



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It is with great excitement that we invite you to apply to The Swan Sixth Form. Since we opened in September 2021, we have established the foundations of an outstanding Sixth Form - from a challenging curriculum and excellent teaching, to personalised pastoral support and a wide-ranging enrichment activities. We now are looking for students to join us who want to benefit from these opportunities and are excited to be part of continuing to shape our offer, not just for themselves but for students of years to come.

At The Swan, our Sixth Form offers 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 participate in our Swan Leadership Programme (SLP), which is designed to equip you with the skills you need to tackle whatever the future may hold.

Our world class new building offers our first cohort of Sixth Formers the chance to learn in beautiful surroundings. Students benefit from state-of-the-art, specialist facilities in Science, Art and Music, a bespoke Sixth Form study 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 means that 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. Please do also get in touch if you would like to arrange an informal visit to see what our school is like and visit Sixth Form lessons on a 'normal' day.

KAY WOOD
HEADTEACHER



Our world class new building offers our first cohort of Sixth Formers the chance to learn in beautiful surroundings

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, Sixth Form Research Library, bespoke music and art rooms, and much more.

2

Our small size means that class sizes will be small, meaning students will get more support from their teachers and be 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 of 10 periods per cycle within each subject, 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 including physical, leadership, academic, community and enrichment. Our Electives programme provides time and space to develop in these areas as well as to pursue passions and interests.

5

Our Swan teachers are absolutely outstanding in their instruction and support they offer students. Class sizes are small, enabling students the best chance to learn from their teachers and to form a close-knit community.

6

Our Student Voice opportunities give everyone the chance to be part of setting the culture and ethos of our school. We want you to be part of developing and enriching our Sixth Form to shape and grow our culture.



HEAD OF SIXTH FORM'S MESSAGE

Progressing to A-Level study is an incredibly exciting time and I am delighted that you are considering joining us on this journey. I hope over the course of your two years with us you feel known and valued as an individual, both academically within our rigorous A-Level offer, and personally through our dedicated tutorial, electives and Swan Leadership Programme (SLP) activities.

This is an exciting year to join our Sixth Form, with a streamlined A-Level offer focusing on the subjects most favoured by top universities. 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.

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.

You will be provided with not only extensive academic support in ten periods of contact time in each subject, but also a distinctive enrichment programme. Beyond the classroom, our Swan Leadership Programme (SLP) and elective activities will give you the chance to flourish as an individual and explore your areas of interest further. The Sixth Form team and your dedicated tutors will also provide individualised support and guidance for routes into university and professional careers based around your passions and interests, including advice on securing voluntary and work experience placements and job and university applications, to help you to reach your individual aspirations and achieve whatever you hope for in the future.

LAURA MEGAW
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

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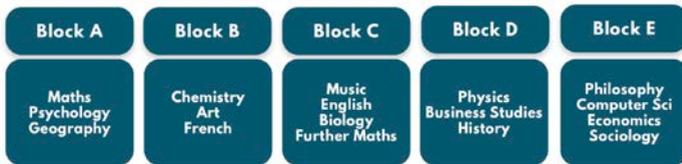


ACADEMIC LIFE

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.

Each student will choose three or four A-Level subjects, with a maximum of one subject coming from each block.



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

CURRICULUM

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.

In addition to this each subject will have individual entry requirements, which are listed on the subject pages of our website. 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, Extended Project Qualifications, 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.

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

Physical

Sport support/leadership in/outside school
Sports day/event arrangement
Sport participation in/outside school
Duke of Edinburgh participation

Leadership

Coaching/Peer Listening Scheme
Event/assembly arrangement
Year 7 mentoring programme participation
Leadership role participation

Academic

Subject specific support for KS3/KS4 pupils
Extended Essay on a topic of interest
Speaker series/lecture attendance
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Community

Volunteering programme participation
School magazine contributions
Guided reading programme participation
In-school community support e.g. library assistance, teaching assistance, line ups

Extra Curricular

Electives support in non-sporting activities
Work/apprenticeship experience
University visits/related activities
Establishing/running a new Elective or Society

DEVELOPING LEADERS





ELECTIVES

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 skill set 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 society or club, volunteering in the community, competing/training in sport, or pursuing an academic interest such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

One of the key advantages of a small Sixth Form is the chance to be known and valued by all staff

