

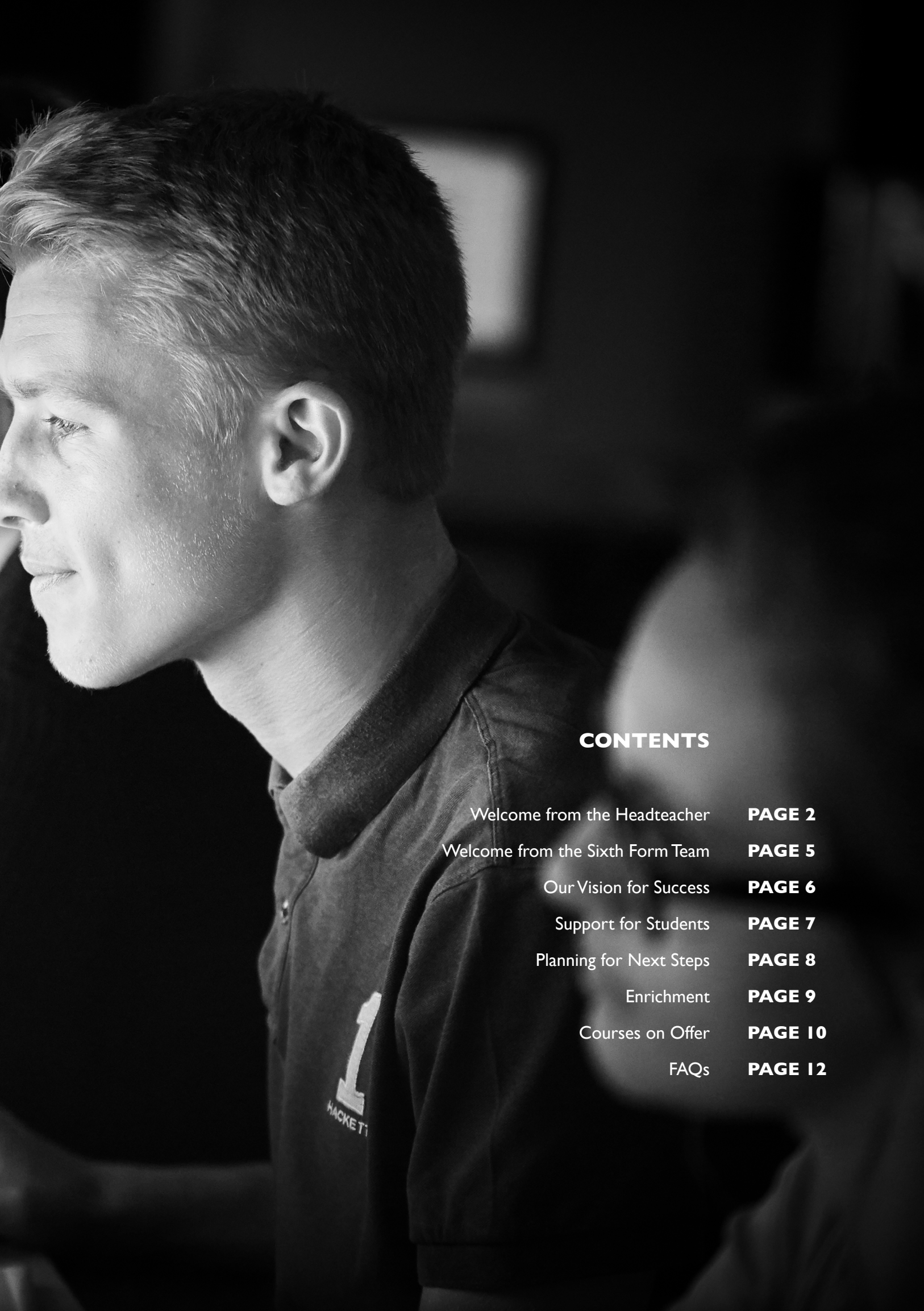


LITTLE HEATH SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS





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WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

At Little Heath School we pride ourselves on the very high standard of education that we offer to students in our Sixth Form.

