



Since the outstanding OFSTED judgement of our Sixth Form provision in 2012 our students have performed at a consistently high level

In the past five years our A-Level value added has never been out of the top 25% of schools nationally

We welcome applications from students both currently studying at Highfields School and those from other schools who may wish to transfer to Highfields School for Sixth Form study.

Students not from Highfields School can in the first instance contact the Sixth Form Office Tel: 01629 581888 (ext.165) or email: pbumby@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

We will be happy to discuss A-Level Choices and the application process.

Our Sixth Form Prospectus is a good starting point to research our subject range and find out a little more about us. An initial application form is available to download and complete.

Sixth Form Application Process (during Year 11)

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 7 November 6-8.30pm, Lumsdale Site

November/December 2019

Following the Sixth Form Open Evening students put down their four A-Level preference choices. For external students your initial four subject choices can be submitted via the application form.

January 2020

Option blocks created in response to demand.

February/March 2020

Students complete Application Form which include the Option Blocks and are interviewed to help understand and be guided with choices. External students will be contacted to discuss their choices. Offers of Sixth Form places will go out during the Summer Term 2019.

June 29th and 30th 2020

Sixth Form Induction Days.

August 20th 2020 (GCSE Results Day)

On Results Day, every student will have their choices confirmed or, in the case of lower than expected results, we will check the choices made are the most appropriate. External students are invited to come and see us on Results Day or contact us with results.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact us:

Sixth Form Office Tel: 01629 581888 ext.165

email: pbumby@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk

How to approach your A-Level Choices

Since the outstanding OFSTED judgement of our Sixth Form provision in 2012 our students have performed at a consistently high level

In seven of the last eight years we have been in the top 25% of schools in terms of student progress

Subjects can be different at A-Level so researching your subject choices is important. Here are a few points to consider:

- A Levels have been changing over the past few years, with the introduction of linear courses. This is where the exams at the end of Year 13 cover all topics from the start of Year 12 to the end of Year 13, and the results of those exams (plus coursework where relevant) gives the A Level grade for that subject. This replaces the old system where the final grade comprised 50% from Year 12 AS exams and 50% from the Year 13 A2 exams. We feel it is really important to have rigorous exams at the end of Year 12 which are based on national A-Level standards and we will report on those results in the summer.
- Students at Highfields will take A Level exams at the end of Year 13.
- Thinking of university? For some subjects your choices and combinations of subjects will be important—for example medicine and related subjects, engineering, architecture and in some cases, law. It might also be important if you are potentially thinking about Oxford or Cambridge. Speak with us if that is the case. The UCAS website can also help you.
- However in most cases the choices and combinations are not so critical - as long as you are taking the subject you are most interested in studying at a later date (although there is no need for you to know this now!).
- Many students find that they can study all the subjects which they want to. However because we need to offer subjects in blocks it might be that you get three out of your top choices plus one more. In that case it is sensible if you have found out about as many subjects as possible to decide what your fourth subject will be.
- Every year we have a few cases where there are concerns that there are 'hard' and 'easy' subjects and that universities are unlikely to accept or favour some subjects. Please be careful with this view, and talk to us where this is your motivation. We find in most cases that (a) universities will not distinguish between subjects in this way, and ultimately are more keen to see three good grades (which is what their offer will be based on) and that (b) what is a big problem (and we see more often) is where a student takes what they perceive to be a 'hard' subject in order to look good but fails to get the grade needed for their university place.