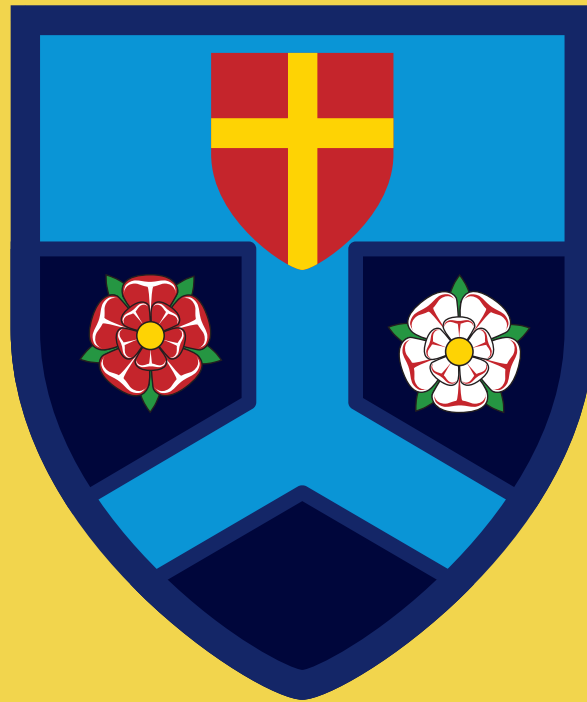


# TEWKESBURY ACADEMY SIXTH FORM



Cabot  
Learning  
Federation

Equity Through Education



# WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome students who are about to embark on the exciting next step in their education. The decision about what and where to study is an important one. Tewkesbury Academy Sixth Form provides a stimulating environment for academic study and has the right balance of support, challenge and opportunity to ensure all students are ready for life beyond Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form prides itself on its holistic approach and on recognising the potential in every student. Alongside academic success, students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of enrichment opportunities, both in school and in the wider community.

Our Sixth Formers are excellent role models for younger students and make a huge contribution to the life of our school. Being a member of our vibrant, energetic and exciting Sixth Form is a rewarding experience and we look forward to welcoming you to Tewkesbury Academy.

## SIXTH FORM TEAM



### **MRS RACHAEL MORRIS**

**ASSOCIATE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AND  
DIRECTOR OF SIXTH FORM**

Mrs Morris has been Director of the Sixth Form since 2015 and is a teacher of Physical Education and Psychology. She is fully-invested in motivating and leading students to achieve excellence. Mrs Morris not only supports academic success, but is committed to ensuring there is a variety of leadership and super curricular activities to be involved in. Such experiences, alongside academic qualifications, ensure all students secure a positive and appropriate destination after their time in Sixth Form.



### **MR PAUL WARREN**

**HEAD OF YEAR 12**

Paul has joined the Sixth Form team this year after ten years working as a Y7-Y11 Head of Year at Tewkesbury Academy. He graduated from Cardiff University in 2003 with a degree in Criminology & Sociology and after a spell lecturing at degree level joined the school in 2008. Paul has a wealth of pastoral leadership and A-Level teaching experience and is a senior AQA examiner for A-Level Sociology. He is responsible for the academic progress and pastoral care of the Year 12 students this year, with a specific focus on ensuring their transition to Sixth Form life is a smooth and effective one.



### **MRS PAMELA JOHNSTON**

**SIXTH FORM ADMINISTRATOR**

Pam provides high quality, timely administrative support, advice and help to the whole of our Sixth Form community. This includes dealing with all Sixth Form attendance matters, a whole range of administrative tasks, contact with parents, assisting with arrangements for Sixth Form events such as parents' evenings, as well as supporting our young people with their health and well-being needs. Assisting with UCAS administration is a key aspect of her role.

Pam's kind and friendly approach is an integral part of what makes our Sixth Form so successful.



