

Sixth Form Open Evening



October 2019

Developing impressive individuals ready to flourish

Schedule for Transition

Sixth Form Open Evening To meet subject teachers and discuss course details	10 October 2019 7-9pm
Deadline for applications to be considered for a Scholarship	6 November (internal applicants) 15 November (external applicants)
Interviews To discuss subject choices, and carry out assessment for scholarship	25 & 27 November (internal applicants) November-April (external applicants)
Sixth Form offer letters to be sent to parents	1-20 December (internal applicants) Ongoing (external applicants)
Letters to successful scholarship applicants	Early April
Move Up day Pupils spend a day in the Sixth Form	18 June 2020
GCSE Results day	20 August 2020
First day of term	3 September 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is a Sixth Form?

Sixth Form is the final two years at school where pupils between the ages of 16 and 18 study post GCSE. Pupils are now required to remain in education until the age of 18 and it is expected that pupils in Year 11 will continue their education in the Sixth Form.

Q2. What is the entry criteria for the Sixth Form?

Pupils must have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4-9.

Some subjects have their own entry criteria, and details of this can be found in the Sixth Form subject booklet.

Q3. What are A Levels and BTECs?

A Levels and BTECs are qualifications that pupils work towards during their time in the Sixth Form. Most A Levels are now assessed by examination only (rather than coursework or practical assessments), with exams taking place at the end of Year 13. Some A levels still maintain a coursework element, such as Product Design and Art & Design.

BTECs are similar to A Levels but often have a coursework element as well as an examination.

Universities accept A Levels and BTECs, and many pupils are now doing a combination of both.

Q4. What are the Sixth Form charges for 2019-20?

Full Boarding - £5,250 per term

Non Boarding Package - £707 per term

The above charges are per pupil, per term (there are 3 terms in an academic year). The charges will be reviewed again for September 2020.

Q5. What do the charges cover?

Full Boarding - Boarding, use of the Sunley Sixth Form Centre, all meals, enrolment in the Global Leader Award, access to all Sixth Form activities (most activities are included in the charges, but there are a few exceptions which are listed in the Activities booklet).

Non Boarding Package – Entitlement to use the common facilities in the boarding house to which your child is attached, three meals each day in the Dining Hall, access to all Sixth Form activities (most activities are included in the charges, but there are a few exceptions which are listed in the Activities booklet), enrolment in the Global Leader Award, and use of the Sunley Sixth Form Centre, between the hours of 7.30am and 8.30pm Mondays to Fridays and between 7.30am and midday on Saturdays during term time.

Q6. What is the average class size?

The average class size in the Sixth Form is eleven.

Q7. How are the weeks structured in the Sixth Form?

Pupils usually have 19 hours of classroom based study per week. In addition, there are two hours of sport and/or volunteering, and two hours attending the Sixth Form Lecture Programme (which covers topics such as higher education, safe driving, and mental wellbeing).

Outside of lessons, pupils have study periods where they are required to work on their courses. In addition to this, it is expected that pupils participate in the Global Leader Award (GLA), a bespoke leadership and skills-based development programme designed to prepare pupils for the adult world. More information about the GLA can be found on the School website: <http://raa-school.co.uk/global-leader-award.asp>

Q8. What subjects can my child choose from?

The Sixth Form offers 26 subjects to choose from, as well as the Pre-U and EPQ.

Details about each subject, and the Pre-U and EPQ, including entry criteria, can be found in the subject booklet or online on the School website:

http://raa-school.co.uk/sixth_form_curriculum.asp

Q9. How should my child choose their subjects?

When your child comes to select their subject choices, they should give consideration to the following:

- Is the subject one that they will enjoy?
- Are they good at that subject?
- If it is a new subject, does your child think it matches their strengths?
- Will they meet the Sixth Form entry criteria for their chosen subjects?
- Does their subject choice support university and/or career plans?

Some degrees require pupils to study particular subjects at A Level. For example, to do an Economics degree at Bristol University a student must have an A Level in Mathematics.

If your child knows the field they want to go into and are planning to attend university, it is worth doing research into university courses before choosing A Level subjects to avoid disappointment during the UCAS application stage. Alternatively, it may be worth looking at facilitating subjects.

The UCAS website is a good place to start researching university courses and their required entry requirements: <https://www.ucas.com/>

Q10. What are facilitating subjects?

Facilitating subjects are those that are most commonly asked for by universities in their entry requirements and therefore open doors to a number of degrees. These subjects are:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Modern and Classical Languages
- Physics

It is worth noting that since May 2019 The Russell Group (which represents the 24 leading universities in UK) have reduced their emphasis on facilitating subjects. Although it is a useful list, pupils should do their own research into potential university courses and the A Levels or BTECs they require.

Q11. What is UCAS?

UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. If your child is looking to attend university in the UK, they will apply to do so via UCAS.