Excellent teaching and learning is at the heart of all that we do. We offer a range of study programmes tailored to the needs of our students. These courses are delivered by Sixth Form teachers who want to share their passion for their subject and recognise that students want to be excited and challenged. Through continual support and guidance, we enable our students to flourish during their time with us, both inside and outside the classroom, so that they are ready for their future – whether entering the varied and rewarding world of work, or embarking upon further study at college or university. Over the last five years, the school has developed an outstanding reputation for helping students to secure places at Russell Group and other universities, in part because we recognise that a broad and enriched educational experience is so important for those next steps in life.

Effective support outside the classroom from all members of the Sixth Form team plays a large part in explaining why our young people make excellent progress at Little Heath School. The Sixth Form team takes pride in preparing students carefully for UCAS applications and for subsequent university interviews, developing a comprehensive personal statement that helps students to outline all of their skills and experiences. We are equally supportive of those students who choose to enter the competitive world of work, providing bespoke advice about job applications and interview techniques. Students' success rates are excellent as a result. Over 80% of our young people secure a place at their first choice university. We offer a similarly comprehensive support package for students who need to go through the clearing process.

Little Heath Sixth Form students play a huge role in the life of the school. They are encouraged to take part in a range of activities such as student leadership, peer mentoring, running buddy reading schemes with younger students and organising a number of whole school events. Not only does this allow them to give something back to the school community, but it also helps them with applications because employers and universities recognise that such well-rounded and confident individuals can only go on to be future successes.

I hope that this prospectus and accompanying Course Information booklet give you a flavour of our Sixth Form. We would be delighted to see you at our annual Sixth Form Information Evening, or, if you would prefer, you can contact us at any time to arrange an individual visit.

We look forward to meeting you as a member of our Sixth Form community very soon.



David Ramsden **Headteacher.**





WELCOME FROM THE SIXTH FORM TEAM

Little Heath Sixth Form is a vibrant and positive educational community. We are a “can do” Sixth form where every adult will work hard to ensure that our students enjoy academic success. We know that students will find their two years of study both exciting and rewarding.

By offering a wide range of course choices, we enable every student to study the most appropriate combination of subjects to suit their interests, strengths and future aspirations. You can find details of these courses in the accompanying course booklet. Our examination results and progress reflect our ability to work with students with a wide range of abilities and help them to achieve future success.

Our Sixth Form centre provides top class facilities so we are able to develop new and exciting ways to ensure our students are fully prepared for their next challenges. The interests of the students are at the heart of all decisions and support offered by the Sixth Form team. Our role is to help young people move easily and confidently onto their future pathways of chosen careers, degree courses gap years and apprenticeships. This is due to great teaching, superb care and support for individuals' well-being and progress through a very strong mentor system. Through student voice feedback, our sixth form students often highlight the warm and positive relationships between all staff and students.

At Little Heath Sixth Form, students have a wealth of opportunities and experiences to help them develop confidence and key skills such as leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication so they are ready for the challenges that life will bring. As part of this, we provide opportunities for students to take leadership roles and to contribute to the wider school community through our 'Developing the Individual' focus which currently includes roles on our sixth form leadership team, prefects and mentoring for younger students. We are expanding this focus by empowering students as subject champions and wellbeing champions to meet the changing foci in the school and our community.

We hope this prospectus addresses all you need to know about the Sixth Form. Specific subject information can be found in the Course Booklet where the Application Form can also be found. We look forward to welcoming you to Little Heath Sixth Form and working with you over the next two years.

Mrs Samantha Chaventré

Assistant Headteacher in charge of Key Stage Five
on behalf of the Sixth Form Team

OUR VISION FOR SUCCESS

At Little Heath School Sixth Form, we believe that every student matters. Young people only get one chance at education and we believe it should be an outstanding one tailored to their personal needs. We are ambitious for our students and encourage them to be aspirational. We strive continually for the most effective ways to challenge and support them.

