

Sixth Form Prospectus



thestreetlyacademy

A warm welcome from our Headteacher

We are delighted that you are considering The Streetly Academy Sixth Form to continue your studies post 16. With a newly extended and refurbished Sixth Form Facility, including all day café and quiet study provision, we believe selecting Streetly would be a good decision.

We believe the quality of education that we offer is excellent and will stand you in good stead for your next steps, whether that is university, further education and training or the world of work.

We have an experienced team of staff to support you on your journey, who will ensure that you leave us with qualifications that reflect your determination to succeed. You will be encouraged to develop the skills, confidence and drive to enable you to excel in your chosen career.

Our full-time, dedicated Learning Mentor and Careers Officer supports all Sixth-Form students in finding an appropriate post-18 pathway offering a multitude of activities, visits, and interactions with employers and universities. This offer also includes support for University applications, as well as the most up to date labour market information, including pathways to apprenticeships with some of the country's most prestigious companies such as BMW and Rolls-Royce.

We are always happy to welcome applications from students who have not previously benefitted from an education at our school. Our students are a real source of pride to us and you can guarantee a friendly and warm welcome from them.

We very much look forward to working with you to meet the demands of Sixth Form life and beyond. The choices you make now are key to your continued achievement and it is of great importance that you are on the right course, set for success. We have high expectations of all students who join us in the Sixth Form and you will be supported to meet those expectations, to ensure you are well placed to succeed in a competitive world.

We hope you decide to join us.

Billy Downie
Headteacher



Support and Guidance

Study within the Sixth Form provides privileges and opportunities, coupled with an enhanced responsibility as a senior member of the school community. A core challenge in starting your Sixth Form studies will be adjusting to the increased responsibility you will have for managing your studies, in addition to the challenges of developing and honing your independent learning skills and habits. You won't be left to your own devices, but you will be expected to rise to the challenge!

You'll benefit from both academic and pastoral support during your studies and you and your parents/carers will be regularly informed of the progress you are making in learning. In addition to your Form Tutor you will benefit from the wider Sixth Form team including the Head of Sixth Form, Associate Assistant (Sixth Form) and a Sixth Form Pastoral Administrator. The Sixth Form Study Centre is managed by the Sixth Form Learning Mentor who works closely with our students to support their sustained achievement and progression through and beyond post 16 study.

We hold our Sixth Form students in high regard and maintain very high expectations of them. As a Sixth Form student you will swiftly come to appreciate the privileges of Sixth Form life; you should also be aware of your responsibilities as a senior member of the school community. Our detailed expectations are provided for all students within the Sixth Form Handbook and enrolment form. These are simple and common sense. Few will find difficulty in upholding them.

Securing Success Together

We very much value the vital role that parents/carers play in supporting successful performance in Sixth Form study. During the year, a range of events are arranged to enable your parents/carers to work with the school in supporting your learning and progression into, through and beyond post 16 education.

These include:

- The Sixth Form Information Evening
- Year 12 Settling In Evening
- Higher Education & Apprenticeship Parents and Carers' Event
- Year 12 and 13 Parent and Carer Consultation Evenings

We are always eager to further parents' and carers' participation in Sixth Form life - whether providing feedback on our provision or a kind offer to speak to our students, or provide work experience opportunities.

Reaching Ahead

Sixth Form learning provides an exciting next step as you prepare for your future learning in Higher Education or entry into employment. A key strength in our provision is the outstanding quality of information, advice and guidance you will receive as you prepare for those next steps. Most of our Year 13 students leave The Streetly Academy to begin Higher Education courses and we maintain highly successful links with universities, far and wide, ancient and new. High quality support is also available for students who want to take up an apprenticeship or secure employment at the end of their A Level courses.

Each year we provide a full range of opportunities to support you in making informed choices. These include:

- UCAS orientation days
- University open days
- UCAS Higher Education Convention
- University Masterclass programme (in association with the University of Birmingham)
- Sutton Trust Summer programmes
- University of Birmingham Mini-Medical School
- Mock interview programme
- Sixth Form Tutorial Programme
- Work Experience Programme

All students benefit from personal guidance in preparing their application for university, apprenticeship or employment from within and beyond the Sixth Form team.

Enhanced Facilities

Our Sixth Form students benefit from modern, purpose-built accommodation providing both study and recreational spaces; these include the enhanced sporting facilities that our sport specialism affords. The school has some of the best sports facilities in the West Midlands. These include a modern sports hall, fitness suite, dance studio, all weather pitch, swimming pool, extensive playing fields and our new padel tennis courts. Students have free access to the gym facilities during their studies.

Sixth Form students have access to a modern, dedicated Study Centre within the Academy's Sixth Form accommodation. This has been significantly remodelled to increase the available study and recreation space, and students benefit from new cafe facilities which are available throughout the school day.

As a member of the Sixth Form community you are provided with a Chromebook for the duration of your course, for use both in school and at home. Learning within and beyond the classroom is supported by a world class learning platform which is richly resourced with varied and dynamic learning materials.





Enriched Learning

Sporting Excellence

The Academy Sixth Form runs two sporting academies in netball and football, benefiting from exciting and prestigious partnerships with Severn Stars Netball and West Bromwich Albion. The programmes are open to students who are enrolled upon any courses within the Academy Sixth Form, and who have competitive sports experience at club, regional, national or hub levels. In addition to completing your academic or vocational studies, you'll benefit from weekly training sessions delivered by coaches or players from our partnership providers, in addition to participating in competition through the Association of Colleges, British College Sports Leagues.



