



**WALLINGTON**  
COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**A Brief Guide to the Sixth Form**

**Sixth Form Open Evening**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
4.30 – 6.30 pm

The Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form will speak in the  
School Hall at 5.30 pm & 6.00 pm

Subject Leaders will be available in their Departments from  
4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

## The Sixth Form at Wallington County Grammar School



The Sixth Form at Wallington County Grammar School provides a range of opportunities for students to continue their education in a number of academic subjects. The Sixth Form allows students to develop into well-rounded men and women through a variety of extra-curricular activities and, under expert tuition and guidance, prepares them for higher education or employment.

Established in 1927, WCGS is a selective boys' foundation school. It was designated as a high achieving specialist school in 2009 and has Science College status and a second specialism in Applied Learning. The Sixth Form comprises approximately two hundred and eighty students, the majority of whom have studied at WCGS since leaving primary school at the age of eleven. However, every year we welcome a number of students from other schools who join us at the age of sixteen.

From September 1999, girls were admitted and there are approximately 50 girls currently on roll. The girls in the Sixth Form take a full and active part in the life of the whole school. A good number become Prefects and Senior Prefects every year, including the prestigious position of Vice-Captain of School.

The Sixth Form at WCGS has a considerable reputation earned through academic attainment, through sporting, dramatic and public speaking achievements and through its concern for the local community. Staff and students pursue excellence through a curriculum which keeps pace with the demands of contemporary society, as well as satisfying and developing the interests and talents of all, whilst respecting the traditions and values of the past.

It is from the Sixth Form that Prefects and House officials are chosen and it is to them that the rest of the School turn for assistance and leadership. Members of the Sixth Form recognise that they form part of a community and contribute to the corporate life of the School. Through this involvement, they develop in themselves and encourage in others the values that characterise their conduct at WCGS and condition their careers when they leave: integrity, courtesy and compassion.

Sixth Form students show self-discipline, endeavour and excellence in their approach to their studies. They explore their chosen subjects with commitment and enthusiasm, read widely and balance successfully the respective demands of their academic, extra-curricular and social lives.

Whatever their chosen areas of study and their future careers, those who enter the Sixth Form emerge as educated young men and women, capable of playing a happy and worthwhile part in society. They are aware not only of what their education may enable them to derive from it, but of their responsibility towards it.

## **Admission Criteria for entry to the Sixth Form in September 2011**

The School admits both young men and women based on their performance in GCSE examinations. The minimum entry requirements are:

- Average Point Score of 47.8 at GCSE using the best 8 GCSE results.
- Either at least a Grade A at GCSE in the subjects to be studied at AS Level, or the special entry requirements have been met for specific subjects;
- Subjects chosen at AS/A Level must form a coherent two year course.

A minimum of twenty boys or girls, depending upon the uptake of places by internal candidates, may be admitted to the Sixth Form from outside the School.

Students who meet the minimum entry requirement are selected according to the following criteria:

- a. Looked After Children;
- b. Those who have medical or social grounds for admission supported by appropriate professional evidence;
- c. Those progressing from Year 11 at WCGS;
- d. Those progressing from Year 11 at other schools in rank order of performance at GCSE.

**It is important for external applicants to note that places are offered in rank order and that meeting the minimum entry requirement does not automatically mean that a place will be offered.** The Admission Criteria include a minimum standard of entry but in practice, given the level of competition, most applicants achieve considerably higher.

Students of Sixth Form age may make their own application for a place.

Once provisional AS choices have been made, changes to proposed AS subjects may only be made in agreement with the Head of Sixth Form or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. **Students will not be permitted to change more than two of their provisional AS choices once GCSE results have been published.**

Continued enrolment in the Sixth Form at Wallington County Grammar School is conditional upon achieving a minimum of grade C at AS Level in the subjects studied at A2 Level, which together form a coherent programme of study.

### **Special entry requirements for specific subjects**

**Business Studies:** either an A or above in GCSE Business Studies, or if Business Studies has not been studied at GCSE, at least an A in Mathematics and a B in English Language or English Literature at GCSE.

**Classics:** an A or above in GCSE Classics or History or English Literature.

**Economics:** either a B or above in GCSE Economics, or if Economics has not been studied at GCSE, at least an A in Mathematics and a B in English Language or English Literature at GCSE.

**Further Mathematics:** an A\* in GCSE Mathematics.

**Government and Politics:** an A or above in GCSE History or Classics.

**History:** either an A or above in GCSE History or an A or above in GCSE English Literature.

**Music:** either Grade 5 or above in an instrument and Grade 5 or above in Music Theory, or the ability to show progression towards achieving these qualifications.

**Philosophy:** an A or above in GCSE Religious Studies, or History or Classics if Religious Studies has not been studied.

