



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It is with great excitement that we invite you to apply to be a founding member of the brand new Swan Sixth Form opening in September 2021. As you will see from our prospectus, a huge amount of work has already gone into establishing a fantastic Sixth Form but being a founding member of the Sixth Form provides a unique opportunity to shape the future and direction of this institution. We are looking for students to join us who will shape the future, not just for themselves but for students for years to come.

The challenges of the last year have taught us many things about ourselves and the way we work, and have absolutely reinforced the value of good education to change lives and open doors. At The Swan, our Sixth Form will offer a rigorous and challenging academic education, with all the support required for students to achieve fantastic grades, progress to further study or a career, and to thrive in their life after school. Alongside this, all students will participate in our Swan Leadership Programme, which is designed to equip you with the skills you need to tackle whatever the future may hold.

Our world class new building will offer our first cohort of sixth formers the chance to learn in beautiful surroundings. Students

will benefit from state-of-the-art, specialist facilities in Science, Art and Music, a bespoke Sixth Form centre, fantastic sports facilities and bright, modern classrooms. We will have a higher than typical amount of contact time, giving you more learning time in lessons. Our small size will mean teaching classes are small, so you will get extra support and feedback from your teachers. It also means you will be personally known, and given individualised careers and progression support, to achieve more than you ever believed possible.

It is a challenge to convey all the exciting things about our Sixth Form in just a few pages, but we hope this gives you a flavour of the great things on offer. We look forward to meeting you to answer any of your questions at our open evening in January.

KAY WOOD
HEADTEACHER



We are looking for students to shape the future, not just for themselves but for students for years to come.

6 Reasons To Study With Us

1

You will have the opportunity to study in a **brand new state of the art building** with outstanding facilities. These include: an amazing new sports block, superb science labs, a huge Sixth Form study centre, bespoke music and art rooms, and much, much more.

2

Our small size means that **class sizes will be small, meaning students will get more support from their teachers. Every student will be heard and personally known.** Pastoral care, academic support and careers can be bespoke to individual needs. We will support you to achieve your long term goals, with personalised careers, UCAS and progression support.

3

We offer a **rigorous, varied, and knowledge-rich A-Level curriculum** which research shows is the best effective way of students achieving top grades. We have higher than typical contact time with teachers and our lessons are carefully sequenced and designed to ensure that you maximise your learning time!

4

All Year 12 students will complete our exciting **Swan Leadership Programme (SLP)**, which will equip you with the confidence and leadership skills vital for further study and careers. Strands include: academic, leadership, sporting, community and enrichment, to ensure that all sixth formers grow their cultural capital.

5

Our Swan teachers are absolutely **outstanding in their instruction and support** they offer students. Class sizes are likely to be small initially, meaning students will have the best chance to learn from their teachers.

6

Being the first year group at a new sixth form gives you **the chance to be part of setting the culture.** If you're the kind of person who wants an adventure, and to help us build, then this is an amazing opportunity.



HEAD OF SIXTH FORM'S MESSAGE

Progressing to A-Level study is an incredibly exciting time for all students, and the chance to join a brand new Sixth Form as a founding member is truly unique. We are looking for a group of trailblazing students to help us build a culture that is aspirational, supportive and balances hard work with fun.

The Swan School has already developed a reputation for being rigorously academic, and holding the highest standard for all of our students. Whilst the Sixth Form will have a unique feel compared to lower down the school, we are keen to hold on to the best elements of this. This means that relationships between students and staff will be warm and respectful, but also honest and challenging. It means we will expect our new Year 12s to be ambitious for their futures, dedicated to working hard, kind to everyone in our community, and show integrity in their leadership role within the school.

We know that strong A-Levels are crucial to every student's future, which is why our curriculum offer is rigorously academic and focuses on those subjects where our teachers have a proven track record of helping students gain the very best grades. Beyond the classroom, our Swan Leadership Program and extra curricular activities will give you the chance to flourish as an individual and explore your areas of interest further. Throughout your journey with us, our Sixth Form team of tutors and pastoral support will be there to support and challenge you to achieve your very best.

Our first cohort of Sixth Form students will have a special opportunity to be involved in the Sixth Form inception; this means the chance to have input into design of the Sixth Form area, policies, extra curricular activities and so much more. I am so excited to meet you all in person, and to welcome you to our Sixth Form in September 2021!

