



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2025





99.2%
A-LEVEL
PASS RATE



54%
A* - B



74%
OF VOCATIONAL
GRADES WERE
DISTINCTION OR
ABOVE

WELCOME



FRASER TURNBULL | HEADTEACHER

Our Sixth Form is an extraordinary place to study. Students achieve strong A level and Level 3 BTEC results whilst also developing the personal qualities that enable them to succeed in higher education and employment.

We are very proud to offer students an experience that is one of the best in the region. Whickham Sixth Form combines access to a wide range of A level and Level 3 BTEC subjects with high quality teaching and learning that has supported students in achieving outstanding results over many years. Students can continue to study subjects they have enjoyed and achieved success in during Year 11 or experience new subjects that can open a wide range of career pathways.

Students access a range of high quality destinations at the end of their time in the Sixth Form. Most students go onto university and staff are highly experienced in supporting this process. Students access a range of exciting courses all over the country, including Oxford and Cambridge. The Sixth Form team is also increasingly supporting students who move directly into

employment and a range of high profile local and national businesses recruit directly from the school.

Academic success is important and we are proud of the success our students achieve, but the Whickham Sixth Form experience is about much more than this. Students have experiences and develop qualities that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

Finally, students enjoy the use of a state of the art Sixth Form Centre that is equipped to support study. This provides a range of facilities including IT access, study resources and a Starbucks cafe, ensuring students have a base when they are not in lessons.

Whatever your goals we will help you achieve them. I wish you the very best for your future success.

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



MISS L GAINFORD | HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Making the right decision about pathway choices beyond age 16 can be a real challenge. Ensuring all students make the right choice for them is essential, as it allows them to become fulfilled and successful young adults.

Whickham Sixth Form is a very supportive environment that caters for the needs of all learners, through the curriculum offered, the pastoral care available and the diverse range of enrichment opportunities we provide.

The breadth of our curriculum offered at Whickham is something we are very proud of, as it enables us to support students in selecting the right subject combinations for them. We offer a wide range of academic A-Level courses and vocational BTEC courses. Expectations are high and there is a belief that all students can succeed.

Supporting students as they transition into adulthood underpins our Sixth Form offer. Personal development thrives in many ways, for example through our tutorial and assembly programme, work experience opportunities, extra-curricular clubs and enrichment programme.

One of our continued strengths is the wide range of student leadership opportunities we strongly encourage students to engage with. This centres around our annual Charity Week, but there are extensive opportunities to be involved in other ways, including the Sixth Form leadership team, supporting school and community events, and taking on mentoring roles with younger pupils in the school.

Sixth Form will be one of the most enjoyable and important times of your life. With great effort and application comes great rewards. Success in Whickham Sixth Form will pave the way for the next chapter in your life and take you a step closer to your chosen career path.

We look forward to seeing you in September and wish you good luck in your summer examinations.

CURRICULUM

Having a substantial Sixth Form with increasing numbers, we are able to offer an extensive curriculum to meet the needs of all learners. Over thirty subjects are available, offering progression from Level 2 courses as well as presenting opportunities to study new subject areas. Students are expected to study the equivalent of three of four Level 3 courses.

THE FOLLOWING COURSES ARE AVAILABLE IN SIXTH FORM:

- A-level courses
- BTEC courses
- GCSE resit courses (English Language and Mathematics only)
- Level 3 Diploma (Food and Nutrition)

Details of all courses offered can be viewed in our course guide, alongside the entry requirements for each qualification.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Supporting the personal development of our Sixth Form students is a vital aspect of their overall growth and success. We offer a broad range of compulsory and optional opportunities to help students thrive and prepare them for adulthood. Some of these opportunities are outlined below:



ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Our enrichment programme will vary each year. Examples of current activities are:

- Level 2 and Level 3 Sports Leadership Awards
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Work Experience
- Football Academy
- Enrichment Carousel

The enrichment carousel offers a less specialised enrichment offer for those who prefer to experience a broader enrichment pathway. This year the enrichment carousel includes recreational sport, First Aid, Debating, Preparing for overseas travel and RE.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHCE) AND ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME

Compulsory PSHCE sessions are delivered at key points each half term, alongside weekly Sixth Form assemblies. These cover an array of topics which are carefully considered to meet the current needs of our Sixth form learners. Recent topics have included road safety, financial planning, sex and relationships and British Values.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The School has a statutory obligation to deliver Religious Education in the Sixth Form. This is done through offering Religious Education A level and through our enrichment carousel.

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from Religious Education in the Sixth Form. To do so please write to your son/daughter's Head of Year.



