

HOW DO YOU JOIN THE SIXTH FORM?

Sixth Form work at Advanced Level is interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile but it is also intellectually demanding so it cannot be tackled with success unless there is a previous sound foundation of achievement.

GENERAL ADMISSIONS POLICY

Candidates for the Sixth Form may be in Year 11 at Nonsuch or following GCSE courses at other schools. The entry criteria (outlined below) are identical for both groups. All students interested in studying for A Levels at Nonsuch are invited to attend the Opportunities in the Sixth Form Evening in the November of their GCSE year when they will have a chance to investigate courses and speak to subject teachers.

Nonsuch pupils must notify the School by **Monday 5 December 2011** of their wish to stay on to follow Advanced Level courses in the Sixth Form.

A minimum of 10 places will be offered annually to external candidates. Applications are considered on receipt of the completed application form which will include a **Statement of Predicted Grades** from the applicant's present Headteacher. Entry to the Sixth Form will be dependent on the number of places available in individual subject groups and in the Sixth Form as a whole. Applications from external candidates must be received by **midday on Monday 5 December 2011**.

Candidates will be invited to Nonsuch prior to the offer of a place to discuss their option choices. Nonsuch pupils will also have the chance to discuss their option choices in an individual interview in the spring term.

All candidates should be capable of studying at least three subjects to Advanced Level (excluding Critical Thinking) and should show an aptitude for their chosen subjects.

All Sixth Form students are expected to commit themselves in good faith to remaining for two years in the Sixth Form.

At the end of Year 12, most students will drop one subject having achieved an AS qualification, and continue three subjects into Year 13, achieving full A Level passes in these subjects at the end of the year. It will be difficult for a new AS subject to be started in Year 13 due to timetable constraints.

Continuation on any course will be subject to satisfactory review of progress particularly following AS examinations at the end of the first year in the Sixth Form. In order to continue into Year 13 students must obtain a grade D or above at AS in three subjects, excluding Critical Thinking. Students will not be able to continue a subject to A2 without an AS pass at grade D or above in that subject.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY CRITERIA?

1. The **minimum** requirement for entry to the Sixth Form is an average points score of 50 over the best eight GCSE subjects, normally gained at one sitting, but excluding community languages. The expectation is that prospective students will be sitting at least 9 GCSE subjects. The table below shows the point system:

GCSE Grade	Points
A*	58
A	52
B	46
C	40
D	34
E	28
F	22
G	16

$$\text{The average GCSE points score} = \frac{\text{Total points}}{\text{Total GCSEs}}$$

Please note that figures for GCSE short courses are halved, so that A* = 29, A = 26, B = 23 etc. These courses count for half a subject.

2. All candidates should have GCSE Grade B or above in both English and Mathematics.
3. Candidates should have at least GCSE Grade B in a subject they wish to study at AS Level, and should be guided by the advice of subject teachers.
4. Candidates wishing to apply for Chemistry, Biology or Physics must have studied at least Dual Science at GCSE and have achieved at least a Grade B at GCSE in the science/s which they are applying to study.
5. Candidates wishing to take up a new subject in the Sixth Form (Economics, Government and Politics, Psychology, Sociology) will be expected to show interest in and commitment to the chosen subject and have gained grade B or above in both English and Mathematics. Additionally, students wishing to study Psychology should have achieved at least 2 B grades in Science subjects.
6. All candidates commit themselves to their studies by signing, prior to entry, the Sixth Form Contract.

AS and A LEVELS

Important notes:

There is a wide choice of subjects in this booklet but they will only run if there is sufficient demand.

Course descriptions in this booklet may be subject to alteration. Final details of the courses will be available to students at the induction day in July.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

When choosing Advanced Level options, students should bear in mind the entry requirements of Universities, Colleges and Institutes of Higher and Further Education, Professional Bodies or particular career areas, in terms of Advanced Level passes in particular subjects. Further advice can be sought via your form tutor.

AS and A Levels were designed to allow for a broader curriculum and better balance in specialist subjects. The advice is that students choose their fourth AS choice as one that extends their learning in new ways. A scientist, for example, may want to continue a humanities subject, a humanities student a science.

