WHICKHAM SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2027 - 28





99%
A-level
pass rate

1/4
of all A-level
grades A or A*





Over
1/2
of all A-level
grades A*, A or B

Applied General:
100%
Applied General pass rate





Applied General:
81%
of all grades
Distinction or Distinction*

WELCOME



FRASER TURNBULL | HEADTEACHER

Our Sixth Form is an extraordinary place to study. Students achieve strong A level and Level 3 Vocational 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 Vocational 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 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 or four Level 3 courses.

THE FOLLOWING COURSES ARE AVAILABLE IN SIXTH FORM:

- A levels (Academic study)
- Legacy vocational qualifications
- V levels* (New, applied vocational qualifications)
- AAQs (Applied academic qualifications)
- GCSE resit courses in Maths and English

V Levels are new applied vocational qualifications at Level 3. They will sit alongside A Levels and are designed for students who want a vocational route without having to specialise too early.

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 3 Sports Leadership Award
- 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 weekly, alongside 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 Whickam 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 such as reading and safeguarding mentors, in addition to taking on roles as ambassadors in mental health and diversity.

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 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.

“

Nathan was very professional and well presented. He communicated well, listened and absorbed information, and asked lots of pertinent questions. He completed all tasks efficiently and understood what he was being asked to do and why, demonstrating technical skills at a level we wouldn’t normally expect from a work experience placement. The two members of staff he spent most of his time with were very complimentary noting that he was a useful member of the team for the time we had him, and that if he was to become our next trainee, they’d fully support that.

Rachel showed really good determination, even solving a case that we were unable to crack with one of our most experienced researchers.

Bethan has excellent customer service skills, demonstrated great team working and has a professional, sensible and methodical approach to tasks set. She has excellent communication skills and a natural ability in this busy and fast paced healthcare setting . A really excellent student.

PASTORAL CARE

Our dedicated Year 12 and Year 13 Heads of Year 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



Our Sixth Form is housed in a purpose built, state of the art building.

STUDY AREAS

Sixth Form students have access to their own study areas, which comprise both open plan personal study space and IT provision. These spaces are some of our most well used resources and we set high expectations around work ethic in these areas. The study areas are open for use throughout the school day, in addition to before and after school hours. Study facilities are regularly open to students during school holidays.

SOCIAL AREAS

The downstairs area of the main Sixth Form block comprises a large, open plan social space for students to dine and meet with friends when they are not in timetabled sessions.

Our Sixth Form cafeteria serves a wide range of hot and cold food and drinks. It is open from 8.00am until 2.30pm, serving breakfast, daytime snacks and lunch. Outside of these hours, students have access to a vending machine and water cooler.

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 Heads of Year
- Silent Study Areas
- Sixth Form Cafeteria
- Sixth Form Computer Suite with upgraded IT facilities
- Social Area
- Careers and Guidance Support Room
- Vending Machine
- Sixth Form only toilets
- Sixth Form only entrance and exit to the school site

CAREERS SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

The careers support for our Sixth Form students is provided by our on-site qualified Careers Advisor. 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.
Our Careers Adviser 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 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 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 Univerisites (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 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 compulsory 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 8.30am.

WORK ETHIC

All students are expected to dedicate time to additional study sessions to enhance their learning beyond the classroom. These supervised sessions will take place in the Sixth Form IT study areas and will be overseen by members of the Sixth Form team. Their purpose is to foster a strong culture of learning, develop effective independent study habits, and support students in achieving their full potential.





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.



KARA BLENKINSOP | HEAD STUDENT

Whickham School has played a significant role in my personal development, a journey that has continued throughout my time in Sixth Form. The opportunities available to students have helped shape me into a more confident and well-rounded individual. The school's core qualities - aspiration, resilience, empathy, and respect - encourage us to achieve our full potential.

One of the greatest strengths of the Sixth Form is its strong sense of community. The supportive relationships between students, teachers, and the wider staff create an environment in which everyone is encouraged to succeed, not only academically but also personally.

A particular highlight of my Sixth Form experience has been Year 12 Charity Week, an event that is a source of great pride for Whickham School. While raising significant funds for worthwhile causes, the event also provides students with invaluable opportunities to develop leadership, teamwork, communication, and organisational skills in a real-world context. It exemplifies the school's commitment to developing well-rounded individuals and empowering students to take responsibility and make a positive impact.



SAM MARTIN | HEAD STUDENT

The range of opportunities available to students to extend their learning beyond the curriculum is a distinctive feature of our Sixth Form. Staff consistently seek innovative ways to support us in developing a deeper understanding of their subjects, whether through recommended reading, specialist workshops, educational visits, or enrichment activities. We are always encouraged to broaden our knowledge.

For example, science students may have the opportunity to participate in practical sessions within university laboratories or take part in prestigious competitions such as the Physics Olympiad. Similarly, students studying humanities subjects can benefit from educational visits, including trips to the Churchill War Rooms in London, bringing classroom learning to life.

The commitment to enrichment extends beyond the classroom through an extensive programme of extracurricular activities. We are provided with a wide variety of leadership opportunities that help us develop new skills, explore our interests, and strengthen our personal statements. In addition, we regularly receive information about university outreach programmes and apprenticeship experiences, providing valuable support as we move into adulthood.

Start your journey at Whickham Sixth Form

Applications open Wednesday 7th October 2026

INTERNAL APPLICANTS
If you are currently studying at Whickham School you will be offered a one-to-one meeting, 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 via the QR above. This is also available on our website https://www.whickhamschool.org/sixth-form/joining-us/admissions-2/. You are welcome to email us if you would like to arrange a look around and discuss your course options in a one-to-one interview with a member of our Sixth Form Team.





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 vocational courses available, as well as all the varied enrichment opportunities that are available to our students throughout the two years.



Name: Roua

'Moving to a new Sixth Form from a different local school has been a very positive experience. I settled in quickly and found the transition much less daunting than I had expected. Everyone was welcoming, and I soon made a group of new friends. The staff were approachable and supportive throughout, ensuring I felt comfortable and confident from the start. It was a tough decision to make, but one that will definitely help me to achieve my ambitions and career aspirations.'

WHICKHAM SCHOOL

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