We are guided by the following educational principles:

- we treat our Sixth Form students as adults, believing that the best way to raise achievement is through a partnership between teachers, students and parents;
- we offer a broad curriculum that aims to foster enjoyment in learning and develops the skills that students need for future education and employment;
- we seek to motivate, challenge and support all students equally so that they make outstanding progress;
- we seek to stretch our students outside of the classroom by offering a wide range of opportunities to develop skills which will make them stand out when applying for their chosen university courses or higher level apprenticeship;
- we believe that the views and opinions of our students are important and we listen to them carefully;
- we expect our Sixth Form students to act as role models for our younger students and therefore to be at the heart of all school activities.



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS



PASTORAL

The Sixth Form team is formed of highly experienced staff with a proven track record of offering first track pastoral care, academic guidance and support. The team is made up of an Assistant Head teacher who is the Head of Sixth Form; Heads of Year 12 and 13; a Key stage Administrator; a Sixth Form Receptionist and a Key Stage 5 Learning mentor, all of whom are dedicated to working with and for our students to ensure that they get the most out of their sixth form experience at Little Heath School. This team is also supported by an experienced and committed mentor team.

THE ROLE OF THE SIXTH FORM MENTOR

Sixth Form mentors play a key role in the life of students in the Sixth Form at Little Heath School. The mentor offers even more personalised support to students than in the tutor teams lower down the school.

As well as a carefully planned mentor programme, all students have regular individual meetings with their mentor. These meetings enable the mentor to gain a greater understanding of the ambitions, strengths and concerns of the student and so help them to manage their studies at Key Stage Five, planning their future more effectively. Mentors keep a record of the discussions held during these sessions and it is the mentor who will write academic and work place references for the students, as well as supporting with the personal statement process.

The mentors also play a key role in the monitoring of students' progress and will help them devise effective strategies for reaching their academic targets. Mentors will also ensure that students are getting involved in the most appropriate student leadership and curriculum opportunities.

PLANNING FOR NEXT STEPS

We recognise that the world of work and university study has become more competitive over the last few years, and thus we work hard to support students in planning for their future. We are very proud of the range of activities and advice we offer our students in order to help them research all their options once they have completed their A Levels. As well as support from the dedicated Sixth Form team, Mrs Wooller, the Careers Leader is always available and based in the Sixth Form library at least one day a week. In addition, a professional Careers Advisor from Adviza is also available for a confidential one to one meeting on request and we have an ex- Alumni network of support and an extremely wide variety of employer volunteers. Together, this team also works very hard to support our Year 12 students in helping them to arrange meaningful work experience which help them to develop the essential soft skills such as leading a team, communicating your ideas clearly, and dealing with people in different circumstances.

Students who are considering applying to go to university or college are given advice in choosing the right course. We have very close links with a range of universities. University liaison officers and admission tutors from the University of Reading and the University of Bristol visit the school to offer first hand advice on how best to go about this process. We also liaise closely with admission tutors at Oxford and Cambridge University in an attempt to maximise the chances of our students being successful in their applications.

There are also a number of information evenings for parents throughout the two years. These are led by representatives from the universities who work closely with us. There are lots of opportunities to attend taster days, master classes, enrichment programmes at Reading University as well as support for applying to schemes such as Sutton Trust summer schools and Reading Scholars. We make sure that up to date information about student loans, tuition fees and sponsorships is readily available. All students are registered with Unifrog, a very important careers tool which contains comprehensive information on every university course and Apprenticeship vacancy throughout Europe.

Students seeking employment or an apprenticeship at the end of Year 13 are given help via their mentors with the completion of application forms and the writing, when necessary, of Curriculum Vitae documents. Students are also informed, on a regular basis, of local vacancies and training opportunities through our Careers Service at Little Heath School, with all students being able to access our careers library.



ENRICHMENT

We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities to our students. These are designed to broaden and enrich the experience we offer to our students as well as helping them to be ready for life after their Sixth Form studies.

