

Wycombe High School



Into The Sixth Form 2010

Fortiter, Fideliter, Feliciter

Wycombe High School's Sixth Form!

We believe that our Sixth Form offers a stimulating, fulfilling, memorable and happy experience. This pack is intended to give all prospective Sixth Formers and their parents an insight into what we can offer, and to provide you with some advice on how to select your A Level options.

We want our Sixth Formers to receive the very best education. Our A Level results are among the best in the country. Excellent teaching, backed by comprehensive guidance and advice, mean that almost all of our students go on to their first choice of university and degree course. Take a look at the 2009 Year 13 leavers' Destinations and A Level results towards the end of this booklet.

Being a part of our Sixth Form is, however, so much more than just the pursuit of academic qualifications. It is an exciting time for you to mature and develop personally as a member of a strong community. You will contribute to, and benefit from, all the opportunities available. You will develop your skills through our rich extra-curricular and enrichment programme, details of which are included in this booklet.

For Year 11 students already at Wycombe High, entry into our Sixth Form is a natural next step; you will build upon the firm groundwork already laid down and move into a more adult and independent environment with the added bonus of knowing and being known by the staff. We are also delighted to welcome new entrants to Wycombe High School. In 2009, 22 students joined our Sixth Form from a range of independent and state schools. All of them very quickly settled in and have made lasting friendships.

I believe that we offer a very special Sixth Form experience. Our Ofsted inspection (April 2007) rated Wycombe High School's Sixth Form as 'Outstanding'. More important than Ofsted, perhaps, are the opinions of our students. In their 2009 survey last year, 91% said that they had enjoyed their time in the Sixth Form. Among the many unsolicited compliments were the following:

- Students are encouraged to fulfil their potential
- We are treated as adults and our opinions are valued
- There is great community spirit
- The staff are friendly and approachable and always there when you need support

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to our 'Into the Sixth Form' Evening on Wednesday 21 October. I very much look forward to welcoming you to the school next September and to working with you over the next two years.



Hilary Brash
Head of Sixth Form

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Grade: 1

Sixth Form provision is outstanding. Leadership of the Sixth Form is innovative, very effective and a major reason for its continuing success. The majority of the students stay on in the Sixth Form and completion rates of courses are very high. Independent learning is a strong feature of sixth form life. Students learn in a secure and positive learning environment which is enriched by an excellent curriculum that is regularly reviewed to meet their needs. Tutors support students' pastoral and academic needs very effectively to complement the outstanding subject teaching. Hence, students make excellent progress and they achieve exceptionally high standards.

There is a regular and rigorous system for reviewing students' progress which ensures that early support is provided for those who are not working to their potential. A Year 13 student liked 'the fantastic support structure through which the teachers are always there to guide and praise students in a respectful and caring manner'. Sixth Formers freely give their time for the benefit of the whole school. For example, prefects organise the school Sports Days and act as Assistant Tutors. This contributes to the exceptionally good relationships that exist within the Sixth Form and in the wider school community.

Inspection Report: Wycombe High School
Ofsted, April 2007



A Typical Week

We operate a ten-day timetable cycle of fifty periods, each one hour long. Over a fortnight, you will generally have nine lessons in each of your AS subjects. In addition to AS subjects, you are likely to have up to five lessons in your Enrichment Subject (although Young Enterprise operates outside school hours), and at least one PE lesson a week. A typical Year 12 student might expect to have up to eight study periods a fortnight. Year 12 students are expected to remain on site during the school day, except for lunch or external community service. Private study facilities are available in the Wainwright Learning Centre and Miller Block, while the Common Room provides a venue for relaxation.

Lessons apart, there is a great deal to occupy you. Sixth Form Assembly is compulsory and is held once a week in the Main Hall. It is run by tutor groups on a rotational basis. A rich range of school society, drama, musical and sporting opportunities take place at lunch and after school, while many Sixth Formers volunteer for additional duties as Prefects, Assistant Tutors and Academic Assistants.

Our Facilities

Our Sixth Form Centre is located in the Miller Block. As well as classrooms and offices, the Miller Block contains a large Common Room with attached kitchen, a Study Area, a Lecture Theatre, a computer room that is exclusively for Sixth Form use, and a Careers and University Resources Room. All Sixth Formers may rent a locker, while there is a Sixth Form car park to the rear, for which you may purchase a car parking licence. A member of the Student Leadership Team assists the Head of Sixth Form in the management of the Miller Block.

In addition, you may make use of any of the wider school facilities, which include the purpose-built learning facilities in the Wainwright Centre, the Drama Studio, and the Sports Block, which includes a Fitness Studio that is much frequented by Sixth Formers.

Pastoral Care

At Wycombe High School we aim to produce mature, confident, articulate students, ambitious to achieve their own potential, but also altruistic and ready to contribute to the society in which they find themselves. In all this, pastoral care plays an important role.

You will be allocated to a small tutor group. There are ten tutor groups in Year 12, each of which has about twenty students. Your tutor will monitor your academic progress and general welfare. Normally, you keep the same tutor for both the Lower and the Upper Sixth, and see your tutor daily for registration. Tutorial sessions are held three to four times a week, when your tutor will carry out pastoral work on an individual basis, or run a whole tutor group meeting. Additionally, five 'Personal Enrichment Days' are held over the course of a year. These cover a comprehensive programme including lessons on learning styles, UCAS applications, sexual health, finance, cancer awareness and even car maintenance.

The move from main school to the Sixth Form is a big one, and we work hard to ensure that you maximise the opportunities presented and realise your talents and ambitions. To this end, an Induction Day is arranged for all Sixth Formers and an additional one for those new to Wycombe High School. We also organise a programme of individual mentoring, which is particularly intensive in the first term of Year 12 and aims to ease the transition into the Sixth Form.

We recognise that occasionally some students find themselves encountering difficulties. We will do whatever we reasonably can to provide you with the information and support you need to find appropriate advice to help you solve any issues.

We are fortunate in having a designated Pathways Advisor, Mrs Hayward, who is based in the Miller Block. Mrs Hayward works with individual students in Key Stage 4 and the Sixth Form on issues such as study or exam anxieties, time management, study skills or revision techniques.

General Information about WHS Sixth Form

The Sixth Form Curriculum at Wycombe High School is based on A Levels. These usually consist of four modules of approximately equal size. Two of these make up an Advanced Subsidiary (AS) qualification, representing the first half of the A Level course. AS exams take place at the end of Year 12. The other two modules, known as A2, represent the second half of the full A Level course, and are examined at the end of Year 13.

We expect most of our Sixth Formers to follow a programme starting with four AS subjects in Year 12, and continuing with three of these subjects to A2 and thus full A Level in Year 13. Most students will therefore complete qualifications in three A Levels and one AS. However, we are flexible and aim to meet individual needs which may involve reducing, or extending, this workload.

Full details of the options available and advice on selecting options are contained in this booklet and in the Options Flyers.

Enrichment Programme

As well as A Levels, we ask all Year 12 students to participate in the Wycombe High School Sixth Form Enrichment Programme which has five parts.

These are, in brief:

- **Personal Enrichment Programme** Students are taken off timetable for five Personal Enrichment days over the year. These cover issues like learning styles, well being, UCAS and **Philosophy and Ethics**. We have adopted what we hope is an imaginative and interesting approach to the legal requirement in this latter area. You will attend events devoted to philosophical and ethical issues, such as euthanasia, 'Women's Voice', 'Does God Exist?' and a 'Question Time' panel with representatives from different faiths.
- **Physical Exercise** Students are given the challenge of completing 60 hours of physical exercise in school in one year.

Entire forms usually do PE at the same time, for at least one period a week. Various options exist including dance, yoga, badminton, trampoline etc. There are also numerous sports clubs and dance groups to join, many of which just want you to be enthusiastic: ability is less important than a willingness to get involved. You can also use the Fitness Studio.

