



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2023/24

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE
YOUR OWN JOURNEY



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| Welcome to our Academy

Dear Parents, Carers and future students,

Choosing the right Sixth Form is one of the most important decisions in a student's educational journey. Since the Academy opened in 2017, it has gone from strength to strength, and is now one of the most oversubscribed schools in the region, with a strong reputation for academic excellence and personal development. We were proud to continue this tradition when we welcomed our first sixth form cohort in September 2022.

A broad curriculum, excellent teaching, dedicated study and social areas, approachable staff and our ethos of ambition for and belief in all contribute to our culture of success, however, personal development is equally a priority. There is a wide range of opportunities outside the academic curriculum in which to gain experience, confidence and valuable skills to prepare for university, a gap year, college or to embark on your career after sixth form.

Our relatively small size gives us a highly 'personalised feel' and coupled with the historic chance to help shape a brand new sixth form as 'Founding' members, this is a truly unique opportunity. We will support and guide you in planning and preparing for your future and would be delighted if you embark on this exciting journey in our new sixth form.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'P. Spyropoulos'.

Paul Spyropoulos
Principal

| Choosing the right route for you

I'm very proud of the Sixth Form experience that our current Year 12 students are enjoying here at Wixams.

We have a dedicated staff who have many years of Sixth Form teaching experience between them, state of the art facilities and a management team that have led some of the most successful Sixth Forms in the country. Our goal is to help you achieve the best academic progress you can possibly make, to realise your future ambitions and to develop into an outstanding citizen in our local community.

In this prospectus you will see not just a very broad offer of A level and level 3 vocational subjects but also a wide range of enrichment course choices which are essential in giving you the cultural capital to compete with your peers when applying to university, degree and higher apprenticeships and in following your future career. We also offer many other trips, leadership opportunities and experiences that will allow you to become a successful "Wixam's Leaver" at the end of your Sixth Form journey.


Deciding on your next educational step, the courses and establishment can be a daunting task and one that shouldn't be undertaken lightly. My advice is that you should engage in as much research as you can, always talk to current Sixth Form students and most importantly do what you enjoy. We are very much looking forward to discussing all of this with you as you prepare to make an application.

As your Assistant Principal and Head of Sixth Form I am proud to offer you the chance to join our new Sixth Form at this stage of its exciting journey.



Robert Mercel
Assistant Principal –
Head of Sixth Form





“Our goal is to help you achieve the best academic progress you can possibly make, to realise your future ambitions and to develop into an outstanding citizen in our local community.”

Wixams Academy forms part of Bedford College Academies Trust (BCAT)

BCAT was created to deliver high quality education and skills to meet the needs of the communities it serves. The Trust believes the region deserves outstanding schools and its commitment to Bedfordshire means that all of its resources are focused on driving forward education standards for the local community.

Find out more about Bedford College Academies Trust here: **www.bctrust.ac.uk**

Academy Vision

Our vision is to provide all of our students with a first-class education comparable with the very best schools nationally. We also aim to develop those skills and qualities in our students' character which, hand-in-hand with exam qualifications, will deliver success and resilience in later life.

When our students leave us, they will be fully qualified, motivated and personally equipped to succeed in life and contribute to a rapidly changing world.

Academy Values

- **Determination** - having the grit and resolve to never give up
- **Respect** - treating everyone as an equal
- **Responsibility** - owning our behaviour and actions
- **Community** - contributing to the Academy and wider community
- **Honesty** - being true to each other and ourselves
- **Compassion** - showing empathy for others





OUR VISION

Our vision is to provide all of our students with a first-class education comparable with the very best schools nationally.

OUR VALUES

DETERMINATION **RESPECT**
RESPONSIBILITY COMMUNITY
HONESTY **COMPASSION**

OUR ACADEMIC SKILLS

PROBLEM SOLVING ANALYSING
EVALUATION ORACY/PRESENTING
ORGANISATION SUMMARISING
GROUP AND INDEPENDENT WORK

| Subjects and Entry Requirements

You will be expected to choose three A Level or BTEC subjects that are taken over a two-year full-time programme of study. There is the option to take a fourth subject but this will be discussed with you on application.

Students must bear in mind that both A-Levels and BTECs/Diplomas are all two-year courses and as such involve a full commitment over the whole course. It is expected that students will successfully complete Year 12 in order to progress to Year 13.

Entry Requirements

A Levels only

These courses are for students who have achieved a grade 5 English Language and Maths qualifications and a minimum of three other Level 2 qualifications at grade 5 or above, who meet also meet the individual subject requirements.

Mixed A Level/Vocational offer

A mixture of A Levels and BTEC/Diploma (vocational) courses are accessible to students where they have obtained grade 5 in GCSE English language and Maths and have at least three other courses at grade 4 or above.

GCSE Results

Students who have gained access to level 3 courses but have either a Maths or English language GCSE grade of 3 will resit that GCSE as an additional subject. This is to support future progression to Higher Education, apprenticeships and future careers.

Some subjects also have specific entry requirements due to the nature of the course.

