



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2025 - 2026

'SUCCESS ACHIEVED TOGETHER'

ABOUT US

Sixth form will offer you the opportunity to study a wide range of both academic and vocational courses, providing you with the qualifications that you require to follow your chosen career path. Students will benefit from high quality teaching that builds upon previous knowledge and skills. Teachers will go above and beyond to support you to ensure that you realise your full potential.

An outstanding level of guidance is provided through our pastoral programme. Sixth form students are organised into Year 12 and 13 tutor groups. This enables us to provide you with a bespoke programme that will support you in all aspects of sixth form life and prepare you for life beyond.

A wide and varied enrichment programme will ensure that you will develop the skills and qualities needed to enhance applications to university, apprenticeships and employment. Strong results and specific guidance have enabled our previous cohorts to progress onto their chosen destinations.

The careers guidance programme you will receive will be of the highest quality. Sixth form students immerse themselves into school life, working with younger students, assisting at open evenings, parent events and acting as excellent role models for the years below. We hope that you will fully embrace these opportunities and inspire those around you.

We pride ourselves on being a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive sixth form, which has a wonderful family atmosphere. We have recently revamped our sixth form area to include an inspiring independent study area with built in kitchen, and a welcoming common room where sixth form students can learn and grow. We hope you will join our success story and become part of our sixth form community.



THE SIXTH FORM STUDENT

Dress Code

You are young adults and will be treated accordingly. We do expect you to adopt our dress code of smart office wear.

Boys

- Shirt with Collar and Tie
- · Smart Trousers
- · V-neck jumper or cardigan
- · Smart shoes
- Smart coat or jacket

Girls

- · Smart blouse with sleeves and a high neck line
- · Smart dress, trousers or skirt that is no shorter than knee length
- · V-neck jumper or cardigan
- Smart shoes
- Smart coat or jacket

canvas shoes, trainers or any other form of casual footwear are **not** permitted.

Please note that T-shirts, crop tops, leggings, very tight trousers,

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive Sixth Form which makes sure that the needs of all our students are met.

As a sixth form student, you will benefit from a bespoke study programme that ensures your sixth form experience will provide you with the qualifications and wider skills to ensure that you progress seamlessly in your career pathway.

As the senior members of the school community, we do have high expectations of all of our sixth form students.



Sixth Form Study Programme

You will have timetabled lessons for your chosen subjects, plus volunteering, enrichment and independent study sessions.

We do expect you to carry out some independent study at school, alongside the expectations of independent study at home.

Contributing to the wider life of the school is vital for your personal development and to provide invaluable support for the younger students. As part of your study programme, you will be required to volunteer within a subject of your choice during the week to support those students within that lesson.

You will also be provided with a wide programme of enrichment activities to participate in. The programme is varied and will enable you to gain additional qualifications such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or participate in activities for your own personal development and wellbeing. In order to promote leadership skills and allow our sixth form students to take an active role in the organisation of their studies, we also have the Smestow Senior Six leadership team. This team consists of two head students, a mental health ambassador, a personal development ambassador, a charity lead and an enrichment lead.

Enrichment Activities

Students will participate in a range of activities during their 1 hour allocated enrichment time each week. These include

- Student Mentoring
- UCAS Guidance
- Industry Talks
- · Charity Work
- · Arts and Crafts
- · Getting university ready
 - **Sport** and much more

The programme is designed to support you with every aspect of your sixth form education and also to prepare you for life beyond sixth form.

You will be organised into year-based tutor groups and will receive an organised programme of sessions every day.

In Year 12 this will include a focus upon the following key areas:

All About Me

- Personal development
- PSHE Programme
- · RSE Programme
- Wellbeing
- · The pathway ahead

Personal Development

- Writing a Personal Statement
- How to apply for a job
- Managing finances
- · Character development ORACY

Making a Difference

- Working with a link or tutor group
- One to one tutorials with your form tutor

- Your Future
- Transition
- Study Skills Development
- Careers Guidance

- · Citizenship and British Values
- Revision and Study Techniques
- Preparing for life beyond Sixth Form



OUR CURRICULUM

Everything we do at sixth form will have your personal career ambitions at the forefront.

The comprehensive tutor programme will support your personal development and guide you every step of the way to support your career choice. In addition to the tutor period sessions, you will receive a lot of external support and guidance.