The following examples should not be considered exhaustive.

Example 1 - Those who are interested in the possibility of specialising at degree level in the Social Sciences and/or Politics and/or Economics and/or Psychology are reminded that these subjects are changing very rapidly with the increasing use of quantitative methods of analysis based on Mathematics and Statistics. If their standard is good enough, students should therefore consider AS or A Level in Mathematics.

Example 2 - Science subjects generally need other Sciences and/or Mathematics to support them. Students choosing Advanced Level Biology should be expecting to achieve a good grade in GCSE Chemistry.

Example 3 - Humanities subjects offer essential skills in encouraging close reading, presenting reasoned arguments and extending knowledge across many disciplines. Students considering Law are advised to take History and/or English and/or Government and Politics.

Example 4 - University Medical, Dental and Veterinary Schools require Chemistry and usually expect Biology to have been studied to Advanced Level.

Example 5 - Those considering a career in Physiotherapy should investigate the current requirements regarding science subjects at A Level. Biology is essential for both Physiotherapy and for Nursing degrees.

Example 6 - Pure Mathematics with Mechanics and Physics are the basic requirements for Engineering courses. Some universities will accept students who have not taken Physics provided they are able Mathematicians, preferably studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

ADVANCED LEVEL SUBJECTS

Art and Design – Fine Art	
Biology	History
Chemistry	Information & Communication Technology
Design & Technology – Textiles	Classics: Latin
Economics	Maths ¹
English Literature ²	Maths & Further Maths ¹ (<i>internal students only</i>)
English Language and Literature ²	Music
Drama and Theatre Studies	Art and Design - Photography
French	Physical Education
Classics: Classical Greek	Physics
Critical Thinking	Psychology
Geography	RS (Philosophy & Ethics)
Government and Politics	Sociology
German	Spanish

Important Notes

- ¹ Please see course information for further details about the Maths pathways on offer.
- ² English Literature and English Language & Literature **may not** be taken together.
- ³ Critical Thinking is compulsory for all students in Year 12 at AS Level.

Additional Examination Subjects (subject to timetable availability)

Sports Leadership Course
 Extended Project Qualification

In this booklet, you will find full details of all the courses we offer.

YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE SIXTH FORM

All students are expected to contribute to and uphold the positive and constructive ethos of the Sixth Form. No individual student will be allowed to undermine this or the progress of any subject group.

Joining the Sixth Form brings with it both new responsibilities and new privileges. On the Sixth Form Teambuilding Day in September as well as in tutorial sessions, you will be introduced to some of the challenges of academic life at this level as well as equipped with some new skills. You will be advised that 20 hours of private study per week (i.e. five hours in each subject in Year 12) is an appropriate target. To support you in reaching this target and to maintain an appropriate working environment in school it is a requirement that you register with your form tutor at 8.25 each morning even if you do not have a timetabled lesson. In your study periods you may study in silence in the Learning Resources Centre or in a slightly more relaxed atmosphere in the canteen (mornings only). Where you have study periods falling in afternoon sessions you are free either to choose silent study in the Learning Resources Centre or to make use of the Sixth Form Common Room. Following progress reviews in November, students whose attendance, punctuality and progress are satisfactory will be offered exit privileges allowing them, with parental permission, to study at home during afternoon sessions when they have no timetabled lessons. Exit privileges remain at the discretion of the school and can (and will) be revoked where conduct or progress become a concern.

Sixth Form students at Nonsuch do not wear the school uniform but are asked to dress in a manner appropriate for a formal working environment. General school rules forbidding chewing gum and the use of mobile phones in school buildings still apply. Before entering the Sixth Form, all students are asked to sign a Contract, a specimen of which can be found at the back of this prospectus (Appendix C). The continuous review of progress as described in this prospectus will enable a realistic assessment of whether or not a student is making the most of the opportunities available in the Sixth Form. A student may only continue on a course if her attendance, punctuality, attitude and work records remain satisfactory.

A three-stage discipline procedure is in place for dealing with students who fail to fulfil their part of the Contract. A copy of the discipline procedure can be found at the back of this prospectus (Appendix B).

