

Walsall Academy



Sixth Form Admission and Information 2010

September 2009

Admission to the Sixth Form September 2010

Introduction

The Walsall Academy has developed a curriculum which offers considerable breadth for students through a range of Advanced GCE's, Applied GCE's and BTEC Diploma courses. It will be possible for students to study a combination of courses.

Students are also encouraged to study additional courses in ICT and the Extended Project and to take part in Physical Education courses.

The general aim of the Academy is to enable each student to become an effective independent learner to prepare them for lifelong learning. In pursuing this aim parents and carers must be prepared to commit themselves to active support of their children in attendance, in work and in conformity with the Academy rules throughout their stay. Parents/carers must also support the Academy in its endeavours to educate their child throughout the longer day and year which might involve attending extra sessions.

The Academy will admit a minimum of 150 students into the First Year Sixth. Students will normally be 16 years of age on entry to the Sixth Form.

Procedures for Admission

Internal Students

All students who are currently in Year 11 at the Academy will be given the opportunity to transfer into the Sixth Form.

The Head will invite students and parents/carers to an evening presentation, to share the curriculum model with students and parents/carers.

Following this presentation, students will be asked to consider the courses offered, and to decide on an initial preferred programme of study.

This preference will be based on current achievement data at GCSE or equivalent, predicted grade outcomes and the students intended career pathway.

External Students

To apply, parents/carers of prospective students will be asked to complete an application form for their eligible son/daughter.

The Head will invite those who apply to an evening presentation and applicants will be required to provide further information in support of their application. In addition applicants will be asked to consider the courses offered and to decide on an initial preferred programme of study. This preference will be based on current achievement data at GCSE or equivalent, predicted grade outcomes and the students' intended career pathway.

Places will be offered and agreement forms sent to successful applicants.

Unsuccessful applicants will be offered a place on a waiting list and have the right to appeal.

Sixth Form Information

Main Course of Study

CURRICULUM: Level Three

The Walsall Academy has developed a curriculum model which will offer considerable breadth for students through a range of Advanced GCE's, Applied GCE's and BTEC Diploma courses.

All students will follow a two year programme of study and can choose subjects from the following Advanced GCE, Applied GCE and BTEC subjects.

Advanced General Certificate of Education (AGCE)

This is a single A Level qualification which consists of two stages, AS which is completed in First Year Sixth and A2 which is completed in Second Year Sixth.

Art and Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Dance
English Language
English Literature
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
German
History
Mathematics
Music
Physics
Physical Education
Product Design
Theatre Studies

Applied General Certificate of Education (Applied GCE)

This is a qualification which can be a single or double A Level.

An applied GCE Single Award is equivalent to one A Level and an Applied GCE Double Award is equivalent to two A Levels.

Art and Design	Single
Business	Single
Business	Double
Health and Social Care	Double
Science	Single
Science	Double

BTEC Certificate

This is a vocational qualification which is equivalent to one A Level.

Sport

BTEC Diploma

This is a vocational qualification which is equivalent to two A Levels.

Hospitality and Catering

Performing Arts

Sport

Travel and Tourism

CURRICULUM: Level Two

The Academy is prepared to offer continued courses for students at Level Two in the Sixth Form. These will depend on individual student needs and will be agreed based on performance in Year 11.

Additional Courses

Information Communication Technology ICT

As a City Academy we recognise the need for our students to gain a high level of proficiency in ICT skills. Online programmes of study in ICT have been developed which allow students to gain qualifications in ICT. Students work independently within these courses in their Independent Learning time with tutorial support.

The Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a level 3 skills based qualification, worth half an AGCE. It is a learner centred qualification that is designed to further develop a student's independent learning, critical thinking and reasoning, project management and research skills. The Extended Project is assessed internally by the Centre Coordinator and Supervisor. Both the evidence of the process and final presentation are assessed, there is no written examination. Students can be entered for May or November submission. Students considering further study at University would benefit from successfully completing the Extended Project.

