

# Whickham School and Sports College



## Sixth Form Entry Policy

**Approved by:** S Tumelty

**Date:** 21/05/20

**Last reviewed on:** May 2020

**Next review due by:** May 2021

## General Principles



1. The sixth form will provide a wide range of academic and vocational courses at Level 3, which will be available in a variety of combinations to provide a considerable choice of programme for students.
2. Students will receive guidance on selecting a programme of study which gives the best chance of success to appropriate progression routes after sixth form. Decisions should be informed by reference to GCSE grades and post-18 destinations.
3. Students who have not achieved 4+ grades in the core subjects of GCSE English and Maths will be enrolled on a GCSE resit course, in order to support their further progression. Students resitting usually will only be able to opt for 3 A-level or BTEC courses.
4. All students will follow a general programme including; PSHE, SRE and careers education information and guidance. Work placements can be arranged on an individual basis for students. These must take place outside of term time unless they are an integral part of a course programme or their chosen enrichment option.

### Guidance for Students

It is very important that students receive guidance onto courses that will give them the best chances to succeed and access appropriate progression routes. All level 3 courses are challenging but should be accessible to all students if they select within the following framework.

- **Students who attain an average GCSE score of 5.6 or more** should usually choose four A-Level or equivalent courses to begin with. Particularly able students can consider 5 subject – based courses.
- **Students attaining between 5 and 5.6 average GCSE score** should usually choose three A-Level or equivalent courses.
- **Students attaining four grade 4+s at GCSE but with an average grade score of less than 5** should usually choose three A-Level or a mix of A-level and BTEC courses

plus resits. Students in this position are likely to be most successful when carrying on successful BTEC subjects from Year 11.

The sixth form considers each student's individual circumstances. This may result in the judgement that particular students with fewer than 5 Grade 4+ passes have the capability to succeed at Level 3. Such students would therefore be allowed to study appropriate courses.

### **Subject Entry Requirements**

Subject specific entry requirements are published annually in the school's sixth form course guide and are the same for internal and external applicants. On enrolment day students will discuss their choices based on GCSE results. Some students may be given the chance to trial a subject if entry requirements are not met but results were close to the entry criteria.

### **External Students**

The sixth form welcomes students from other providers. We offer a meeting with the Head of Sixth Form to discuss courses and routes to ensure you are best advised. Please contact the school to arrange this.

### **Sixth Form Admissions Policy**

Whickham School & Sports College uses the Local Authority (LA) admissions policy for entry to the Sixth Form. A copy of this policy is available from the Gateshead Council website.