- **Academic Enrichment and Extension** You will be required to complete one of nine options: GCSE Spanish (from scratch), GCSE Italian (from scratch), AS Geology, A Level Further Mathematics, AS Critical Thinking, AS Film Studies, AS Photography, Sports Leadership Award, or Young Enterprise. Musicians who are both committed in a major way to school extra-curricular music and to the County or National Youth orchestras can count this as their academic enrichment option.
- **Extra-Curricular Involvement** Students are challenged to spend at least 30 hours' involvement in one or more of the many and varied extra-curricular opportunities on offer in the school. Such activities will allow them to develop and extend their own personal and interpersonal skills and are important in developing a sense of whole school community. To inspire them, a full programme of what is on offer this year at present is included on page 6. There is every opportunity for students to think creatively and develop their own talents and interests within the Sixth Form and within the school as a whole.
- **Community Service** We ask that you complete a minimum of 60 hours of Community Service. This can be completed in or out of school, in one area, or across several, in one term or over several. There is a quite astonishing variety of ways in which students can complete Community Service, including voluntary work outside school and assisting younger students in school.

Voluntary Work

We are very happy for you to undertake some voluntary work in your free periods. There are many organisations, even within walking distance, which need your help and to which you can contribute as well as developing life skills and experiences.

Voluntary work is very rewarding: as well as helping others, you can build your confidence and self-esteem. You could even find yourself more employable as a result. Voluntary work is essential for those of you contemplating a future in, for example, medicine, veterinary medicine, teaching, physiotherapy or social work.

You can be involved in any of the following:

- **vFifty Programme** Students can make their own arrangements through Wycombe Youth Action, which arranges volunteering projects from environmental projects to staffing the local summer radio station.
- **Helper at Wycombe Hospital** Every year we have a small number of opportunities for students to undertake work experience at the local hospital. This is only for students considering reading medicine, who have very good/excellent GCSE results.
- **Assistant at Maplewood** A Special Needs Unit for Sixth Form students based at Maplewood School, Cressex Road, round the corner.
- **Assistant at Hillcrest or Verney Avenue** These are day care centres for adults with disabilities. Students help in various activities, like creating a pantomime, drama or music/dance activities or just playing some games and chatting.
- **Assistant at Horizons** A sports club for children with disabilities between the ages of 5 -11 which meets on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Each night is different with tennis, athletics, or swimming. This does take commitment as the children to whom you will be

assigned, under the supervision of a coach, get very, very attached and really look forward to your help and encouragement.

- **Assistant in local primary schools** This can be a primary school close to school or close to your home as long as no lessons are missed.
- Students can also make their **own arrangements** for voluntary work. For example, in the past some have worked at Oxfam.

Leadership Opportunities

A major advantage of being in a Sixth Form is that you are a senior member of a wider community, with all the leadership opportunities that this entails. At the least, younger members of the school will see Sixth Formers as role models, and we hope that you will take this responsibility seriously.

Beyond that, our Sixth Form provides you with many opportunities to develop your leadership talents and abilities. These include: acting as an Assistant Tutor or Academic Assistant; being a Prefect; directing one of the Year 8 plays; running a club or activity; representing your year group on the School Council; and working as a Young Enterprise Managing Director. Volunteering for any of these roles will allow you the opportunity to develop many different personal skills whilst also ensuring a closer link between the Sixth Form and the main school students.

- **Clubs and Activities** Some of the best clubs in recent years have been initiated and run by Sixth Form students. Islamic Union, Christian Union, the Bollywood Club, The History and Classics Society, the Debate Society and the Jazz Band are all organised by Sixth Formers.
- **Assistant Tutors** Every lower school form has two attached Assistant Tutors from Year 12. Tutor Assistants visit their form at least three times a week, and help to teach PSHE, organise assemblies and fund raising activities, and so much more. It's all ideal practice for future teachers and managers.

General Information about WHS Sixth Form

- **ACAs - Academic Assistants** As one of these, you would help a younger student experiencing difficulties with a specific subject. You might offer a Year 7 student one-to-one help with Maths, for example, or help out in Year 8 Art lessons.
- **Theatre Directors and Backstage Hands** The Year 8 Thespian Extravaganza is held in the Autumn term: each Year 8 form has two Year 12 Directors, and performs its play before an audience of the whole year. Sixth Formers also organise props, costumes, lighting and sound effects for the school plays and musicals.
- **Senior Prefects** Forty Year 12 students become Senior Prefects. They are on patrol or ICT duty one lunchtime a week. Tact and humour are required! The Student Leadership Team organise the selection procedure for Senior Prefects.
- **Sports, Dance and Gym Captains** These are selected by the PE Department: applications are invited from any Upper Sixth student in September of Year 13.
- **Library Assistants, Careers Assistants** Students who love books, organising shelves, helping with queries, may act as volunteers in the Learning Centre and in the Careers Library.
- **Student Leadership Team** At present we have a SLT of twelve, all of whom are in Year 13. Any Year 12 student (as long as they have a sound record) can apply to be considered for the SLT. A selection procedure takes place early in the Summer term of Year 12 - it involves a series of hopefully amusing activities and tasks, following which all participants vote. Unusually, students themselves select the SLT, and the twelve successful candidates then choose their roles, including that of Head Girl.
- **School Council** Each form elects one Year Council Representative. Students have to attend two to three meetings a term and they may well have delegated tasks to complete between

meetings, and be asked to sit on interview panels. They may also be asked to represent their entire Year group at a full School Council.

- **Student Ambassadors** Year 12 and Year 13 students can volunteer to work on Reception and to run tours for prospective parents during their study periods. Many Year 12s also volunteer to act as tour guides on Open Evenings and on the 'Into the Sixth Form' Evening

Dress Code in the Sixth Form

We do not have a uniform in the Sixth Form because we want students to prepare for university by being able to learn how to express their own style and individuality in a safe environment. However, we would like them to look neat, tidy, and most importantly, appropriate for a school environment. They are inevitably role models to the younger years in the school and we ask them to take this responsibility seriously. We do, therefore, insist on the following:

- No excessive exposure of flesh
 - no spaghetti or shoelace straps to tops or dresses
 - no strapless tops or dresses
 - no plunging necklines or no bare midriiffs
 - no flip flops
- Leggings should not be worn as an alternative to trousers
- Mid thigh/mid length smart skirts, shorts and dresses can be worn
- No T-shirts which have inappropriate or coarse comments/logos on them
- No coats - please see that coats stay in form rooms or in lockers
- No visible piercings other than in the ears
- No violently coloured hair

The Headteacher is the final arbiter of what is acceptable.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities in WHS Sixth Form

Carpe Diem!

