

Inspiring Futures Sixth Form Prospectus



Writhington



The world is yours for the taking

Our vibrant Sixth Form provides exceptional academic and applied opportunities along with an unrivalled commitment to social and physical wellbeing. Supported by excellent teaching, our broad curriculum covers a wide range of subjects so that we can meet the needs and aspirations of all our students.

We are an inclusive Sixth Form encouraging you to seize the best opportunities in and out of school and to become mature and respected young adults. The Sixth Form should be a period of enrichment when you supplement your academic studies with other activities that broaden your mind and circle of friends. We are able to offer small class sizes, which allows teachers to provide more individualised support ensuring students make good progress allowing them to achieve their potential. Central to our commitment is relentless focus on high quality student learning.

An integral part of our Sixth Form ethos is the understanding that all young people have different skills, abilities and aspirations; with this in mind, we offer a comprehensive package of support assisting students to achieve places, both at the top universities in the country and also those pursuing more vocational pathways and careers. All of our students benefit from our Careers support programme.



Higher and Further

We are incredibly proud of our students, many of whom have received outstanding results and obtained places at prestigious universities including Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, Imperial College, Sheffield, Exeter, Kings College London and Nottingham. They have gone on to study Maths, Medicine, Computing, Geography, Aerospace Engineering, Zoology, Nursing, Psychology and many more.

We are equally proud of those students who were successful in gaining Degree and Higher Level Apprenticeships and those who chose to go directly into employment. One size does not fit all and diversity is the key to a successful and thriving sixth form.



Leaders have worked with success to increase the proportion of students who attain higher education places, including at Russell Group universities.

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My experience at Writhlington School Sixth Form has been extremely positive and encouraging in many different ways. There are so many opportunities for the students which have helped me to determine what I would like to do in the future. The Performing Arts department offers so many new experiences such as starring in the school's main theatre production to discovering new performances and advancing our knowledge of different roles and expertise within the world of the theatre.

I have felt inspired when choosing my next pathway of education and I am looking forward to applying to Drama Schools and Universities that have Performing Arts courses. My Sixth Form teachers have supported me to write my personal statement, kept me informed about university open days and are always able to make time for you.

When looking at the Sixth Form as a whole it is a really friendly environment, the teachers are always available to guide us and students are very supportive of one another.

Lucie-Anne
Head Girl





Students are confident in their teachers and are well prepared for their forthcoming examinations.

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Programme of study

It is not just the great results that sets our Sixth Form apart from others, it is the little things that we do that makes the difference to our students both in school and beyond.

Our programme of study is designed to encourage inquisitive, open minded and independent young people who are confident to go out into the world and be successful. We pride ourselves on our tutoring provision which focuses on the A Level Mindset, DEAR time (reading for pleasure) and opportunities for Work Experience in Years 12 and 13.

If you are aiming to study at A Level it is usually expected that you will achieve at least a Grade 5 at GCSE. To study a BTEC course, you will need a Grade 4 or 5 in the subjects you are hoping to study.

Students normally choose three subjects. Four may be taken if the fourth is A Level Further Maths or Level 3 Core Maths. Detailed course specific requirements can be found in the Sixth Form Curriculum booklet.

A Level

These are two year courses, each A Level course contains two or three modules and all exams are taken at the end of Year 13. The final A Level grade can be used to enter Higher Education or a Degree Apprenticeship.

BTEC National

BTEC Level 3 qualifications are the "real world" equivalent of A Levels. These qualifications are the most popular vocational qualifications in the UK and are recognised and respected by universities as well as employers. You will take a BTEC Extended Certificate over two years, this will be equivalent to one A Level.

Extended Project Qualification

You can choose this course as part of your curriculum in Year 13. An EPQ is an amazing opportunity for Sixth Form students to extend their abilities beyond the A-level syllabus. The qualification is equivalent to half an A Level and is highly regarded by universities, as it allows you to demonstrate your passion for a subject you may want to study and will also enable you to develop your ability to research and work independently.