ASPIRATION

Whickham students set aspirational goals that are ambitious and without limitations.



RESPECT

Without compromise, Whickham students demonstrate respect for themselves, others and their environment.



RESILIENCE

Whickham students persevere with challenges, especially when faced with setbacks.



EMPATHY

Whickham students strive to be kind, caring and understanding of each other's feelings and needs.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

At Whickham Sixth Form, we offer a wide range of student leadership opportunities to broaden social skills and foster a sense of accountability. We have a thriving Student Leadership Team with Head Students, Deputies and Ambassadors, who each have a role to support whole school improvement. Wider leadership opportunities include being on the Charity Week committee, running the school equipment shop and having mentoring roles as reading and safeguarding mentors, in addition to taking on roles as ambassadors in mental health and diversity.

courses. Work Experience Week is a key element of the Sixth Form journey, developing future aspiration and personal maturity.

In the summer of Year 12 students have the opportunity to experience work places, job roles and careers that they would not otherwise be able to access with their current level of skill and qualifications. It provides them with the opportunity to develop the transferable skills that are essential for a successful working life.

Students from Whickham have taken part in a wide range of Work Experience placements.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Many Universities and Apprenticeship providers expect that students have completed some form of work related experience, indeed it can be an entry requirement to some competitive Universities or



As a result of his performance during Work Experience week, we have offered Robert an internship for the summer holidays so he can expand his knowledge and skills. He has accepted and will work for 4 weeks over the holiday period, working 22.5 hours per week. This is a paid internship to help him gain more experience and cement his thoughts on his future career path.

Josh was genuinely one of the best performing work experience students we have ever had.

Saphren was very respectful to all our patients, She has done a wonderful job and hopefully we will be working together again in the future.

PASTORAL CARE

Our dedicated Year 12 and Year 13 Pastoral Leaders are here to instil a culture of high expectations in a supportive environment. By focusing on the holistic development of students, they help ensure that each student is equipped academically, emotionally and socially as they approach adulthood. Some of their key roles include:

- Student support
- Parental engagement
- Academic monitoring and support
- Attendance and punctuality monitoring
- Crisis management
- Life skills education

At Whickham School students also have access to a dedicated, onsite counselling team who are available to help navigate students through issues relating to mental health and other personal challenges.



FACILITIES



The sixth form is housed in a purpose built state of the art building.

THE SILENT STUDY AREA

The silent study area is one of the most used resources in the Sixth Form building. It was specifically requested by students and is well used. It houses a large amount of open plan personal study space, as well as computer provision for study use. The study area is open daily from 7am to 6pm and is well used after school. Study facilities are also open to students during school holidays.

THE SIXTH FORM CAFETERIA

The Cafeteria serves a wide range of hot and cold food and drink. Following consultation with students it was redesigned in 2020 and now also serves Starbucks coffee. The Cafeteria is open from 8.30am to 2.30pm serving students during the school day. There is a self serve Starbucks hot drinks machine which students can access outside of these hours.



SIXTH FORM FACILITIES

The Sixth Form areas house all of the sixth form facilities:

- Offices where you can find the Head of Sixth Form and Pastoral Leaders
- Sixth Form Reception
- Silent Study Areas
- Sixth Form Cafeteria
- Sixth Form Computer Suite
- Student Support Office
- Social Area
- Careers and Guidance Support Room

CAREERS SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE _____

The careers support for our Sixth Form students is provided by our on-site qualified Careers Advisor, Mrs Ross. Each student in Year 12 is given a 1:1 careers appointment, where impartial advice is provided to support post-18 destinations and navigate career paths. Mrs Ross is always available to offer follow-up appointments and ongoing support.