SUBJECT	ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCE Art, Craft and Design (Fine Art)	Art GCSE at grade 5 or above. <i>Students who have not studied Art for 12 months or more will need to complete a portfolio of tasks which would be independently assessed.</i>
GCE Biology	Combined Science or Biology GCSE at grade 6 or above, Maths GCSE at grade 6 or above AND English Language at grade 5 or above.
GCE Chemistry	Combined Science or Chemistry GCSE at grade 6 or above, Maths GCSE at grade 6 or above AND English Language at grade 5 or above.
GCE Computer Science	Combined or Single Science GCSE at grade 6 or above AND Maths GCSE at grade 6 or above OR Computing GCSE at grade 5 or above.
GCE English Literature	English Language and Literature GCSE, both at grade 6 or above.
GCE French	French GCSE at grade 6 or above.
GCE Geography	English Language GCSE, Maths GCSE AND Science GCSE at grade 5 or above. Ideally grade 5 or above in Geography but not essential
GCE Product Design	Design Technology GCSE or Art & Design GCSE at grade 5 or above. <i>Students who have not studied one of these subjects for 12 months or more will need to complete a portfolio of tasks which would be independently assessed.</i>
GCE History	History GCSE OR Geography GCSE at 5 or above AND English Language GCSE at grade 5 or above.
GCE Mathematics	Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above.
GCE Further Mathematics	Maths GCSE at grade 8 or above.

SUBJECT	ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCE Physical Education	PE GCSE at grade 5 or above AND Science GCSE at grade 5 or above is highly desirable. <i>Students who have not studied one of these subjects would be independently assessed.</i>
GCE Physics	Combined Science GCSE or Physics GCSE at grade 6 or above, Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above AND English Language at grade 5 or above.
GCE Psychology	Maths GCSE grade 5 and a Science/Biology GCSE at grade 5 or above AND English Language at grade 5 or above.
Business A Level	Business GCSE at grade 5 or above OR grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Maths.
Cambridge Technical in Health & Social Care Extended Certificate (L3)	Science GCSE at grade 4 or above.
GCE Sociology	No additional requirements.
GCE Spanish	Spanish GCSE at grade 6 or above.
Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology	No additional requirements.
GCE Dance	Dance GCSE at grade 5 or above OR appropriate relevant Dance experience assessed by audition where necessary.
GCE Drama	Drama GCSE at grade 5 or above OR appropriate relevant Drama experience assessed by audition where necessary AND English Language GCSE and English Literature GCSE at grade 5 or above.
GCE Law	English Language and English Literature GCSE at grade 5 or above. Alternatively grade 5 or above in a humanities subject will be considered.
GCE Media Studies	English GCSE at grade 5 or above AND Media GCSE is desirable but not essential.
GCE Music	Music GCSE grade 5 or above and instrument or singing lessons at grade 4 standard or above. Grade 5 theory and grade 5 standard on an instrument/voice will be considered in lieu of Music GCSE.
GCE Photography	Art or Design GCSE at grade 5 or above OR portfolio of own creative work.
GCE Politics	No additional requirements.
GCE Religious Studies	Religious Studies GCSE at grade 5 or above AND English Language GCSE at grade 5 or above OR History or Geography GCSE at grade 5 or above.
Food Science & Nutrition L3 Diploma	Combined Science or Single Science GCSE at grade 4 or above.
BTEC L3 Performing Arts	Drama, Dance or Music GCSE at grade 4 or above OR appropriate relevant performance experience assessed by audition where necessary. <i>This course will run if there are insufficient numbers to offer separate Dance, Drama and Music.</i>

YEAR 12 ENRICHMENT COURSES

In Year 12, all students will choose
Core L3 Maths **OR**
Extended Project Qualification **OR**
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) **OR**
LIBF CeFS Finance award **OR**
MOOCS (Massive Open Online Courses)

Maths GCSE at grade 5 or above required for Core L3 Maths
No additional requirements for EPQ or DofE.

A Growing Academy With State-of-the-art Facilities

Our vibrant Academy provides students with an inspirational learning environment to stimulate minds and fire the imagination.

STUDENTS ENJOY THE USE OF:

- Specialist science laboratories
- Large open plan library
- Music room and recording studio
- Sports hall
- Multi-use games areas
- High-tech computing labs
- Playing fields
- Creative design studio
- Performing arts studio
- ...and much, much more.*

COMMON ROOM

The Sixth Form common room is a very large space sitting at the top of our academy. Full length windows give views across the Bedfordshire countryside and provide a bright and airy space. There is a kitchen at one end for exclusive use by Sixth Formers. Our founding year group have helped shape this environment as will you when you join us.

SIXTH FORM STUDY CENTRE

This large room near the common room is a dedicated Sixth Form study space. It has computing and printing facilities as well as large desks where work can be spread out.

Both the common room and study centre are dedicated to Sixth Form and are open till 5:30pm every weekday evening.

SIXTH FORM LAPTOP

All students have the option of being given a laptop when they join us or in receiving a contribution towards a laptop device that they have bought for Sixth Form study. This is designed to enhance and support their studies. Existing students will have their laptops renewed.

