'Student Voice'. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for improving the learning environment and 'Student Voice' is an excellent platform for this type 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 (2021-2022 COHORT):

| %                    | 2022  |
|----------------------|-------|
| A*-A (or equivalent) | 35%   |
| A*-B (or equivalent) | 70%   |
| A*-C (or equivalent) | 90%   |
| A*-E (or equivalent) | 99.8% |

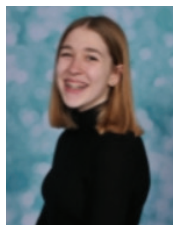
“Students have very positive attitudes to learning. They work hard in lessons and they contribute to the wider life both of the Sixth Form and of the main school.”

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## The Head Student Team and Student Leadership Team

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 Student 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

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 qualifications 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 Extended 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 - Single & Double
- Media
- Applied Science
- Engineering
- Food Science & Nutrition
- Performing Arts

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.”

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# 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

- To study all A Level courses a minimum of five grade 5's need to be achieved at GCSE.
- To study all BTEC and/or applied level 3 courses a minimum of six grade 4's need to be achieved at GCSE

### 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 the following timetabled enrichments: Extended Project Qualification, L3 Core Maths, the Northampton Saints Rugby Development Programme, the Samuel Whitbread Football academy and the Saracens Mavericks Netball Academy.

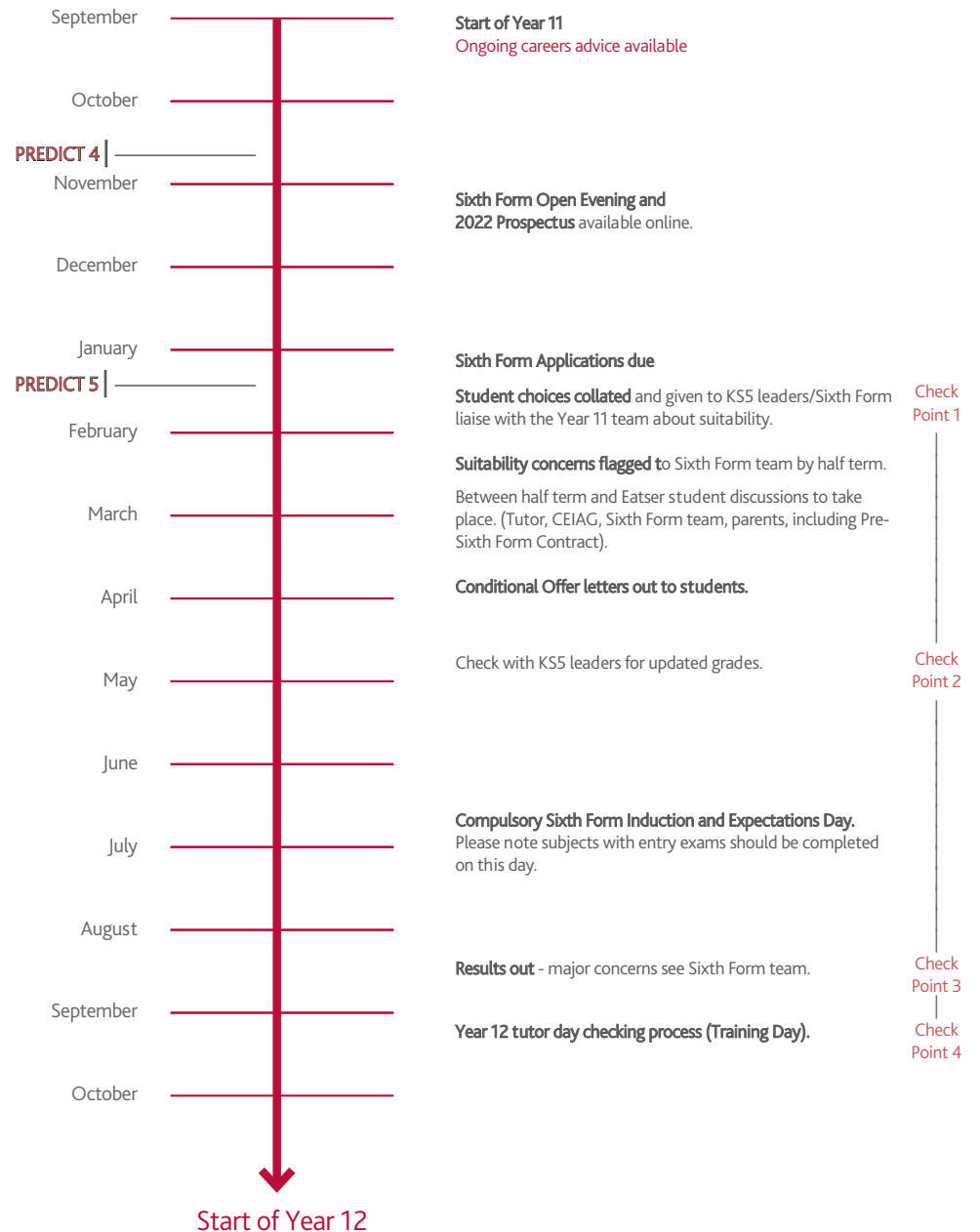
Enrichment opportunities that cannot be timetabled but which we encourage our students to do, can be found in the Sixth Form enrichment handbook in the enrichment section of the Sixth Form webpage.