Inspiring Leaders and Building Community

In addition to your academic studies, we would also like you to benefit from one or more of the enrichment opportunities that we provide each year. Some of these result in accredited qualifications, others in valuable experience. All are centred upon recognising and developing your academic, leadership or community skills. All will be supportive of your personal development and applications to university or employment.

Our enrichment curriculum will vary each year and may include the following:

- Extended Project Qualification
- SSAT Passport Programme
- Sixth Form Ambassador Team
- Duke of Edinburgh programme
- Combined Cadet Force
- Peer Mentoring placement
- Work experience

Whilst your participation in one or more of these opportunities is not a condition of your enrolment in the Sixth Form, our experience demonstrates that students increase their employability by developing skills beyond their subject specifications.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

The Duke of Edinburgh award programme is a very popular and successful venture within the school - whether you're starting from scratch or building upon your achievements in main school. The school runs highly successful practice and qualifying expeditions in Snowdonia, in addition to facilitating walking and rowing expeditions. Each year, we are delighted to see Sixth Form students complete their Gold award, culminating in the challenging and exciting expedition to a destination of their own choosing. Upon completion of the award, students may attend the prestigious award ceremony at St James' Palace.

Overseas expeditions

The Streetly Academy has a range of international links, including subject-based collaboration with international schools, and a range of international visits. Students are involved in the fundraising and planning of these trips, developing valuable teamwork and organisational skills. Recent expeditions include Costa Rica, Madagascar and Tanzania.



A Wide Range of Courses and Qualifications

We are proud to offer a range of courses of study within the Sixth Form - the majority of these being GCE A Levels. Some of these are in traditional academic disciplines - the subjects you might have studied at GCSE - English Literature or History, for example; others are non-traditional or vocational subjects such as Media Studies or Tourism. Some courses are wholly assessed through examination; many offer some practical or coursework assessment.

Level 3 Study

Level 3 courses provide the opportunity to secure in-depth knowledge and skills in a particular subject and are very valuable for those students looking at going on to university, training or employment. Within the Sixth Form, these courses comprise A Levels, BTEC and CTEC Extended Certificates, and WJEC Diplomas.

A Levels (GCE Advanced Levels)

A Levels are a more traditional route into higher education or university. They can be in familiar, academic subjects such as Mathematics and History or in non-traditional and vocational areas such as Business Studies or Media Studies.

Since September 2015 A Levels have experienced significant change. Newly reformed A Levels are two-year courses, and all of the assessments which contribute to your final marks are completed at the end of your two years within the Sixth Form. The new courses are mostly assessed through examination; only a few of them have coursework elements and these usually carry far fewer marks than the examination components. With few exceptions, coursework elements appear only within the second year of the course.

At Streetly, students following A Level courses sit UCAS prediction examinations in the summer term of Year 12. The marks from these do not contribute to the final A Level grade. These early examinations enable the school to look closely at your progress and ensure you are set to achieve at the end of two years. The grades you achieve indicate whether you are prepared for the challenges of Year 13. They will also be recorded within any application you make for study at university. As you might imagine, they need to be taken seriously. We want to see you perform at your very best.

BTEC and CTEC National Extended Certificates, and WJEC Diplomas

These are vocational or work-related courses. Like A Levels, they are Level 3 courses, but provide a more practical approach to learning. They can provide an ideal next step if you have taken BTEC or CTEC courses in Year 11. Like A Levels, these courses have undergone significant reform. The courses still carry a valuable coursework component, but are increasingly using examinations as a significant, additional form of assessment. These courses are not easy options.



Choosing the right courses



Advanced Level courses progress quickly and are very short. Making confident and informed choices now, will support a positive start to your Sixth Form studies in September. We hold our annual Sixth Form Information Evening in the autumn term of Year 11 to support the decision making process. All prospective Sixth Form students have the opportunity to discuss their preferences with a senior member of staff and the Sixth Form team during the autumn and spring terms. Being prepared for this discussion is important, so familiarise yourself with the courses available, assess your likely GCSE Total Point Score (TPS), and begin to think about how your choices will support your future career plans. Come along armed with any questions you have about your next steps in learning.

With a broad range of qualifications and subjects to select from, you might want to consider the following factors when making your choices:

- What subjects or topics are you naturally curious about?
- Which types of subject do you consistently achieve in?
- What plans do you have for a university education, apprenticeship or employment?
- Which subjects will support your long-term career plans?
- How do you prefer to learn?
- How do you prefer to be assessed? Through coursework? Through examination? Through performance?

There are a number of web-based questionnaires and tools which can help you in identifying subjects and careers which match your strengths, abilities and preferences. We would recommend you looking at:

- The Russell Group's Informed Choices website <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>
- The Spartan Test http://sacu-student.com/?page_id=2850

If you are unclear about a specific career, you should consider the broader employment sectors or areas of work where you see yourself working in the future.

If you are interested in studying a specific subject at university, we would advise you to look at A Level Requirements For Degrees, available at our Information Evening or from the Sixth Form Office upon request. In all cases, you should look at the specific requirements for a preferred degree course on the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/qualifications-you-can-take/levels>

https://www.ucas.com/file/13666/download?token=3fXOA_Nd

Information on our current curriculum offer, entry criteria and course descriptions are included with this prospectus.

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