WHAT THE SIXTH FORM HAS IN STORE FOR YOU

The Sixth Form must be looked upon as a two-year course during which you will be expected to make considerable strides forward in your intellectual, personal and social development.

In addition to your studies, you will participate in the Tutorial Programme which is designed to help you to realise your full potential in both academic and personal terms and to prepare you for the future. At Nonsuch, we are very keen to communicate with you and your parents about how you are doing at school. As such, we have systems that allow us to review your progress and attendance on regular occasions. Over the two years, you will receive six Progress Reports and discuss these with your tutor in Academic Review Meetings. You will also have half-termly Mentoring Sessions with your Tutor, on four occasions during the two-year course. In the first term of each year, you will also have a chance to meet with your teachers and discuss specific subject targets. These systems are intended to encourage you to take responsibility for your own learning and to assess your progress realistically. Further consultations with tutors, your Head of Year and your parents will take place if this is deemed advisable.

During Year 12, you and your parents will be invited to a Consultation Evening which will provide an opportunity to discuss your progress and help you choose your A2 course. Year 13 Progress Reports and a Consultation Evening serve to identify strengths and weaknesses and to indicate the way forward in order to ensure your success in the final summer examinations.

CITIZENSHIP AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Every member of the Sixth Form is given the opportunity to hold a position of responsibility enabling her to develop leadership and managerial skills and to contribute directly and significantly to the development of the school community.

In the spring term of Year 12, students will be able to apply for the positions of School Officials, Prefects and House Officials. They can compete (by interview) for the roles of Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl (3 positions) or School Captain, or Vice School captain (2 positions). Alternatively they may apply for the positions of House Officials (14 positions). Thirty girls will be appointed School Prefects and thirty will be Tutor Group Mentors.

The Head Girl and her Deputies are the representatives of the student body at official functions and the intermediary between the Headmistress and the students. Their duties involve speaking at events such as Open Day and Prize Givings, attending School Council and organising and overseeing the Prefect teams. They will meet regularly with both the Headmistress and The Director of Sixth Form. The School Captains work closely with the Head of P.E to promote sport throughout the school and to celebrate sporting achievements.

Prefects and Tutor Group Mentors are each attached to a form (Years 7 – 11) and attend afternoon registration once a week with duties of assisting administration and of mentoring. They attend assemblies with their form and can support their form in other activities as appropriate. Prefects are also required to complete one lunch time duty a week and may be asked to assist in the supervision of private study.

House Officials work with staff to organise house activities and inter-house competitions.

In addition to representation (through form reps) on the School Council, students in the Sixth Form elect officers to represent them on the Sixth Form Students' Association (SFSA). This democratic body is responsible for voicing the interests of Sixth Form Students and for developing – academically and socially – the Sixth Form community at Nonsuch. The SFSA committee consists of 11 officers drawn from both year groups. General Assemblies (the "Forum") will take place six times a year in the tutorial period and will be chaired by a Speaker – a "neutral" member of staff. The SFSA will be funded by once and for all subscriptions from members of the Sixth Form and from its own fund-raising activities. It will hold its own account in school.

A number of Sixth Form committees run with responsibilities for helping with a particular aspect of school life. The committees currently envisaged are: Careers, Environment, Science, Social Services, Lost Property, and the editorial committee of the School Magazine. Individuals may also be approached by Heads of Department and asked if they would be willing to act as subject mentors for students lower down the school.

Full advantage is taken of opportunities for travel abroad and for visits to museums, conferences, theatres and concerts. Visits to university and college Open Days are encouraged.

In order to gain further insight into the world of work you will be encouraged, in your own time, to find a suitable Work Shadowing placement. Sixth Form students take part in local and national competitions and training schemes, e.g. United Nations Public Speaking Competition, Nuffield Science Bursaries, Science Olympiads, National Art Exhibitions, Medical Conferences, the Engineering Education Scheme and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Extra-curricular activities available to Sixth Form students include Debating, Philosophy, the Literary Review, Amnesty International, Astronomy and Conservation Club. Many Sixth Form students are members of the choirs, orchestras, ensembles and sports teams. Others use non-timetabled afternoon sessions to undertake voluntary work in the local community.