The programme of study will be dependent upon the project decided upon by each individual student under the direction, advice and authorisation of the Centre Coordinator. There will be up to 30 hours of taught content and up to 120 guided learning hours of an independent nature. Each student will receive curriculum specialist advice and will be allocated a Mentor to help with the organisational aspects of the course. Students are expected to identify and design their own Extended Project, adopt a strategic approach to its management, and work independently.

The opportunity to follow the extended project qualification will be offered to all students early in First Year Sixth.

Physical Education

In addition to the qualifications that students can pursue in the Sixth Form the PE department offers an optional half session of sport a week. A number of activities are on offer from game sports to fitness and aerobic type activities. This is popular with students and provides a release from academic studies whilst helping students maintain a level of fitness and encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

SIXTH FORM WORK

We expect students to demonstrate a high level of motivation and have the capacity for hard work. Sixth Form work is demanding and students will be encouraged to take increased responsibility for their own learning through Independent Learning.

All Sixth Form students have the opportunity to develop leadership skills as they become actively involved with our younger students and assist with the day to day organisation of the Academy.

DRESS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

We aim to create the environment of a large city office. Our practices mirror those found in the world of industry and commerce. Many students will be working alongside employers both in the Academy and out on work placements.

Smart office wear must be worn to conform to the highest standards found in the modern workplace. The rule will be simple: EXPECT TO BE INTERVIEWED FOR A JOB AT ANY TIME AND DRESS APPROPRIATELY. Jacket, collar and tie, a suit or skirt is acceptable. Financial support will be available for students who qualify.

A no-smoking policy operates throughout the Academy buildings and grounds. This applies to all personnel.

EXCELLENT WORKING CONDITIONS

The Academy has specially equipped areas for studying all the courses offered and there is easy access to the Library and Independent Learning Centres.

A self-service restaurant opens for breakfast and lunch to enable students to make the most of the working day.

The Academy operates a longer working day.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GO OUT TO WORK

All students will be given the opportunity to experience a work placement.

The Walsall Academy has developed close links with Industry to ensure that the Academy is kept fully informed of all the latest industrial developments. With employers actively involved in the full life of the Academy, students have the opportunity to work alongside industrialists on site and in the work place.

Courses are flexible, some students may even be able to combine work based training as part of their programme of study.

LEISURE AND SPORT

In addition to the Physical Education activities available within the timetable, students will be encouraged to participate in the Leisure and Sporting opportunities available during the Session Three Programme.

PERFORMANCE ON THE STAGE AND MUSIC

The Academy is committed to developing a good reputation in this area of work. Dance, Music and Drama work will culminate in Performing Arts nights and whole school productions. If you have an interest in this area of work you will be able to have an audition.

PERSONAL ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Each Sixth Form student has a Personal Tutor. The Personal Tutor is expected to develop a close working relationship with the student and offer support and guidance throughout the course. There will be frequent meetings during the week where progress will be discussed, targets agreed and timescales negotiated.

Students are encouraged to identify areas of concern and thus tackle problems positively. The Personal Tutor will have a full profile on each personal student and will always act as the first point of contact for parents.

SOCIAL CULTURAL SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

This is seen as an important aspect in the development of students in the Sixth Form. The Academy is committed to the social, cultural and spiritual education of all members of the Sixth Form. The Academy uses a variety of opportunities for delivery including: the broad based curriculum and charity and community liaison. Spiritual education is reinforced through Academy broadcasts and assemblies.

LIBRARY AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING CENTRES

For about 20% of the week (two half days) students have the opportunity of working independently on carefully planned work as part of their course in the Library and Independent Learning Centres. This method of learning will be part of our strategy to prepare our students to be able to cope successfully in Higher Education and adult life.