Volunteering to Help	Sports and Dance	Clubs and Societies	Arts, Music & Performance	Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Tutors • Patrol Senior Prefects • Academic Assistants (ACAs) • ICT Senior Prefects • Student Ambassadors • vFifty Volunteers • Maplewood • Horizons • Hospital • Hillcrest • Verney Avenue • Careers Monitors • Library Monitors • Science Club helpers • Maths Club assistants • Art Dept helpers • Sixth Form Ball/ Leavers' Book helpers • Backstage for all productions • Sixth Form web page 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn & Spring terms: Hockey • Indoor Hockey • Netball • Badminton • Table Tennis • Rugby • Swimming • Basketball • Cross Country • Gym Squad* • Football • Dance Performance Group* • Senior Dance Club • Street Dance • Summer term: Tennis • Rounders • Athletics • Cricket • Fitness Studio all year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debating Society • Christian Union • Islamic Union • Bollywood Club • Economics Society • Psychology Society • History and Classics Society • Amnesty International • Latin Club • Maths Club • Sixth Form Reading Group • Politics Society • The Culture Society • Japan Club • Medical Society • Film Club • Gardening Club • Photography and Drawing Society • Belly Dance Club • Yoga Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Play * • School Musical * • Female parts in JHGS/RGS musicals * • Hi-Lights Dance & Gym Festival or 'Energize' • Xmas Pantomime • Carol Service • Chamber Choir * • Sixth Form Choir • Concerts x 3 • Jazz Band # • Senior Orchestra ~ • Concert Band ~ • Guitar Ensemble ~ • Flute Ensemble ~ • Chamber Music groups # • Joint concerts with RGS ~ • Concerts in the Community • Bailey Murphy Comp Y12 & Y13 choirs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Leadership Team • Year & School Council • Repts • Assistant Tutors • Gym Captain • Dance Captain • Games Captain • Maths Captain • ICT Captain • Directors of Y8 Drama Festival • Young Enterprise • Directors • Leadership of any club or society • World Challenge • CSLA • Patrol Senior Prefects • ICT Senior Prefects • Student

* By audition or by trial - except for backstage volunteers who are all welcome!

By invitation or self-motivation

~ Grade 5/6 and above

As well as all the above, individual departments run subject-based competitions. Economics, for example, run the Bank of England Interest Rate Challenge.

Choosing A Levels at Wycombe High School

At the moment, A Levels are still the preferred qualifications for admission to most Higher Education establishments. At Wycombe High School we currently offer thirty subjects at A Level, and a further four at AS. Most of these are subjects studied at GCSE, though there are several 'new' subjects.

We require all Year 12 students to study four AS subjects and one additional 'Enrichment' or 'Extension' subject. In Year 13, we ask students to select three of their AS subjects to take on to A Level. The final decision on which subject to drop is made in January of Year 12. However, we pride ourselves on being flexible. For example, gifted students may, if possible, take all four AS subjects onto A2, while musicians who play at county or national level are exempted from the Enrichment or Extension subject.

The **AS options** on offer for 2009 are as follows:

ART	ICT
BIOLOGY	LATIN
BUSINESS STUDIES	MATHS - STATISTICS
CHEMISTRY	MATHS - MECHANICS
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	MUSIC
COMPUTING	PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS
DT: FOOD TECHNOLOGY	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES	PHYSICS
ECONOMICS	PRODUCT DESIGN: GRAPHICS WITH MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY
ENGLISH LITERATURE	PRODUCT DESIGN: TEXTILES
FRENCH	PSYCHOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY	SOCIOLOGY
GERMAN	SPANISH
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	
HISTORY - EARLY MODERN	
HISTORY - MODERN	

The **Enrichment and Extension subjects** on offer for 2010 are:

COMMUNITY SPORTS LEADERSHIP AWARD
CRITICAL THINKING AS
FILM STUDIES AS
FURTHER MATHS A LEVEL (a two-year course)
GEOLOGY AS
ITALIAN GCSE
PHOTOGRAPHY AS
SPANISH GCSE
YOUNG ENTERPRISE

In addition, Year 13 students are offered an opportunity to take CLASSICAL GREEK GCSE, LATIN GCSE, the Level 3 EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION, and ADVANCED EXTENSION AWARDS in certain subjects.

Selecting your Options

One of the great pleasures of the Sixth Form is the fact that you can choose your subjects. At GCSE you had a certain amount of choice but this was necessarily limited: there are some compulsory National Curriculum subjects. Now, the world is your oyster - almost. Choosing AS subjects requires some thought. What follows is some guidance on how to choose, and some consideration about constraints on your choices. The appendix to this booklet includes some information on university courses which may also be relevant in making your decision.

On the whole, four questions need thinking about when choosing a subject:

- 1 Do I like the subject?** One could go further than that: you probably love it - you are even passionate about it. Passion is what universities are looking for. This subject is something you may be studying for two years, and possibly even taking further. So much of Sixth Form work depends on self-motivation - background reading, for example - that you need to want to do it.
- 2 Am I good at the subject?** You have to qualify, with a B grade minimum at GCSE level. Full details about qualifying are found further on in this booklet. You need to be ambitious to succeed, and for that, you need to be realistic that you are doing something you are actually good at. It is important to ask your teachers for an honest opinion about your ability in a subject before taking it up at A Level.
- 3 Put together, do my choices should form a balanced combination?** If you are selecting three science subjects, consider choosing an arts or humanity subject as your fourth option. It is also very important not to select four subjects that employ the same skills: four practical subjects will involve an insurmountable amount of work. Four essay subjects will do the same. The time involved in doing such combinations will become unbearable. As a guideline, two

subjects employing the same skills should be a maximum. Please also consider balancing 'new' subjects with old. As a guideline, no more than two subjects should be ones that are 'new'.

- 4 Have I thought about my future?** The vast majority of students do not know what they will be doing when they are 21. That is entirely normal, and does not matter. On the whole, career plans 'emerge'. What matters is that you do your best at each stage. In doing A Levels you will find the area you're really passionate about; at university or after, hopefully you will discover a vocation. Most universities just want good grades at A Level; most employers want a good degree, the subject matter of which is less important than the degree class. A student can delay their choice of career yet still have a wide range of opportunities.

But in some cases, students do need to think about the future now, because universities have very specific requirements. For example, it would not be possible to read Physics or Economics at most universities if you had not done Maths A Level. On the whole, university requirements tend to involve the sciences or technology. If you are thinking about being, for example, an architect, an engineer, a vet, a doctor, a midwife, or a physiotherapist, please check that your choices leave bridges open as opposed to closed. The appendix to this pack provides some guidance, though you should also consult the Careers and Higher Education Library in the Miller Block.

Choosing A Levels at Wycombe High School

To Assist in your Decision Making (if you are a student at WHS)

- Our Careers and Higher Education Library is extensive and is situated on the ground floor of the Miller Block. It is open to all students and is usually empty of Sixth Formers at lunchtime, should you wish to do some research.
- You may wish to make an appointment to speak with our Pathways Adviser, Mrs Hayward, or with our attached Connexions Adviser.
- You have this 'Into the Sixth Form' Booklet and the subject flyers which you should read carefully.
- You will have an assembly and PSHE lessons on selecting options.
- During the 'Into the Sixth Form' Evening - Wednesday 21 October - you will be able to talk with Subject Leaders, and with Sixth Formers doing the subject you are interested in.
- Students in WHS Year 11 will be provided with an opportunity to 'shadow' the Sixth Form for a day, and attend a lesson in each of the subjects that you think you might be interested in.
- Your Year 10 exam results and your Year 10 report will provide you with an indication of where your talents lie, and whether or not you will thrive in a subject at A Level.
- Your Year 11 Student Progress Check will provide a further indication of your ability in a subject.
- During the Year 11 Parents' Evening, you will be able to consult with your teaching staff directly about whether you are suited to A Level study in their subject.
- On Academic Review Day, you will be able to discuss your choices with your tutor.
- Once you have submitted your application form, you will be invited to have an informal chat about your choices with a senior member of staff.
- Your GCSE Mock exam results and Year 11 report in the Spring term should provide a further indication as to whether you have made the right AS selection.
- Finally, after your GCSE exams, we run an Access Day, when you attend a lesson in each of your AS subjects - a final opportunity, as it were, to confirm that you have made the right choice.