TAKE A
VIRTUAL TOUR
OF OUR CAMPUS





| Student Support

SIXTH FORM INDUCTION

This is held late in the Summer, immediately after GCSE exams, and offers a very helpful introduction to life in the Sixth Form. You will experience sample lessons in your chosen subjects, together with activities designed to encourage all students to feel part of the Wixams community.

TUTORING

Each student has a personal tutor. Students come together for tutor time and an assembly each week. In addition, each student will receive an 'Academic Mentoring' session once per fortnight with their tutor, for a one-to-one meeting to discuss work, applying for university and other important areas.

PASTORAL CARE

Wixams Academy is well known for its dedicated and experienced pastoral and learning support teams and counsellors. This support is there to assist, guide and encourage students through their sixth form years.

NEXT STEPS

Led by our in-house careers specialist, you will receive the very highest standard of advice and guidance when applying to university, further studies or the world of work. University visits and speakers from academia and the world of work are designed to these areas to life and open up aspirational opportunities for all.

Engaging in Sixth Form Life

Academic achievement is of paramount importance but students enhance their intellectual and social development by participating in the many extra-curricular opportunities that are offered in drama, music, sport and community involvement.

SPORTS

For a small school, Wixams Academy's sports teams have a fearful reputation! District champions in numerous disciplines, the PE teachers' expectations and coaching have created a highly successful department. Whether you want to compete or play recreationally, there will be teams and clubs for you to join.

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP

Opportunities exist to join the Academy Junior Leadership Team, the Prefect Team and ultimately to lead the student body as Head Students. These positions are invaluable for the Academy, but also provide excellent experience for applications to UCAS and beyond.

VOLUNTEERING AND COMMUNITY WORK

Mentoring and coaching of younger students in the Academy is highly effective in helping these students academically and personally. These opportunities for sixth form students require great responsibility but are also enormously rewarding and can develop interpersonal skills for life.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Academy became an officially registered Duke of Edinburgh centre in 2020 and we haven't looked back since then. Our first Bronze cohort completed their expedition in September 2021 and we have another 140 students who have taken up this life changing and highly respected programme. Sixth Form students will be able to embark on to the Silver Award in Year 12 and, if successful, the Gold Award in Year 13.





Financial Support

The 16-19 Bursary fund is designed to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post 16.

The fund has two elements: bursaries for vulnerable young persons (Nominated Bursary) and discretionary bursaries for young people facing financial barriers to participation (Discretionary Bursary).

Bursary funds are used to help pay for the costs related to participation in full-time education, such as the costs of transport, meals, books and equipment and trips.

For more details please check your eligibility here:
<https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund/eligibility>

If you think you may be eligible, please ask for an application form from the Academy office.

**CHECK YOUR
ELIGIBILITY
ONLINE**





How to Apply

Applications are welcome from all students in the area. Students should check they will meet our entry requirements prior to applying.

The application form is available on our website at **www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/sixth-form** or a paper copy may be collected from the Academy office.

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE



The closing date for applications is **1 April 2023**, but we encourage applications to be returned by **14 January 2023**, so we can begin to plan teaching groups accordingly. Applications received after **1 April 2023** will be considered if places remain available.

Our Location

Our Academy is positioned in the heart of the growing and vibrant Wixams community. Sitting within large grounds, close to the town centre, we offer an excellent secondary education to children from Wixams, Wilstead, Bedford and the surrounding areas.

TRANSPORT

Wixams is situated on the A6 with easy road access to Bedford and the surrounding areas. We encourage our students to walk or ride bicycles to the Academy with wide walkways and cycle paths leading up to the Academy and plenty of safe cycle storage.

ACADEMY BUS SERVICE

Barton's Coaches provides a dedicated bus service for the Academy which covers the following areas:

Route 1: Queens Park > Great Denham > Kempston > Elstow (Abbey Fields) > Elstow (High Street) > Elstow (Lynn Close) > Wixams

Route 2: London Road (Stagecoach Garage) > London Road (Vets4Pets) > Harrowden Road > Shortstown > Cotton End > Wilstead > Wixams

Route 3: Marston Moretaine > Stewartby > Stewartby (Montgomery Close) > Stewartby (Village Hall) > Houghton Conquest > Wixams

Route 4: Wixams 4 > Green Lake Rise > Ampthill Road

To keep up to date with the latest transport information for Wixams Academy, please visit **www.wixamsacademy.co.uk**



**Green Lane, Wixams,
Bedfordshire MK42 6BA**

THE LATEST
TRANSPORT
INFORMATION





BEDFORD

A421

Kempston

Shortstown

Wixams

Wilstead

Marston
Moretaine

Houghton
Conquest

A6

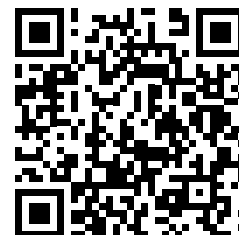
A421

Ampthill

Clophill

Flitwick





Scan the QR code for
an in-depth overview
of each of our subjects.

Green Lane, Wixams, Bedfordshire MK42 6BA

Tel: **01234 608950**

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Website: **www.wixamsacademy.co.uk**

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