

BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • SUCCEED • EXCEED



SIXTH FORM HANDBOOK
2025 - 2026

Sir David Attenborough

'Never before have we had
such an awareness
of what we are doing
to the planet
& never before have we
had the power to do
something about it'



History,
Politics,
Geography

BIOLOGIST
BROADCASTER
NATURAL
HISTORIAN



Chemistry

ROSALIND
FRANKLIN

BRITISH CHEMIST
REVEALED THE
DOUBLE
HELIX
OF
DNA

Modern
Foreign
Languages



Welcome

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

We look forward to welcoming you.

Mr Lee Huckle, Associate Principal and Head of Sixth Form

“ Leaders and teachers have high expectations for pupils in the Sixth Form. ”

OFSTED 2023

WHY SWA SIXTH FORM?

Last year our students gained excellent KS5 results with 83% of entries gaining A*- C grades (or equivalent) and 30% 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 (2022-2023 COHORT):

%	2024
A*-A (or equivalent)	30%
A*-B (or equivalent)	60%
A*-C (or equivalent)	83%
A*-E (or equivalent)	98%



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 ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS (AAQs)

Are work-related qualifications equivalent to A levels, and are also studied over 2 years. We offer the following qualifications that are awarded Pass, Merit and Distinction grades.

We offer the following subjects:

- Sport
- Media
- ICT
- Applied Science
- Health and Social Care
- Engineering
- Music Technology
- Food Science & Nutrition
- Business - Single

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



“Members of the school community are proud of the school's involvement in Sport and the Arts.”

OFSTED 2023

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, 9 and 10.

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. A student cannot join Sixth Form if they don't have at least a grade 4 in Maths or English.

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.

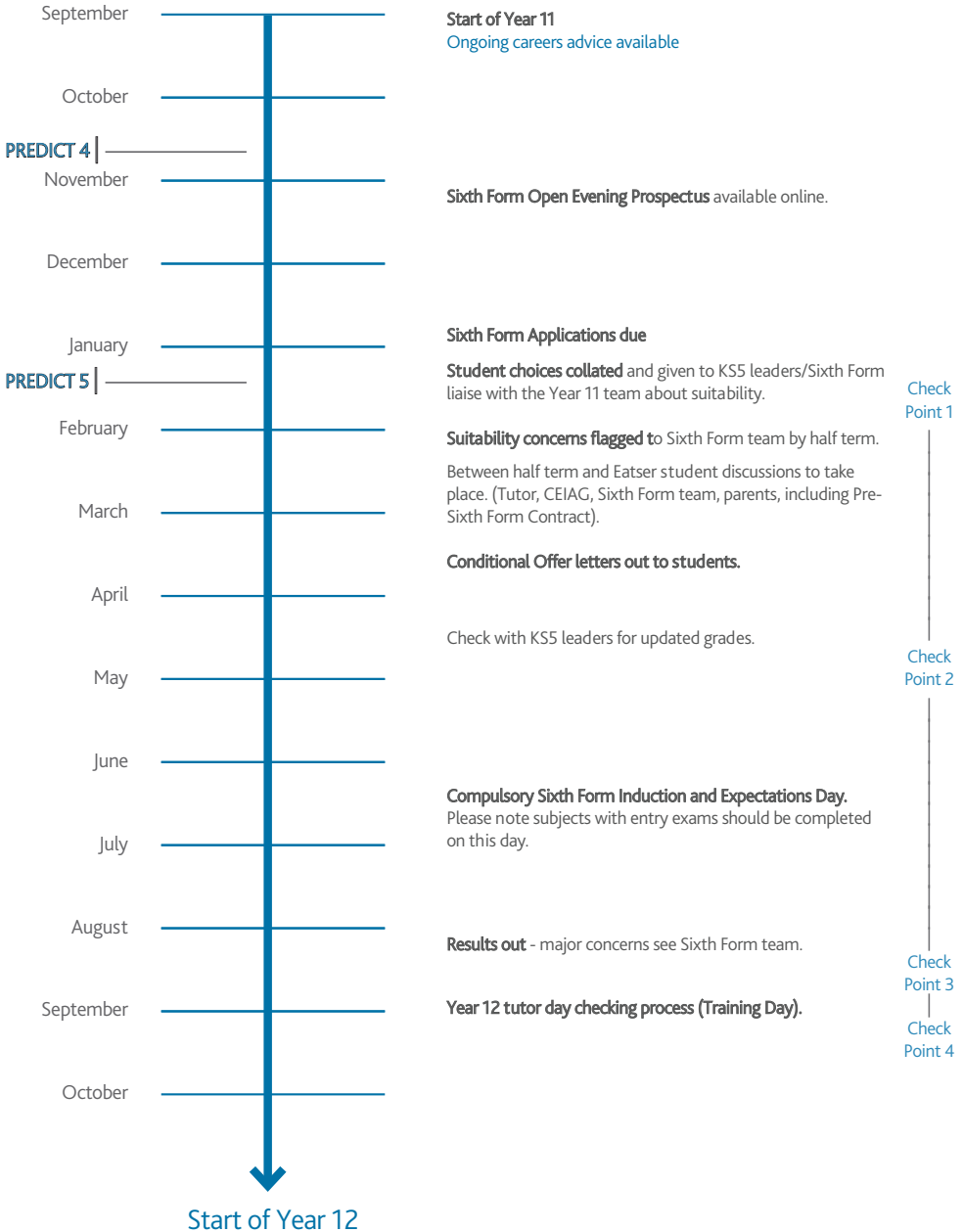
Enrichment opportunities that cannot be timetabled but which we encourage our students to do, can be found in the Sixth Form enrichment handbook in the enrichment section of the Sixth Form webpage.

