



Welcome to Sixth Form Evening

16 September 2021



Welcome to Sixth Form Evening

The vision for the Sixth Form...

**...to raise the aspirations of our young adults by
nurturing a passion for learning, enriching the
student experience and securing outcomes which exceed
their expectations...**



Welcome to Sixth Form Evening

Who are the key staff involved?



Helen Banks
Head of Sixth
Form and Head
of Year 13



Tony Woods
Head of Year 12

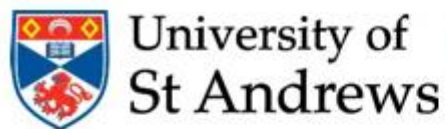


Jenny Clements
UCAS / EPQ
Coordinator



Jan Abel
Sixth Form
Administrator

- **Personal Tutor** (maximum of 18 students per Tutor Group)
- **A Level subject teachers** (usually two per subject)







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Headlines from 2021

- Progress and attainment in line with national and county average*
- **100%** of UCAS applicants secured either firm or insurance university places
- Highly sought after degree apprenticeships secured (IT and Quantity Surveying)



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What does the Sixth Form involve?

- 3 or 4 subjects in Year 12, 3 subjects in Year 13 to full A Level
- A voluntary Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) across 15 months
- Curriculum Enrichment on Wednesday afternoons
- Building an impressive portfolio to impress Admissions Tutors and Employers
- Developing academically, personally and socially



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What are the school's expectations of students?

- ✓ Professional environment
- ✓ Atmosphere conducive to study
- ✓ Setting their own expectations high
- ✓ Seeking to make a valuable contribution inside and outside the classroom
- ✓ **Raising aspirations**



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How is the 16-19 curriculum balanced with career aspirations?

Pathway →	UCAS	Open	Professional
Aspect of study ↓			
Rationale	To prepare students for Higher Education	To allow students to keep their options open for both HE and employment	To prepare students for employment or apprenticeships
Curriculum	A Levels or BTEC	A Levels or BTEC	A Levels or BTEC
Post-18 destination	University	Keeping options open	Apprenticeship or employment
Weds pm curriculum enrichment	Work experience recommended but not compulsory	Work experience Volunteering Online courses	Work experience Volunteering
Validation of achievements	SPS VI Record of Achievement		



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Pathway →	UCAS	Open	Professional
Aspect of study ↓			
UCAS	Compulsory	Optional	Not required
Employability	Employability Conference	Employability Conference	Employability Conference Employability Booster Days
Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Unifrog * UCAS HE Conference * HE Evening * UCAS workshops * Personal UCAS mentor * Mock UCAS interview * Early Applicant Group * Blue Acorns Group 	Most options from UCAS and Professional pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * work experience in Year 12 * Employability programme * Apprenticeships conference * Essex Skills Unit access * Mock job interview



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Why is Year 12 so important?

- Year 12 exam grades **always** have a significant bearing on A Level grades (most Year 12 exams are based on AS Level papers)
- You will need to revisit your Year 12 material at the end of Year 13 for full A Level
- Universities make conditional offers based on **predicted grades**. The basis of this prediction is largely based on Year 12 exam results.



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How do we raise the aspirations of my son/daughter?

- ✓ Small tutor groups with personalised approach to form tutoring – undergraduate-style 'Personal Tutors'
- ✓ Generous staff/student ratio in A Level classes
- ✓ Excellent track record on destinations and results
- ✓ Investment in personal development
- ✓ Bespoke, individualised provision through pathways programme



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What is the style of A Level work like?

- Hugely different from GCSE
- A Level classes are smaller
- You see more than one subject specialist teacher several times a week – good working relations are essential
- Teachers do **not** spoon-feed – they direct, advise, facilitate and encourage



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How much work should students expect?

- Unlike GCSE, there is no homework timetable
- Expect homework **every night**
- Around 5 hours per subject per week is recommended, i.e. 15 to 20 hours in total **in addition to timetabled lessons**
- **Usually set on SMHW. SPSNet allows access to department docs.**



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How do students adjust to this new style?

- Students **must** prepare for lessons in advance
- Get into the habit of making notes in class and writing them up at home
- Organise your notes and files appropriately
- Make use of a student planner or diary. Record all work set and note down deadlines
- Revision should be an **ongoing process**. You cannot leave everything until Easter.



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How do students balance so much in so little time?

- Organisation is essential
- Prioritise – progress at A Level is more important than extra-curricular pursuits
- Limit the number of hours' paid employment you do – recommended maximum 9 hours p/week
- Pace yourself – get lots of sleep!
- If you feel overwhelmed, ask for help!



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How do students excel in their subjects?

- Use private study time wisely – wasting an hour is the same as truanting a lesson!
- Investigate and research your subject beyond the A Level syllabus
- Act on teachers' feedback
- Challenge yourself with each piece of work – redoing work is now standard practice at Sweyne Park
- Ensure a sensible balance between subjects



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What facilities are available to students?

- Dedicated Sixth Form teaching rooms in Sixth Form block
- Maslow Library – computers and private study booths for Year 12 only
- Marie Curie IT suite – computers for Year 13 only
- The Forum – private study booths and collaborative workspace for both year groups
- The Atrium and Piazza – study café and social space
- School Library – huge investment in A Level books and electronic resources



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What opportunities are available in Year 12 for personal development?

- Curriculum Enrichment programme
- Subject Ambassador
- Charity and Events Committee
- Press Team
- Mentors
- Prefectship
- Young Carer Ambassadors
- Pride Group Ambassadors
- Classroom Assistants
- Key stage 3 club leaders
- Student Leadership Team
- Work Experience
- Community Volunteering
- Supra- curricular logs for online and course engagement
- EPQ
- Football Team



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What does the Extended Project Qualification involve?

- Opportunity to write or create an extended research project of entirely your choice
- EITHER 6,000 word essay OR investigative field study OR extended creative project
- Each student has a dedicated specialist supervisor
- Completed across 15 months
- Scaled down version of postgraduate research project – highly valued by universities



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What can I do at home to help my son/daughter?

- Please help to reinforce our expectations
- Try to ensure an effective study space around the house
- Limit 'technology time' – TV, laptops, mobile phones, social media
- Take an active interest in progress, e.g. letters, reports, *Show My Homework*, discussions
- Link A Level study to life in the workplace – how knowledge and transferrable skills will benefit
- Discuss current affairs
- Manage expectations - A* to E, not A* to C (or 9 to 4) !
- Support school expectations: learner agreement, uniform policy, acceptable ICT usage
- Zero tolerance to discrimination



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What happens when in the Sixth Form?

October	First progress report – attitude to learning grades
October	Personalised target setting with subject tutors
November	'Early applicant' group identified 12.1 Attitude to learning and Teacher Assessed grades
December	Learning Reviews online. Charity Week



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What happens when in the Sixth Form?

February	Aspirations Week (including allocation of Pathway Advisers)
March	12.2 report Attitude to Learning , Teacher Assessed Grade Year 12 Consultation Evening
April	Student Leadership Interviews
May	Higher Education evening



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What happens when in the Sixth Form?

June

UCAS process begins
UCAS Higher Education Conference
Internal exams and mock results

July

Oxbridge and Medics' Conference
Employability Conference
12.3 Attitude to Learning and Teacher Assessed Grade