BURSARIES AND BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP

Bursaries and business sponsorships may be available for our students on a termly basis. These bursaries will be awarded to students who are in need of financial assistance due to circumstances outside their control. There may be the possibility that students will secure Business Sponsorship to help them financially through Higher Education and Training.

CAREERS GUIDANCE

The Director of Careers and Industry Links, through his team of experts, in collaboration with Connexions Careers Service will provide careers guidance to all students. Every student will receive an individual appointment and will be given expert advice in preparing a Curriculum Vitae (CV).

APPLICATIONS TO UNIVERSITY

Students aspiring to apply to University, including Oxbridge to complete a Degree course will be given expert guidance. The Academy provides opportunities for students to visit Universities and will prepare a detailed reference to support every applicant.

EMPLOYMENT

Our intention is to create a network of contacts within the Business Community to enable us to access the full range of employment opportunities for our students. The Academy encourages employers to contact us direct to ask us to recommend students for employment. We believe that it is the responsibility of every Sixth Form student to develop the Academy's reputation in the business community.

STUDENT'S COUNCIL

Students will have the opportunity to be elected onto the Student Council. The Council meets with the Head and other senior staff each half term to advise the Head of student's opinions on a wide range of issues.

GCSE RESULTS SERVICE

The Academy will offer a comprehensive advice service for students in August 2010. Once GCSE results are known, students may wish to reconsider their plans. For some, it can be an anxious time if help is unavailable.

**Walsall Academy
Sixth Form Admission September 2010**

Timescale: External Students

January 2010

Students and parents/carers invited to an information evening at the Academy.

Information will be provided on the Admissions Process and Curriculum.

March 2010

Confirmation of an offer of a place to students and a Provisional Programme of Study.

June/July 2010

Induction Programme for students.

Thursday 26 August 2010

GCSE Results
Sixth Form 2010 Registration

Walsall Academy Sixth Form Courses 2010

Name _____ **Provisional Preference Form** PT _____

This Sixth Form Curriculum gives all students the opportunity to follow a broader curriculum. Subject are organised in four boxes and students may choose 2, 3 or 4 subjects each from a different box (A – D). Students may mix and match Advanced GCEs, Applied GCEs and BTEC courses.

LEVEL THREE				LEVEL TWO	
A	B	C	D		
AGCE Biology	AGCE Chemistry	AGCE English Language	AGCE Art and Design	English	
AGCE Business	AGCE Dance	AGCE German	AGCE Business	Mathematics	
AGCE Product Design	AGCE English Literature	AGCE History	AGCE English Literature	ICT	
AGCE Mathematics	AGCE French	AGCE Music	AGCE Further Mathematics	Other Possible Courses: Business Health and Social Care Hospitality and Catering Leisure and Tourism Sport	
AGCE Theatre Studies	AGCE Geography	AGCE Physics	AGCE Geography		
	AGCE History		AGCE Mathematics		
	AGCE Physical Education				
Applied GCE Art and Design Single		Applied GCE Business Single			
Applied GCE Business Single		BTEC Sport Single			
Applied GCE Science Single					
Applied GCE Science Double (Block A & B)	Applied GCE Science Double (Block A & B)	Applied GCE Business Double (C & D)	Applied GCE Business Double (Block C & D)		
Applied GCE Travel and Tourism Double (Block A & B)	Applied GCE Travel and Tourism Double (Block A & B)	Applied GCE Health & Social Care Double (C & D)	Applied GCE Health & Social Care Double (Block C & D)		
BTEC Hospitality and Catering Double (Block A & B)	BTEC Hospitality and Catering Double (Block A & B)	BTEC Sport Double (Block C & D)	BTEC Sport Double (Block C & D)		
BTEC Performing Arts Double (Blocks A and B)	BTEC Performing Arts Double (Blocks A and B)				
ICT Qualifications					
NB. The Academy reserves the right to make minor modifications to the blocks to facilitate timetable issues.					

Please return to Miss Picken at Student Resources at the Walsall Academy