Constraints on your Choices

In one sense, we have very few: Wycombe High School operates a free choice without predetermined option blocks. Once all of your choices are entered on the system, the computer sets up the four teaching blocks. However, there are a few constraints:

- 1 Firstly, if very few people opt for a subject, it is financially not viable for us to run that subject. There is no predetermined cut-off number: we consider each course individually. Sometimes we agree to run a course but on a reduced number of teaching periods; sometimes we work with our neighbouring schools to put on a course. In other cases, especially if just three or four students wish to do that subject, we may have to ask you to make another choice. You will know this is the case in the spring term.
- 2 It may just not be possible to timetable the combination of subjects you have chosen. This does not affect subjects with big up-takes: they tend to run a class in each block. This situation tends to arise if a student chooses several minority subjects where there is just one class for each subject. If you chose Latin, Music, Modern History and German, for example, timetabling problems may ensue. We will let you know as early as we can should this be the case. In many cases there is often an acceptable compromise. In the past, for example, students have been asked to switch from Modern History to Early Modern History, or from Maths Mechanics to Maths Statistics.
- 3 In THREE cases, combinations of subjects are not permitted. Students may not do:
Both Business Studies and Economics
Both Maths Mechanics and Maths Statistics
Both Early Modern History and Modern History
- 4 The fourth constraint is the fact that you do need to qualify for the courses you choose. Entry requirements are very clearly outlined on page

11. Broadly speaking you need to qualify overall for the Sixth Form by obtaining 368 points at GCSE level, and then individually for four different subjects. If, on Results Day, you have not achieved a B grade for one of your Options (and an A grade in the case of Maths), we shall ask you to choose another subject. While this might sound harsh, experience does show that someone with a C or D grade at GCSE will not succeed at AS.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I change my mind about my options?

It is perfectly acceptable to change your mind after handing in your application form. However, please change your mind early! For preference, please tell us before the option blocks are 'fixed' by the computer. You will then be accommodated. Fixing the blocks happens in the late spring term. If you change your mind after that, there is no guarantee that you will be able to do your new choices.

You will be accommodated as long as your new choice fits the option blocks and fits the set sizes. If twenty students have already decided to do that subject, then the answer might be no. Students may not change options once courses have commenced, although we try to be flexible for the first fortnight of the autumn term.

Can I do more than four AS subjects? I want to do five.

The number of subjects - four - is not randomly chosen. Three factors go into this decision.

- Firstly, it is a reflection of timetable considerations: while you might want to do five subjects, we only set up four option blocks. You also have to fit in your Enrichment Programme, including PE and an Enrichment and Extension subject. There just is not the time to do more.

- Secondly, it reflects the reality of the workload of A Levels: while you might have a honeymoon period for the first month of Year 12 where the work seems light, by November most students are feeling the strain. Experience leads us to believe that four subjects at AS are just right.
- Thirdly, we are reflecting University requirements: even Oxford and Cambridge only ask for three A Levels - admittedly at AAA grade. However, universities are also asking for proof of work experience, leadership skills, extra-curricular commitments and all the other things you can do in the Sixth Form. And for that, you need time.

However, that said, it is possible to do five AS subjects, via our Enrichment and Extension programme. The options include AS Critical Thinking, A Level Further Maths, AS Geology, AS Film Studies and AS Photography. In Year 13 you will be given the opportunity to do the Extended Project Qualification which has the same status as an AS Level.

Can I do only three AS subjects?

Wycombe High School operates an academic Sixth Form, and as a norm we would expect all of our students to rise to the challenge of four AS subjects. However, we consider each student on an individual basis, and there are circumstances (ill health, for example) when a reduced timetable is in the best interests of the student.

Can I pick up a new subject in Year 13?

You can only commence study in a subject at A2 if you have achieved at least a D grade in that subject at AS. However, we do allow able students to do an additional AS subject in Year 13, on top of their three or four A2 courses, as long as the timetable permits it.

Entry Requirements to WHS Sixth Form

Unless there are any extenuating circumstances, students who wish to study AS levels at WHS must:

- 1 **Gain a minimum of 368 points** in their GCSEs, two of which should be Maths and English Language at grades A* - C.

Full GCSE		Short GCSE	
A*	58	A*	29
A	52	A	26
B	46	B	23
C	40	C	20
D	34	D	17
E	28	E	14
F	22	F	11
G	16	G	8

- 2 **And** meet Departmental entry requirements in four **AS subjects**.

A student wishing to continue a GCSE subject to AS must have gained at least a B grade in that subject at GCSE. Maths is an exception: a student wishing to do Maths A level must have gained at least an A grade in Maths GCSE.

We also offer seven new subjects at AS that we do not teach at GCSE level. In these cases the following entry requirements pertain:

- Computing B grades in Maths and ICT GCSEs
- Economics B grades in English Language and Maths GCSEs
- Government & Politics B grades in English Language and/or History GCSEs
- Physical Education B grade in PE and/or BB in GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science
- Psychology B grade in English Language and B in Maths GCSEs
- RS (Philosophy & Ethics) B grades in Religious Studies and/or Citizenship GCSEs*
- Sociology B grade in English Language and/or a humanity GCSE

* Applications from external candidate whose schools do not offer these subjects as GCSEs will also be considered.

Seven departments permit a student to do their subject at AS where the student has not done that subject at GCSE, as long as other criteria are met:

- Business Studies B grades in Maths & English Language GCSEs
- Classical Civilisation B grade in English Literature GCSE
- Drama and Theatre Studies Active participation in school productions and amateur dramatics, and a B grade in English Literature
- DT: Food Technology B grade in another Technology GCSE
- Geography B grades in Maths and BB in Science GCSEs
- History B grades in English Language and in English Lit GCSEs
- Music Grade 6 Practical and Grade 5 Theory and active participation in ensembles in school.

- Product Design: Graphics with Materials Technology B grades in Art &/or another Technology GCSE
- Product Design: Textiles B grades in Art &/or another Technology GCSE

Those opting for GCSE Italian or GCSE Spanish need to be good linguists, measured by the fact that they gained at least an A grade in one Modern Foreign Language or Latin at GCSE.

Please note:

- Group sizes must be viable. In the event that a subject or course does not attract sufficient applicants, either at AS or A2, it may not run.
- Students who do not achieve a D grade at AS at the end of Year 12 will not be permitted to continue that subject to A2

Year 13

Unless there are extenuating circumstances (like serious illness), a student wishing to progress on to Year 13 must have:

- D grades in at least two subjects at AS
- a 90% attendance rate in registrations and lessons
- a 90% punctuality rate in registrations and lessons

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Internal Applicants

Please complete the application form enclosed in this pack and return it, via your tutor, to the Head of Sixth Form on Tuesday 15 December. Applications received after this date will be given every consideration but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate your AS choices. All internal applicants will be invited to have a short informal discussion about their choices with a senior member of staff.

External Applicants

We are delighted to receive applications from students who are not currently at Wycombe High School. At present we reserve a minimum of twenty places a year for such external applicants. Where eligible applications for courses exceed the number of places available, places will be offered to students obtaining the highest average points score from their top eight GCSE (full course) results. If there is more than one student with the same score, home-to-school distance will be the final determinant.

External applicants are requested to complete the application form enclosed with this pack and return it to the Head of Sixth Form by Friday 29 January 2010. Please ensure that you have the correct postage on your envelope. Applications received after this date will be given every consideration but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate your AS choices.

We would also ask you to include with your application form:

- A letter outlining your reasons for wanting to study your chosen AS subjects and making it clear what it is about these subjects that interests you. You should also give details of how you have contributed to your school community whilst studying for GCSEs and outline what you feel you could contribute to the Sixth Form at Wycombe High School.
- A copy of your latest report or Record of Achievement.

All external applicants will be invited to the school on Friday 19 March 2010 for Open Day.