CURRICULUM GUIDANCE

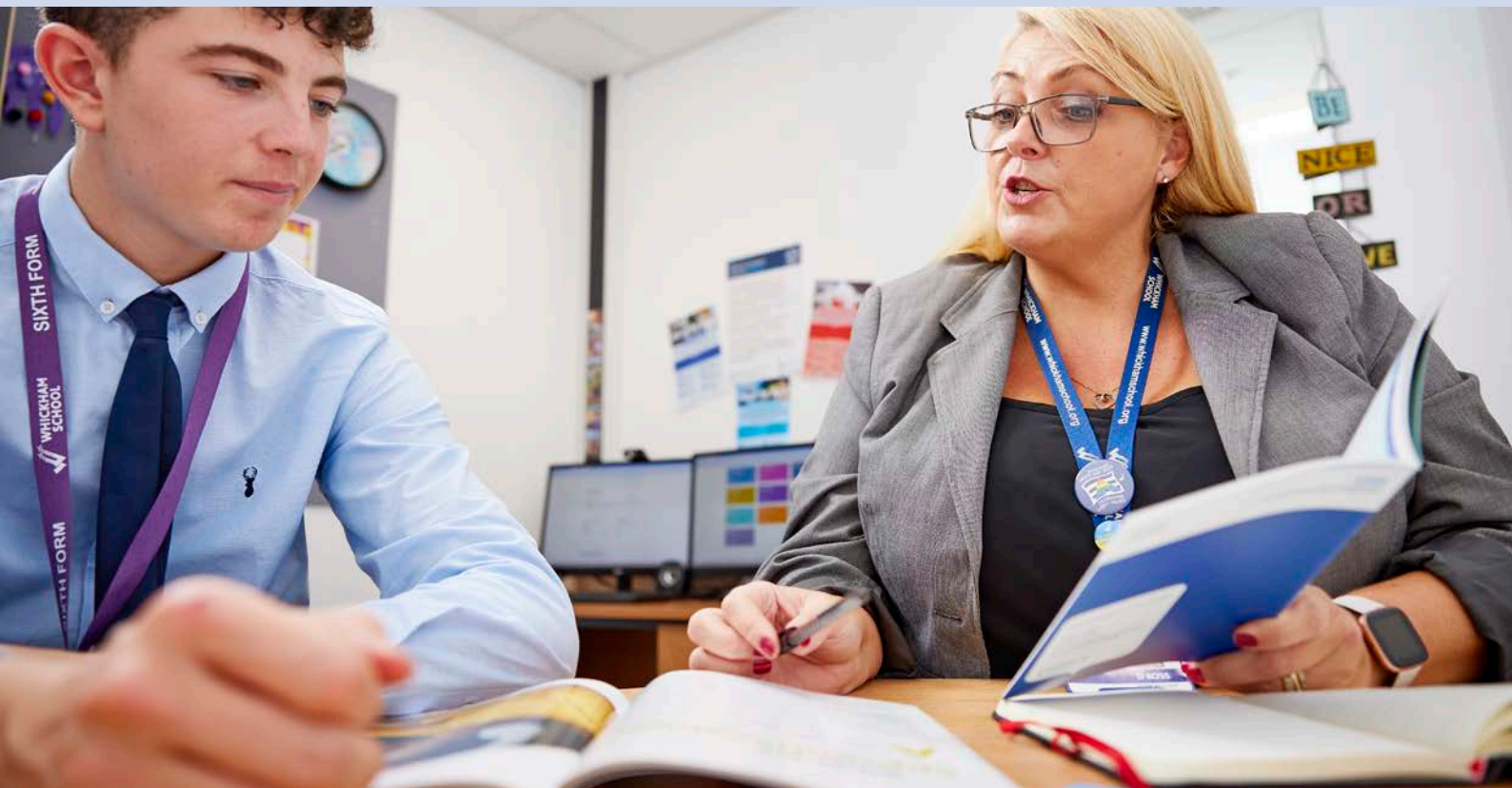
Effective Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) raises aspirations, improves motivation and overcomes barriers to success. Our careers programme empowers students to identify opportunities, build experiences, skills and behaviours essential for a successful working future. During their time in Sixth Form students are supported to develop key employability and enterprise skills which are highly valued by employers, universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers through to provision of a range of Careers-based events, including guest speakers, conferences, exhibitions and external visits.

In Year 12 Students are provided with planned and timetabled 1-to-1 Personal Guidance sessions with Mrs Ross, our dedicated Level 6 qualified Careers Guidance Practitioner. These sessions provide students with access to differentiated, impartial

and independent information and guidance about the range of Post 18 education, employment and training options. Students can continue to access support and guidance from Mrs Ross throughout their sixth form journey towards self-awareness, self-determination and self-improvement.

Students are given personalised assistance throughout the UCAS and Apprenticeship application process working with Pastoral Leaders, tutors and Careers Advisor. Our working partnerships with universities, professionals and alumni means our students have additional external, specialist support with applications, personal statements, bespoke guidance sessions, subject specific workshops, and interview preparation.





