



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

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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 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 Program (SLP), which is designed to equip you with the skills you need to tackle whatever the future may hold.

Our world class buildings offer our 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 and Research Library, fantastic sports facilities and bright, modern classrooms. We have

a higher than typical amount of contact time, giving you more learning time in lessons. Our size means that teaching classes are individualised, 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 or via our Sixth Form Tours, both of which can be booked on our website.

**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

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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 Sixth Form Study Centre and dedicated Sixth Form Research Library.

2

Our classes will be **individualised, meaning outstanding instruction and support in every subject**, enabling students the best chance to learn from their teachers and to form a close-knit community.

3

We offer a **rigorous, varied, and knowledge-rich curriculum** which research shows is the best effective way of students achieving top grades.

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 options. Our Electives programme provides time and space to develop in these areas as well as to pursue passions and interests.

5

We have a **dedicated Pastoral Support Champion** to provide support to your individual needs. We will support you to achieve your long term goals, with personalised careers, apprenticeships, university and progression support.

6

Our student leadership 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, from School Council and Head Students, to House Captains and Mentors.





# HEAD OF SIXTH FORM'S MESSAGE

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Progressing to Sixth Form is an incredibly exciting time and we are delighted that you are considering joining our Sixth Form, rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

This is an exciting time 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. Our "extremely ambitious and inclusive" curriculum is commended by Ofsted as "carefully designed for each subject" and thoughtfully considers what you need to "learn and be able to do at each point, from Year 7 to Year 13". You will be provided with extensive academic support in "purposeful and calm" lessons which enable you to confidently learn new content, embed your learning, and gain regular feedback to improve. Ofsted highlight that the "quality of questioning and discussion is particularly strong" in Sixth Form lessons.

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, including through our Extended Project Qualification or Extended Essay. The Swan School's "vibrant culture" enables our students to feel "happy, safe and valued at school" and known as individuals. Whilst the Sixth Form has a unique feel compared to the rest of the school, we are keen to hold on to the best elements of our school's inclusive culture. For example, our electives programme provides Sixth Form students with the "opportunities to discover and develop interests and talents" and Sixth Form students are included in our "strong and distinctive" personal development programme.

You will also have a dedicated team of tutors, and a Pastoral Support Champion to provide individualised support. This includes exceptional guidance for routes into future pathways including university, apprenticeships and professional careers based around your passions and interests. Our "very well-designed careers programme" which "makes effective use of links with local employers and training providers" enables our students to be "very well prepared for future study

and the world of work", including support to secure our unique voluntary and work experience placements.

I hope over the course of your two years with us you feel known and valued as an individual, both academically and personally, to enable you to achieve more than you ever believed possible. I look forward to getting to know each of you and your contribution to our close-knit community.

**LAURA MEGAW**

**HEAD OF SIXTH FORM**



# ACADEMIC LIFE

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## OUR 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. We focus on subjects where our teachers have a proven track record of delivering outstanding results.

Each student will choose a recommended three A levels, or four A-Levels if they have a grade average of 8 or above, with a maximum of one subject coming from each block. Students can also opt for either the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or Core Maths which are both worth an AS level. Core Maths is recommended for students who do not take A level Maths but wish to continue the subject, especially to support A levels such as Biology, Chemistry, Business and Economics. The EPQ qualification includes a 5,000 word written report or artefact and presentation.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E
Art Biology Maths Sociology	Comp Science English Lit Maths Physics	Chemistry Design & Tech French Politics Psychology	Biology Business Studies Further Maths Geography History	Chemistry Economics Maths Physics RE

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

## CURRICULUM

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Students will benefit from tailored support and feedback from their teachers. Subjects 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 practise 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.

## THE LIBRARY

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Our dedicated Sixth Form Research Library has access to our Sixth Form recommended resources, study booths and computers. 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.



*We only focus on subjects where our teachers have a proven track record of delivering outstanding results*





# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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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 at least Grade 4 in Mathematics.

In addition, each subject will have individual entry requirements. You will need to reach the entry requirement for your chosen subjects, as well as the overall entry requirements, to enrol in September.

SUBJECT	BOARD	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
MATHS	Edexcel	7 Maths GCSE.
FURTHER MATHS	Edexcel	8 Maths GCSE. Must also study A level Maths.
COMPUTER SCIENCE	OCR	6 Computing GCSE and 6 Maths GCSE OR 7 in Maths.
BIOLOGY	AQA	7 Biology GCSE OR 7/7 Combined Science GCSEs.
PHYSICS	AQA	7 Physics GCSE OR 7/7 Combined Science GCSEs. Must also study A level Maths.
CHEMISTRY	AQA	7 Chemistry GCSE OR 7/7 Combined Science GCSEs.
FRENCH	AQA	6 French GCSE.
ECONOMICS	Edexcel	6 Economics GCSE OR 6 Maths GCSE and 5 English Language or Literature GCSE.
BUSINESS	Edexcel	6 Business GCSE OR 5 Maths GCSE and 5 English Language or Literature GCSE.
PSYCHOLOGY	AQA	6 Psychology GCSE OR 6/6 Combined Science GCSEs and 5 Maths GCSE.
SOCIOLOGY	AQA	6 English Language or Literature GCSE.
ENGLISH LITERATURE		6 English Literature GCSE and 5 English Language GCSE.
RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS	Eduqas	6 Religious Education GCSE OR 6 English Language or Literature GCSE.
GEOGRAPHY	Edexcel	6 Geography GCSE OR 6 English Language or Literature GCSE.
HISTORY	AQA	6 History GCSE OR 6 English Language or Literature GCSE.
POLITICS	Edexcel	6 History GCSE OR 6 English Language or Literature GCSE.
ART	Edexcel	5 in GCSE Art OR portfolio interview.
MUSIC	Edexcel	5 in GCSE Music OR Merit/Distinction in Grade 5 Music Theory (ABRSM)/Grade 5 (ABRSM or Trinity)/equivalent on any instrument.



