



**WHICKHAM
SCHOOL**

**Sixth Form Entry & Induction Policy
2025-2026**

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Policy Review

Last reviewed	By who	Next review
May 2023	S Tumelty	by September 2024
July 2024	L Gainford	July 2025
June 2025	L Gainford	July 2026

General Principles

- Whickham Sixth Form provides 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 pathways for students.
- Students will receive bespoke careers guidance on selecting a programme of study which gives them the best chance of success to appropriate progression routes. Decisions should be informed by GCSE grades and post-18 destinations.
- Students who have not achieved a grade 4 or higher in the core subjects of GCSE English and Maths will be enrolled on a GCSE resit course, to support their further progression. Students resitting these qualifications will usually only be able to opt for 3 Level 3 qualifications.
- In addition to subject-based qualifications, students will follow a compulsory personal development programme. This will include an assembly and tutorial program, an enrichment choice, PSHCE sessions, careers education information and guidance (CEIAG) and a one-week Work Experience Placement. Additional work placements can be arranged on an individual basis for students, but 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 on courses that will give them the best chances to succeed and access appropriate progression routes. A wide range of Level 3 qualifications is offered each year across a wide number of subject areas. This list is revised annually and published in the Sixth Form Course Guide for entrance in the following September. These include traditional A Levels as well as BTEC courses and other Level 3 qualifications. The curriculum is designed to offer progression onto level 3 courses from subjects studied in Key Stage Four. 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 scores** 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 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.

Students who have not achieved a Grade 4 or better in GCSE English language and/or GCSE Maths will be required to resit these subjects.

All students will be offered an individual meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss their choices. Students are normally required to study:

- 3 or 4 main subject choices;
- An additional study option (this includes GCSE resits where appropriate);
- An enrichment opportunity;

Students have a four-week window at the start of Year 12 to make changes (subject to timetable and class sizes). There will be a requirement that students complete appropriate catch-up work if joining new courses. After this time, changes are less likely but are considered on an individual student basis.

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 confirm their choices based on GCSE and Level 2 vocational results. Where students have not met entry requirements, careers support and guidance will be provided to discuss other viable course options and/or pathways beyond Whickham Sixth Form.

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 arrangements

- A general introduction to Sixth Form courses is given in Half Term 2 to both Year 11 students and parents (interested students from other schools are also invited by letter or advertisement in local press). An informal parent/student conference is held where all Faculties/courses have stands where students can talk to other students and staff about the available courses;
- Following this, all students are offered an individual support and guidance meeting with a senior member of staff in which they are asked to make a provisional choice of Level 3 courses and, where relevant, are supported with progression to other destinations;
- At the end of the GCSE examination period, a Year 12 Induction Day is held where students have an opportunity to trial their Level 3 subject choices. Students also learn about our extra-curricular and enrichment offer, alongside gaining clarity of our expectations as Whickham Sixth Form students;
- Enrolment to Sixth Form takes place on the same day as GCSE results day;
- When students start Sixth Form, we run two days of induction. The induction days help to familiarise students with life in the Sixth Form. Students are also introduced to activities relating to study skills;
- Additional induction sessions are organised for external students, covering areas such as site orientation and familiarisation with our expectations.