**Physical Education:** either an A or above in GCSE Physical Education and a B or above in GCSE Biology, or an A or above in GCSE Biology if GCSE Physical Education has not been studied.

**Sciences:** An A or above at GCSE in the relevant single science or A\* grades in Dual Award Science.

## External Application Arrangements for entry to the Sixth Form in September 2011



External applicants to the Sixth Form are advised to complete the Application Form and return it to the School by February half term. Confirmation of predicted grades must be submitted and this can take the form of 'mock' GCSE examination results or a document confirming predicted grades from a member of staff. No other information is required. External applicants expected to meet the grade for entry will be invited to a meeting in March/April when further information and advice will be provided regarding subject choices.

On publication of GCSE results in August, places will be offered in accordance with the Admissions Criteria.

Students of Sixth Form age may make their own application for a place.

Applicants must confirm results following publication of GCSE grades if they intend to proceed with their application, when they will receive either a firm offer or be placed on a waiting list.

Unsuccessful applicants have the right of appeal.

## AS & A2 Subjects



It is the School's intention to offer the following Advanced Level subjects:

Art and Design	English Literature	History
Biology	French	Mathematics
Business Studies	Further Mathematics	Music
Chemistry	General Studies	Philosophy
Classics	Geography	Physics
Critical Thinking	German	Religious Studies
DT: Product Design	Government and Politics	Physical Education
Economics		

It is expected that students will choose four subjects in the Lower Sixth, excluding General Studies and Critical Thinking. Advanced Supplementary (AS) Level examinations will be sat in January and at the end of the year and then three of these subjects will be studied in the Upper Sixth to Advanced (A2) Level.

In addition to their main courses of study, all Sixth Form students follow the Sixth Form Enrichment Programme, which consists of a series of academic and non-academic courses and talks. These courses relate to a variety of general subjects, University specific issues and personal and social issues relevant to Sixth Form students. All Lower Sixth students take examinations in AS General Studies and a good number of these students will continue to A2 General Studies in the Upper Sixth. AS and A2 Critical Thinking are taught as part of the Enrichment Programme and approximately 45 students took AS Critical Thinking in 2009-2010 and there was also one set of A2 Critical Thinking.

## Life in the Sixth Form



The Sixth Form Centre, the focal point of the students' social and academic life, incorporates a Common Room/Private Study Area, the Learning Resource Centre, offices and various specialist teaching rooms. Lessons take place in departmental areas that are furnished with all the resources required to study their subject at AS and A2 Level. All teaching rooms have a projector and linked computer and the majority of teaching rooms have Interactive Whiteboards. Computer facilities for the Sixth Form are available in the library and a number of departments have their own computer suites too. Additionally, departments make use within lessons of the laptops available to them. The School's Managed Learning Environment (MLE) was launched in September 2008 and the provision offered to Sixth Form students in their studies has further increased as a result.



In contrast with the rest of the School and as an acknowledgement of the period of transition that the Sixth Form represents, members of the Sixth Form are required to wear suits, rather than follow the established rules on uniform that exist for Years 7 to 11.

Every member of the School is assigned a House during their time at WCGS. The tutor groups in the Sixth Form are organised by Houses and are a mixture of Upper and Lower Sixth students. All members of the House are expected to contribute to its success and Sixth Form students are central to the smooth running of the Houses, under the guidance of the Housemaster. They organise aspects of House events and contribute to these at Senior level. The Sixth Form are especially vital to ensuring the Year 7 pupils settle into their House quickly and securely.

Students are expected to embrace the leadership opportunities available to them and fully support the School's expectations placed upon them. They serve as School Prefects, captain the Senior teams in sport, lead in the Dramatic, Musical and Debating areas of School life and act as role models for the younger pupils.

The student voice is important at WCGS and Sixth Form students are central to the healthy dialogue that exists between the School and the students. The Sixth Form Association is an elected group of students who represent the Sixth Form when working closely with the Sixth Form and School Leadership Teams. Members of the Association form the School and Sixth Form Councils and are responsible for organising Fundraising events, School Productions, Leavers events and so on throughout the course of the year.

## **Academic Life in the Sixth Form**



The type of work involved in the Sixth Form is markedly different from that in the main school. Work often involves lengthy preparation and extensive research over a considerable period of time. Subjects are explored in great depth and students must learn to organise their work carefully and spend their time profitably in independent study. Self discipline is crucial to achieve this. With a mature attitude to their studies, students will be able to tackle problems with fortitude, develop informed opinions of their own and face the future with confidence.

On entering the Sixth Form, students will be set Target Grades in their subjects. These grades are based on performance at GCSE and work set throughout the Lower Sixth year will be assessed against these targets. Following attainment at AS Level these Target Grades will be reviewed and may change depending upon performance. A system of Academic Tutoring is in place involving the student, Form Tutor and subject teachers, whilst the Assistant Heads of Sixth Form, Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Head: Pupil Progress also contribute to this process.

