



**WHICKHAM
SCHOOL**

**Sixth Form Entry & Induction Policy
2026-2027**

Contents

Section	Page
Policy Review	1
General Principles	1
Guidance for students	1
Subject entry requirements	2
External students	2
Sixth Form admissions policy	3
Induction	3

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
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This policy sets out the criteria and procedures for admission to Whickham Sixth Form and applies to both current Whickham students and external applicants.

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 be supported through bespoke 1-1 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 programme, an

enrichment option, weekly 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 vocational 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.

Exceptional Circumstances

The Head of Sixth Form may consider individual cases where a student narrowly misses entry criteria but demonstrates a strong likelihood of success on a chosen programme of study.

External Applicants

Whickham Sixth Form welcomes students from other providers. We offer an initial meeting with the Head of Sixth Form or Head of Year to discuss courses and routes to ensure you are best advised. Please contact the school to arrange this. External applicants must provide evidence of qualifications achieved and personal details before formal enrolment into our Sixth Form.

For overseas students who have not sat UK qualifications, there is a requirement to sit a GCSE English and Maths paper to gauge academic ability to support our assessment of suitability to complete level 3 qualifications.

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 our Year 11 Sixth Form Options Evening in Half Term 1 for both Year 11 students and parents. Interested students and parents from other schools are also welcome. Following a presentation from the Head Teacher and Head of Sixth Form, there is an opportunity to circulate and learn more about the courses we offer from specialist subject staff and current Sixth Form students.
- Following this, all Year 11 Whickham 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. We encourage similar meetings with external applicants, which can be organised upon request.
- 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, for both internal and external applicants;
- When students begin Sixth Form, we run a two-day induction programme. The induction days help to familiarise students with the culture and expectations of life in our Sixth Form;
- Additional familiarisation sessions can be organised by external applicants with the Sixth Form team, covering areas such as individual needs, CEIAG support, site orientation and familiarisation with our expectations.