SUBJECT	BOARD	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	AQA	5 in GCSE PE and playing at least one sport at club level OR 6/6 Combined Science GCSEs and 5 Eng GCSE and playing at least one sport at club level.
EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION	AQA	Open to all students.*
CORE MATHS	Edexcel	Open to all students.*

\*each student will choose either the Extended Project Qualification or Core Maths, but not both. Core Maths is recommended for students not taking A Level Maths.

## PASTORAL SUPPORT

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### PASTORAL TEAM

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 pastoral concerns and Sixth Form administration.
- **Form Tutors:** The first point of contact each day for students, supporting students' onward applications and the tutorial program.

You will 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.

### TUTOR PROGRAMME

Our tutorial programme is based on student feedback to develop and enrich academic subjects with the skills and understanding needed for life beyond our Sixth Form. Our tutor programme includes:

- **Year Group assemblies:** An assembly led by the Head of Sixth Form on topics particular to the year group, such as advice for future pathways.
- **Whole school assemblies:** Students participate in House Assemblies with the whole school community focused on our school values.
- **Careers Speakers:** Sixth Form students will join together as a community to hear from a variety of guest speakers from our community from different industries and career paths.
- **Personal Development:** Tutors engage in personal development topics with their tutor which are relevant to the age and stage of the Sixth Form community.
- **Supported Reading:** Students engage in fiction and non fiction texts to support their love of reading and super curricular development.
- **Pathways Development:** Students gain support on applications to careers, apprenticeships and universities including key skills like CV writing.

# THE SWAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (SLP)

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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.

## THE SWAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

	OPTIONS	VALUE
PHYSICAL	Electives support in sporting activity	Kindness
	Sports day/event arrangement (1 full day/2 half days)	Ambition
	Sport participation in/outside school (min 1 hour per week)	Integrity
	Duke of Edinburgh participation (Certificated)	Dedication
LEADERSHIP	Peer Listening Scheme	Kindness
	Event/assembly arrangement	Ambition
	Mentoring programme participation (non-academic)	Integrity
	Leadership role participation- head student/house leader	Dedication
ACADEMIC	Subject mentoring for younger students	Kindness
	Extended Essay on a topic of interest	Ambition
	Attendance to external lectures (min 2 lectures)	Integrity
	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	Dedication
COMMUNITY	Volunteering (outside of compulsory electives)	Kindness
	School magazine	Ambition
	Guided reading programme participation	Integrity
	In-school community support e.g. library assistance	Dedication
E X T R A - CURRICULAR	Electives support in non-sporting activities	Kindness
	Work experience (outside of compulsory work experience week)	Ambition
	Participation in a summer school	Integrity
	Establishing/running a new Elective or Society	Dedication

# HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS

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A fantastic Sixth Form education is the stepping stone to the next stage in your life; admission to a top university, apprenticeship 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 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 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 links with prestigious University of Oxford colleges allow us to offer exciting trips, events, lectures, summer schools, placements and access to mentoring/advice, which will further support our students to be admitted to the world's top universities.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SWAN SIXTH FORMER

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Example of an Extended Day:

TIME	ACTIVITY
8.05am	Arrive at school early, prepare for the day and catch up with friends. Drop into the canteen for a free bowl of porridge.
8.30-9.25am	Period 1: Maths lesson.
9.25-10.20am	Period 2: Study period in the Sixth Form Research Library. Utilising our tailored resources and quiet study area to get ahead!
10.20-10.40am	Break: Catch up with friends in the Sixth Form Centre.
10.40-11.20am	Tutor Time: Attendance to the Careers Speaker session, hearing from industry professionals.
11.20-12.15pm	Period 3: History lesson.
12.15-1.10pm	Lunch Time: Enjoy your hot lunch in the Sixth Form Cafe with friends as part of our family dining.
1.10-2.05pm	Period 5: Chemistry lesson.
2.05-3.00pm	Period 6: Study period. Utilise this time in the Study Centre to work on your Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) research and referencing.
3.00-3.55pm	Period 7: Take part in the electives programme- this term you have opted into tennis participation, next term debating, then volunteering in the summer term!

Please note our Extended Day is a Tuesday. On all other days, School finishes at 3.00pm

## ELECTIVES

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

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 may involve you supporting at KS3, participating in a society or club, volunteering in the community, competing/training in sport, or pursuing a new hobby like art or languages.







# ADMISSIONS

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**How to apply:** We strongly encourage you to attend our Open Evening by signing up on our website. Our Open Evening takes place in the January before the September start.

## TO APPLY:

- Visit our website: [theswanschool.org.uk](http://theswanschool.org.uk)
- Click on the **Sixth Form** tab, and then select **Apply Now**.
- Sixth Form tours are also available to book online.

We will then contact you to arrange a Guidance Meeting to support you in your onward process. This is an opportunity for us to get to know you and your subject interests and passions, provide advice for career pathways, and answer any questions you may have.

## BURSARY

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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

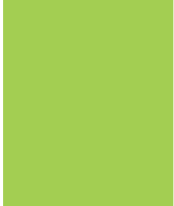
An entitlement bursary is available for students who are in care, are care leavers, receive Income Support or for disabled young people who receive Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.

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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[theswanschool.org.uk](https://theswanschool.org.uk)

If you have any further queries please contact us at:  
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