

Whickham School



Sixth Form Entry & Induction Policy

Sixth Form Curriculum

Whickham School accepts internal and external students into the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form offers all learners with a study programme that complies with national requirements. Learners follow a curriculum made up of a core programme made up of one or more substantial qualifications that stretch and prepare students for the next stage of their education or for employment. At Whickham these will be predominantly A-level or BTEC courses. Learners have over 30 qualifications to choose from. This list is revised annually and published in the Sixth Form Prospectus each Autumn (for entrance the following September).

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. All students will follow a general programme including; PSHCE 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.
4. Our Sixth Form programme is full-time and learners will study at least 540 planned learning hours a year. The majority of students study a programme of at least 600 planned learning hours.
5. Students who do not have at least a GCSE Grade 4 in either or both of English and mathematics are required to study these subjects (resits).
6. Learners with additional or special educational needs are encouraged to get in touch so we can discuss how we can support these needs following the SEND Code of Practice.

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.
- **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 on the website) 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. Students in this position will be assessed at the end of four weeks and will be required to show satisfactory progress in the assessment.

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.

Induction

1. A general introduction to Sixth Form courses is given in Half Term 2 of Year 11 to both students and parents (interested students from other schools are also invited by letter or advertisement in local press). The meeting is addressed by the Headteacher, a Deputy Head and the Head of Sixth Form.
Students and parents/carers will be provided with the opportunity to speak to subject teachers and peers to find out more about the variety of courses offered.
2. Following this all students are given an individual support and guidance meeting with their parents with a senior member of staff in which they are asked to make provisional choice of Level 3 courses and, where relevant, are supported with progression to other destinations.
3. After the GCSE examinations a Year 12 Induction programme is held where students learn about the extra-curricular events and also the rules and regulations of the Sixth Form. Students also get the option to trial their subject choices to help them decide on their final choices.
4. Enrolment generally takes place on the same day as the issue of GCSE results.
(See policy on admissions to Sixth Form)

5. When students start Sixth Form, two days of induction organised by the Head of Year 12 take place. These induction days help to familiarise students with life in the sixth form and help to develop their skills.
6. Additional induction sessions are organised for external students covering areas such as site orientation and ICT facilities.
7. Students are also supported with induction activities relating to study skills.

Approved by:	S Tumelty
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Last reviewed on:	March 2021
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Next review due by:	May 2022
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