What's Where on 'Into the Sixth Form'

Wednesday 21 October 2009

7.00 pm MAIN HALL (for WHS students)

8.00 pm MAIN HALL (for prospective new entrants)

and 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm as below:

A LEVEL SUBJECTS

ART	Mr Mark Coombe	V301 (top floor, Verney)
BIOLOGY	Mrs Jane Wheeler	Lab V1Q, Verney
BUSINESS STUDIES	Mrs Verity Nicholls	M200
CHEMISTRY	Mr Malcolm Churchill	Lab A, Christie
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	Mrs Margaret McFarlane	M303
COMPUTING	Mr Gavin Green	M201
DT: FOOD TECHNOLOGY	Mrs Gill McMahon	Technology Block
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	Mrs Victoria Jonsmyth-Clarke	Drama Studio
ECONOMICS	Mrs Verity Nicholls	M200
ENGLISH LITERATURE	Mr Paul Rhodes	Lecture Theatre, Miller (ground floor)
FRENCH	Mrs Elizabeth Mansir	M306
GEOGRAPHY	Mr Richard Nowak-Scase	M105 (Miller Annexe)
GERMAN	Mr Ondrej Broz	M306
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	Ms Su Chamberlain	M302
HISTORY	Mr Jack Rushton	M204
ICT	Mr Gavin Green	M201
LATIN	Mrs Margaret McFarlane	M303
MATHS	Mrs Julia Brown	Common Room, Miller (top floor)
MUSIC	Mrs Sheila Cornall	Music Block
PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS	Miss Sarah Brace	M207
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Miss Vicki Williams	M305
PHYSICS	Mr Steve Pickersgill	Lab A, Christie
PRODUCT DESIGN: GRAPHICS	Miss Tina Bond	Technology Block
PRODUCT DESIGN: TEXTILES	Mrs Janet Ward	Technology Block
PSYCHOLOGY	Mrs Karen Lloyd	M106 (Miller Annexe)
SOCIOLOGY	Mrs Sophie Neville	M104 (Miller Annexe)A
SPANISH	Mrs Clare Brignall	M306

ENRICHMENT AND EXTENSION COURSES

CRITICAL THINKING AS	Mr Patrick Mackerras	Study Area, Miller (first floor)
FILM STUDIES AS	Mr Paul Rhodes	Lecture Theatre
FURTHER MATHS AS	Mrs Julia Brown	Common Room, Miller (top floor)
GEOLOGY AS	Mr Hugh Mothersole	M205
ITALIAN GCSE	Ms Jane Edmunds	M306
PHOTOGRAPHY AS	Mr Richard Pitman	V003 (ground floor, Verney)
SPANISH GCSE	Mrs Clare Brignall	M306
SPORTS LEADERSHIP AWARD	Miss Anna Snook	M305
YOUNG ENTERPRISE	Mrs Verity Nicholls	Study Area, Miller (first floor) & M200

IN ADDITION:

CAREERS	Mrs Colette Jones Mrs Giselle Hayward	Seminar Room, Miller (ground floor)
QUERIES re ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Miss Hilary Brash Head of Sixth Form	Study Area, Miller (first floor)

The Subject Leaders for English and Maths will be giving presentations at the following times:

English (Lecture Theatre, Miller)

7.40 pm
8.15 pm

Maths (Common Room, Miller)

7.40 pm
8.05 pm
8.30 pm

OUR WAINWRIGHT CENTRE IS ALSO OPEN - DO VISIT!

Higher Education

Almost all members of Wycombe High School Sixth Form go on to university. We run a comprehensive programme of support to help you achieve your ambitions and potential. Sixth Form tutors are all experienced in mentoring students through the minefield of UCAS. We provide you with a copy of our own handbook, After A Levels, which contains guidance on choosing university courses, together with detailed advice on how to fill in application forms and prepare for interview. We also produce handbooks for students applying for Art Foundation courses, for Medicine, for Law, and an additional one for students interested in applying for Oxford or Cambridge.

We also have a comprehensive Higher Education and Careers Library in the Seminar Room in the Miller Block. You can make an appointment with our own Pathways Adviser (Mrs Hayward), or with the visiting Connexions Advisor, and you are encouraged to attend University Open Days and 'taster courses'. There are opportunities to attend presentations from different professional bodies and occupations throughout the year. Each year we host a Careers and Higher Education Fair. We also arrange a Higher Education Evening in the Spring of Year 12 to which all students and parents are invited. This evening covers all the essential information about university applications, student finance, and two Admissions Tutors give presentations and answer individual questions. We invite Oxbridge applicants to go to the Cheltenham Conference and we organise interview practice for anyone facing an interview. We also invite past students in to talk about their university experiences.

Students who decide to apply to university after leaving will receive the same assistance as students currently studying in the Sixth Form. We believe in aftercare and welcoming back former Wycombe High students is always a real pleasure.

Incidentally, it is worth reiterating here that your GCSE grades are just as important as your AS and A Level grades. Excellent universities and highly competitive courses require excellent GCSEs. For example, seven A* grades at GCSE are required by Birmingham University for those who wish to read Medicine.



Appendix 1 - 2009 A Level Results

Subject	Entries	NUMBERS AT EACH GRADE						X/Q	PERCENTAGE AT EACH GRADE						GRADE PERCENTAGES A-B A-E	AV UCAS POINTS	
		A	B	C	D	E	U		A	B	C	D	E	U			X/Q
Art & Design	24	16	6	2	0	0	0	66.7	25.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	91.7	100.0	111.7
Biology	56	22	19	10	5	0	0	39.3	33.9	17.9	8.9	0.0	0.0	73.2	100.0	100.7	
Business Studies	33	10	11	8	3	1	0	30.3	33.3	24.2	9.1	3.0	0.0	63.6	100.0	95.8	
Chemistry	45	17	15	12	0	1	0	37.8	33.3	26.7	0.0	2.2	0.0	71.1	100.0	100.9	
Classical Civilisation	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	113.3	
Critical Thinking	4	0	1	1	2	0	0	0.0	25.0	25.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	100.0	75.0	
D&T Food Technology	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	75.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	115.0	
D&T Product Design	12	3	6	1	1	1	0	25.0	50.0	8.3	8.3	8.3	0.0	75.0	100.0	95.0	
D&T Textiles	9	5	3	1	0	0	0	55.6	33.3	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.9	100.0	108.9	
Drama	9	1	7	0	1	0	0	11.1	77.8	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	88.9	100.0	97.8	
Economics	8	4	1	3	0	0	0	50.0	12.5	37.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	62.5	100.0	102.5	
English Literature	53	26	20	6	1	0	0	49.1	37.7	11.3	1.9	0.0	0.0	86.8	100.0	106.8	
French	14	6	4	2	1	1	0	42.9	28.6	14.3	7.1	7.1	0.0	71.4	100.0	98.6	
Geography	15	6	8	0	1	0	0	40.0	53.3	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	93.3	100.0	105.3	
German	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	
History	18	7	8	3	0	0	0	38.9	44.4	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	83.3	100.0	104.4	
Information Technology	5	4	0	0	1	0	0	80.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	100.0	108.0	
Latin	7	4	1	1	1	0	0	57.1	14.3	14.3	14.3	0.0	0.0	71.4	100.0	102.9	
Mathematics	54	30	13	5	4	1	0	55.6	24.1	9.3	7.4	1.9	1.9	79.6	98.1	103.3	
Mathematics Further	7	4	3	0	0	0	0	57.1	42.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	111.4	
Music	11	10	0	1	0	0	0	90.9	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.9	100.0	116.4	
Physics	13	7	2	1	3	0	0	53.8	15.4	7.7	23.1	0.0	0.0	69.2	100.0	100.0	
Politics	16	9	5	0	0	2	0	56.3	31.3	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	87.5	100.0	103.8	
Psychology	65	20	31	7	6	1	0	30.8	47.7	10.8	9.2	1.5	0.0	78.5	100.0	99.4	
Religious Studies	15	5	5	4	1	0	0	33.3	33.3	26.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	66.7	100.0	98.7	
Sociology	19	9	6	2	1	1	0	47.4	31.6	10.5	5.3	5.3	0.0	78.9	100.0	102.1	
Spanish	12	5	3	2	2	0	0	41.7	25.0	16.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	66.7	100.0	98.3	
Sport/PE Studies	8	6	1	1	0	0	0	75.0	12.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	87.5	100.0	112.5	
TOTALS	544	244	182	74	34	9	1	44.9	33.5	13.6	6.3	1.7	0.2	78.3	99.8	102.6	
AVERAGE UCAS POINTS SCORE																	
	Per Student							2005-2009 PERCENTAGES AT EACH GRADE									
2003	286.8							2005	47.6	29.2	14.8	6.6	1.8	0	0		
2004	298.2							2006	54.3	22.5	15.4	5	2.2	0.5	0		
2005	311.3							2007	44.7	33.1	15.0	5.8	1.3	0.2	0.0		
2006	311.2							2008	47.4	29.2	14.6	6.6	1.6	0.7	0.0		
2007	896.23 (310)							2009	44.9	33.5	13.6	6.3	1.7	0.2	0.0		
2008	incl AS 366.3							2005-2009 GRADE PERCENTAGES									
2009	incl AS 384.26							A-B	76.6	100							
calculated manually	900.8							A-E	76.8	76.8							
calculated manually	373.2								77.7	77.7							
									76.6	76.6							
									78.3	78.3							
1 Extended Project candidate - A*																	

