



The Priory School of Our Lady Of Walsingham



Sixth Form Policy

Reviewed by: Executive Committee

On:

Next review due: September 2024

Signature of Principal

Sixth Form Policy

The Sixth Form is quite unlike any previous time you have spent in School. It provides a totally different work environment from that of the lower School. You are likely to be taking three or four subjects at a significantly advanced level of study, compared to GCSE. There will be times in the day when you do not have a taught lesson, and these times are **very much your own responsibility: you must use them for your own private study**. You will be set assignments which require you to read and research independently.

Bear in mind that the effort and commitment you put in to your studies is very important. What you do in these two years – and they are very short ones – determines what choices are open to you when you have finished: be it university, college, professional career path. Always remember that the better qualified you are, the more choice you have about the kinds of career open to you, and the further up the promotion ladder you can go.

So, to keep your options as wide as possible you need to be committed as soon as you begin you're A Level study in September: that is when opinions are formed about you, and when you form opinions about yourself and your own potential.

Above all, Sixth Form studies will help you to become an independent learner. The skills and habits you develop now will stand you in good stead for the rest of your working life. As with any institution, there are rules to be observed and expectations on you:

- Attendance at all subject lessons is compulsory; you must be punctual.
- Attendance at 8.30am, the beginning of the School day, is compulsory.
- The Sixth Form dress code^{1 2} is to be adhered to and is a condition of Sixth Form membership. This must also be worn for examinations:
 - Smart casual: sensible, appropriate, inoffensive to others and muted in colour
 - Hair must be the pupil's own natural hair colour, off the face, tied back, and conservative in style (as determined by the Principal or other members of the Senior Leadership Team), for example, no undercut or asymmetrical styles etc.
 - No jewellery allowed except for watches and pierced ears – one set of studs only with one stud in each lower lobe.
 - No make-up, nail varnish, tanning products or artificial enhancements of any kind.
- Study periods during the day are to be taken in School. If you have a study period at the end of the day you may sign out and go home.
- Unless you are required for a specific purpose, permission to leave the premises at lunchtimes is usually granted **provided you have signed your name in the leave book kept in the office**.
- You may wish to use your own transport to and from School; however, this **must be discussed with the School first**.
- **Any paid work must be kept to a minimum; I would strongly discourage you from working more than ten hours per week.**
- You will be referred to as Sixth Form **Scholars** and your role is critical in the School.

A Levels

At Priory School you need appropriate results at GCSE to study for A Levels in the Sixth Form. Ideally, if you have gained a grade 6 or above in your chosen subjects, you should be well placed, but a grade 5 plus a positive interest in the subject is also perfectly acceptable as a basis.

¹ <https://priorySchool.org.uk/PDFs/Girls%20Uniform%20List.pdf>

² <https://priorySchool.org.uk/PDFs/Boys%20Uniform%20List.pdf>

Which subjects to choose?

The normal course of study means taking three A Level subjects; however, in exceptional circumstances some pupils can take four. Often AS examinations are taken and preferably three are taken onto the second year. The normal course of study then involves selecting three of those and spending your Upper Sixth year studying these through to gain the full A2 Level qualification. You don't need to decide whether you wish to continue with each chosen AS subject to a full A2 Level until you have received your AS Level results in the August following completion of the course and exams.

Think carefully about your choice of subjects: you may find that your choice of four to start with is an easy one to make: perhaps you have a clear idea of three which fit together – say, Maths, Physics and Chemistry – but would like to choose something completely different and refreshing for your fourth subject: say, English or Art. Whatever your thoughts, do discuss with your tutors and listen to advice from subject tutors, the Head of the Sixth Form or the Principal. Our main aim is to make sure that you are comfortable with the courses you have chosen. It is an important choice for you to make, after all.

Naturally, you should select subjects, which you think you will do well in when it comes to final grades: you need to bear in mind the university, college and career options you may wish to pursue beyond School, so check your proposed courses against these plans. On the other hand, you may not necessarily have a clear further study or career option in mind and you may wish to select your subjects simply on the basis of your liking for them. That's fine.

Assessment

A Level subjects are assessed by external examinations at the end of the two-year course. Some pupils undertaking AS study from September 2017 follow the new specifications for A Level but individual subject tutors are available to give further advice and guidance on this. What matters is that good working habits are developed from the start and the development of that self-supporting work ethic that will then go with you throughout your life.

Authorised by the Principal, Mr David EJJ Lloyd and the Vice Principal, Mrs E Soar

September 2023