



**WORKINGTON
ACADEMY**
Sixth Form





WELCOME TO OUR SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



We hope our prospectus will give you a clear idea of what life is like in the sixth form and in particular, help you to gain a deeper insight of what Workington Academy can offer you.

Sixth form is the time when you make your final preparations for adult life. Our core offer is a range of academic A levels and vocational qualifications accepted by universities, training providers and employers. Alongside this is a wealth of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities that will allow you to develop a wide variety of skills and competences that will support your progression to the next stage.

As a member of the sixth form you will have the chance to engage with local businesses and the community, as well as acting as a mentor for some of our younger students.

Throughout the academy, our mantra is 'be the best you can be'. Respect, Responsibility and Resilience are our three core values and lie at the heart of learning, which at sixth form can be demanding and require a lot of commitment and determination to succeed.

Our new building is due to open in March 2017 and you will be invited to take a tour of the new facilities once opened. The building will provide high quality teaching areas for all subjects alongside a dedicated sixth form study and resource centre.

Thank you for your interest in Workington Academy Sixth Form. We look forward to welcoming you in 2017.

Andrea McAllister, Lead Teacher Sixth Form

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, featuring a wide range of subjects. Students are able to choose from a variety of courses and are provided with extensive support and guidance to ensure that they are on courses which are right for them. We offer both A-levels and vocational courses including BTEC qualifications to ensure that students of all abilities and interests can succeed.

If vocational subjects are chosen, placements can be used to introduce students to working life. Other students may sample their 'Dream Placement' so they can find out what it would be like to work in their dream job. A great way to develop links for future employment.

We are delighted to report that our recent Year 13 results and destinations demonstrate our commitment to ensuring students are the very best that they can be, with over 90% of our students being accepted onto university or further education courses, apprenticeships or employment. Students who have recently completed their studies at Workington Academy Sixth Form have taken up places at: Sheffield Hallam, Manchester Metropolitan, University of Newcastle, Northumbria, University of Cumbria, University of Worcester, Dundee University and many more, studying a variety of courses from Archaeology and Aerospace Engineering to Physics.

SIXTH FORM: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

In the sixth form you will find school life a little different to what has gone before. This is because you are embarking on a phase in your life where a great deal of application and determination to succeed will be necessary. At the same time, you will be expected to be a role model for some of the younger students in the school – so your appearance, attitude and behaviour must be of the highest standards at all times.

Most students will choose 3 courses to study, in some cases these will be supplemented by either an extended project qualification or a core Maths qualification. The remainder of your timetable will comprise of study periods, which provide an opportunity for students to meet the academic demands of the course through wider reading, completion of coursework and revision as each

course demands. Research has shown that for success in sixth form students should complete 22 hours of additional study outside of lesson time per week. Additionally, all students will be expected to engage in enrichment activities and weekly tutorials with their personal tutors.

You will be pleased to know however, that it is not all about teaching and examinations. We want to develop the potential of every single student, not just their academic potential, but their ability to succeed in the world as individuals. As part of this, we provide a great deal of pastoral support together with a team of dedicated tutors who mentor students and act as a sounding board to ensure you get the right advice at the time you need it.

WE GO THE EXTRA MILE FOR YOU...

In fact, we really go above and beyond just preparing students for exams at Workington Academy Sixth Form. We also receive great feedback from students and parents about their experience of studying at the sixth form, parents particularly feel we keep them well informed about progress and say we are approachable and accessible.

We want all our students to enjoy their time here and achieve their potential. Being 'the best you can be' often requires some extra encouragement and help along the way. Our sixth form team will always be available to offer a range of support and guidance so you can be sure that you will succeed to the highest possible level.



THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE LIFE BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES

Due to the higher expectations placed on you in sixth form, you will have access to support at all times and the chance to participate in numerous enrichment activities to provide a wider perspective of life.

Many of our students choose to conduct a work placement during their time at the Sixth Form. Work placements provide an ideal opportunity to learn about different sectors and job roles. It is also a great way to enhance your CV and future applications to university, work or apprenticeships. Recent examples include students shadowing doctors, working as teaching assistants within secondary and primary classrooms and shadowing accountants.

We encourage students to develop leadership skills and have an active student council where many school initiatives are decided. The council often stage charity events throughout the year along with lots of other activities.

