



# The Sixth Form at St Laurence

**Director of Sixth Form: Mr A Blowers**

**Assistant Director of Sixth Form: Mrs T Chatfield**

**Sixth Form Student Support Officer: Mrs J Brown**

## **Introduction:**

We want you to make the most of all the opportunities available and develop as an individual during your time in the Sixth Form. Teachers, tutors and the Sixth Form team are here to support you in fulfilling your academic potential and in finding a wider sense of achievement and fulfilment on a more personal level.

Most students find the transition from GCSE to Sixth Form study quite daunting at first and, as in the main school, your Tutor is the first person you should turn to for advice. In addition, there is your Assistant Head of House to provide you with additional support and guidance.

As Sixth Form will offer you greater freedom, there are fewer rules for you to follow but, as young adults, we expect you

- To act responsibly
- To recognise the part you play in the school and wider community
- To be courteous in your manner and actions
- To respect the rights of others.

During the next few months there may be aspects of the sixth form that you want to talk about in more detail. You should contact:

Mr A Blowers Director of Sixth Form

01225 309500

## Information you may find useful:

- a) **Dress code** Sixth form students do not have to wear uniform but are expected to adhere to the dress code included in this information pack.
- b) **Our Sixth Form Centre** Throughout the school day Mr Blowers, Mrs Chatfield and Mrs Brown will be on hand to assist Sixth Form students in our new building. This Sixth Form area is a multi-use space where students can study, socialise and, in addition to the restaurant, eat lunch. Like all busy spaces it needs looking after and all students are expected to do their best to keep it tidy.
- c) **Private study** You will have some time in the week when you are expected to work independently. This is one of the biggest challenges, and the most difficult part of making that successful transition to Sixth Form study. Learning to do your own research, breaking down big tasks so that they are manageable and finding strategies to review and consolidate your learning take practice. You can study in the sixth form study room (complete with IT access) or in the I.L.C. where there are computers that the sixth form can use as a priority. There are no 'free' lessons. When you do not have a timetabled lesson there is a very clear expectation that you will be studying.
- d) **16-19 Bursary Fund**  
Some students will be eligible for payment of an annual bursary towards the cost of their studies. The 16-19 Bursary Funds are paid by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) to all Schools and colleges to provide financial help to students whose access to, or completion of education may be inhibited by financial considerations. The Bursary has replaced the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA).  
The Bursary may typically be used for:
- Books and equipment
  - Transport
  - Hardship costs
  - Additional course costs
  - Travel to interviews
  - Other discretionary needs
- Administration and allocation of the bursary is undertaken by the school and applications may be made at the beginning of Term 1.
- e) **Sixth Form Core.** It is an expectation that all students will take part in the Sixth Form Core. The core programme is designed to help you make a successful transition to A Level study, support your learning and guide you in making choices about what to do after your A Levels.
- f) **Community service.** The sixth form are valued members of the school community. All students take part in some form of community service either within school or the wider community.
- g) **Vertical Tutor Groups.** Sixth form students are expected to take a full and active role in the life of their tutor group. As Sixth formers students provide positive role models to younger students and, at times, aid their tutor in the running of activities. Attendance at tutorial is compulsory.

## **How do I decide what to study and how do I apply?**

To progress into the St Laurence Sixth Form requires the following:

- A minimum of **5 subjects** inc **English Lang & Maths at Grade 4+**
- **BUT** students require a grade **5+** to study their chosen subject or equivalent at A Level
- Effectively this will mean a minimum entry of **2 x Grade 4s and 3 x Grade 5s**
- **A Level Science(s)** requires a **5, 5** at Core and Additional Science GCSE at **higher tier**
- **A Level Maths requires at least Grade 5** you have to have taken **higher tier** at GCSE

While we will accept entry into the Sixth Form with a 4 in English Language and Maths we are not sure whether a 5 will be required for entry onto certain University courses at a later date and therefore students can re-sit these subjects if they wish as a private candidate.

Deciding which subjects to study is much more difficult. Below is a list of some things to consider:

- Do you have a particular career in mind that requires you to have studied a certain subject?
- What do you enjoy studying?
- What sort of learning suits you best?
- How are subjects assessed?
- If you are hoping to go to University is it important to have taken certain subjects at A level?

You do not need to make these decisions in a hurry. Talk to your Parents, Subject Teachers, Tutor, Head of House and the Sixth Form team. Parent evening, mock exams and reports will all help you make an informed choice along with careful research.

Once you have decided, and you have been given predicted grades, you are ready to fill in an application form. Once we have received this we will arrange for you to have an interview, with a senior member of staff, to discuss your intentions and, if necessary, provide you with opportunity to observe a number of Sixth Form lessons.

### **NB**

It is important to remember that all offers are made on the basis that a course is viable (in terms of student numbers and timetable constraints) and that you achieve the right qualifications.

**Key dates are described on the year 11-12 Continuity sheet.**