You will receive support from universities as part of the support we provide for progression to Higher Education. Included are opportunities to visit other university campuses and also attend the UCAS fayre.

We will support you with every aspect of your UCAS application, should university be your preferred pathway to support your career journey.

We work very closely with employers, training and apprenticeship providers and run specific sessions and assemblies to support you should the apprenticeship route be your preferred pathway.

The opportunity to attend our annual careers convention in the Autumn term will provide further opportunities to talk to Higher Education Institutions, employers and apprenticeship providers. Every student will also receive impartial careers advice from our independent career's advisor.

We guarantee you will leave sixth form as an extremely confident, and competent individual who will have received the highest level of support as you progress on your journey as a future leader in your chosen career.

We offer a broad range of both academic and vocational subjects that will support students to follow their chosen career pathway. Teachers who deliver these subjects are experts within their field, so we guarantee the highest standards of lesson delivery to secure excellent outcomes.

Students will need to choose three subjects, each from a different option block. The option blocks and subjects offered may be liable to change following the Government reforms expected in 2025.

A LEVEL

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English Literature
- History
- Maths
- Pyschology

VOCATIONAL

- Business
- Health and Social Care
- ·ICT
- Sport

A Level BIOLOGY

Overview

A Level Biology is a challenging, rewarding course that will help you to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career. It offers you the freedom, creativity and opportunity for independent progression from GCSE Science or Biology.

A Level Biology builds on the concepts and skills developed in the GCSE. It will support you to progress to a Biology-related degree course.

What will I study?

Year 12

Core content:

- · 1 Biological molecules
- · 2 Cells
- · 3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- · 4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13

Core content:

- 5 Energy transfers in and between organisms
- · 6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- · 7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- · 8 The control of gene expression

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Biology or Grade 5 in Combined Science

Career Progression

A Level Biology is a great choice if you want a career in health and clinical professions, including medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, nursing and forensic science. Other subject links are human biology, chemistry, physics, epidemiology, psychology, applied science, environmental studies and health and social care.

Assessment

Three examinations each lasting two hours.

- · Paper 1: (91 marks) Any topics from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills (35% of A Level).
- Paper 2: (91 marks) Any content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills (35% of A Level).
- Paper 3: (78 marks) (78 marks) Any topics from 1-8, including relevant practical skills (30% of A Level).



A Level CHEMISTRY

Overview

This course will give you the skills and understanding to make decisions about the way chemistry affects your everyday life. You will apply concepts into contemporary areas of chemistry including: climate change, green chemistry, pharmaceuticals, chemistry research.

Handling data will be a key part of your work, allowing you to demonstrate information retrieval skills as well as use of numeracy and ICT. You will build up a range of practical skills that require creativity and accuracy as well as developing a firm understanding of health and safety issues.

What will I study?

As you become more skilled you will take responsibility for selecting appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods, recording your observations and findings accurately and precisely as well as critically analysing and evaluating the methodology, results and impact of your own and others' experimental investigative activities.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Chemistry or Grade 5 in Combined Science; Grade 5 in Maths (Higher Tier)

Career Progression

Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biology (and Biology related subjects). Many chemistry graduates pursue a career in industry. We live in an age of molecular technology which ensures that chemistry graduates are in demand across the pharmaceutical, chemical, materials and biotechnology industries. Career paths include research and development, environmental monitoring, forensic science and management. Science journalists have a vital role to play as intermediaries between science and the public. They have a crucial role in explaining the complexities of the latest discoveries in pure and applied science, whether working for television, the internet or newspapers.

The commercial sector is a large employer of chemistry graduates. The analytical and problem-solving skills developed during a chemistry degree are highly regarded and there are many opportunities for 'fast track' careers in the public sector, law, management and consultancy.

Chemistry graduates are highly sought after by the teaching profession, which offers stimulating and rewarding careers for those looking to inspire the next generation. Other graduates pursue careers in universities, studying to PhD level, going on to cutting edge research and teaching undergraduates. In summary, chemistry helps us to understand the world and having a chemistry degree opens a world of opportunities. There has never been a more exciting time to study chemistry!

