

Update from the Quad

17/11/2020

Wymondham High Academy
Sixth Form

Mrs Preston says...

Welcome to our 'Update from the Quad' – a bulletin for all potential Sixth Form Applicants. The 'Quad' is the lovely garden that sits just next our offices and Sixth Form study spaces, so this 'update' is our way of keeping in touch with you from here while you think through your plans for next year. Hopefully it will be useful as you explore options and get all the answers you need to help you decide what's right for you. The most common question currently is *when is the application deadline?* This is **Friday 4th December** and please do use our online application:

<https://wymondhamhigh.applicaa.com/year12>

We are planning to meet all our applicants in the Spring to discuss your courses and find out more about you (that is why we don't ask for personal statements – we would rather hear it from you!). More details about this will be in the new year!

If you have any queries, please do just email us.

All the best, Mrs Preston, Mr Pearce, Mrs Heale, Mrs Hogg & Mrs Gill



MISSED OUR OPEN EVENING?
[Here is the link](#) to all the information and videos—just scroll down the page

Answers to your questions...

What is the minimum requirement to gain entry into the Sixth Form? To join our Sixth Form you need to have gained a minimum of 40+ points from 8 of your GCSE subjects. (Grade 8=8 points, grade 6=6 points etc) You must also have a 4 in English and Maths at GCSE. Each application is considered on an individual basis and therefore it is always worth discussing options with a member of the Sixth Form team. We want you to succeed and therefore will give you honest advice.

Can I study any combination of subjects? Essentially yes! Certain subjects have particular entry requirements to ensure you are suited for the course (e.g. to study a science at A Level you need to have achieved a 6 at GCSE in science). During your Applicant Meeting, we will discuss your future plans and reasons for combination choice of subjects to ensure you are fully informed regarding your options. If clashes between subjects occur, we will let you know so we can look at all the options with you.

How many subjects should I take in Sixth Form? 3 A Levels is the expected requirement. You cannot drop below this as you have to be a full-time student in Sixth Form and this is a minimum of 3 A Levels. Many universities only consider 3 A Levels, so we would prefer you to concentrate on getting the very best grades in 3 subjects and not spread yourself too thinly.

However, some students may wish to consider studying a 4th subject. We would recommend only students who have gained 56+ points at GCSE look at this option. If you take 4 subjects, it is important that you commit to these 4 subjects for the full 2 years as A Levels are now linear and we cannot guarantee the possibility of taking an AS Level at the end of Year 12, and we would not wish for you to study a subject and then not gain a qualification at the end. There are lots of options to enhance your application for university/apprenticeships rather than taking a 4th A Level.

What 'extras' can I take in Sixth Form and what is the point? There are lots of options here! EPQ and Core Maths give formal qualifications and universities love these as they mirror the skills needed at university. Universities often reduce offers if you have these qualifications. EPQ and Core Maths are completed only in Year 12, so you then have Year 13 to concentrate on your final exams in your main A Levels. Your Study Programme is important to us, so we have lots of other options to enhance your skills, knowledge and CVs! Work experience, committees, leadership opportunities, community service, DofE to name a few examples!

Can I change my subject choices during Sixth Form? It is vital you are on the correct Study Programme but we would recommend any changes to timetables and subjects take place before the end of September, so you do not miss out on too much content. We need written permission from home to make any changes and these changes can only occur if the curriculum allows it to happen and staff are in agreement. No changes can occur after December of Year 12 under any circumstances, including moving from 4 to 3 A Levels. All curriculum changes must be agreed by Mrs Preston.

How can I enhance my UCAS application? By ensuring you make the very most of all the opportunities given to you during Sixth Form including extras to your Study Programme and external options such as Summer Schools and University taster sessions.

How many teachers per subject in Sixth Form? Generally, 2! But this may differ due to how the course is set up.

How many hours per subject per fortnight?

Each subject has 10 hours of teaching time per fortnight. Independent Study time is classroom based and you register as you would for normal lessons. This will give you the opportunity to have a dedicated focused study that your teacher wants you to consider before/after a lesson and use your peers to support with this.

How independent will I have to be in Sixth Form?

We know the jump from GCSE to A levels is big and can be quite daunting. We also know that if you want to go onto higher education, it is essential you develop your independent study skills. This is why we put Independent Study onto your timetables, so you can get use to this style of working in a supportive manner. Obviously, students will spend their other study periods working in Sixth Form areas also as you would be expected to spend around 5 hours a week outside each subject on additional work to support your studies.

How much time should I spend on my studies?

We would expect students to be managing their study time effectively. You would be expected to spend around 5 hours a week outside each subject on additional work to support your studies. This can be easily achieved by setting goals and tasks for your study periods during the school day. Then at home you can complete longer tasks, extra reading and revision. The more you put in, the more you will get out of your studies.

Is Year 12 and 13 the same regarding study time?

Yes, except Year 13s get 10 hours of Home Study per fortnight.

What happens if I want to do a minority subject and the group may be small?

We are committed to offering a broad and balanced curriculum. Therefore, removing a subject from the curriculum is not something we would consider before exploring all other options. We know the importance of peer support in your subject and therefore where groups are very small and the course allows, we may put Year 12 and 13 groups together to ensure you are able to work collaboratively and get the very best experience from your studies.

How should I use free periods in Sixth Form?

Set a goal for each study period and reward yourself once it is achieved. Don't put tasks off. Find an area that you are comfortable working in and just get on with the tasks you need to complete. Improving assessments/marked work is essential so you have great material to revise from and ensure you have really learnt and understood a topic. If you are unsure or find that you have completed everything, ask your teacher for advice but reviewing of tasks/topics and creating revision material/completing an exam style question is always a great idea.

How do you help prepare me for higher education?

For all students (university/apprenticeships/work) we will start your journey using our partner [Unifrog](#) during the autumn term of Year 12 and the support is ongoing. We ask you to explore all options and then make an informed choice. We will then be on hand to help ensure you are as prepared as possible.

How will I know I am doing ok in my studies?

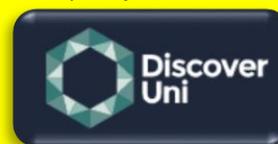
Regular and detailed feedback on assessments and regular reviewing of work through Midpoints, End of Year exams and mocks.

DESTINATIONS

One of the big focuses from students during our open evening was finding out more about the support we provide for your next step after Sixth Form. So, we have provided some links below in case you want to start exploring this early - now you can start the journey early if you fancy it!



Staircase 12 has loads of great reading and resources if you want to start exploring - click on the icon above!



DiscoverUni is fantastic for starting to see what kinds of courses there are out there, as well as other questions about whether uni is for you and how finance works!



NGTU is the place have a play if you think you might prefer the apprenticeship route.



If you've got a bit more time and want to get your teeth into something, choose a free course from FutureLearn and start broadening your horizons!



For all things Medicine, check out the Medic Portal for advice and reading.

Plenty more where these came from folks, so if you haven't found what you are interested in, drop us a line!