OUR PROGRAMME INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

- Annual University & Apprenticeship Search Exhibition
- Annual Apprenticeship Roadshow
- University Workshops in school (Newcastle, Northumbria, Durham, Sunderland and Oxbridge)
- Thematic workshops (e.g. Careers in Medicine, Law, Healthcare etc)
- Super Curricular Advice and support to enhance applications
- Opportunities to visit workplaces and Universities
- Supported Progression Programmes for NE Universities (for eligible students)
- 1-to-1 Personal Careers Guidance sessions (both scheduled and on-demand)
- Support for students applying to Oxbridge or Russell Group Universities
- Tailored course advice to enable students to choose the right programme of study
- Higher & Degree Apprenticeship Workshops with Ask Apprenticeships
- UCAS Personal Statement Workshops
- Support with job and apprenticeship searches
- Support to source and secure a work placements
- 1 week Work Experience Placement
- Information, Advice and guidance on financial support
- Tailored thematic guidance for industry-based pathways

SIXTH FORM EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance and punctuality are vital if success is to be achieved on Sixth Form courses. Punctuality to tutorial time and lessons is fundamental and homework and coursework is required to be completed on time. Failure to produce work can lead to modules being repeated. Our school day starts at 8.35am.

ASSEMBLIES

Sixth Form assemblies are delivered on a weekly basis, covering an array of topics including sex and relationships, personal safety and British values.





CODE OF DRESS

Sixth Form students are required to dress in a manner that would be acceptable within a professional workplace. The Code of Dress below is for the gender which you identify as.

MALES

- Formal/smart shirt and tie
- Formal/smart trousers
- Formal shoes
- Sixth Form lanyard

Optional:

- Plain jumper over shirt

FEMALES

- Formal/smart top to cover shoulders
- Formal/smart trousers or skirt or dress, of a suitable length
- Formal shoes
- Sixth Form lanyard

Optional:

- Plain jumper/cardigan

Hoodies, crop tops and casual footwear e.g. plimsolls and trainers are not permitted. Tattoos (over 18's) must be discreet and inoffensive.

Students completing practical courses:

All students are required to come in Code of Dress but can change into specialist clothing for lessons using school changing facilities.

A VIEW FROM THE HEAD STUDENTS

Our Head Students are appointed from Easter of year 12 to Easter of year 13.

Throughout their term of office they are responsible for representing the school and its students both within the school and in the local community.



NIAMH | HEAD STUDENT

During my time at Whickham Sixth Form I have been inundated with opportunities to develop both my character and skills. These have included taking part in Charity Week and the chance to be a part of the Student Leadership Team. We are treated like mature students, yet are also supported by teachers and peers to ensure we can fully develop a wide variety of necessary skills which can be applied throughout life.

A big change from lower school to Sixth Form is the amount of free time you are given, and it is really important that as young adults that we learn how to use our time effectively. Non-contact time can be used for a range of things, from completing homework, revising for upcoming exams and socialising with friends. Study periods also teach us the importance of finding a balance between work and socialising.



ZACK | HEAD STUDENT

Whickham Sixth Form is a positive and vibrant place for students from various backgrounds to grow and develop into confident, mature and caring young people. The support from tutors, subject teachers and Heads of Year is fundamental in encouraging this growth. Within Sixth Form, there are lots of opportunities to get involved in the wider school community through becoming reading mentors, bus monitors, the Student Leadership Team and many more roles.

My favourite part of Sixth Form has been Charity Week, as it allowed me to be part of the Charity Week Committee and work with many students in the year group. Within my role, I helped to plan and organise different activities and events to raise money and awareness for well-deserving charities, whilst being able to develop my confidence, listening and communication skills.

Start your journey at Whickham Sixth Form

Applications open Wednesday 27th November 2024

INTERNAL APPLICANTS

If you are currently studying at Whickham School you will receive a one-to-one interview as well as gaining further information through assemblies, tutor time and careers guidance. You will complete an application form as part of this process.

EXTERNAL APPLICANTS

If you are currently studying at another school you will need to complete an application form (available on the website) and email it to us so we can send you details of sixth form events and arrange for you to come and look around and discuss your course options in a one-to-one interview with Miss Gainford (Head of Sixth Form).



NEW TO WHICKHAM SCHOOL

Starting a new school can be a daunting experience. Each year we have a number of students from schools outside of our catchment area, who choose Whickham School for their Sixth Form studies. They all settle in quickly and achieve outstanding results. Many of these students apply to Whickham because of the wide range of A level subjects and BTEC courses available, as well as all the varied enrichment opportunities that are available to our students throughout the two years.



Name: *Isabella*

Subjects: *English, Literature and History.*

"I am really enjoying my time at Whickham Sixth Form, in part due to the high quality learning I am experiencing, but also because of the immense support that has been offered to me in my short time here. Staff and my new peers have made a very daunting situation feel like an easy, effortless transition into Sixth Form. No matter what questions I have there always seems to be someone willing to offer up an answer, and that unwavering support system is what has made my school experience so welcoming. I am really happy with my decision to attend this Sixth Form."



**WHICKHAM
SCHOOL**

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