You will either produce a 5000 word research project or an artefact supported by a 1000 word research report. You will also give an assessed presentation and produce a portfolio of evidence showing how you developed your idea, managed resources and evaluated outcomes.

At Writhlington Sixth Form students are supported with the timetabled lessons, visits to Southampton University to develop research skills and use University library and online services.

You can choose any topic you are interested in except for areas closely covered in your A level subjects. Some examples include:

- Are Referendums the best way to make decisions when the public has elected a government of paid 'professionals' to do just that?
- Have the new laws and regulations in child protection and safeguarding made teaching certain sports such as swimming unrealistic if not impossible?
- Do the forces exerted on the human body when bouncing on a trampoline pose a danger to preschool age children who take part in trampoline gymnastics?





A*–B A Level results

100% Art
66% English Lit
70% EPQ
55% Maths
100% PE
71% Politics



Students are also supported to develop their own research projects, and this prepares them well for the demands of higher education.

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Expanding minds and horizons

In addition to these courses, you will also take part in our Enrichment and Careers programme which runs throughout the two years.

Our extensive programme covers a range of key skills, provide advice and workshops on life skills topics, university and apprenticeship talks from external speakers, tips on how to manage money as well as interview skills, careers information and the use of the Writhlington Sports Centre gym. Important topical issues are also discussed including British Values, LGBT+, human rights and politics to ensure that the young people that study with us have broad and accepting minds.

Your programme will be made up of a combination of the subjects you have chosen, together with private study periods. The tutorial programme is part of the Core Activities that all students participate in and this includes:

- Tutor time
- Assembly
- Academic tutorial
- Enrichment programme



My time at Writhlington Sixth Form has been amazing. It is a huge privilege to be a part of the prefect team, which is just one of the many opportunities provided by the school. Writhlington is a place where you are encouraged not only to be yourself, but to better yourself and feel welcomed and encouraged in doing so.

This is undoubtedly a stressful time for students, however the support we receive is unparalleled. The teachers are never too busy to give you a helping hand and they always care about their students. When writing a personal statement for my university application (a difficult task) I received a great deal of support, and this really helped me. This included expert guest speakers, workshops and even one-on-one sessions with teachers.

There are many opportunities here for students to flourish. I attend a weekly club called MedSoc, where aspiring medical students can speak to experts in their field and we can learn more about our interests. In addition to this, in February I travelled with the school to New York, which was an unforgettable experience. Another great opportunity that students can undertake is studying for an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). This is often highly respected by universities, and is worth around half an A Level grade. You can make your EPQ research about any topic, and this is a good chance for students to broaden their learning, while studying something that interests them. My project is about an extremely random topic – making a kendama, which is a traditional Japanese toy!

I am very lucky to study at such an inspiring, friendly and supportive school.

Jake
Deputy Head Boy





Your future is everything

Every student has a tutor to oversee their academic, pastoral and personal development and to help create a focused and personalised action plan.

When you need more targeted support, advice or guidance, our staff are on hand, enabling every student to succeed. We work hard to ensure that all students are recognised as individuals, and support is put in place to help all students to reach their goals with as much or as little support as they might require.

Sixth Form Bursary

The 16-19 Bursary fund helps young people facing financial hardship to stay on in full-time education after Year 11. Details of this scheme are available on the Writhlington website: www.writhlington.org.uk/sixth-form/16-19-bursary-fund

Our Careers Service offers support, advice and guidance to students and their parents/carers. It is a friendly, confidential and impartial service. Whether you know exactly what you are doing or have no idea, we can support you on a wide range of topics from Higher Education, Apprenticeships, the job market or taking a Gap Year.



Teaching in the sixth form is good.

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We offer the opportunity for students to take part in Super Curricular activities such as:

- Engineering Development Trust 8 month competition – Wessex Water
- Micro Tyco – Deloitte Entrepreneurial competition
- Engineering Design Trust University Summer Schools
- Get into Law day, University of Bristol
- On Track to Bath – University of Bath two year programme
- Access to Bristol University programme
- Nuffield Research Placements
- Arkwright Foundation Placements
- Sutton Trust Summer Schools
- Oxbridge Application Support & Guidance
- MNSP Apprenticeship Fair
- Smallpeice Trust placements

We offer help and support in CV writing, cover letters, research into jobs/industries. Working alongside the Widening Participation teams at the University of Bath and Bath Spa University, as well as the National Award winning Pre HE Careers Service from University of the West of England (UWE). We have extensive links with a number of national and international companies who support our students to reach their full potential.