**"A particular strength of  
the Sixth Form is the way in  
which learners are known as  
individuals by staff"**

OFSTED







# THE POST-16 CURRICULUM

## WHAT IS AN A LEVEL?

In Year 12 students can choose to take 3 or 4 A Levels. Each course is taught for 5 lessons per week. Each A Level comprises of a number of units (usually 3–4) that are assessed through examinations, coursework or a combination of the two. Assessments take place at the end of Year 13 in May / June. In all A Level courses A\* to E grades represent a pass.

## WHAT IS A BTEC / APPLIED COURSE?

BTEC stands for the Business and Technology Education Council. BTECs are specialist work-related qualifications. They combine practical learning with subject and theory content. They have a higher content of coursework than most A Levels, although, like A Levels there is an examined component.

## SIXTH FORM COURSES

### A Level

Art & Design – Fine Art	English Literature	Philosophy and Ethics
Biology	French	Physical Education
Business Studies	Geography	Physics
Chemistry	History	Psychology
Computing	Mathematics	Sociology
Drama and Theatre Studies	Mathematical Studies	Textiles
Economics	Media Studies	
English Language	Music	

### BTECs and other courses

Business – Applied	Information Communication
Engineering (BTEC Level 3)	Technology (OCR Level 3)
Health & Social Care (BTEC Level 3)	Science (BTEC Level 3)
	Sport (BTEC Level 3)

For a detailed overview of the subjects we offer please visit the Sixth Form page of the website [www.tewkesburyschool.org](http://www.tewkesburyschool.org)

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum entry requirement is 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above and students are expected to demonstrate evidence of a positive, self motivated approach to their learning. Certain subjects have their own entrance criteria and advise a 5 or a 6 in that subject to continue it to A Level. We always consider entry on a student by student basis.

Students with lower than a grade 4 in English OR Maths must attend lessons in these subjects to enable them to improve their grades in these GCSEs, as these are essential qualifications in many careers and further education courses.

The entry requirements for Tewkesbury Academy Sixth Form are as follows:

<b>Entry requirements for the Sixth Form</b>	5 or more GCSEs at grade 4+ English or Maths at grade 4+ Specific subject requirements
<b>Course of study</b>	Two years: studying three or four subjects depending on future plans
<b>Progression</b>	Russell Group universities (BBB or better) Other universities Apprenticeship Employment

*If the number of students opting for a subject is low, it may be withdrawn from the courses on offer.*

# CHOOSING A COURSE

After the Sixth Form Open Evening Year 11 students will have an interview with a member of the Sixth Form team. During this interview, we will advise students and recommend an appropriate pathway based on your academic strengths and aspirations.

The Sixth Form Team supports every student in choosing their most appropriate pathway for level 3 success. This might be 3 or 4 A Levels, a BTEC package, or a combination of BTECs and A Levels.

These pathways and the unrivalled support offered at Tewkesbury Academy Sixth Form have enabled our students to go on to careers in Medicine, Veterinary Practice, Law, Teaching, Midwifery, Engineering, Fashion Design, Criminology and Accountancy to name but a few.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS



### ENJOYMENT

Choose subjects in which you are most enthusiastic, confident and likely to succeed. Think about whether the subject genuinely interests you.



### SUITABILITY

Look carefully at the requirements of universities and degree courses that you may want to study in the future. Consider which subjects go well together. Certain 'facilitating' subjects will offer students a greater number of degree courses, and may be a requirement for entry into some universities.



### ABILITY

Think about how the different courses are assessed. Are you good at the subject already? Listen carefully to the advice from your own teachers, tutor and careers advisor when thinking about which subjects to choose.

## FACILITATING SUBJECTS

Universities look for students who not only have good grades, but grades in the right subjects for the course they want to apply for. If you already know what you want to study at university, you should think about choosing subjects which give you the best possible preparation for your chosen degree course. If you're not sure what you want to study at university yet, it's important to choose subjects which will leave as many options open as possible. Some courses will require specific subjects so it is important that you take this in to consideration, for example, engineering degrees require mathematics and physics.

