



# SIXTH FORM

## PROSPECTUS 2024/25

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. We have just celebrated our second very strong set of GCSE exam results and our £35M building expansion which will open when you join us in 2024

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.

Our relatively small size gives us a highly "personalised feel" and coupled with the historic chance to help shape a brand new sixth form 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 with us.



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 experience that our Sixth Formers enjoy 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.

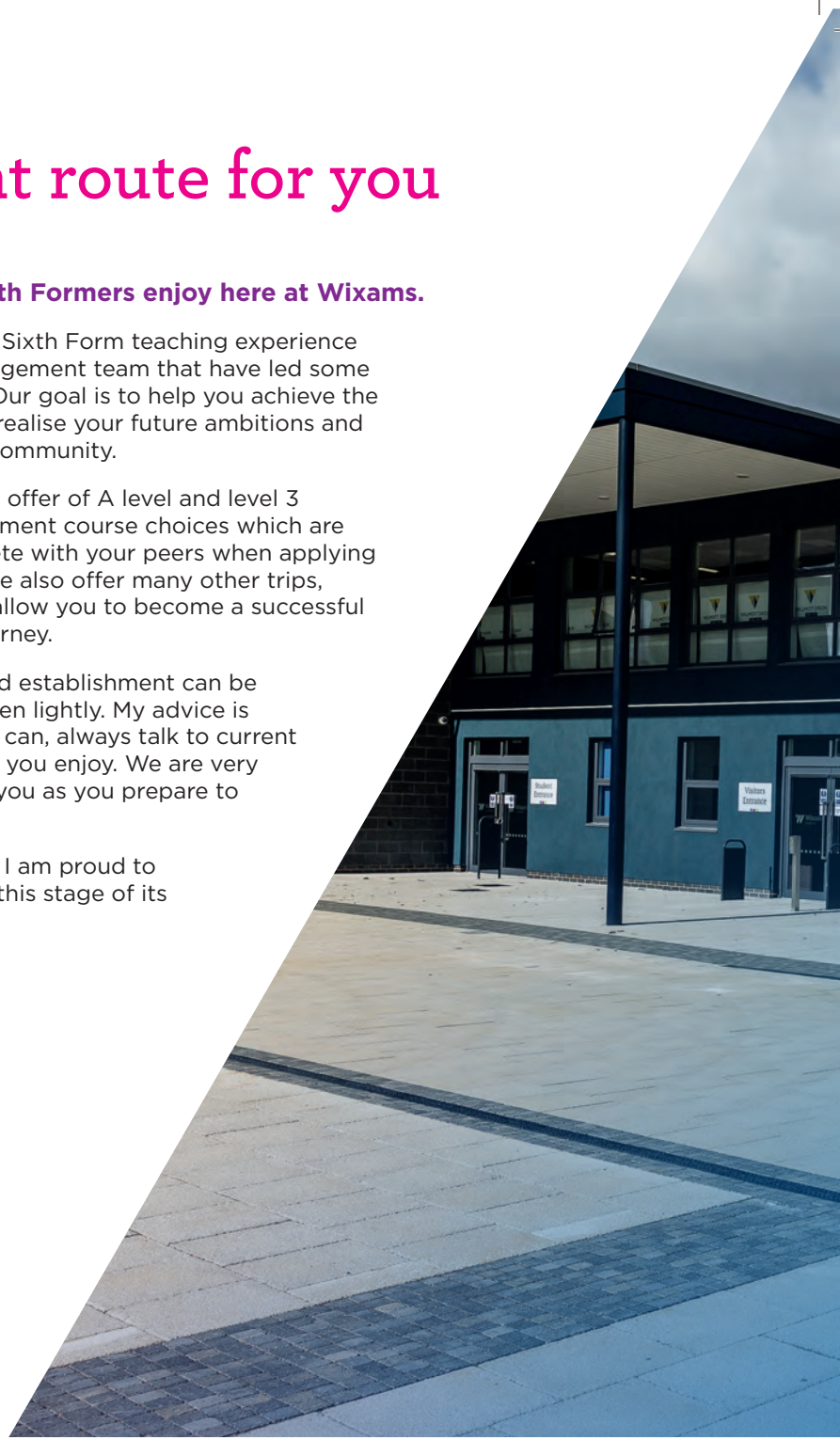
In this prospectus you will see not just a very broad offer of A level and level 3 vocational subjects, but also a wide range of enrichment course choices which are essential in giving you the cultural capital to compete with your peers when applying to university, degree and higher apprenticeships. 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, 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.

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

**Robert Mercel**  
Assistant Principal -  
Head of Sixth Form





The image shows the exterior of a modern school building. The building has a two-story design with a mix of grey stone cladding and white-painted walls. Large, dark-framed windows are visible on both floors. Some windows on the ground floor are open. In front of the building is a paved area with a pattern of light and dark grey tiles. A blue gradient overlay covers the right side of the image, where the text is placed. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds.

“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](http://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





A photograph of two male students in school uniforms sitting at a desk in a classroom, looking at a computer monitor. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent pink filter. The student on the left is wearing glasses and a dark blazer, while the student on the right is wearing a dark jacket and a tie. They are both looking intently at the screen. The desk has a keyboard and some papers on it. In the background, there are other computer monitors and a whiteboard.

## 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. Further Maths may be taken as an additional subject.**

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.