Book an appointment via email with Mrs Pascoe, Head of Careers epascoe@writhlington.org.uk or you can drop into the Careers Office at break or lunchtime.



Leaders are enthusiastic and ambitious for all their students.

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If you are applying for university, we offer comprehensive support through the process – from how to find and attend open days, making choices, writing personal statements and completing the UCAS application.

A personal log-in to the award winning Unifrog software will help you choose the best five university courses and/or apprenticeships.

As a Year 12 student you will be able to attend the Higher Education Fair at the University of the West of England where you can speak to representatives from all over the country.

Apprenticeship Fair

Each year over 30 employers showcase the Apprenticeships that are on offer to you as you leave the Sixth Form at our annual Apprenticeship Fair. Organisations such as Airbus, Wessex Water, MOD, Dyson, Mulberry, Longleat and Thatchers – to name a few – attend the event.



Teachers use their strong subject knowledge and effective questioning to support students to build up the body of knowledge required to be successful learners at this level.

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I really love being part of Writhlington Sixth Form; there are so many wide ranging opportunities including MedSoc to sport clubs, to Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. I really like the freedom of independent study, it gives me time to consolidate my learning by doing the study work that is provided, and if I ever need support, my teachers are always around to give me a hand. In Year 12, I set up a mixed hockey team, we played in several matches and a tournament. This club integrated both Year 12 and Year 13 students, helping to create a positive community within the Sixth Form.

In February, I went on the Geography field trip to Iceland – we scaled glaciers, visited volcanoes and waterfalls, and went swimming in geothermally heated pools. It really was a once in a lifetime experience.

Our Head of Careers supported me to find work experience at the Royal United Hospital in Bath, I applied and got a place, allowing me to shadow doctors on the cardiac, respiratory and gastroenterology wards.

I think students really thrive in our Sixth Form because there is such a wide range of subjects on offer, and it means that every student can find their passion, as well as reach their full potential.

Molly
Deputy Head Girl





Work experience

The important thing about work experience is that it provides an opportunity for you to understand the world of work. While work experience may enhance your knowledge and help with your course, it can also help you find out more about a job or industry, leading to more informed decisions when you leave school or university.

Why should I do a work placement?

The outcomes of work experience include:

- clarifying your own career goals
- gaining an insight into the way organisations operate and the challenges they face
- increasing your skills and knowledge
- networking
- understanding a particular job or industry

The benefits of work experience can include:

- a supervisor who might be able to act as a referee for you in future job applications
- attendance at in-company training courses
- offer of a job or apprenticeship



Students enhance their programmes of study with high-quality work placements.

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Here's what two students had to say about their experiences:

"For work experience last summer, I completed a Nuffield Research Placement at Bath University whereby I spent four weeks on a project concerning weather, health and wellbeing. I produced a 20 page report on my findings and also a scientific poster.

I enjoyed the independence gained from the project as it was a realistic task that would have been set for a university student.

I would definitely recommend this work experience as it's something unique to put on your personal statement and the four weeks flew by!"

Megan

"I completed my work experience at the Ordnance Survey headquarters in Southampton where I learnt how to create Geographical Information System (GIS) maps and how to collect data that is relevant to a topic.

I really enjoyed my time there because I gained some valuable skills to prepare me for university such as cartography skills.

I cannot recommend going to the Ordnance Survey enough. This will benefit anyone looking for a career in analysis or geography."

Freddie





Getting involved

At Writhlington we pride ourselves being a small, community focused Sixth Form and we offer some amazing extra-curricular opportunities. Whether it is a foreign trip to New York, Iceland, Italy or skiing in Austria – outdoor education including Ten Tors, Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award – our Combined Cadet Force with Army and Navy sections. Numerous sporting opportunities and teams in our £6 million sports centre – Art shows, biannual Musical and Post 16 production, senior band, rock bands and many other creative arts opportunities.