Some A level subjects are more frequently required for entry to degree courses than others. These are called 'facilitating' subjects because choosing them at A Level leaves open a wide range of options for university study. These facilitating subjects are:

Biology	Chemistry
English literature	Geography
History	Physics
Modern and Classical Languages	Maths and Further Maths





# ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We offer many varied extra-curricular opportunities, which help to develop and enrich students making them appealing to universities and potential employers. Opportunities are likely to include:

## THE EXTENDED PROJECT (EPQ)

This is equivalent to half an A Level at A Level standard. It is intended to stretch and challenge students beyond their A Level choices and is, therefore, highly regarded by universities and employers alike. Students plan, research for and complete a project of their choice under the supervision and guidance of a project tutor. It is largely an independent project and is delivered through timetabled lessons in Year 13. Students will be expected to develop a proposal, document their planning and research, prepare and give a presentation, evaluate their project and the process and submit evidence of their project.

## MOOCS (MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES)

These are free online courses available for anyone to enrol. They are a useful and convenient way to learn new skills, advance your knowledge and work independently. As these are designed by universities, they are particularly valuable both in terms of writing a personal statement and in terms of preparation for university life.

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

This is open to all Sixth Form students and students can start as a direct gold participant when they are in the Sixth Form. The Award encourages students to become self-reliant whilst working co-cooperatively in a team.

If a student is registered elsewhere then their licence can be transferred.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

During free time, students are strongly encouraged to undertake some community based work. For example, previous students have offered support as an academic mentor to younger students, been reading partners, have given in-lesson support and have volunteered at Alderman Knight School.

## EMPLOYABILITY PASSPORT & WORK EXPERIENCE

All Sixth Form students are expected to complete challenges as part of the Employability Passport (EP). The EP has been designed to assist students to gain the 'soft skills' that are not necessarily part of the academic curriculum. At Tewkesbury Academy Sixth Form we are seeking to develop character, increase community roles and instil a sense of purpose in our students. As part of this programme Year 12 students will also complete a period of Work Experience.

## FUTURES

The Futures programme incorporates information on personal, social, health and wellbeing issues as well as providing a forum for talks from universities and apprenticeship providers. It is a compulsory session for all Year 12 students and is for one lesson per week. In Year 13, students continue to receive advice and support in a weekly tutorial session.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities in the Sixth Form and too many to mention here! However, an example of a few include: The Engineering in Education Scheme (EES), a Year 12 Geography residential trip to Somerset, Enterprise Club, Rotary Club research project, a trip to New York and Tewkesbury, New Jersey, Psychology residential trip to

London including the Jack the Ripper tour, visits to fashion museums and art galleries, RYLA residential (Rotary Youth Leader Award), Senior Mathematics Challenge, Senior Team Mathematics Challenge and Advanced Mathematics Support Programme.



# LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

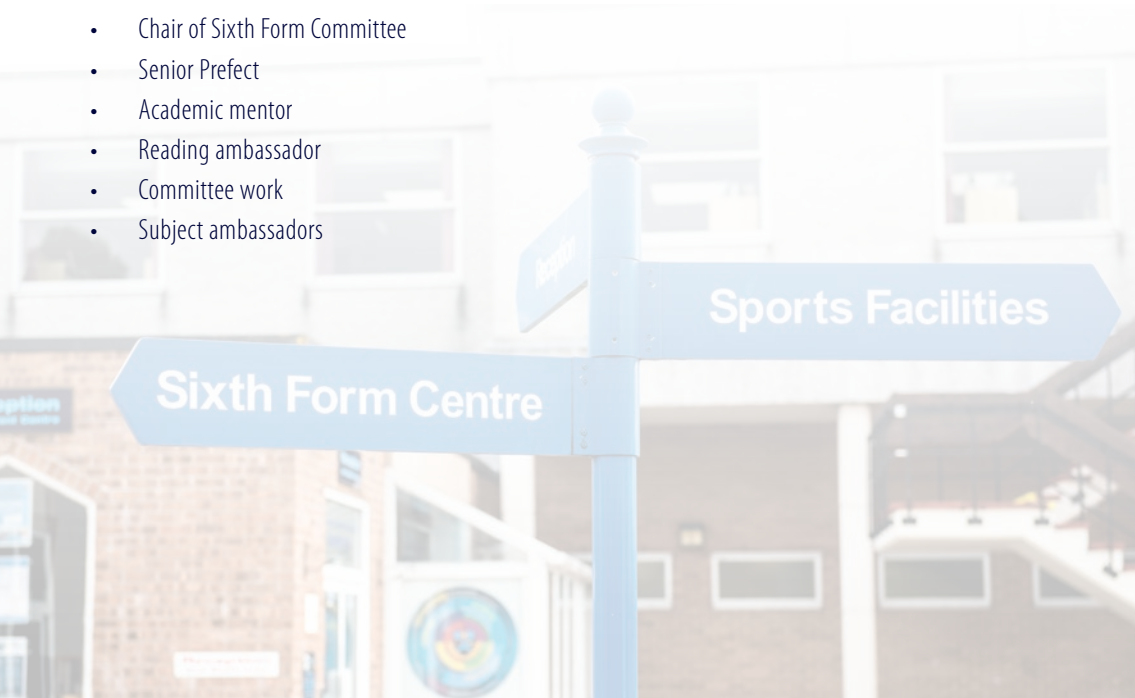
Our mission at Tewkesbury Academy Sixth Form is to provide students with the means to develop as an individual, preparing them for their future pathway. We are fiercely ambitious for all of our students and challenge them to do their best, every lesson, every day.