PASTORAL CARE

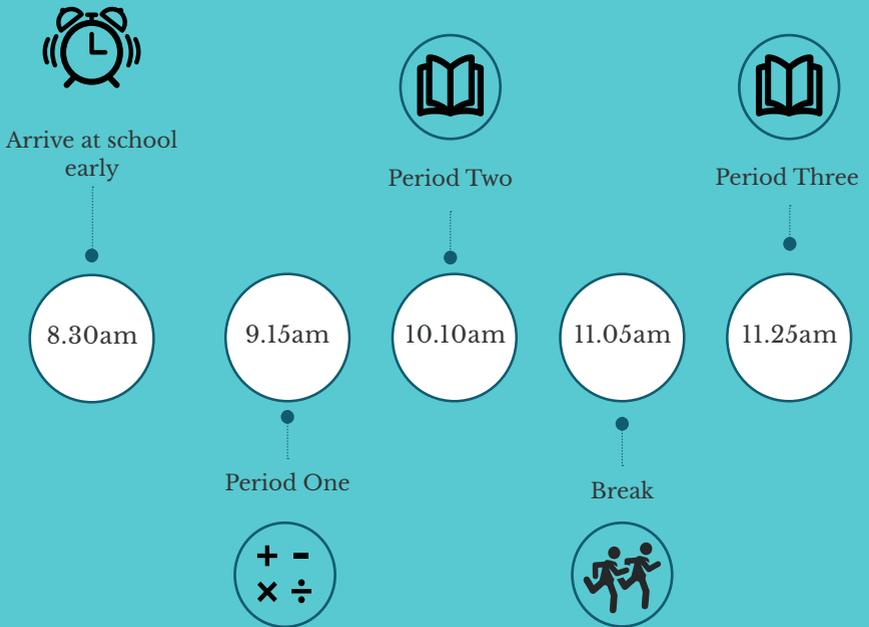
One of the key advantages of a small Sixth Form is the chance to be personally known and valued by all staff. In addition, we have a dedicated Sixth Form team who will ensure that you get the very best out of your time with us.

Our team consists of the following:

- Head of Sixth Form: Responsible for strategic leadership of systems, pastoral care, curriculum, teaching, academic results, the SLP, and UCAS process.
- Pastoral Support Champion: Responsible for student welfare, attendance and punctuality, following up on academic concerns and Sixth Form administration.
- Form Tutors: Responsible for being the first point of contact, supporting students' applications to university and careers, and the personal development curriculum.

You would also belong to a house, and benefit from being part of that community; including the opportunity for leadership of younger students as a House Leader.

A TYPICAL DAY



LIFE OF A SWAN SIXTH FORMER

8:30-9.15

Arrive at school early to prepare for the day and catch up with friends. Drop into the canteen for a free bowl of porridge.

9.15- 10.10

Period 1: Maths lesson.

10.10- 11.05

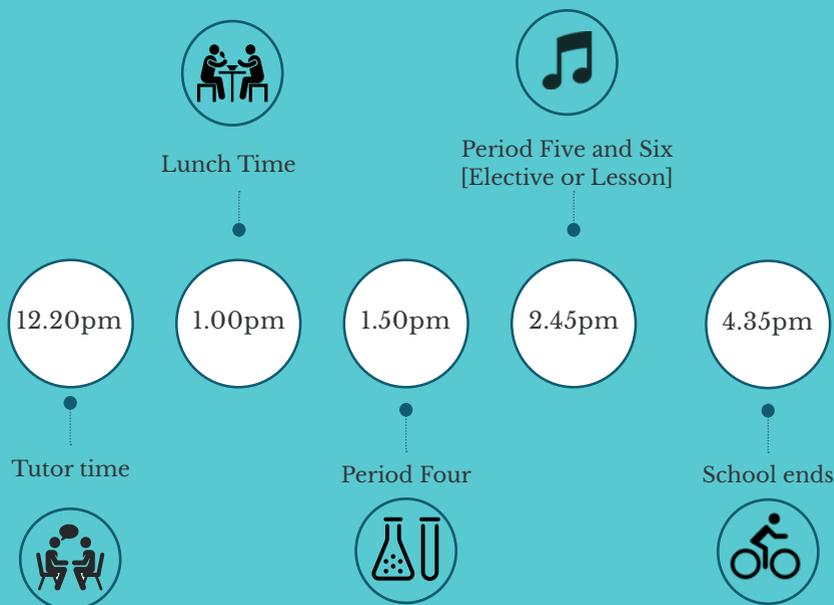
Period 2: Study period in the Sixth Form Research Library. Utilising our tailored resources and quiet study area to get ahead!

11.05-11.25

Break: Catch up with friends in the Sixth Form Centre over coffee.

11.25- 12.20

Period 3: History lesson.



12.20- 13.00

Tutor Time: Working with your tutor on a daily activity, from Unifrog careers/university research, to current affairs, to personal development. Guided reading time to encourage our love of literacy!

13.00- 13.50

Lunch Time: Enjoy your lunch in the Sixth Form Cafe.

13.50-14.45

Period 4: Chemistry lesson.

14:45- 15.40

Period 5: Take part in the electives programme; whether sporting activities, home economics, coaching or learning a new language.

15.40-16.35

Period 6: Make full use of our extended day by utilising the final period in a talk with the local University to support your Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) research.

ADMISSIONS

How to apply: We strongly encourage you to attend our Open Evening in January by signing up on our website.

Our applications will open in January.

To apply:

- Visit our website: <https://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.

We will then contact you to arrange a guidance meeting with our Head of Sixth Form to support you in your onward process.

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.



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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 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 guidance includes access to the Unifrog tool, offering advice, guidance and research in all aspects of university, apprenticeships and career options as part of our Tutorial Programme. 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 to make their applications.

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:
office@theswanschool.org.uk