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities to get involved in. In the past we have run a number of field trips, a Maths Challenge; trips to galleries and theatres; creative and media filming opportunities; a physics trip to CERN in Switzerland, exploration of the myriad of cultures and influences on art in New York City and a trip to an ICT/Business Conference in Paris. We also provide Young Enterprise activities to encourage entrepreneurship: Duke of Edinburgh awards to develop leadership and resilience; university taster days; sporting; music and business activities as well as working with charities. We also provide a UCAS/Personal Statement workshop, which has proved very popular with former students.

The final experience for our students is our year 13 Summer Ball, a time to reflect upon and celebrate the accomplishments of our students and say goodbye as they leave us to embark upon their adult lives.

“I’m hoping to study at university after I leave Sixth Form.”



“I enjoy studying subjects I’m *passionate* about at a higher level.”



OUR COURSES AND ENTRY CRITERIA

For our sixth form courses we ask for students to have achieved five good GCSE grades, including a grade 4 in both English Language and Mathematics. For certain courses there are additional entry criteria which can be found with the course descriptions at the rear of this booklet.

For current Workington Academy students we will use the average 'responsibility for learning' grade of 2.5 or above as part of the entry requirement. For students joining us from other schools we will require a reference from your current school.

We offer a range of A-Level, OCR Introductory Diploma as well as BTEC Certificates and Subsidiary Diplomas.

Further information on all courses available is found at the rear of the booklet.

YOUR SIXTH FORM TIMETABLE

When you enter Year 12 in Sixth Form, you will find that the school day is broken down into four main areas:

- Academic Subjects
- Tutorial/Personal Development
- Enrichment Activities
- Private Study

Enrichment activities are comprised of subject enrichment which will support your A-Level courses and general enrichment activities which will broaden your horizons, tap into non-academic subject areas and help you become an active member of society.

A list of typical enrichment activities and leadership opportunities can be found in the back pocket of this prospectus.

WHAT SOME OF OUR FORMER SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SAY:

“My classes are small and everyone is really friendly so I have got to know everyone really well.”

“I have made friends for life at sixth form.”

“At sixth form I have had the opportunity to start studying a whole new subject, which is really interesting.”

“Studying at sixth form has allowed me to apply for university. I cannot wait to start my studies there!”

“The staff are really helpful, they will always take the time to answer any questions.”

“I really enjoy having study periods, they make me feel more like an adult because I can organise my time.”





WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ACADEMY?

Workington Academy Sixth Form is now part of four academies in Cumbria sponsored by the Cumbria Education Trust. But what does this mean for you?

The Cumbria Education Trust is a not-for-profit charitable organisation which was formed in September 2014 and is managed by a highly experienced group of education professionals and business people on its board of trustees.

Its purpose is to deliver outstanding educational provision and ensure all learners receive high quality teaching and learning opportunities.

The Trust's aim is for each of its academies to demonstrate consistent year-on-year improvement and in this way, enable every young person to reach their potential.

The Trust is committed to supporting all learners, staff and its sponsored academies to 'be the best they can be'.

When a school signs up to become part of the Cumbria Education Trust, it signs up to share the Trust's vision and values.

The Cumbria Education Trust is fully committed to meeting the emotional, cultural and academic needs of all the young people who attend its academies, supporting them to flourish and grow, with a relentless focus on academic outcomes.

Its trustees also understand the importance of the development of wider skills to allow students to grow into fully rounded individuals. A rich and varied range of extra-curricular activities including the arts and sport is therefore provided.

OUR VISION

To enable every young person to reach their potential and achieve the success they deserve by providing an innovative and inspiring learning experience.

OUR VALUES

- **Respect, Responsibility and Resilience are the three values at the heart of our ethos.**
- **We offer a dynamic and empowering education for all.**
- **We operate a student-centred approach which values relationships and respect for others.**
- **We aim to ensure that every student's potential is fully explored.**

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU

An increasing number of students decide to change schools after they have taken their GCSEs.

For many, the move into the sixth form signifies a major life changing event, opening the door to adulthood. Until recently it was optional, but now it is compulsory to remain in full-time education or training until the age of 18, so you need to make the right choice and that means doing your research.

Talk to your current teachers. Look at the list of subjects available to make an informed choice. Remember that A-Level courses are different to GCSE courses, in their content. Do you have specific career plans? Do you wish to study a more vocational subject? Do you know what universities want? Sometimes you may discover that you do not need to study a particular subject at A-Level to be able to study it at degree level.