Assessment

Three examinations will be sat:

Paper 1 Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry 2 hr 15 minutes 100 marks

Paper 2 Synthesis and analytical techniques 2 hr 15 minutes 100 marks

Paper 3 Unified chemistry 1 hr 30 minutes 70 marks





A Level
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Overview

If you have enjoyed the challenges and variety of GCSE English Language and Literature, this course offers opportunities to engage analytically with a wide range of texts as well as the opportunity to look deeper into how language works in both the written and the spoken form.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English or English Literature.

Career Progression

This subject has always been regarded highly by universities and employers. It complements many career pathways including those which involve a high level of communication such as Human Resources, Teaching or Social Work. If you wish to follow careers in the Arts, you would benefit from a background in English Literature. If you wish to follow a more scientific career you can also benefit from the cultural richness of English which adds another dimension to your studies. This subject would be extremely useful to aspiring writers and journalists.

Assessment

Year 12

Paper 1: Telling Stories

- · Remembered places using an AQA Anthology with the title Paris
- Imagined worlds using one of the following texts Frankenstein, Dracula, The Handmaid's Tale or The Lovely Bones.
- Poetic voices poems from one of the following poets John Donne, Robert Browning, Carol Ann Duffy or Seamus Heaney
- Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities.

Year 13:

Paper 2: Exploring Conflict

- · Writing about society the role of the individual in society, and re-creative writing based on set texts.
- Critical commentary evaluating your own writing
- · Dramatic encounters conflict in drama
- · Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities.

Non-examined Assessment

Assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA. (20% of A Level). This involves an investigation on a chosen theme and texts.



A Level HISTORY

Overview

A Level History helps you understand the world by studying key events and societies. It develops critical skills like analysis, argumentation, and evaluating evidence, which are valued in careers such as law, journalism, and politics. Beyond facts, it fosters a deeper awareness of how past events shape our present, making you a more informed global citizen.

What will I study?

Studying History at A Level opens a window to the past, helping you understand the events and ideas that shaped our world today. Our course covers two fascinating periods: the Early Tudor era and 20th century Germany. Delve into the dramatic reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII, exploring the political intrigue, religious upheaval, and social change of the Tudor dynasty. Then, investigate Germany's tumultuous journey through democracy and dictatorship, from the Weimar Republic to the rise and fall of Nazi rule. This A Level develops your analytical, research, and critical thinking skills, providing a strong foundation for future academic study or careers in law, politics, journalism, and more.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in History
Grade 5 in either English Literature or English Language

Career Progression

History combines well with other arts subjects and is highly regarded amongst both employers and universities. The analytical and communicative skills developed in History are the key to succeeding in the challenging and competitive work environment of the 21st Century. Historians follow a variety of career paths including the legal profession, local government, business, the armed forces and teaching.

Assessment

British period study: Unit Y106 - England 1485-1558 The Early Tudors Worth 25% 2 hour 30 minutes examination (Worth 40%)

Non-British period study: Unit Y221 - Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919-63 Worth 15% 2-hour 30 minutes examination (Worth 40%)

Historical Investigation: 4000-word essay which covers over a 100-year period (cannot be the same as exam content) (Worth 20%)

By taking logarithms of both side giving the value of p to one decimal place. Relative to a fixed origin O A Level MATHS

Overview

Mathematics A level students and graduates are in high demand with employers. It is the essential transferable component across all science, engineering, technology and maths subjects. Currently 59% of employers state they are having difficulty recruiting people with mathematics skills.

What will I study?

- · A Maths A Level will develop transferable skills.
- Analytical skills
- Communication skills
- Investigative skills
- Problem solving skills
- · Self management

These are all skills that employers are looking for and which help you when you are applying for jobs and when filling in the personal statement on your UCAS form.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in Maths (Higher Tier)

Career Progression

Maths is one of the key facilitating subjects and it's essential for many higher education courses and careers. People with Maths A Level earn on average around 10% more than those without and people with a Maths degree can expect to earn over £220,000 more over their lifetime than a person whose education ceased at A Level.

Employers and University Admission tutors recognise A Level Maths as an excellent qualification. Top universities value A Level Maths as being a more suitable A Level choice than others when applying for any science related degree. A Maths A level can lead to careers in: Finance and Banking, Natural and Life Sciences, Business Consultancy and Operational Research, Engineering etc.

Assessment

Three examinations weighted 33.33% each

Paper 1 and Paper 2 containing content from pure mathematics. Paper 3 containing questions on statistics and mechanics.