We appoint prefects in Year 12 who are given lots of opportunity to support the school by working with departments and Heads of Year. In Year 13 students can apply to join the Senior Student Leadership Team. This is comprised of two Headstudents, two Deputy Headstudents and eight House Captains (two for each House). This high profile group not only lead the prefect team and represent the Sixth Form at major events but play a key role in making important decisions about developments in the Sixth Form.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES	EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
EPQ	Coaching lower school sports teams
Field trips and visits e.g. History – Public Records Office Film – BFI Library in London Politics – Visit to Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court	Debating society
FutureLearn – MOOCS (massive open online courses)	Drama productions
Futures Day	Duke of Edinburgh
Lectures at Reading University	Orchestra, bands and choir
Reading Scholars	Prefects
Maths Inspiration lectures	Reading support for younger students
Master classes	School service - giving something back to the school or local community one hour a week.
Oxbridge student conferences	Sixth Form Charity and Fund raising committee
Oxbridge visits – including visiting current students	Sixth Form Committee - organising social events for students as well as the annual senior citizens Christmas party
Summer schools at universities across the country	Sixth Form Sports teams
STEM activities with a range of universities and local science based industries such as Bayer.	Student ambassadors
Subject champions	Theatre trips
UNIFROG	Wellbeing Champions
Visiting speakers.	Work experience
	World Challenge

COURSES ON OFFER

A LEVELS

Art	French
Art Textiles	German
Biology	Geography
Business Studies	Government and Politics
Chemistry	History
Computer Science	Media Studies
Drama	Music
Economics	Music Technology
English Language	Physics
English Literature	Philosophy and ethics
EPQ	Psychology
Film Studies	Spanish

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS – LEVEL 3 (EQUIVALENT TO A LEVELS)

Science Level 3 BTEC – National Certificate
Business Cambridge Technical - Extended Certificate and Diploma
WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition
Health and Social Care Level 3 BTEC National Diploma
ICT Cambridge Technical – Introductory Diploma
Sport Level 3 BTEC National Certificate





FAQS

How do I apply and what happens next?

Once you have chosen your courses and checked your grades against the entry requirements (these can be found in the Course Information Booklet) you should complete the online application form which can be found on the Sixth Form area of the school website.

Most students apply to do three A Levels, although we are able to offer students the opportunity to study four A Level subjects if it fits in with their plans for future courses and careers.

From January members of the Sixth Form Team will meet with all potential Sixth Form students to discuss their course choices to ensure they match their academic strengths and future career plans if known.

Which subjects should I choose?

Choosing the right Sixth Form course is a difficult decision. As well as doing lots of thinking about what your strengths and weaknesses and what interests you; you will need to read the coursing booklet carefully and talk to your subject teachers, form tutor and parents. We also hold a Sixth Form Surgery for students and parents after school in the week following our Sixth Form Information Evening. This is an ideal opportunity to talk through any concerns you might have about your choices.

If you are not sure about what you want to do when you leave the Sixth Form choose course in which you enjoy and in which you are most likely to succeed. A Levels and BTECs are demanding courses and you won't want to do the hard work necessary for success if you're not interested and motivated in the subjects you are studying.

Can I study a combination of A Level and BTEC subjects?

Yes – every year we have a considerable number of students who study a mixture of the more traditional A Level courses with the more vocational BTEC courses. We will offer you guidance and support to ensure that you are taking courses that are tailored to your strengths and aspirations.

Will I need to buy my own textbooks?

Yes – departments will let you know what books you need once you have confirmed your choices in August. It might be possible to buy some second hand books from students who have just completed their examinations.

What support is there if my family faces financial difficulties?

We will encourage all eligible students to apply for the 16-19 Bursary. This is a scheme which enables schools to give financial support to students who might struggle to buy the necessary equipment such as text books for their KS5 studies. Students will be able to apply for this support in September of Year 12.



"Education is not the filling
of a pail, but the lighting of
a fire"

(W. B. Yeats)



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