Our students benefit from strong partnerships and pathways, learn from challenges and experiences and are ready to continue their journey with conviction and purpose.

Being in the Sixth Form is a position of privilege and brings with it the expectation to make a positive contribution towards the life of Tewkesbury Academy. Students are able to hold positions of responsibility and can make an immense difference to the lives of other students, as well as enhancing their own future opportunities. A large number of students get involved in committees that help shape the Sixth Form and support peers and younger students alike.

Leadership opportunities include:

- Head student
- Chair of Sixth Form Committee
- Senior Prefect
- Academic mentor
- Reading ambassador
- Committee work
- Subject ambassadors



**ELLENA MCNAMEE**  
**SIXTH FORM HEAD STUDENT (2023-2024)**

Studying at Tewkesbury Academy Sixth Form has been of benefit to my studies, my confidence and my future prospects. The encouragement given by the Sixth Form team has had a major impact on me and my willingness to take certain chances that I wouldn't have thought myself able to do in the lower school. I have felt myself grow into a much more capable person over the last few years and I would be wrong to not attribute a considerable amount of that to my time here at Tewkesbury Academy Sixth Form and the staff.

The freedom of the Sixth Form and the trust and independence that accompanies it are some of the best parts of moving higher up the school. The influence of allowing a student to know and do what is best for them cannot be minimised, and I believe Tewkesbury Sixth Form staff do that brilliantly. I advanced through school feeling both capable and able to ask for help if I need it.

**ARCHIE CURRAN**  
**SIXTH FORM HEAD STUDENT (2023-2024)**

My time at Tewkesbury Academy Sixth Form has been tremendous. I've done more than I ever thought possible and reached new heights, which can largely be attributed to my subject teachers and the Sixth Form team. From essay competitions, degree level tutor programmes, university open days, debating competitions and public speaking, I've gotten out of my comfort zone and reaped the rewards in being a more confident, mature and academic student. The challenge that is applying to university and preparing for A levels went from what felt like an insurmountable challenge to a rewarding reflection on all that both myself and my peers have achieved. I'm proud to represent the Academy as Head Student and to help others students feel just as prepared as I do about

the experience that is A level study and then moving on to decide what pathway to take beyond the Sixth Form.





## ACADEMIC AND PASTORAL SUPPORT

The transition from Year 11 to Year 12 can be exciting as well as challenging as there are significant demands on students in terms of the need for them to become independent and responsible learners. The Sixth Form Team is on hand to help with this transition and provide support in:

- Developing good study habits. This is fundamental to achieving academic success and is promoted through timetabled study periods that are held in the new supervised study facility.
- Making productive use of time during the day when students are not in lessons or the study centre.
- Developing study skills, including note taking skills, time management and revision techniques through workshops from visiting speakers.
- Understanding the challenges of only studying 3 or 4 subjects but at a deeper level.