A ROUGH GUIDE TO SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

Below is a table showing many popular combinations of subjects studied by young people who have a particular university course or career in mind. This table should not replace your independent research and is for a guide only. During your interview, you will be offered further individualised advice.

University Course or Career	Suggested Subject Combinations	Additional Notes
Accountancy	Maths, Business Studies or Economics	An accountancy degree is not required to join the profession but does eliminate the need for foundation accountancy exams.
Administration e.g. Civil Service	Any combination (within reason), but subjects including History, English, a Foreign Language or Geography are very useful for some areas. Sciences are required for areas in the field related to science.	This is a very competitive market, so you will need good A-level results and a good class of degree.
Architecture	Art is usually recommended although not always required. Maths is very useful. Other good subjects include, English, a Language, Physics, Design Technology, History and Business Studies.	GCSE Maths is a requirement. Most courses will also require a portfolio for entry.
Banking and Finance	Business Studies or Economics, Maths and a language can be very useful.	
Biology including: Biochemistry, Zoology, Botany, Marine Biology, and Micro-biology	Chemistry, Maths and Biology.	
Business Studies	Good mathematical ability is required, A-level Maths or Core Maths, Business Studies or Economics. A language is strongly recommended.	
Chartered Surveyor	Geography, Maths, Economics.	
Chemistry	Chemistry, Maths, Physics or Biology.	Students considering Oxford or Cambridge are advised to study all four.
Computer Science, Statistics, Numerical Analysis	Maths, Physics and Chemistry or Biology.	
Computer Programming	ICT, Maths, Media although not required.	
Design	Design Technology, Maths, Physics (if considering engineering aspects), Business Studies or Art.	Universities will request to see a portfolio before making an offer.
Economics	Maths, Economics and Business Studies.	

University Course or Career	Suggested Subject Combinations	Additional Notes
Engineering	Physics and Maths. Other useful subjects include, Design Technology, Economics, Business Studies and a Language.	Oxford and Cambridge will also look for Further Maths.
English and/or Drama	English, History, a foreign Language, Performing Arts.	English can be quite competitive for university entry, success is often found by applying for joint honours degrees.
Fine Art	Art, English or any combination.	Students are usually expected to complete a Foundation Degree prior to entry and will need to produce a portfolio.
Geography	Geography, at least one Science, History, Economics, Business Studies, a Language.	
History	History, a Language, English, Economics, Religious Studies.	
Journalism	English Language and a Foreign Language are useful but any combinations are acceptable.	Work experience and portfolios are work are also required.
Law	Most subjects are accepted, History, English Language, Religious Studies, Maths or Economics are popular choices.	Art is not recognised as an entry qualification for Law School.
Leisure Industry, Sports Science	Sport, Business Studies, Economics or Biology.	
Management Studies	Maths, Economics or Business Studies.	
Mathematics	Maths and often Physics or Further Maths.	Further Maths required for Oxford or Cambridge.
Media and/or Communications Studies	Media, English, a Foreign Language.	Work Experience is also essential.
Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology. Good Mathematical knowledge is also needed. Some universities like to see wider knowledge, e.g. non-science based courses included for example Religious Studies to consider ethical issues.	Universities will invite students for interview and will expect students to have completed relevant work experience as well as gain grades AAA*.
Modern Languages	Languages, English, History, Geography, Business Studies.	Many universities will combine a language with another subject, e.g. Business.
Natural Sciences	Maths and two of Chemistry, Biology or Physics.	Further Maths is also required for Oxford and Cambridge.
Pharmacy	Chemistry and another science.	
Physics	Physics and Maths and either; Economics, Business Studies, Chemistry, Biology, Further Maths.	
Politics	Any combination of humanities; Religious Studies, History, Geography, Sciences or a Language.	
Psychology	No specific subjects required, although a science or Maths is advantageous.	
Teaching	A National Curriculum subject if considering Primary teaching. For Secondary teaching a subject related degree is required.	

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Sometimes if the family budget is stretched, we can offer financial assistance via a student bursary. This is dependent on household income and/or personal circumstances and can be applied for through the sixth form when you join us. It will be paid into your bank account each term.



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WHAT'S NEXT?

If you require more information, please contact Andrea McAllister,
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