A Level **PSYCHOLOGY**

Overview

Have you ever wondered why people behave the way they do? What influences your decisions, or how your memory works? Psychology offers fascinating insights into the complexities of human behaviour, emotion, and thought. Studying psychology at Sixth Form allows you to explore some of the most intriguing questions about the human experience.

What will I study?

- · Introductory topics in Psychology:
- o Social influence,
- o Memory,
- o Attachment,
- o Psychopathology.
- · Psychology in context:
- o Approaches,
- o Biopsychology,
- o Research Methods.
- Issues and Options in Psychology:
- o Issues and Debates,
- o Relationships,
- o Forensic Psychology,
- o Schizophrenia.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.

If you studied GCSE Psychology – Grade 5 or above (not compulsory)

Career Progression

Psychology underpins all aspects of human behaviour, making it useful in any career involving people. It can lead to diverse opportunities, including: Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Counselling and Therapy, Neuroscience, Social Work, Human Resources and Management, Marketing and Consumer Research.

Assessment

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (2 hours, 33% of A-level)

Paper 2: Psychology in Context (2 hours, 33% of A-Level)

Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology (2 hours, 33% of A-Level)



BUSINESS

Overview

Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in Business qualifications help students to achieve their potential and progress to the next stage of their lives, whether that's higher education, anapprenticeship or employment. The content is refreshing, exciting, up to date, engaging, fit for purpose and suitable for the needs of our students. The course will be assessed through a mix of a exams and coursework.

What will I study?

- · How the marketing mix impacts businesses and the decisions they make.
- · How ethical dilemmas and responsibilities create challenges for business organisations.
- The role of businesses in meeting the needs and wants of society
- The ways that businesses fund themselves and budget their money.

Entry Requirements

GCSE English Language/Literature at Grade 4 or above. GCSE Mathematics at Grade 4 or above.

Career Progression

Business students who go on to study at degree level are in high demand with employers worldwide and are some of the most employable. You will have a wide variety of possible career options open to you upon graduation. Business is both a theoretical and a practical discipline, meaning that you not only gain a great range of knowledge, but also learn the skills needed to apply this knowledge to real life settings, again assisting with employability and putting you ahead of the pack.

Business touches on nearly every aspect of modern society and is useful for both your professional and personal life, as well as being a very interesting subject to study.

For those who wish to acquire a range of business and generic skills you will develop decision making, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Possible careers include: Human Resources Officer, Insurance Underwriter, Management Consultant, Marketing Manager, Logistics and Distribution Manager, Retail Manager

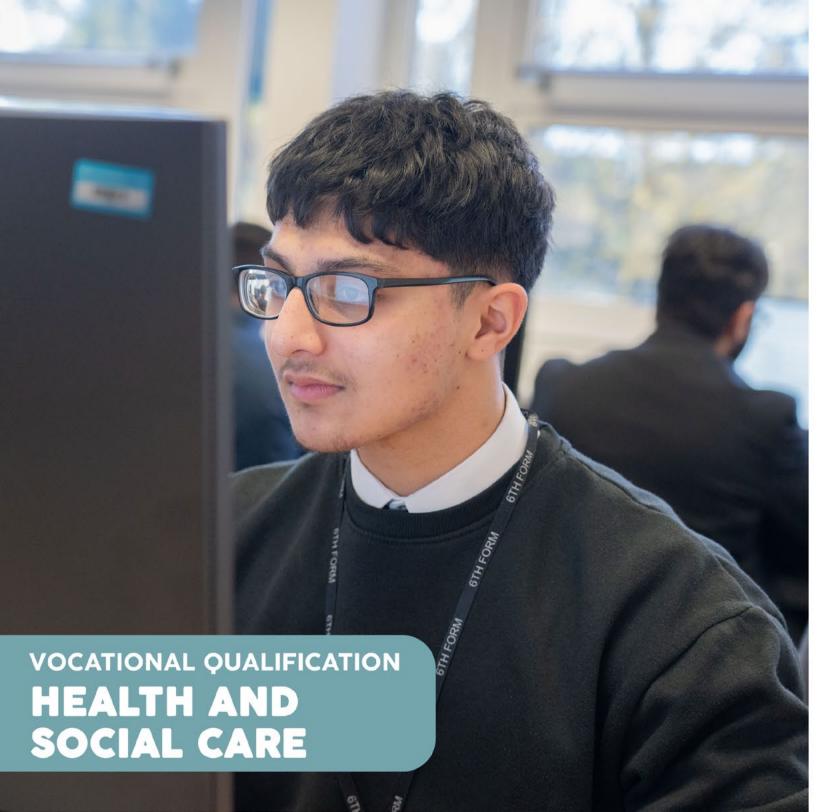
Assessment

There will be three mandatory units that must be completed:

- The Business Environment (examination)
- Working in Business (examination)
- · Customer and Communication (coursework)

You will study a further two optional units (coursework





Overview

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate Health and Social Care is a great introduction to working in the health and social care sector. It allows you to investigate more fully in the working environments associated with these areas. It is a skills-based course where you develop your own personal skills in line with whichever health and social care career you are interested in.

What will I study?

Year 12 and 13

Externally assessed unit: Human Lifespan Development

Internally assessed coursework unit: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

Externally assessed unit: Working in Health and Social Care

Internally assessed unit: Psychological Perspectives in Health and Social Care

Entry Requirements

5 passes at GCSE Grade 4 or equivalent to include a Merit in Health and Social Care or a GCSE Grade 4 in English

Career Progression

BTEC Health and Social Care is a vocational course which means there is a chance to investigate potential careers as the course progresses.

Studying in Health and Social Care can lead to careers in: Nursing or Midwifery, Teaching, Elderly care, Supporting those with additional needs, Early years, Public Services

Assessment

Rolling programme across the two years of the course:

Year 1

Human Lifespan and Development:

90 marks; 1 hour 30 minutes exam; 25% of the overall Extended Certificate Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs:

Coursework unit; 90 credits; 25% of the overall Extended Certificate

Year 2

Working in Health and Social Care:

80 marks; 1 hour 30 minutes exam; 25% of the overall Extended Certificate

Psychological Perspectives in Health and Social Care:

Coursework Unit; 60 credits; 25% of the overall Extended Certificate



VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION ICT

Overview

The Level 3 BTEC National in Information Technology (Extended Certificate) qualification has been designed to reflect the demands of a modern and evolving digital environment. The course allows students to study the implication of using technology systems, and cybersecurity threats and how to manage attacks. They will also develop skills in website design and database management.

The course is made up of four units, two of which are exams and two internally assessed units where students will be given practical tasks to develop and test their knowledge.

What will I study?

Topics include: Information technology systems Cybersecurity Website designs Databases.

Entry Requirements

GCSE English Language/Literature at Grade 4 or above. GCSE Mathematics at Grade 4 or above.

Career Progression

ICT students who go on to study at degree level are in high demand with employers worldwide and are some of the most employable. You will have a wide variety of possible career options open to you upon graduation. ICT graduates go on to work in Higher education, complete apprenticeships and employment in a wide range of Information Technology roles.

Assessment

Four mandatory units -

- Information Technology Systems exam.
- · Cybersecurity and Incident Management exam.
- · Website Development coursework.
- · Relational Database Management coursework.



VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION SPORT

Overview

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate offers great flexibility through the units of study. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education.

Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to ensure that the content is appropriate for those of you who may choose to enter employment directly in the sport sector.

You will cover a variety of units that help prepare you for a range of employment and further education opportunities. The course is delivered in a number of ways including practical sessions and more classroom-based theory work.

What will I study?

Year 12

Mandatory Units

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being: 20 weeks You will explore the client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and wellbeing.

Additional Unit

Unit 4: Sports Leadership :10 weeks

You will study the roles of a sports leader, the importance of psychological factors and their link with effective leadership. You will also explore an effective leadership style when leading a team during sport and exercise activities.

Year 13

Mandatory Unit

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology: 20 weeks

You will look at a number of key areas including the skeleton, the muscular system, the cardio-respiratory system and the energy systems.

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry: 10 weeks

You will explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

Entry Requirements

5 passes at GCSE Grade 4 or equivalent to include a Merit in Sport or a GCSE Grade 4 in GCSE English

Career Progression

Possible careers include: Sports Development Officer, PE Teacher, Strength and Conditioning Coach, Human Nutritionist, Personal Trainer, Sports Scientist, Performance Analyst, Sports Therapist, Sports Marketing.

Assessment

This course is 33% coursework, 67% external assessment which consists of one examination and one set task. You will complete 4 units in total.