LAURA MEGAW
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



Throughout your journey with us, our Sixth Form team of tutors and pastoral support will be there to support and challenge you



OUR ACADEMIC OFFER

Students are invited to choose from our offer of academic A-Level subjects taught by experienced, talented and committed staff who are experts in their fields.

You will notice that our initial offer may be more streamlined than other providers – that is because we only focus on subjects where our teachers have a proven track record of delivering outstanding results. We will be collaborating with The Cherwell School to widen our offer outside our initial subject specialisms.

Each student will choose three A-Level subjects, with a maximum of one subject coming from each block. This means students have the option to study one subject at The Cherwell School. Students aren't able to study subjects at The Cherwell that are offered at The Swan.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E
Maths French Art Psychology	Chemistry English Lit	Music Biology Further Maths	Physics Business Studies History	Geography Economics Sociology

** (Cherwell)

**Please note that blocks and combinations may be subject to change based on student numbers and timetabling requirements.*

*** This list is not necessarily exhaustive, and we will consider other subjects at The Cherwell, timetable allowing. Any students studying one A-Level at Cherwell will need to meet their entry requirements for that subject, which can be found here: <https://www.cherwell.oxon.sch.uk/sixth-form>*

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Subjects will be taught over ten 55 minute lessons per fortnight, which offers more contact with teachers than many other Sixth Forms locally and nationally. Class sizes will be small, meaning that students will benefit from additional support and feedback from their teachers.

Subject curricula are carefully planned in advance, drawing on our own experience and in collaboration with other schools. Our approach to A-Level teaching includes extensive space for teachers to model and explain key concepts, students to practice independently, and be given clear feedback on how to improve. Students will be assessed throughout the year, with low stakes quizzing a key part of our culture, and three formal assessment points to give structure to learning.

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The entry requirement for our Sixth Form is 6 Grade 5s at GCSE, with at least a Grade 4 in GCSE English (literature or language) and Mathematics. More details are available on the school's website.

In addition to this each subject will have individual entry requirements, which are listed on the subject pages of this prospectus. You will need to reach the entry requirement for your three chosen subjects, as well as the overall entry requirements, to enrol in September.

THE LIBRARY

Our Librarian has twenty years' experience working as a researcher and teacher at universities in the UK and USA. A published academic author herself, she also has experience teaching A-Level and in helping sixth formers with their independent research projects and coursework at a range of local schools. At The Swan School Library you will receive expert individual guidance both in sourcing the materials you need for your studies, and in learning cutting edge research skills that will be invaluable for your projects, coursework, university applications and beyond.

DEVELOPING LEADERS

Great qualifications are important but we know that young people who go on to thrive in their lives after school need more than just a fantastic set of grades. That is why we have developed the Swan Leadership Programme (SLP).

As well as the core offering of three academic A-Levels, all Year 12 students at the Swan will complete the SLP in their first year, in order to build cultural capital and broaden students' horizons. Graduating from this programme will equip students with rich skills and experiences, and will be a fantastic launchpad for university progression. As well as compulsory elements (developed around what we know universities and employers are looking for) students are also able to select at least three of the remaining optional elements to complete the programme. This gives plenty of scope to develop new and existing passions and talents.

We will be working with a prestigious University of Oxford college in order to deliver and develop this programme. The below table is just a guide as to what it might look like, and we are exploring further ideas and options. We are looking forward to being able to reveal more on this early in 2021!

Graduating from this programme will equip students with rich skills and experiences for university progression

Academic

100% attendance and all assigned work completed

Optional:

At least two additional lectures or events attended related to your subject

Leadership

One weekly session with KS3 (responsibility, mentoring or club)

Arrange and complete 2 weeks of work experience during Summer term Year 12

Physical

Participate in one weekly physical activity (in or out of school)

Optional:

Organising and running Sports Day for Years 7-11

Community

15 hours of voluntary work in the community across the Year

Optional:

A further 15 hours of voluntary work.