## ACADEMIC TRACKING AND SUPPORT

Communication with parents and carers is something we value and welcome. At the beginning of Year 12 there is a 'Welcome Evening' for the parents of all new Sixth Form students. In addition to this, students continue to receive progress reports throughout Year 12 and Year 13 as well as having parent consultation evenings.

Progress Reports are very closely monitored by the Head of Year and parents are kept informed if there are any specific concerns.

Students sit a series of mock examinations whilst in the Sixth Form and for Year 12s these take place in December and June. Progression into Year 13 is not automatic; it is dependent on the mock examination results, as well as a good attitude to learning and student attendance during Year 12.

## 16-19 BURSARY

Students may be entitled to claim from our 16-19 Bursary Fund. This fund is available to those students facing genuine financial difficulties. If a student is living in care; is a care leaver; is receiving income support or Universal Credit; is disabled and receiving both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Universal Credit instead of ESA; or your annual household income is below £25,521, you could be eligible for either a mandatory or discretionary bursary.

**TEWKESBURY  
ACADEMY  
SIXTH FORM**



# PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE

Students get specific support when applying to competitive university courses as well as detailed help when applying for apprenticeships and employment.

Progression to university is a goal for many of our students. The 'Futures Programme' towards the middle of Year 12, will focus on the future pathways of the students and will include speakers from universities, apprenticeship providers and potential employers.

We give guidance on how to get the most out of University Open Days, and take students on university visits, attend a UCAS convention as well as the Oxbridge conference. At the end of Year 12 there is time dedicated specifically for the purpose of getting students started on the UCAS application process. Valuable mock interview sessions are provided with the support from a network of professional contacts we have built up over the years.

Sound, impartial careers advice is also given to students who choose to enter employment or start an apprenticeship, and they can book individual careers appointments to help them with their next steps.

Our programme for preparing our students for their future beyond Tewkesbury Academy has proven highly effective with students consistently going on to their desired destinations.

**"Almost all learners move on to positive destinations when they leave the Sixth Form".**

OFSTED







## OLIVER GILCHRIST (LEFT SIXTH FORM JULY 2021)

Examination grades:

Computer Science: A\*

Physics: A

Mathematics: A

AS Chemistry: A

University and course:

University West of England (hosted at Gloucestershire College), Cyber Security Apprentice with EDF Energy

## KEIR ANDERSON (LEFT SIXTH FORM JULY 2021)

Examination grades:

English Language: A\*

Mathematics: A

History: A

University and course:

Lancaster University,  
History and International Relations

*"There's a lot to consider when choosing your post-16 options. My advice would be to choose the subjects you enjoy as there isn't much point spending two years on a subject you hate, especially at A level. If you are unsure about where to go post-16, staying where you are familiar is always a great option. I found staying at Tewkesbury Sixth Form useful because my teachers knew me, therefore they knew how I learnt and they genuinely wanted me to do well".*

*"Staying at Tewkesbury School Sixth Form allows a sense of stability at an important time in preparation for adult life; it is both an enjoyable and relaxed environment in which to study, with plenty of support in making decisions about your future. The teachers at Tewkesbury School are always willing to put in extra time and effort to ensure that you reach your full potential, as well as being very supportive and encouraging".*

## HALLE PERKS (LEFT SIXTH FORM JULY 2021)

Examination grades:

Biology: C

Chemistry: C

Maths: C

University and course:

Hartpury University, BSc (Hons)  
Veterinary Nursing

*"I would strongly advise Year 11 students to do lots of research into different courses, apprenticeships, jobs and to be open minded. Spend a lot of time realising what interests you and what you would feel comfortable doing for the next few years of your life. I found the Sixth Form a great place to continue with my studies with excellent facilities for learning and studying. The Sixth Form team really care about you and do everything they can to help you".*



TEWKESBURY  
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Opportunity Challenge Support

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Principal Kathleen McGillicuddy

Director of Sixth Form:

Rachael Morris

follow us:



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