- Year 12
- · Two Units will be completed in Year 12
- \cdot One internally assessed, coursework-based unit and one externally assessed examination Year 13
- · Two units will be completed in Year 13
- · One internally assessed, coursework-based unit and one externally assessed timed assignment.





Smestow Football Academy

The Smestow Football Academy aims to provide students with the opportunity to train on a weekly basis; looking at all aspects of football development.

Not only does this include work on the football pitch but also incorporates the use of our swimming pool and fitness centre for fitness purposes to make the individual a better all-round player.

The academy offers an extension to traditional youth football by offering the players an opportunity to continue on their footballing journey in supporting their dreams and aspirations of building a career within the game.

The students will be coached and mentored by a FA qualified coach and someone who also has experience of the professional game and currently plays semi-professionally at a local football club, this allows brilliant links to form enabling students the potential opportunity to go and get some experience.

We have designed the academy to support those players wishing to pursue a career within the game, with a programme designed to offer support and guidance in helping to achieve those aspirations. Training and developmental sessions will be structured in to do this and also to help students understand the demands and requirements as they progress into adult football.

Students will also have the opportunity to gain valuable life-skill qualifications including: FA Level 1 in coaching football, FA Safeguarding and FA Basic First Aid for Sport, FA Referee Course which will all be delivered by FA Tutors.



What to expect

- · Training and development of every aspect of the game
- · Match and training analysis through video clips
- · Competing in National Football Youth League/AOC British College League and ESFA National Cup
- · Coached by a fully qualified individual who also has experience of the professional game
- · Opportunities to be invited to train and play with local semi professional football clubs
- · A fully comprehensive package that has been designed around training and games to replicate a scholarship at professional clubs
- · Visits to premier league football clubs for matchday or training day experiences

Career Progression

By attending the Smestow Football Academy it will provide students with excellent skills and knowledge in order to progress further both academically and also in the sporting or leisure field.

These opportunities could lead to:

- Entrance to University to study sport
- · Achieve career in Football as a player or a coach
- · Football Scholarship within America

Independent home learning

You will be required to undertake a significant amount of preparation at home; whether it would be independent fitness work or technique work with a ball.

SIXTH FORM OPTION BLOCKS

Students are required to select a minimum of three subjects. Each subject must be from a different option block.

A	В	С	D
A Level Maths	A Level Biology	A Level Chemistry	A Level English Language and Literature
BTEC Sport	Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in Business	A Level Psychology	BTEC Health & Social Care
A Level History		BTEC IT	BTEC Sport Double Award
			(Football Academy only)



NEXT STEPS

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

- Research your potential career pathway to find our what subjects you might need to study.
- · Read the subject information in the prospectus carefully
- · Complete the online application form
- You will be then invited to a short interview with the sixth form team so make sure that you attend this interview and bring any questions you may have.

"Choosing to study at sixth form was the best decision I made. The level of support and the quality of teaching was excellent and enabled me to achieve the grades I needed to study at university."

SIXTH FORM ALUMNI

Our students progress onto positive destinations.

These include University, Apprenticeships and employment.

Courses our students have studied at University:

- Business Management
- Music Performance
- History and Political Science
- Business Economics
- · Sport and Exercise Science
- · Children's Nursing
- Marketing
- Automotive Engineering
- · Education Studies
- Microbiology
- · Games Art

Employment Destinations:

- Management
- · Engineering Apprenticeship
- Social Care
- Nursery School Apprenticeship
- · Army
- Accountancy Apprenticeship

APPLICATION

Thursday 21st November 2024

Sixth Form Open Evening

Friday 10th January 2025

Deadline for online applications

Week commencing: 20th January 2025

Sixth Form Interviews

Monday 5th May 2025

GCSE Examinations begin

23rd & 24 June 2025

Sixth Form Induction Days

Thursday 21st August 2025

GCSE Results Day Year 12 Registration

Week commencing: 1st September 2025

Sixth Form lessons start

HOW TO APPLY

Complete an application form.
All application forms to be received by Friday 10th January 2025 to guarantee an interview.

Download an Application Form

www.smestowacademy.co.uk/sixthform

'SUCCESS ACHIEVED TOGETHER'

www.smestowacademy.co.uk



Smestow Academy



smestowacademy



@SmestowAcademy



A Proud Member of Matrix Academy Trust