A regular academic review cycle exists throughout the Sixth Form and parents will be informed of their son or daughter's progress through formal reports and parents evenings. If the need arises, more regular communication occurs between parents and their son or daughter's subject teachers and pastoral staff. We want to ensure that every student in the Sixth Form attains at least the grades their prior ability suggests they are capable of and, via both subject and pastoral staff, progress is carefully monitored and appropriate support strategies implemented, in order to allow every student the opportunity to reach their academic potential.

### **Extra-Curricular Opportunities in the Sixth Form**

Participation in the extra-curricular activities of the School and the development of an active social life is considered to be an essential part of a student's overall development. Those who have talents in whatever field, including sport, music, art and drama, are expected to use them. Wednesday afternoons are allocated to sporting activities, volunteering opportunities and enrichment courses. Rugby, Hockey and Football are the main sports in the Autumn and Spring terms and Cricket and Athletics are offered in the Summer. A large number of students undertake volunteering within School and in link schools, through our Science College links, whilst others will undertake volunteering in the wider community through schemes they have arranged themselves. In addition, a good number of students follow enrichment courses at this time. These currently include Italian, Art, Ethical Dilemmas, Audio and Visual productions to name but a few. With the increasing number of girls within the Sixth Form, the School is actively seeking to increase the provision offered to them and the newly completed Sports Hall will supplement further the sporting opportunities available to all pupils in the Sixth Form.



The School runs Senior teams in Rugby, Hockey, Football and Cricket, as well as competing at Senior Level in Athletics, Cross Country, Chess and Debating. It enjoys a competitive fixture list in all the major sports and is proud of the achievements of its students. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won the Daily Mail Vase

U18 competition in 2000 and every year a number of students are selected for County representation or above in their chosen sports. Recent students have represented England at U18 level in Rugby, Great Britain at U21 level in Water Polo and Great Britain at full international level in Rifle Shooting.



The Senior teams have a history of touring nationally and internationally. Rugby teams have toured Portugal and South Africa in the past and they currently tour Canada every two years. Cricket teams have toured Lancashire, the West Country, Holland and Barbados, whilst the Hockey 1st XI has visited Barbados and Holland and competed at prestigious national tournaments.



Away from the intensity of sporting competition, Sixth Form students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs and societies. These include the increasingly popular Debating and Public Speaking societies, who compete locally and nationally at prestigious venues such as the Oxford Union. Opportunities for involvement in the musical pursuits of the School are many and varied, from the more traditional School choir, wind band, brass, strings and orchestra ensembles, to the increasingly popular annual Battle of the Bands competition.



Battle of the Bands

Those interested in drama have the opportunity to contribute to major School productions, as well as organising, directing and producing plays performed by their particular House in the Festival of House Plays. There have also been Sixth Form specific plays in the past. Initiative is highly valued in the Sixth Form, which has seen Sixth Form students producing their very own Sixth Form Fashion and Talent Show and producing the annual Battle of the Bands event.



Pygmalion

Sixth Form students are expected and actively encouraged to take an interest in contributing to the community. With Science College status comes many opportunities for those interested in the sciences to, for example, help youngsters in the local primary schools. Furthermore, many Sixth Form students work with the elderly and disadvantaged people, especially through participation in the Whitgift SNAP project during their summer holidays. Indeed, students intending to study degrees in the fields of Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science are expected to have undertaken appropriate work within the community. Finally, the Duke of Edinburgh Award is offered to students and an increasing number of Sixth Form students are actively involved.

## Leadership Opportunities in the Sixth Form



As will be clear, the Sixth Form at WCGS is not simply an environment of academic study. All Sixth Form students are expected to grasp the opportunities for leadership and initiative presented to them, further aiding their development into young men and women prepared for the challenges that Higher Education and the world of work will present to them.

Central to the smooth daily running of the School are the Prefects. Every year approximately 45 members of the Lower Sixth take up the position of School Prefect, from which the School Captain, Vice-Captain and Senior Prefects are selected. Under the guidance of the Head of Sixth Form, the Prefects are responsible for assisting the staff in the supervision of the younger pupils before school, at break and at lunch times, as well as assisting at School evening functions. All Sixth Form students are expected to act as leaders of the student body and such a role is immensely rewarding.

House Officials are chosen from the Sixth Form to assist the Housemaster in the running of the House, whilst the Captains and Vice-Captains of the major sports are drawn from the Sixth Form. Many Sixth Form students, both those competing at Senior level for the School and those simply interested in the major sports, assist the PE and Games department with the coaching of younger pupils. There are opportunities to undertake the Junior Sports Leadership Award and the Community Sports Leadership Award through the School.