Extra Curricular

To visit at least 3 universities/ apprenticeship providers and all internal progression sessions

Optional:

Participation in one weekly (non sports) club in school

DEVELOPING LEADERS





Being in our trailblazing first cohort will mean you have extensive support around your wellbeing

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

At The Swan we understand that as much as three core A-Levels are the most important thing, it is crucial to have time to explore interests, broaden your skillset and have fun.

We build time for 'electives' into the school day, and this will continue at Sixth Form. These happen twice a week, and may involve you supporting at KS3, being involved in a club, volunteering in the community, competing/training in sport, or pursuing an academic interest such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This time will be protected and staffed, in order for you to achieve all of the strands of the SLP.

Swan staff have experience delivering the Duke of Edinburgh Award and leading World Challenge expeditions. We are excited about the opportunity to establish these highly regarded programmes with our first cohort of Sixth Formers, depending on the interests of our students.

We are keen for our first cohort to help us develop and widen this offer. We want to offer things you value, so there will be lots of student input from those who accept a place before September. In short, we want your help in shaping what extra-curricular opportunities we offer.

PASTORAL CARE

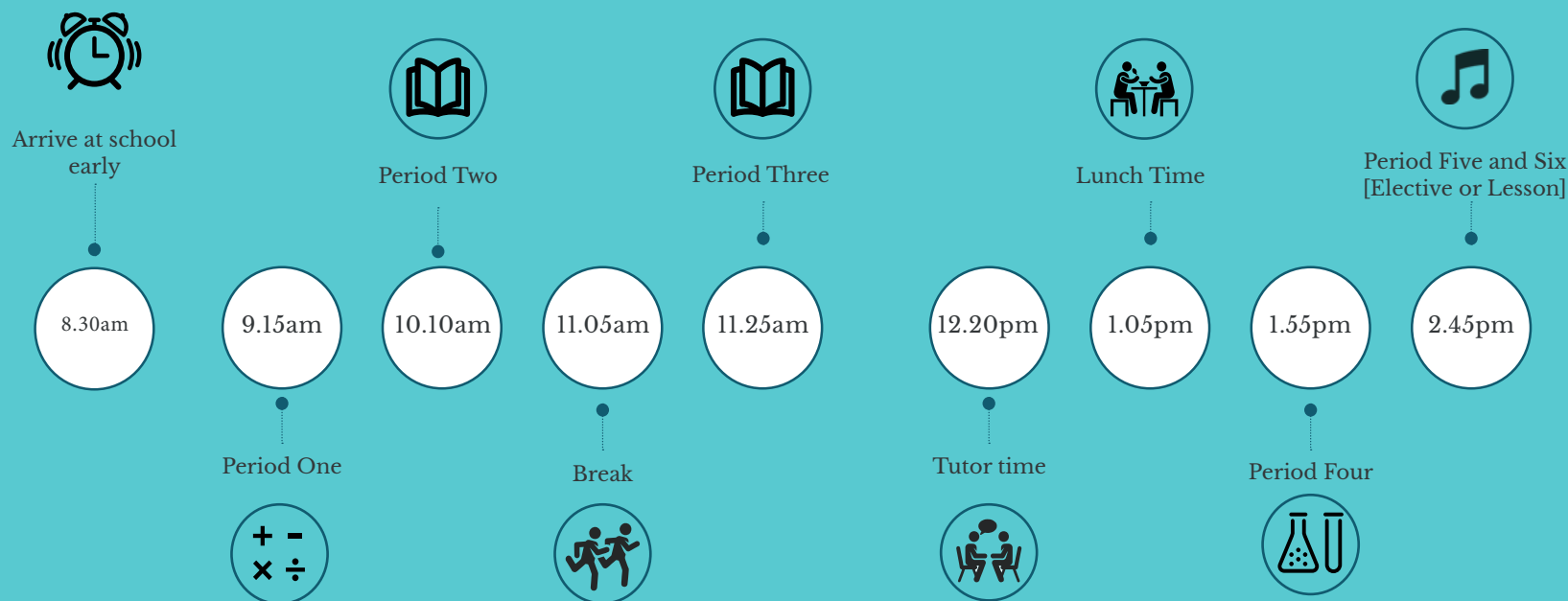
One of the key advantages of a small Sixth Form, is the chance to be personally known and valued by all staff. In addition, we have a dedicated Sixth Form team who will ensure that you get the very best out of your time with us.