Appendix 2 - 2009 Leavers' Destinations

Destination	Course	Deferred Entry 2010 / Reapplying	Gap Year / Employment
Employment - started her own business			E
Employment - surveyor for a Disability Company researching access to buildings			E
Gap Year - re-sitting Biology and Chemistry, working as a Learning Support Assistant in a school Applying to University for 2011		R	G
Gap Year - working on ranches in Australia			G / E
Part-time work - looking for full-time employment in marketing			E
Thames Valley University	AAT Accounting		
Heythrop College	Abrahamic Religions: Islam, Christianity and Judaism		
Kaplan Financial College	Accounting		
Gap Year, re-sitting Economics Reapplying to Warwick University	Accounting and Finance	R	G
Northumbria University	Advertising Management		
Kingston University	Aerospace Engineering, Astronautics and Space Technology (4 year)		
University of Birmingham after a Gap Year - working in London as a secretary and travelling to China	American Studies	D	G
Leeds University after a Gap Year - 'Project Trust' in Honduras teaching primary school children	Arabic and Spanish	D	G
Ulster University after a Gap Year working and travelling to China	Architecture	D	G
Bucks New University	Art Foundation		
Bucks New University	Art Foundation		
Bucks New University	Art Foundation		
Bucks New University	Art Foundation		
Bucks New University	Art Foundation		
Bucks New University	Art Foundation		
Chelsea College of Art and Design	Art Foundation		
Chelsea College of art and Design	Art Foundation		
Kingston University	Art Foundation		
Oxford Brookes University	Art Foundation		
Oxford Brookes University	Art Foundation		
Bucks New University	Art Foundation - Product Design		
London College of Fashion (UAL)	Beauty Therapy and Health Studies		
University of Glasgow	Biology, Chemistry and Maths		
King's College London	Biomedical Science		

Destination	Course	Deferred Entry 2010 / Reapplying	Gap Year / Employment
Reading University	Biomedical Science		
West of England University, Bristol	Biomedical Sciences		
University College, London	Biomedical Sciences (Anatomy)		
Aston University	Business and International Relations		
Brighton University	Business Management		
Bucks New University	Business Management		
Swansea University	Business Management & Economics		
Birmingham University	Business Management with a Year in Industry		
Birmingham University	Business Management with a Year in Industry		
Bournemouth University	Business Studies		
De Montfort University	Business Studies (4 year)		
Brighton University after a Gap Year - working at WHS, travel	Business Studies (4 year)	D	G
University of West of England, Bristol	Business Studies with Human Resource Management		
Bath University	Chemistry		
Oxford University, St Hugh's	Chemistry		
Liverpool University after a Gap Year - working and travel and volunteering in Sri Lanka and Kenya	Chemistry and Philosophy	D	G
Oxford Brookes University	Children's Nursing		
Southampton University	Children's Nursing		
Leeds University	Chinese and Management		
Exeter University	Classical Studies and French (4 year)		
Kings College London	Classics		
King's College London	Classics		
Gap Year - internship with Senate Office, Washington DC, USA Reapplying to university	Classics and Ancient History	R	G
Durham University	Combined Honours in Arts		
Southampton University	Computer Science		
London College of Communication	Creative Advertising Strategy		
Portsmouth University	Criminology and Criminal Justice		
University College Birmingham	Culinary Arts Management		
Birmingham University	Dental Hygiene and Therapy		
Queen Mary, University of London	Dentistry		

Appendix 2 - 2009 Leavers' Destinations

Destination	Course	Deferred Entry 2010 / Reapplying	Gap Year / Employment
Northampton University	Developmental and Educational Psychology		
Gap Year - re-sitting Reapplying to University	Dietetics	R	G
City University	Dispensing Optics		
Gap Year - working full time at Waitrose Applying to Guildhall School of Music & Drama	Drama	R	G
Gap Year - travelling and working Applying to University or Drama School later	Drama	R	G
Oxford School of Drama - 6 months Foundation Course Applying to University next year	Drama	R	
Bath University	Economics		
Queen Mary, UCL	Economics		
Gap Year - re-sitting Economics and Drama Reapplying to Cardiff University	Economics and Management	R	G
Birmingham	Economics with Spanish (4 year)		
Southampton University	English		
Kent University	English and American Literature and History		
York University	English and Related Literature		
Leeds University	English and Spanish		
Gap Year - work, travel, re-sitting English and History Reapplying to UCL	English and Theology	R	G
King' College London	English Language and Literature		
Oxford University, Brasenose College	English Language and Literature		
Gap Year - work experience for performing arts including doing gigs with her band Applying to University	English Literature	R	G
University of East Anglia	English Literature		
Birmingham University	English with Creative Writing		
Leeds University	Environmental Management		
Warwickshire College	Equine Studies		
Liverpool University	Evolutionary Anthropology		
Exeter University	Exercise and Sport Sciences		
Oxford Brookes	Extended Science (4 year)		
Nottingham Trent University	Fashion & Textile Management		
Nottingham Trent University	Fashion Design		

Destination	Course	Deferred Entry 2010 / Reapplying	Gap Year / Employment
Gap Year - University course in France Applying to Oxford	French and Philosophy	R	G
Leeds University	French and Politics		
Royal Holloway	French and Spanish		
Liverpool University	Genetics		
Royal Holloway, University of London	Geography		
Bath University after a Gap Year - 2 months on an intensive French Course at Besancon University Ski instructing in Austria	German and Politics	D	G
Gap Year - taking Hebrew A Level Reapplying to UCL	Hebrew and Jewish Studies	R	G
York University	Historical Archaeology		
Sheffield University	History		
Swansea University	History		
Liverpool University	History (Modern) and Politics		
Oxford Brookes University	History and International Relations		
DeMontfort University	Human Communication (Speech and Language Therapy)		
Leeds University	Human Physiology		
Westminster University	Interior Architecture		
Aston University	International Business and Spanish		
Birmingham University	International Relations		
Gap Year - retaking French Applying to Sheffield University	Korean Studies with Japanese	R	G
Brunel University	Law		
Exeter University	Law		
Gap Year - intending to work in computers or Politics Applying to University	Law	R	G
Oxford Brookes	Law		
Westminster University	Law		
Manchester University	Management (Marketing)		
Loughborough University	Management Sciences		
Loughborough University	Management Sciences (4 year)		
School of Pharmacy, University of London	Master of Pharmacy (4 year)		
Reading University	Mathematical Studies		
Exeter University	Mathematics		
Warwick University	Maths		
Cardiff University	Maths and Music		
Bath University	Maths and Physics		