Your child will receive support with their UCAS application from the Sixth Form team, both with guidance in how to apply (and meeting the UCAS deadlines!) and how to write an eye-catching personal statement.

At the point of the UCAS application your child will need to have a good idea of the courses they want to study at degree level, and which universities they want to apply for.

UCAS will ask your child to pick a maximum of five courses, which they will then choose from once they receive offers from the universities they have listed. If your child is looking to apply for medicine, veterinary science/medicine, or dentistry, they can select only four courses on their UCAS application.

Q12. What are UCAS points?

UCAS points translate qualifications and grades into a numerical value. This value will vary dependent on the qualification and the grade achieved. Most universities now use grades rather than UCAS points to advertise the entry criteria for their courses.

However, about a third of universities still use UCAS points to explain their entry requirements, such as De Montfort University and Bournemouth University.

Your child can check how many UCAS points their predicted A Level or BTEC grades are worth on the UCAS website: <https://wwwucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator>

Q13. Is the application process different if my child wants to go to Oxford or Cambridge university?

Your child will still need to apply via UCAS. Please note that, in most circumstances, pupils will only be able to apply to either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge.

These universities have a collegiate system and pupils can select to apply for a particular college within the university or submit an 'open application' for any college.

Not surprisingly, these top universities have a heavy emphasis on academic results, and for many subjects there may be an additional admissions test. For successful applicants who pass the test, there is then an interview stage. The Sixth Form team will provide further support to Oxbridge applicants.

It is worth keeping in mind that while these are some of the best universities in the country, they may not be the best for your child.

Q14. My child doesn't want to go to university. Are there other options?

Yes! The Sixth Form at the RAA is all about finding the right path for each pupil, and this means that the Sixth Form team encourages and supports each pupil to seek the route that is best for them.

As part of the Sixth Form Lecture Programme, pupils are exposed to a number of different pathways, including different types of apprenticeship:

Degree Apprenticeships (Level 6+)

- Offered by universities and employers, such as Ernst & Young and Jaguar Land Rover.
- These apprenticeships combine working with studying part-time at university.
- Usually three to six years in duration, depending on degree level and work-to-study ratio.
- Highly competitive. These are much sought-after but there is still limited availability.
- Academically challenging.

Apprenticeships (Level 3 - Level 5)

- Perfect if your child wants to earn while they learn.
- Training costs are usually covered by the employer or the government.
- Great variety of apprenticeships available across a number of industries.
- There are different apprenticeship levels (from intermediate to higher) with varying entry requirements so your child can pick the right one for them.

Both apprenticeship options are excellent if your child has a clear pathway they want to follow, as they can lead to a permanent job within the organisation at the end of the apprenticeship.

According to government figures, 90% of apprentices in England stayed on in employment after completing their qualification; 71% with the same employer (UCAS, 2019).

Q15. Where do RAA Sixth Form pupils go after completing their A Levels?

Of the students whose destination is known, 87% secured a place at university, 3% entered an apprenticeship, 3% entered employment, and 7% are taking a gap year. Below is a list of the destinations of the 2019 leavers:

Destination	Courses
University of Bath	Social Work and Applied Social Studies
Bath Spa University x 2	Media Communications Psychology
Bournemouth University	Marketing
University of Brighton x 2	Design for Digital Media Business Management
University of Bristol	Virology and Immunology
Brunel University	Electronic and Electrical Engineering
University of Cambridge	Psychological and Behavioural Sciences
University of Cardiff x2	Mechanical Engineering Biochemistry
Coventry University	Information Technology for Business
University of Derby	Law with Criminology
University of Essex x 3	Economics Journalism and Criminology Philosophy and Sociology
University of Exeter	Computer Science
University of Huddersfield	Broadcast Journalism
University of Kent	Law
King's College London	Ancient History
University of Law	Law
Leeds Trinity University	Computer Science Sports Therapy and Rehabilitation

University of Leicester	Aerospace Engineering
Loughborough University x 2	Politics with International Relations Psychology with Criminology
University of Manchester	Law
University of Oxford	Archaeology and Anthropology
Queen Mary University of London	History
University of Plymouth	Education
University of Portsmouth x 6	Criminology with Psychology x2 Exercise and Fitness Management Sociology with Psychology Criminology with Criminal Justice Mechanical Engineering
Royal Holloway, University of London	Biology
University of Southampton	Mechatronic Engineering
University of Strathclyde	Chemical Engineering
University of Surrey x 3	Psychology Business Management (Marketing) x2
University of Swansea x 4	Chemical Engineering Civil Engineering Mechanical Engineering Applied Medical Sciences
University College London	Chemistry
University of West of England, Bristol	Business and Management
Apprenticeships	1 x Degree apprenticeship at Unilever 1 x Media apprenticeship at Mindshare
Gap Year	4
Employment	2
International Universities	3