The Sixth Form are not only invaluable in the support they provide to the younger pupils within the House system and on the Games field, but they also contribute to their pastoral and academic development. A number of Sixth Form students act as mentors to Year 7 and 8 forms and many departments utilise the academic expertise of the Sixth Form to mentor younger pupils, from Year 7 to assisting with GCSE examination preparations.

## Careers Guidance in the Sixth Form



In the Sixth Form there is time for careful self-assessment and research. There are many routes to a successful career and no single one is emphasised at the expense of the others. A flexible approach to career preparation is stressed. It is hoped that students will start to discover broad fields of interest and seek out information and advice.

It is our aim that all leavers will enter higher education, vocational courses, or employment which offers a combination of good prospects and structured training. Students win places at universities all over the country, including Oxford and Cambridge, and a number go on to colleges of art and design, the Royal College of Music and Guildhall School of Music. Every year almost all students go on to Higher Education and a number will take a gap year.



Careers advice and pastoral care are closely linked in the Sixth Form. The Careers Department and Sixth Form pastoral staff combine to ensure that every member of the Sixth Form receives information, advice and direction. This is supported by external agencies that visit the School and provide individual career advice and guidance as required. Throughout their time at the School, Sixth Form students are regularly interviewed to discuss their futures with the Sixth Form pastoral staff.

There exists a programme of workshops and conferences throughout the Sixth Form on Higher Education and employment opportunities. This includes the UCAS evening, Oxbridge evening and Science Conference, all held during the Lower Sixth, as well as numerous talks throughout both years of the Sixth Form. Students can also attend Open Days and Taster Courses at universities.

The School supports all of its Sixth Form students in their applications to universities and the world of work and it is proud of their achievements secured after leaving the School. Sixth Form students receive assistance and practice in applications and interviews, whilst the School also runs a specific programme of tutorials aimed at those students who are applying to Oxbridge and degrees in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

We have well-developed contacts with universities, art and other colleges and in the field of employment. Many major employers keep the School well informed about changes of practice in admissions, visit us and invite applications when recruiting.

The Careers Room is well stocked with material relating to careers and university and higher education colleges' prospectuses are available. The Learning Resource Centre also stocks a wide range of material relating to life beyond the Sixth Form, subscribing to a number of journals and magazines which offer career profiles and information.

Following the publication of Advanced Level examination results in August, the Sixth Form pastoral staff provide help in obtaining university places or employment for those students who revise their career plans. We also assist those who have taken a gap year and reapply to Higher Education having left WCGS.

### **In conclusion**



Whilst life in the Sixth Form at WCGS is challenging and involves hard work, it is equally a happy and fulfilling time. Academic study, leadership opportunities and extra-curricular involvement combine to provide a rewarding and gratifying experience. Old Walcountians see their years at WCGS as a time of great enjoyment but, most importantly, as the foundation that allowed them to build their successful futures.

## Sixth Form Charter

As a member of the Sixth Form at Wallington County Grammar School you are involved in a partnership between yourself and the School. In this partnership there will be expectations and responsibilities on both sides. This charter indicates what you may expect from the School and what the School, in return, expects from you.

The School will:

- offer you an environment where you can study and reach your academic potential, and develop socially;
- offer opportunities for you to develop leadership skills;
- offer guidance and advice in choosing your Advanced Level courses;
- offer the best teaching within its available resources, to prepare you for Advanced Level and other examinations;
- set Target Grades (TGs) based on your performance at GCSE and assess your progress towards them;
- set and mark work on a regular basis and indicate how you may improve;
- report to you and your parents your progress, and implement strategies aimed at improving your level of performance;
- offer a programme of study that prepares you for life as a Sixth Former and for life beyond the Sixth Form;
- help you in your application for a place in Higher Education or Employment;
- offer advice and a 'help service' after the publication of your Advanced Level results.

You are expected to:

- support fully the ethos of the School and show leadership to the rest of the School;
- adhere to the School rules and regulations applicable to members of the Sixth Form;
- commit the necessary time and effort to your Advanced Level studies to reach your potential;
- attend all time tabled classes and be punctual;
- submit work on time and of an appropriate standard;
- take a full part in the life of the School and use your talents to the full, both in class and in extra-curricular activities, including representing the School and House in sport, music drama and other activities;
- enjoy yourself, respond positively to the academic work and develop social skills which will equip you to meet successfully the challenges of life after leaving Wallington County Grammar School.

**Continued enrolment in the Sixth Form at Wallington County Grammar School is conditional upon adhering to the Sixth Form Charter and, for transition from the Lower Sixth to the Upper Sixth, achieving a minimum of grade C at AS Level in the subjects studied at A2 Level, which together form a coherent programme of study.**