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.”

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## YEAR 11 SIXTH FORM APPLICATION PROCESS TIMELINE



## Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements

| Subject/Course                          | Average Points Score – Guidance | Minimum Entry Requirements  |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| BTEC Level 3 Applied Science            | 4.2                             | Two grade 4s in GCSE Sciences.<br>Grade 4 in GCSE Maths<br>Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Literature.                             |
| Fine Art                                | 4.4                             | Grade 5 in GCSE Art   |
| Biology                                 | 5.3                             | Two Grade 6s in GCSE Sciences<br>(if Triple Science is studied one must be Biology).<br>Grade 6 in GCSE Maths<br>Pass the entry exam.   |
| Business                                | 4.2                             | Grade 5 in GCSE Maths<br>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature<br>If Business is studied at GCSE a grade 5 is needed.          |
| BTEC Level 3 Business (Single)          | 4.2                             | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature<br>Grade 4 in GCSE Maths<br>If Business is studied at GCSE a Merit grade is needed.      |
| BTEC Level 3 Business (Double)          | 4.2                             | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature<br>Grade 4 in GCSE Maths<br>If Business is studied at GCSE a Merit grade is needed.      |
| Chemistry                               | 5.3                             | Two Grade 6s in GCSE Sciences<br>(if Triple Science is studied one must be Chemistry).<br>Grade 6 in GCSE Maths<br>Pass the entry exam. |
| Computer Science                        | 5.3                             | Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science<br>Grade 6 in GCSE Maths   |
| Dance                                   | 4.2                             | Grade 5 in GCSE Dance<br>Grade 5 in GCSE Language or Literature   |
| Drama & Theatre Studies                 | 4.2                             | Grade 5 in GCSE Drama<br>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature   |
| BTEC Level 3 Engineering (Single) Award | 4.5                             | Need to have studied design or engineering and achieved a grade 5<br>Grade 5 in GCSE Maths<br>Grade 4 in GCSE Sciences                  |
| English Language & Literature           | 4.5                             | Grade 5 in GCSE English Language<br>Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature  |
| English Literature                      | 4.5                             | Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature<br>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language  |