## **Entry Requirements**

### **A Levels only**

These courses are for students who have achieved a grade 5 in English Language and Maths at GCSE and a minimum of three other level 2 qualifications at grade 5 or above, who also meet the individual subject entry 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. Please see details on the next page.**

**Choosing the right Sixth Form  
is one of the most important  
decisions in a student's  
educational journey.**



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

SUBJECT	ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
<b>Art, Craft and Design (Fine Art) GCE</b>	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>
<b>Biology GCE</b>	Combined Science GCSE <b>OR</b> Biology GCSE at grade 6 or above. GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above <b>AND</b> English Language at grade 5 or above.
<b>Business GCE</b>	GCSE Business at grade 5 or above. <b>Alternatively</b> grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Maths.
<b>Chemistry GCE</b>	Combined Science GCSE <b>OR</b> Chemistry GCSE at grade 6 or above. GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above <b>AND</b> English Language at grade 5 or above.
<b>Computer Science GCE</b>	Combined <b>OR</b> Single Science GCSE at grade 6 or above <b>AND</b> Maths GCSE at grade 6 or above.
<b>Criminology</b> Level 3 Applied Diploma	No additional entry requirements.
<b>Dance GCE</b>	Dance GCSE at grade 5 or above <b>OR</b> appropriate relevant dance experience assessed by audition where necessary.
<b>Drama GCE</b>	Drama GCSE at grade 5 or above <b>OR</b> appropriate relevant drama experience assessed by audition where necessary <b>AND</b> English Language GCSE and English Literature GCSE at grade 5 or above.
<b>English Literature GCE</b>	English Language and Literature GCSE, both at grade 6 or above.
<b>Economics GCE</b>	English Language grade 6 and Maths grade 6
<b>French GCE</b>	French GCSE at grade 6 or above.
<b>Further Mathematics GCE</b>	Maths GCSE at grade 8 or above.
<b>Geography GCE</b>	English Language <b>AND</b> Maths <b>AND</b> Science at grade 5 or above. Grade 6 or above in Geography
<b>Health &amp; Social Care</b> Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	Science GCSE at grade 4 or above.
<b>History GCE</b>	History GCSE <b>OR</b> Geography GCSE at 5 or above <b>AND</b> English Language at grade 5 or above.
<b>Law GCE</b>	English Language and English Literature GCSE at grade 5 or above. <b>Alternatively</b> grade 5 or above in a humanities subject will be considered.
<b>Media Studies GCE</b>	English GCSE at grade 5 or above. Media GCSE is desirable but not essential.
<b>Music BTEC Level 3</b>	GCSE Music grade 5 <b>OR</b> BTEC Music Level 2 Merit <b>OR</b> in lieu of Music at KS4, a Video/in person performance audition in a style of their choice.
<b>Mathematics GCE</b>	Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above.
<b>Performing Arts</b> BTEC Level 3	Drama, Dance or Music GCSE at grade 4 or above <b>OR</b> 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>



SUBJECT	ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
<b>Philosophy, Religion and Ethics</b> GCE	Religious Studies GCSE at grade 5 or above <b>AND</b> English Language GCSE at grade 5 or above <b>OR</b> History or Geography GCSE at grade 5 or above.
<b>Photography</b> GCE	Art or Design GCSE at grade 5 or above <b>OR</b> portfolio of own creative work.
<b>Physical Education</b> GCE	PE GCSE at grade 5 or above <b>AND</b> 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>
<b>Physics</b> GCE	Combined Science GCSE <b>OR</b> Physics GCSE at grade 6 or above, Maths GCSE at grade 7 or above <b>AND</b> English Language at grade 5 or above.
<b>Politics</b> GCE	No additional entry requirements.
<b>Product Design</b> GCE	Design Technology GCSE <b>OR</b> 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>
<b>Psychology</b> GCE	Maths GCSE grade 5 and a Science/Biology GCSE at grade 5 or above <b>AND</b> English Language at grade 5 or above.
<b>Sociology</b> GCE	No additional entry requirements.
<b>Spanish</b> GCE	Spanish GCSE at grade 6 or above.

#### YEAR 12 ENRICHMENT COURSES

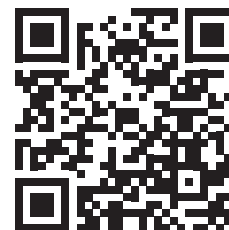
In Year 12, all students will choose

- Core Level 3 Maths **OR**
- Extended Project Qualification **OR**
- Duke of Edinburgh Award (Silver) **OR**
- MOOCS (Massive Open Online Courses)

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Maths GCSE at grade 5 or above for Core Level 3 Maths
- No additional requirements for EPQ or DoFE

Scan the QR code  
to apply today!



# 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.**

## 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.



**TAKE A VIRTUAL  
TOUR OF OUR  
CAMPUS**





TECHNOLOGY  
SUITE



SCIENCE  
LABORATORIES



LARGE OPEN  
PLAN LIBRARY



ART  
SUITE



MUSIC  
SUITE



FLOODLIT  
ASTROTURF



COMPUTING  
LABS



TWO SPORTS  
HALLS



MULTI-USE  
GAMES AREAS



PERFORMING  
ARTS STUDIO



PLAYING  
FIELDS



# 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 Sixth Form 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 effective in helping support their academic and personal progress.

## 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.





# | Student support

## SIXTH FORM INDUCTION

This is held in the Summer term, 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. Tutors support students with applications to University and apprenticeships, offer pastoral support and are the first point of contact for parents. Students will also receive regular timetabled PSHE lessons to support their onwards progression.

## 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.

# 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, 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 Sixth Form 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/about-us/sixth-form](http://www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/about-us/sixth-form)** or a paper copy may be collected from the Academy office.

## APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is **Monday 1st April**, but we encourage applications to be returned by **Thursday 1st February**, so we can begin to plan teaching groups accordingly.

# 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](http://www.wixamsacademy.co.uk)**



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Bedfordshire MK42 6BA**



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