Appendix 2 - 2009 Leavers' Destinations

Destination	Course	Deferred Entry 2010 / Reapplying	Gap Year / Employment
Southampton University	Maths with Economics		
Manchester University	Mechanical Engineering		
University of the West of England, Bristol	Media and Cultural Studies and Sociology		
Cardiff University	Medical Pharmacology		
Birmingham University after a Gap Year working in industry for six months, travel to Ghana	Medicine	D	G
Imperial College	Medicine		
Imperial College London	Medicine		
Leeds University	Medicine		
Manchester University	Medicine		
Nottingham University	Medicine	D	G
Peninsula (Exeter and Cornwall)	Medicine		
Queen Mary's, London	Medicine		
St George's University	Medicine		
Birmingham University	Medicine and Surgery		
Gap Year - working and voluntary conservation work abroad Warwick University	Microbiology and Virology	D	G
Cardiff University	Midwifery		
Gap Year - working in a shop, hoping to work in a school Applying to Keele University	Midwifery	R	G
Southampton University	Midwifery		
Cambridge University	Modern and Medieval Languages (French and Spanish)		
Oxford University	Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry		
Queen Mary's	Molecular Biology		
Nottingham University	Music		
Nottingham University	Music		
Oxford Tutorial College to do Music Technology A Level in a year, then applying to Leeds, Liverpool or Goldsmith	Music (Popular or Commercial Music and Composition)		G
Birmingham Conservatoire	Music Performance		
Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester	Music Performance		
Bath University	Natural Sciences		
Nottingham University	Neuroscience with Biochemistry		
Surrey University	Nutrition		
Kingston University	Pharmacy		

Destination	Course	Deferred Entry 2010 / Reapplying	Gap Year / Employment
Re-takes at a private college Applying to University	Pharmacy	R	
Manchester Metropolitan University	Philosophy/Psychology		
Aberystwyth University	Physical Geography		
Aberystwyth University	Physics		
King's College London	Physiology		
Dundee University	Physiology with Sports Biomedicine (4 year)		
Staffordshire University	Policing and Criminal Investigation		
Loughborough University	Politics		
London School Economics	Politics and Philosophy		
University of West of England, Bristol	Primary Education		
Brighton University	Primary Education (5-11) with QTS		
Winchester University	Primary Education/English (4QTS)		
Bath Spa University after a Gap Year - working in a children's nursery	Primary Education/English Literature	D	G
Reading University	Primary Educational Studies with Art (4 year)		
DeMontfort, Leicester	Product Design		
Leeds University after a Gap Year travelling	Product Design	D	G
Brunel University	Product Design (BSc)		
Birmingham University	Psychology		
Brunel University	Psychology		
Exeter University	Psychology		
York University after a Gap Year - 6 month discipleship training with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) then 6 month mission work	Psychology	D	G
Goldsmiths	Psychology		
Sussex University	Psychology		
Sussex University	Psychology		
York University	Psychology		
Reading University	Psychology - Childhood and Ageing		
Reading University	Real Estate with MSc/Diploma in Urban Planning and Development		
Gap Year - re-takes and reapplying to University	Spanish and Linguistics	R	G
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	Sports Coaching		
Birmingham University	Sports, Phys Ed and Community Studies		
Nottingham Trent University	Textiles Design		

Appendix 3 - Choosing A Level Subjects

With A View To Higher Education And Careers

This table provides only a general guideline and is not intended to be exclusive. These are samples of some of the many kinds of courses which WHS students have taken after leaving school. **Please note** that in the information which follows, minimum qualifications only are given. In practice, high grade results, extra qualifications, work experience and particular personal qualities are often sought, especially by the professions.

NB: Students should seek professional advice from the school if they have any queries about their choice of course and course combinations. The best books on the subject are Degree Course Offers - 2010 entry and Choosing your Degree Course and University, both by Brian Heap.

University Course or Career	A Level (A2) Requirement(s)	Recommended/Useful other A Levels	Additional notes
Accountancy	A Level in Maths Statistics is preferred at some universities.	A Levels in Maths Statistics and Economics are particularly suitable.	It is very common to train as an Accountant after a degree in a non-related subject. A good grade at GCSE Maths is essential.
Agriculture / Forestry / Horticulture	Two science subjects for degree courses - but these can include Maths and Geography.	Two of Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Maths Stats should be considered.	Entry is possible at all levels, from no qualifications to a degree, for which two science A Levels are the usual minimum requirements. Work experience is important.
Archaeology	Chemistry may be required for a BSc course.	Chemistry, Latin, Classical Civilisation, History	Work experience is important.
Architecture	Maths and / or Physics are required for certain courses. If Art A Level is not taken an Art portfolio may be requested.	An ideal combination of A Levels is Physics, Mathematics, preferably Further Maths, Art and one other subject.	Design ability is essential, as is a proven interest, often reflected in a portfolio of work including drawings, sketching and photographs of buildings and places of architectural interest.
Art	No specific subjects required.	Art or Product Design: Graphics or Textiles, in order to generate the portfolio of work which is necessary for admission onto a Foundation Course in Art.	Art & Design Foundation Courses are usually required prior to entry on to a practical degree in Art.
Art History	History is required for some courses.	Art, History	You might consider GCSE Italian as your enrichment course.
Biochemistry	Chemistry and one other science.	Biology, Physics, Maths Statistics	
Biology	Chemistry and Biology.	Biology, Physics, Maths Statistics	Three science / maths subjects are recommended.
Business Studies / Business Administration/Business Management	Maths is required or preferred by some universities.	Business Studies or Economics, Maths Stats. A Modern Foreign Language is required for some international courses.	Consider Young Enterprise as your Enrichment Subject. Ensure that you have at least a B grade at Maths GCSE.
Chemistry	Chemistry and another science.	Biology, Physics, Maths Stats	

University Course or Career	A Level (A2) Requirement(s)	Recommended/Useful other A Levels	Additional notes
Classics / Classical Civilisation	Latin may be required for some courses, but most do not stipulate this.	Latin and / or Classical Civilisation are strongly recommended. History / English Literature / Modern Languages also work well.	Classics courses vary widely, and some require no knowledge of Latin or Greek. Greek can be learned 'from scratch' at University. However, you may wish to take Classical Greek GCSE in Year 13.
Computer Science	A Level Maths is essential for many courses.	IT and Physics are useful but not essential.	
Dentistry	Three Science A Levels normally sought. Chemistry is vital and two from Physics, Biology and Mathematics highly desirable.	Physics, Biology, Maths	A good Maths GCSE is desirable if the subject is not taken at A Level. Some degree of manual dexterity is looked for - which can be demonstrated by playing a violin, needlework, cake decorating ... Work experience is important.
Dietetics	Chemistry is required by most institutions. Biology is required by some.	Food Technology	
Drama	English Literature or Theatre Studies may be required or preferred.	History, a Modern Foreign Language are all suitable.	A rich portfolio of experience on the stage and at the theatre should be acquired.
Economics/ International Economics	Maths Stats is often a course requirement. Economics or Business Studies may be stipulated as preferred subjects.	Economics, Maths, Further Maths, Business Studies, History, Modern Language	Consider Young Enterprise as your Enrichment Subject.
Engineering	The majority of University engineering courses require Physics and Mathematics at A Level.	Possibly dependent upon choice of engineering. Economics and Geography are useful for Civil Engineering. A Level Design and Technology is increasingly useful.	Courses cover a very wide range including electronic, mechanical, civil, chemical and production engineering as well as the engineering technologies of robotics, artificial intelligence, etc. Many courses are supported by sponsorship schemes and industrial training with many opportunities for employment existing in the UK and abroad.
English Literature / English Language	English Literature	Any combination of Arts / Science subjects.	Admission tutors will expect students to have read widely outside the syllabus.
Environmental Studies / Science	Biology and Chemistry usually preferred; Geography is a requirement for some courses.	Maths Stats, Chemistry, Biology, Geography	
Food Science	Sciences, including Chemistry.	Biology, Physics, Maths	
French	French	Second Modern Language, English, Latin, History	

