

# William Brookes School



## SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form at William Brookes is a distinctive and unique part of the school. For those currently studying at the school, it offers continuity from Year 11 into a friendly and supportive environment, but one where you will be challenged to fulfill your potential. For those new to the school, you will be entering a warm and welcoming Sixth Form where you will be made to feel at home.

As well as the variety of academic choice on offer, there are a whole host of other fantastic opportunities for you to get involved in. Our most recent OFSTED report described the Sixth Form as one where 'care, guidance and support are outstanding', and 'students' personal development is also outstanding, allowing them to become confident and mature'.

This year we have additional benefits, as we move to a brand new building with state of the art facilities.

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*"Care, guidance and support are outstanding..."* OFSTED, 2007



## ACADEMIC LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM



You will find many differences when you start work in the Sixth Form. In some cases, teaching groups will be much smaller than you are used to, particularly at A2 Level. Lessons will be less formal and relationships with staff will be on a much more mature level.

There will be a wide variety of approaches used in lessons; for example, there will be much use of group discussions and seminars where you will be expected to present your views on a given topic, simulation exercises, practical investigations and experiments as well as the occasional lecture.

You will be expected to take more responsibility for your own work and study, and to develop your ability to organise yourself effectively.

You will take a much greater part in the assessment of your own progress through both formal and informal methods.

In order to help you with these challenges, we will provide assistance through an induction package in the first few weeks of term which will introduce you to a range of study skills necessary for success in the Sixth Form.

Most students are expected to opt for four AS subjects in Year 12, of which three will be taken through to Year 13.

Experience shows that on average Sixth Form students studying AS/A Levels need to be able to undertake approximately 40 hours of study a week, which means that you should expect about 16 hours of work per week outside school hours. The exact amount and type of work will vary depending on the course you choose. There will be pressure points and you will need to organise your time effectively to cope.

You will need at least 5 C grades at GCSE, usually including English language and Mathematics, to qualify for AS Level. Please look carefully at the entry requirements (available from staff) for the subjects we offer as they sometimes vary.

The current range of subjects on offer can be found in the accompanying leaflets. Remember, there are a few subjects that you can study at AS Level without having studied them at GCSE.

## THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM

All students are allocated a personal tutor for the duration of their programme of study. A tutorial session is held every week for an hour. Your tutor has a major responsibility for your academic progress and your personal well being. He or she will always be the first point of contact for anything that concerns you or your parents.

We have the advantage at William Brookes that we know a number of our students already and so the time it takes for students to settle into the new way of life in the Sixth Form should be minimal. We also welcome new students and make every effort to make them feel welcome.

Your tutor will be involved in:

- advising you at the start of Year 12 about your subject choices;
- helping to set targets for yourself and to formulate action plans;
- monitoring your progress, as well as writing reports to your parents;
- giving advice on your future.

This may involve:

- applying for University or College places;
- seeking employment;
- writing your reference for University.



# ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

We know it's Christmas when it comes around to Sixth Form Panto Season. "It's great 'clean' fun for all the family!" For the past few years the script has been written and directed by talented Sixth Form students who love the limelight!

Central to the programme of all Sixth Form students is the Enrichment Programme.

During the whole of your time in schools so far, from the age of 5 years to 16 years, your education has been broad, covering a full range of skills. You will now begin to concentrate on a narrower range of studies which particularly interest you, but it is still important that you do not lose touch with the other elements of a broad education. Breadth is important because we live in a rapidly changing world. Specialisms which are needed by one generation may well cease to be required by the next. You need, therefore, to be flexible and to keep some breadth in your education. We are committed to providing you with a range of opportunities to enhance your experience of Sixth Form education.

The package of courses and activities on offer in the Enrichment Programme has been designed to give you the best opportunities.

This is the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities for their own sake. Such activities at the moment include bowling, snooker, drama, music, swimming and football, navigation skills and mountain biking.

We are able to offer our students the opportunity to undertake Wider Key Skills, where students embark on various challenges. Successful completion of two skills secures 40 UCAS points. The challenges can be based on academic study or can be as wide ranging as tracing family history!



*"The Sixth Form at William Brookes has prepared me to take the next step"*

*"There is a great atmosphere in Sixth Form and there is always support available when you need it"*



# ROLES IN THE SIXTH FORM



## President and Vice Presidents

"As President and Vice Presidents of Sixth Form, we are looking forward to using the opportunity we've been given to make a change for the better and voice the ideas of fellow Sixth Form students.

We are excited about working with other members of the Sixth Form team and overseeing the many changes that are currently happening within the school."

September 2008 saw the launch of a new look Sixth Form. Tutor groups are a mixture of Year 12 and 13 students and every student is encouraged to take on a role of responsibility, either in the Sixth Form or within the wider school community. This is a great way to develop confidence and gain experience of working with different groups of people. Our Sixth Form students also act as 'Associate Tutors' to our vertical groups in years 7 - 11.



## Sports Captains

"We are responsible for organising and running inter-form competitions in both the Sixth Form and for our four houses.

We are incredibly excited, as we will be able to introduce competitions with modern sports, alongside, non-traditional events such as the egg and spoon race!"



## Activities and Charities Managers

"We are enthusiastic about trying to introduce new ways of raising money for really discerning charities, as well as our Sixth Form.

We are not just helping others, but we are having fun, aiding the bonding of the Sixth Form and gaining our own personal experience.

Highlights of our role include organising the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Christmas and Summer Parties."



## Media and Publicity Managers

"We will promote, and report on, any events happening in Sixth Form, from sporting events to the pantomime.

This year, we hope to develop the Sixth Form area on the website and Learning Gateway to make it more accessible for all students."



## Senior Mentors

"Our role is to help organise mentoring throughout the school and act as a liaison between staff and mentors. We are also anti-bullying mentors for the whole school.

We are understand the value of working with the lower school and acting as mediators, if problems arise."

## Performing Arts Link

"This new role is to help organise and coordinate events in the Edge with the Music, Drama and Dance departments.

It's a great opportunity to improve organisation skills and reveal the unseen side of the school's many performances."



*"You get a real sense of involvement and community"*