| Subject/Course  | Average Points Score – Guidance | Minimum Entry Requirements  |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Film Studies  | 4.2                             | Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Literature<br>If studied GCSE Film Studies a grade 5 is needed                                   |
| Applied Diploma Level 3 Food & Nutrition  | 4.0                             | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Literature<br>Two grade 4s in sciences<br>Grade 5 in GCSE Food (if taken)                        |
| French<br><b>WITHDRAWN COURSE - NO LONGER BEING OFFERED FOR 2023 ENTRY</b>                        | 5.3                             | Grade 6 in GCSE French  |
| Geography   | 4.7                             | Grade 5 in GCSE Geography<br>Grade 5 in GCSE Maths<br>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature                                  |
| Graphic Communication   | 4.2                             | Grade 5 in GCSE Art, Graphic Communications or DT Graphics.   |
| BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care   | 4.0                             | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature<br>If BTEC Health & Social Care is taken at Level 3, a Level 2 Merit must be achieved. |
| History   | 4.7                             | Grade 5 in GCSE History<br>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Literature  |
| BTEC Level 3 Information Technology   | 4.0                             | Grade 4 in GCSE Maths<br>Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Literature<br>If studied BTEC IT at GCSE a Merit grade is needed.       |
| Mathematics   | 5.3                             | Grade 7 in GCSE Maths<br>OR Grade 6 and pass entry test.  |
| Further Mathematics   | 6.1                             | Grade 8 in GCSE Maths   |
| BTEC Level 3 Creative Digital Media Production  | 4.0                             | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Literature.<br>If studied BTEC Media at GCSE a Merit grade is needed.                            |
| Music<br><b>WITHDRAWN COURSE - NO LONGER BEING OFFERED FOR 2023 ENTRY</b>                         | 4.5                             | Grade 6 in GCSE Music   |
| BTEC Level 3 Music Technology<br><b>WITHDRAWN COURSE - NO LONGER BEING OFFERED FOR 2023 ENTRY</b> | 4.0                             | Grade 4 in GCSE Music or Level 2 Merit in BTEC Music  |
| BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts<br><b>WITHDRAWN COURSE - NO LONGER BEING OFFERED FOR 2023 ENTRY</b>  | 4.0                             | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language & Literature.<br>If studied GCSE Drama/Music Grade 4 is needed.                                      |

Continued on next page...

## Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements

|   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (Religious Studies)                         | 4.7 | Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature.<br>If studied Religious studies/Philosophy at GCSE a grade 5 is needed.  |
| Physical Education  | 4.5 | Grade 5 in GCSE PE<br>Two grade 5s in GCSE Sciences (discussion with department if a grade 4 and 5 achieved)<br>Must play a competitive sport at a high level.   |
| BTEC Level 3 Sport (Single)   | 4.0 | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature.<br>One Grade 4 in GCSE Science.<br>Must have completed GCSE PE or BTEC Sport   |
| BTEC Level 3 Sport (Double)   | 4.0 | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature.<br>One Grade 4 in GCSE Science.<br>Must have completed GCSE PE or BTEC Sport   |
| BTEC Level 3 Sport (Triple)   | 4.0 | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature.<br>One Grade 4 in GCSE Science.<br>Must have a grade 4 in GCSE PE or a Merit in BTEC Sport level 2. As this is a triple course and you will study no other course alongside this, the entry requirement to enter the sixth form to study this qualification is four grade 4s at GCSE. The English and Science requirements of this course still apply. |
| Physics   | 5.3 | Two Grade 6s in GCSE Sciences (if Triple Science is studied one must be Physics).<br>Grade 6 in GCSE Maths<br>Pass the entry exam.   |
| Politics  | 4.7 | Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature<br>Grade 5 in GCSE History or Geography   |
| Product Design  | 4.2 | Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature<br>Grade 4 in GCSE Maths<br>Grade 5 in a Design or Art subject.   |
| Psychology  | 4.7 | Grade 5 in GCSE Maths<br>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature<br>If studied Psychology at GCSE a Grade 5 is needed<br>Two grade 4s needed in GCSE Sciences.<br>We recommend any student below Grade 6 in Maths additionally takes the L3 Mathematical studies course.  |
| Sociology   | 4.2 | Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature<br>If studied sociology at GCSE a grade 5 is needed.  |
| Spanish<br><b>WITHDRAWN COURSE - NO LONGER BEING OFFERED FOR 2023 ENTRY</b> | 5.3 | Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish  |
| Textiles (Art 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.*

## 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 online application form can be found on our website or by contacting the Sixth Form Office.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023.**

### 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 within the first week of the new term.

For further information please contact our Sixth Form Admissions Officer.

Call: 01462 628059

Email: [swa-sixthformadmissions@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:swa-sixthformadmissions@bestacademies.org.uk)

Visit: [samuelwhitbread.org.uk](http://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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