University Course or Career	A Level (A2) Requirement(s)	Recommended/Useful other A Levels	Additional notes
Geography	Geography. One or more sciences may be required for BSc courses.	Maths, Chemistry, Biology, Economics	You might consider Geology AS as your Enrichment subject.
Geology	Two or three subjects from Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics usually required.	Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography	You might consider Geology AS as your Enrichment subject.
German	German	Second Modern Language, English, Latin, History	
History	History	Modern Language, Latin, English, Economics, Classical Civilisation, Music	
Journalism	No specific subjects required.	A literary subject at A Level an advantage but not essential. You should choose subjects that you are good at, and consider Critical Thinking as your enrichment option.	Three A Levels usually needed for entry to a NCTJ Course at 18; students will be competing with graduates for these places. Journalists come from very varied academic backgrounds. Scientists, for example, may work as editors or reporters for specialist journals.
Land Management	No specific subjects required.	Maths, Economics, Geography	
Law	Any three 'academic' A Levels with high grades are usually required. Law A Level is not required and considered a disadvantage by some university departments.	Critical Thinking is very useful indeed. History, Politics, English Literature, a Modern Language, Latin: all are useful. Otherwise, do what you are good at.	It is possible to do a Law Conversion Course after a degree in most subjects, although this requires an extra year of study. Some universities now require an additional test (LNAT) to be taken for entry to Law. The LNAT is very similar to Critical Thinking.
Management Studies	No specific subjects required.	Mathematics Statistics A Level is most useful, so too are Languages.	Consider Young Enterprise as your Enrichment Subject
Materials Science / Metallurgy	Maths, Physics and / or Chemistry A Levels required on most courses.	Biology, Geography	
Mathematics	Mathematics Further Mathematics	Physics	
Medicine	Chemistry and one of Biology / Maths / Physics. In practice, it is best to take two of these.	Each institution varies: read Brian Heap carefully. Some universities like a Modern Language or a Humanity as the fourth AS to show breadth. If only two sciences are studied at A2 Level, the third subject must be a rigorous 'academic' one.	Competition is fierce, and a prerequisite for studying medicine is excellent GCSEs - you should aim to achieve at least 6 A*s. Universities require an additional test (BMAT or UKCAT) to be taken for entry to the course. Critical Thinking is very useful indeed since it is very similar to the BMAT and UKCAT. Work experience is essential.

University Course or Career	A Level (A2) Requirement(s)	Recommended/Useful other A Levels	Additional notes
Midwifery	At least one science A Level although Chemistry and Biology are preferred for the degree course.	Any, though Sociology and Psychology would go well.	Work experience is essential but hard to do at your age. Consider Maplewood, Horizons, and a job in a care home for the elderly.
Modern Languages	A Modern Foreign Language to demonstrate linguistic ability, even if you do not intend to study this language at university .	A second Modern Foreign Language, English Literature, History, Latin.	A great range of languages is on offer at many Universities: for example, Arabic, Danish, Russian or Swedish can all be learned 'from scratch'. However, it is important to demonstrate linguistic skills. Consider Critical Thinking or GCSE Italian or Spanish as your Enrichment Subject
Music	Music plus specified instrumental grade.	Any - but musicians in the past have seemed to do History, Maths, Latin, Classics, English.	Active participation in ensembles in and out of school
Nursing (Degree)	At least one science A Level although Chemistry and Biology are preferred.	Sociology, Psychology	Work experience is essential but hard to do at your age. Consider Maplewood, Horizons, and a job in a care home for the elderly.
Occupational Therapy	A Level Sciences are increasingly sought.	Biology, Chemistry	
Optometry	Two or more sciences.	Maths may be considered an acceptable alternative to sciences - you must check.	Work experience will be important.
Oriental Studies	No specific subjects required.	Languages, ancient or modern are desirable. History is useful.	Languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Arabic and Turkish may be studied 'from scratch'.
Pharmacy	Chemistry and two of Physics, Biology and Maths.	Physics, Biology, Maths	Mathematics is essential at GCSE if it is not taken at A Level, for entry to the degree course. Work experience will be important.
Philosophy	No specific subjects required.	RS, English, Maths, Modern Language, Latin, History, Classics	
Physics	Physics, Maths	Further Mathematics	
Physiotherapy	A minimum of one science A Level - usually Biology.	One or more further Science A Levels, Physical Education	Competition is fierce often from mature students and graduates, since relatively few universities offer this course. Good grades are important.
Politics	No specific subjects required, though some courses specify a preference for History or English A Level.	Government and Politics, History, Economics, English, Modern Language, Maths	Join the Debating Club and the Desert Society.
Psychology	At least one Science (Chemistry, Biology) and / or Mathematics, especially if it is a BSc course.	Maths Statistics, Physics, Psychology	Psychology A Level is not essential and it is possible to study Psychology at University from scratch. University courses often have a strongly scientific core.

University Course or Career	A Level (A2) Requirement(s)	Recommended/Useful other A Levels	Additional notes
Sociology	No specific subjects required.	Sociology, Economics, Maths, Geography, Psychology, Politics, History	
Sports Science	One but preferably two science A Levels.	Useful A Levels might be Biology, Chemistry, Physical Education, Maths Stats	Very competitive and high A Level offers are made by several universities. You might consider CSLA as your enrichment.
Sports Management	No specific subjects required.	Useful A Levels might be Physical Education, Business Studies, Biology, Economics, Maths Stats, Sociology.	Entry at all levels. Management schemes seek academic A Levels. Sport & PE A Level is not essential. However, active involvement in the school sports is recommended. You might consider either Young Enterprise or CSLA as your enrichment.
Teaching - Primary or Secondary Education	A Levels in chosen major subject(s).	Any - but for Primary and Secondary Teaching students do need to demonstrate an academic competence in the subject in which they propose to specialise, and should remember that mainstream National Curriculum subjects are essential. That is, one cannot teach Sociology, for example, in a Primary School.	Mathematics, Science and English Language GCSEs at grade C or above are needed, plus a minimum of any two subjects at A Level. Teaching can either be entered via an undergraduate BEd course or a postgraduate PGCE. The latter is more common for secondary teaching. A portfolio of work experience with children is important. You should consider volunteer work in a primary school or Horizons.
Theatre Studies	No specific subjects required.	Theatre Studies, English Literature, Classical Civilisation, Art, Product Design: Graphics, Music, Maths, Physics.	A distinction could be drawn between Arts Administration, Acting and the Technical side such as Stage Management, Lighting and Sound Design. For the first two, any A Levels can be considered. Theatre Studies would be very useful. For the technical example given, Maths or Physics might be sought; students may wish to consider Music.
Theology	Religious Studies is required for some courses.	RS, Early Modern History, Latin, Classical Civilisation, a Modern Language, Sociology	You might consider Critical Thinking as your enrichment, and attend Islamic and Christian Union meetings to widen your experience.
Veterinary Science	Chemistry is essential. Requirements then vary from course to course but usually include Biology, and Maths or Physics.	Physics, Maths, Biology, Critical Thinking	Highly competitive - excellent GCSE and A Level grades are required, as is a solid portfolio of work experience. Universities require the BMAT/UKCAT test, for which Critical Thinking is good preparation.
Zoology	Biology and Chemistry	Any subject	





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