

Christopher Whitehead Sixth Form Curriculum Model and contextual information 2020-2022

Impact of Coronavirus

During the Coronavirus lockdown from March 2020, sixth form students continued their post-16 courses at home, communicating with their staff remotely. Following a survey of our parent body about access to internet and devices at home, it was clear that teaching live timetabled lessons over video platforms was not practical. Many of our households had parents and multiple siblings working from home, making the delivery of live lessons unviable.

Sixth form subject teachers shared lesson resources and delivered feedback via a number of channels. During lockdown, Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom were adopted by staff and students for the first time. This was not previously an established way of working for our students or staff.

Year 12 students were reintroduced to the school over a two week period in July, for a limited number of face to face lessons with their subject teachers prior to the summer holiday. Upon returning to full time education in September, the relatively small sixth form facilities necessitated that we ask our year 13 students who had proved capable of independent study during lockdown, to study at home in their private study times. Students who required more structure were asked to remain in the sixth form centre to complete their independent study.

Contextual information

Christopher Whitehead is a fully comprehensive school sixth form, offering academic A-level qualifications. The sixth form is part of a school of 1,430 students from various ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, and is situated in the city of Worcester, a Local Authority which has remained in the bottom three in the country for funding for the last twenty years.

Key contextual statistics:

- % of students eligible for Free School Meals in 2019: 15.4%
- % of students on AN register (including SEND below): 10.9%
- % of students with SEN support 24.1%
- % of white British students: 86.9%
- % of sixth form students accessing 16-19 bursary on date of publication: 13%

The entry requirements are set at 30 points GCSE, including a 6 grade or above in the subject chosen at A-level. Those students studying maths at A-level are expected to have achieved at least a grade 7 at GCSE. Individual consideration is given to students who do not achieve 30 points at GCSE overall but who have excelled in the subjects that they have chosen to pursue at A-level.

Sixth Form Cohort:

- 2019-2021 cohort size: 84
- 2020-2022 cohort size: 117

Sixth form curriculum model:

- The curriculum is comprised of a wide range of A-level courses, alongside BTEC courses in Applied Science, Applied Psychology, Applied Law, Sport, and Performing Arts. Vocational courses in Health and Social Care and Hairdressing are also offered.

- Students are free to study three or four A-levels, or to study one or two A-levels alongside an appropriate BTEC course.
- Whilst students have the opportunity to study four subjects in year 12, the majority of students study three full A-level courses with the opportunity to complement their courses with an Extended Project Qualification.
- Further maths is available to top mathematicians.
- The school does not enter students for AS-Level qualifications as a model, instead students may opt for AS-levels as additional qualifications, or may be asked to sit the AS level if they are in danger of not passing the full A level.
- The sixth form is part of the Worcestershire HE+ Consortium.