YEAR 12 CALENDAR

Friday 29 June 2012	Sixth Form Induction Day. All students must attend to meet their form, tutor and to sample their chosen A Level subjects. Reading lists and pre-course assignments will be issued if applicable. Attendance at the Induction Day is a pre-requisite of joining Sixth Form at Nonsuch.
Thursday 23 August 2012	GCSE results published.
Friday 24 August 2012	All students who are new to Nonsuch are asked to attend a short meeting to notify GCSE results and to confirm acceptance of their Sixth Form place.
Friday 24 August 2012	Any Nonsuch student who has not qualified for her option choices asked to attend a short meeting to discuss her options.

Autumn Term

- Consultations with form tutors for those wishing to reconsider their Sixth Form courses.
- One day Team Building and Study Skills course
- Progress Report
- Target setting with Subject Teachers and Tutors
- Main School Speech Day. Presentation of GCSE certificates.
- Study Skills, self-assessment of both intellectual and personal qualities and time-management are the themes for tutorial work.
- Election for the Sixth Form Students' Association

Spring Term

- Progress Report
- Appointment of School Officials, House Officials and Prefects. Committee teams drawn up.
- Focus on career objectives and Higher Education courses. Investigation of Higher Education courses begins in earnest.
- Careers and Higher Education Consultation Evening.
- Course Finder reports received.
- Consultation Evening for students and parents

Summer Term

- Decision making. Selection of Higher Education courses/careers.
- AS Examinations
- Techniques for effective self-presentation and filling in application forms.
- Oxbridge, Medical, Veterinary Science applications are started.
- All students complete first draft of UCAS Personal Statement

AS results published in Summer Holidays followed by an internal review of students' progress and progression

YEAR 13 CALENDAR

Autumn Term

- Submission of all application forms for Higher Education courses at universities and colleges.
- Techniques and practical preparation for interviews, including mock interviews. Debriefing after interviews.
- Progress Reviews
- The theme for tutorial work is self-presentation for Higher Education and employment.
- Offers of places begin to arrive.
- Consideration and processing of reserve applications for other Higher Education courses and employment.
- Consultation Evening for students and parents.

Spring Term

- Progress Reviews
- Revision techniques.
- Realistic self-assessment; past achievements/future aspirations.
- Final decisions made on offers received.
- The world outside - looking ahead to the more practical aspects of life after A Levels.

Summer Term

- Revision timetables and techniques.
- Leavers' May Ball.
- Advanced Level Examinations.
- Examination results are published during the Summer holiday. Opportunity is provided for consultation with senior staff and Heads of Year, where necessary.

followed by

- Presentation of certificates and awards at Leavers' Evening in January.

APPENDIX A

Nonsuch High School is a Statutory Charity aiming for excellence in girls' education

Philosophy

Nonsuch, a selective school for girls within the local community, aims to provide each individual with opportunities for intellectual, personal and social fulfilment in a supportive and stimulating environment.

Aims

1. To provide the education and guidance required to prepare students for adult life.
2. To assist all pupils to reach the highest levels of achievement which their abilities will allow.
3. To create and maintain a happy, self-disciplined, caring and outward-looking community.
4. To encourage all pupils to become responsible, open-minded, confident persons, aware and respectful of the needs and concerns of others.
5. To assist pupils, both through the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities, to
 - (a) acquire knowledge, develop understanding and become competent in learning and study skills;
 - (b) think and argue logically, use evidence to validate arguments, detect bias and to make supported value judgements;
 - (c) use language effectively and sensitively in presenting ideas and listening to those others;
 - (d) develop numerical skills and the confidence to use them to analyse, interpret and communicate information;
 - (e) develop and apply IT skills appropriately;
 - (f) identify, analyse and solve problems and evaluate the solutions;
 - (g) become effective communicators in other languages;
 - (h) develop aesthetic appreciation, creative ability, and an awareness of cultural diversity;
 - (i) explore spiritual, moral, social, economic and political values;
 - (j) improve physical skills, teamwork and fitness and follow a healthy lifestyle;
 - (k) develop practical and manipulative skills;
 - (l) select and make use of appropriate technologies to enhance learning;
 - (m) develop a respect for all living things and an awareness of the global environment;
 - (n) develop leadership and management skills.
6. To involve pupils in the management of their own learning and in the assessment and recording of their progress.
7. To encourage and support the professional development of staff.
8. To provide and maintain a stimulating working environment.
9. To maintain open communications with parents and to welcome their involvement in their daughters' academic and personal development and in the life of the school.
10. To develop and maintain good communications with the local community, industry and commerce.