Please note that these opportunities may be subject to change.

“ Sixth Form students lead tutorial sessions for younger pupils as part of The Society programme. ”

OFSTED 2023

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 (AAQ)	4.2	Two grade 4s in GCSE Sciences Grade 4 in GCSE Maths 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 (If Triple Science is studied, then one must be Biology) (If Combined Science is studied, then biology components must be Grade 6). 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 (Single)	4.2	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature Grade 4 in GCSE Maths If Business is studied at GCSE a Merit grade is needed.
Chemistry	5.3	Two Grade 6s in GCSE Sciences (If Triple Science is studied, then one must be Chemistry) (If Combined Science is studied, then chemistry components must be Grade 6). Grade 6 in GCSE Maths Pass the entry exam.
Computer Science	5.3	Grade 5 in GCSE Computer Science Grade 6 in GCSE Maths
Dance	4.2	Grade 5 in GCSE Dance Grade 5 in GCSE Language or Literature
Drama & Theatre Studies	4.2	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
English Language & Literature	4.5	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature. Alongside with a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature
English Literature	4.5	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature 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 If studied GCSE Film Studies a grade 5 is needed
Applied Diploma Level 3 Food & Nutrition	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature Two grade 4s in sciences Grade 5 in GCSE Food or a merit grade in level 2 hospitality and catering.
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 Communication	4.2	Grade 5 in GCSE Art, Graphic Communications or DT Graphics.
BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care (AAQ)	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Literature. If BTEC Health & Social Care is taken at Level 2, a Level 2 Merit must be achieved.
History	4.7	Grade 5 in GCSE History Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Literature
BTEC Level 3 Information Technology (AAQ)	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Literature If studied BTEC IT a Merit grade is needed.
Mathematics	5.3	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths OR Grade 6 and pass entry test. Grade 6 in GCSE Physics
Further Mathematics	6.1	Grade 8 in GCSE maths Grade 6 in GCSE Physics If Level 2 Further maths is completed, a pass grade is needed.
BTEC Level 3 Creative Digital Media Production	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Literature. If studied BTEC Media at GCSE a Merit grade is needed.
Music	4.5	Grade 6 in GCSE Music
BTEC Level 3 Music Technology	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature. If BTEC Music studied a Merit grade is needed.
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (Religious Studies)	4.7	Grade 5 in GCSE English language and English Literature needed. If GCSE RS/RE has been completed, a grade 5 is needed.

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SIXTH FORM MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Subject/Course	Average Points Score – Guidance	Minimum Entry Requirements
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 (department will have final decision)
BTEC Level 3 Sport (Single)	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature. One Grade 4 in GCSE Science. Must have completed GCSE PE or BTEC Sport and achieve a grade 4 or merit.
BTEC Level 3 Sport (Double)	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature. One Grade 4 in GCSE Science. Must have completed GCSE PE or BTEC Sport and achieve a grade 4 or merit.
BTEC Level 3 Sport (Triple)	4.0	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature. One Grade 4 in GCSE Science. 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, then one must be Physics) (If Combined Science is studied, then physics components must be Grade 6). Grade 6 in GCSE Maths Pass the entry exam.
Politics	4.7	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature Grade 5 in GCSE History or Geography
Product Design (Design Technology)	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. 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 If studied sociology at GCSE a grade 5 is needed.
Spanish	5.3	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish

**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 MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2025.

Entry Exams

Some subjects may require an entry exam - these will take place within the first week of the new term.

Please contact the following staff for entry test enquiries:

Mathematics: Mr Wray
kwray@bestacademies.org.uk

Biology: Mrs Ambrose
jambrose@bestacademies.org.uk

Chemistry: Mr Hardy
dhardy@bestacademies.org.uk

Physics: Mr Hutchins
jhutchins@bestacademies.org.uk

For further information please contact our Sixth Form Admissions Officer.

swa-sixthformadmissions@bestacademies.org.uk

01462 628059

samuelwhitbread.org.uk



“ Sixth Form students enjoy a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities. ”

OFSTED 2023

Samuel Whitbread Academy
Shefford Road
Clifton
Shefford
Bedfordshire
SG17 5QS

Telephone: 01462 629900
Email: swa-info@bestacademies.org.uk

 SamWhitAcademy

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www.samuelwhitbread.org.uk