Our team consists of the following:

- Head of Sixth Form: Responsible for strategic leadership of systems, attendance, pastoral care, curriculum, teaching, academic results, Swan Leadership Program, and UCAS process.
- Pastoral Support Champion: Responsible for student welfare, following up on academic concerns and Sixth form admin.
- Form Tutors: Responsible for being the first point of contact, supporting students through UCAS, academic mentoring and advice, PSHE.

You would also belong to a house, and benefit from being part of that community; including the opportunity for leadership of younger students. Being in our first cohort will mean you have extensive support around your wellbeing, academic progress and progression.

A TYPICAL DAY



LIFE OF A SWAN SIXTH FORMER

8:30am

Arrive at school early to finish off the final bits and a read through of a History essay due for today. Drop into the canteen for a free bowl of porridge. Catch up with friends in the Sixth Form common room.

9:15

Period 1: Maths lesson. Working on finding the turning points of a cubic graph using different methods. Fun, but hard!

10:10

Period 2: study period: register in the Sixth Form common room. Get started on that Maths homework set during Period 1! Students are expected to remain on site to study in free periods, other than on the planned study afternoons.

11:05

Break: grab a snack from the Sixth Form cafe and chat to your friends about the event you are planning for next month.

11:25

Period 3: History lesson. Handing in your essay and looking at a model answer together.

12:20

Tutor Time: working on your UCAS application with your form tutor, who has checked in through and has some feedback for you.

13:05

Lunch Time: take your time to enjoy a sandwich and drink from the sixth form cafe, then head outside to play some table tennis and unwind with your friends.

13:55

Period 4: Chemistry lesson. Undertaking one of your assessed practicals in the lab.

14:45

Period 5 and 6: on some days you may have another lesson, an elective (club) or be doing some work with lower school students at this time. Today, however, is a study afternoon and you head home to relax and finish that Maths homework!

ADMISSIONS

How to apply: We strongly encourage you to attend our online Open Evening on 11th January, by signing up on our website.

Ready to blaze a trail? Our applications will open on 4th January 2021.

To apply:

- Visit our website: www.theswanschool.org.uk
- Click on the Sixth Form tab, and then select Apply Now.
- Please complete all sections of the application form, and click Submit.
- Applications close on 31st March 2021.

We will then contact you to arrange an interview, which may be virtual for this year only, and collect references from your secondary school.

BURSARY

The Swan Sixth Form is committed to supporting students in any way we can, and this absolutely includes those who qualify for extra financial assistance. The 16-19 Bursary is available to qualifying students in order for students to access resources that they may not otherwise be able to. We will work with you to decide on the best support for you, but typically this may include:

- Textbooks, stationery and academic resources
- Travel costs: bus passes and bike equipment
- Trips, visits and university open days
- School meals and drinks

An entitlement bursary of £1,200 is available for students who are in care, are care leavers, receive Income Support or for disabled young people who receive Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.

A discretionary bursary is available to qualifying students, whose parental combined income is lower than £16,190 per annum. To qualify, parents/carers must apply with proof of entitlement.

To qualify for bursary funding, proof of entitlement must be shown, as well as successful enrolment.

The 16-19 Bursary is available to qualifying students in order for students to access resources that they may not otherwise be able to.



HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

A fantastic Sixth Form education is the stepping stone to the next stage in your life; admission to a top university and/or a successful career. At The Swan we will invest time in you to help you discover what you are passionate about, and then make this a reality. This is done through our carefully planned curriculum, opportunities as part of the Swan Leadership Programme, extra curricular activities, and pastoral care. All Swan Sixth Form students will also benefit from our higher education and careers provision, delivered as part of our extended daily 40 minute tutor time.

Our higher education and careers provision will give students the opportunity to have whole-class, small group and 1-2-1 discussions with their form tutor about their life after school, giving them the right information, options and ideas for their next steps. Once students have decided what they want to do, they will get individualised support to do this from their form tutor and the Sixth Form team.

Our link with a prestigious University of Oxford college will allow us to offer exciting events, taster days, lectures and access to mentoring/advice, which will further support our students to be admitted to the world's top universities.



theswanschool.org.uk

If you have any further queries please contact us at:
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