APPENDIX B



NONSUCH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE IN THE SIXTH FORM

1. Informal interview

This is held after an unsatisfactory progress review, examination or module marks or reports from subject staff. The student will be seen by her Head of Year and the tutor notified. The HOD may be included if appropriate. Progress is discussed, causes of the problem identified and then appropriate advice offered. Parents/carers will be notified in writing. Students' exit privileges may be withdrawn during this, or later parts of the discipline procedure. After an agreed period of time (usually one month) a follow up report will be completed by staff.

2. Formal warning

This is given should 1 above have not been successful. The student is seen by the Director of Sixth Form and a verbal warning given and documented. The warning will consist of notification of the complaint and a time scale for improvement (usually one month). The student will also be informed of the rest of the procedure should the agreed improvement not occur. Parents/carers will be notified in writing of the formal warning and its content. They will also be invited to come into school to discuss the matter further.

3. Final written warning

If the student has not fulfilled the agreed improvement within the time period, a written warning will be issued to the student with a copy sent to parents/carers. An interview will then follow with the Headmistress, the Director of Sixth Form, the student and her parents/carers. Failure to meet the requirements of the warning within the time limit will result in the student forfeiting their place on the course and/or in the Sixth Form.

Notes

This procedure is aimed to follow on from and complement action taken in the first instance by tutors and / or Heads of Department.

Any relapse in a student's performance after the completion of any stage will result in a return to that point of the procedure e.g. if a student has received one verbal warning, improved for the agreed time and then later relapses, they will next receive a written warning.

At the end of each stage subject staff will be asked to provide a written report of the student's progress.

APPENDIX C

Sixth Form Agreement 2012-2014

Nonsuch High School provides educational and recreational opportunities for both pupils of secondary school age and for students seeking post-16 qualifications. Within this framework, members of the Sixth Form are respected and enjoy many privileges which are not available to younger pupils.

It is also recognised, however, that such freedom also brings with it responsibilities. You are unavoidably a role model for pupils in the Main School and you are therefore asked to act as an ambassador for the School in your dealings with visitors and your conduct in and out of School. The School's commitment to Sixth Form students will involve:

At Nonsuch we aim to provide the following:-

1. Excellent teaching and learning in a wide range of courses tailored to individual needs.
2. A working environment in an institution that combines sound traditional values, a proven record of high academic achievement and a forward-looking approach to education.
3. A full and highly effective Pastoral System to support students and extend their learning.
4. Clear deadlines for the completion and return of your assignments.
5. Individual help with personal planning for the future, especially informed advice regarding careers and Higher Education.
6. Opportunities to extend your education through service to the school community, field courses, cultural visits, leisure and social events.

Signature:-
Head

Your commitment to the Sixth Form will involve:-

1. Attending and being punctual for all lessons and all registrations, unless prevented by illness, in which case a note signed by your parents will be provided.
2. Completing all work within the deadlines.
3. Giving adequate time to effective independent study: a minimum of 5 hours per A Level subject per week is recommended.
4. Behaving at all times in a manner appropriate to being a Sixth Form student at Nonsuch.
5. Restricting any paid external employment to a level consistent with your studies.
6. Dressing in an appropriate manner for a working environment (ie according to the Sixth Form dress code).

On accepting a place in the Sixth Form at Nonsuch, I understand that:-

1. There will be progress reviews on work, attendance and punctuality.
2. Should my standards not be satisfactory and I do not respond to advice, then the Sixth Form discipline procedure outlined overleaf will be implemented. I confirm that I have read and understood this procedure.

Name: Form:

Signature: Date:
Student

We ask parents to indicate that they have read and accept this agreement.

Signature: Date:.....
Parents/Carers