We have a weekly Medical Society (MedSoc) where visitors with health, medical, veterinary or biomedical research backgrounds talk about what science means to them, as well as providing an opportunity for students to learn through more in depth practical work. We also have an internationally acclaimed orchid project, where students assist in orchid conservation in the lab and in the field. In the past students have visited countries such as Rwanda and Borneo to collaborate with local people in conservation work.

Throughout the year our amazing team of student elected prefects work to raise money for a range of local charities by organising events such as the annual talent show, regular cake sales, car washes, sponsored walks and many more. The creativity and passion the team have drives this onwards each year and we continue to aim to raise more year on year.



Writhlington Sixth Form is so much more than 'just another school'. It is a place where students can not only learn, but also grow as young adults, gaining skills that set them up for their future and life in general.

Since starting Sixth Form at the beginning of Year 12, I have become a person that I am so happy with and have pushed myself further than I could ever have imagined. Opportunities such as running for Head Girl, Gold DofE and performing in multiple music concerts have allowed me to gain a lot of confidence in myself, and by working on my EPQ, university applications and managing my study periods I have gained so much independence that I feel will help me a huge amount when it comes to transitioning into university or whatever I choose to do with my future.

Although all of this change can be quite daunting, you are never alone at Writhlington Sixth Form, as there will always be members of staff willing to help you; whether this is with a specific subject, extracurricular activities or more personal things. I know that everyone's experiences of Sixth Form will be different, but at Writhlington, each and every person has the opportunity and support to thrive and most importantly to succeed.

Chelsea
Head Girl





The A-Z of everything

Access to Bristol
Arkwright Scholarships
Berlin Trip
Careers Programme
Climbing
Combined Cadet Force
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Engineering Design Trust
Enrichment
Football
Iceland Trip
MedSoc
Micro Tyco
Mixed Hockey
Naples Trip
Netball
New York Trip
Nuffield Research Placements
On Track to Bath
Oxbridge Support
Peer & Subject Mentoring
Rome Trip
Skiing in Austria
Smallpeice Trust
Sutton Trust
Tennis
Ten Tors



Students are well prepared for their future choices.

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The application process

1

Stage One

We recommend that you read this prospectus and the Sixth Form curriculum booklet, then attend our Sixth Form Open Evening. Take the opportunity to talk to the staff about their subjects and find out what interests you and is appropriate for your aspirations.

2

Stage Two

Talk to as many people as possible about your subject choice ideas, you may want to speak to:

- your parents
- your Tutor
- your subject teacher
- Sixth Form students
- Head of Careers – Mrs Pascoe
- Senior Assistant Headteacher – Mrs Ward
- Head of Sixth Form – Miss Taggart

3

Stage Three

Select your courses. Fill in your application form online by the beginning of December. All students will be interviewed to ensure that your choices are suitable for your career aspirations.

Late applications are welcome but your course choices may be restricted.

We will send you an acknowledgement as soon as we have received your application form. You will be invited for an interview early in the Spring.

After the interview we will contact you as soon as possible to let you know the result and we hope to offer you a place in the Sixth Form.

4

Stage Four

When the GCSE exam results are issued we will send a letter with details of the start of term arrangements.

After the results of your GCSE examinations you will be able to discuss any concerns or changes you might wish to make with either Miss Taggart or Mrs Ward.

Visiting the Sixth Form

If you would like to visit the Sixth Form and meet staff and students, or if you have any questions relating to the information in this prospectus, please contact the Sixth Form on 01761 433581 ext 2616 sixthform@writhlington.org.uk



Students are overwhelmingly positive about their experience and their attitudes to learning are good.

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01761 433 581

**www.writhlington.org.uk
sixthform@writhlington.org.uk**

**Knobsbury Lane
Writhlington
Radstock
BA3 3NQ**

Writhlington School is part of
The Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership



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