



**WMAT Sixth Form
Collaboration**

Wellsway School
SBL Academy
IKB Academy

**Student and Parent
Handbook
2020-21**

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Dear Sixth Form Student,

Welcome to Wellsway Multi Academy Trust Collaborative Sixth Form.

Whether you are new to the trust or continuing your education with us, we are delighted to welcome you to our collaborative community. You have made a positive decision to continue with your studies post-16 and it is our aim to provide you with all the support you need so you fulfil your potential. You will be joining a large and successful Sixth Form, whichever school you choose to be your home centre.

I hope that you enjoy your time here. Of course grades are essential to your future success and as such are our primary goal. However, Sixth Form is also about enriching you personally within your study programme and preparing you for the next phase of your career or education.

We believe that our Sixth Form will provide you with the experiences that will enable you to stand out in the crowd when it comes to completing your UCAS references or your Degree Apprenticeship applications. It is not only the grades that are important but the wider enrichment opportunities that will ensure your armoury is full. Perhaps a ski trip in Year 12 or the visit to Cern at the start of Year 13; maybe the success of being involved in the musical choir or the drama production, or one of the sporting teams you join. Developing skills and attributes that go alongside the academic success we strive for is how we can ensure that our brightest and most able fulfil their dreams – whether that be Oxbridge, medicine or other competitive destinations.

I wish you the very best of luck during this important and exciting stage of your life, which we will help mould and develop over the next two years, ensuring that your dreams and ambitions are realised.

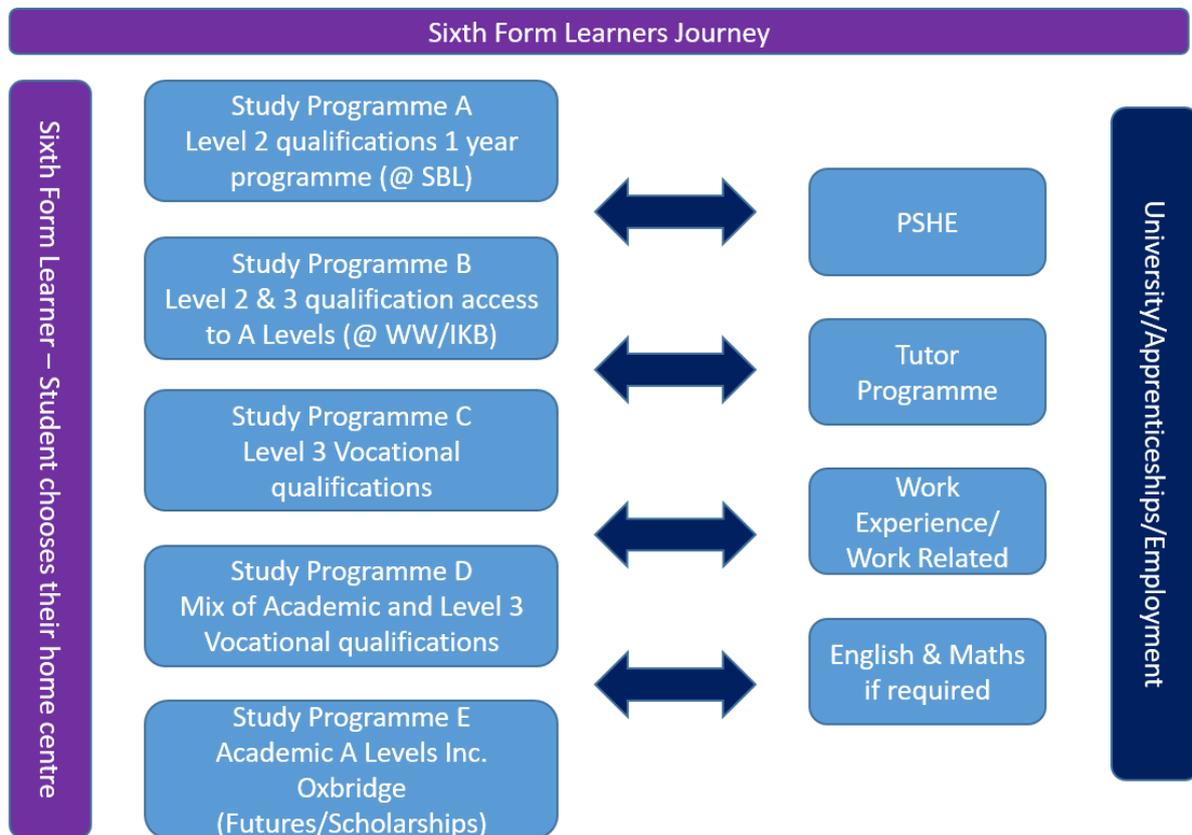
Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Wilkinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

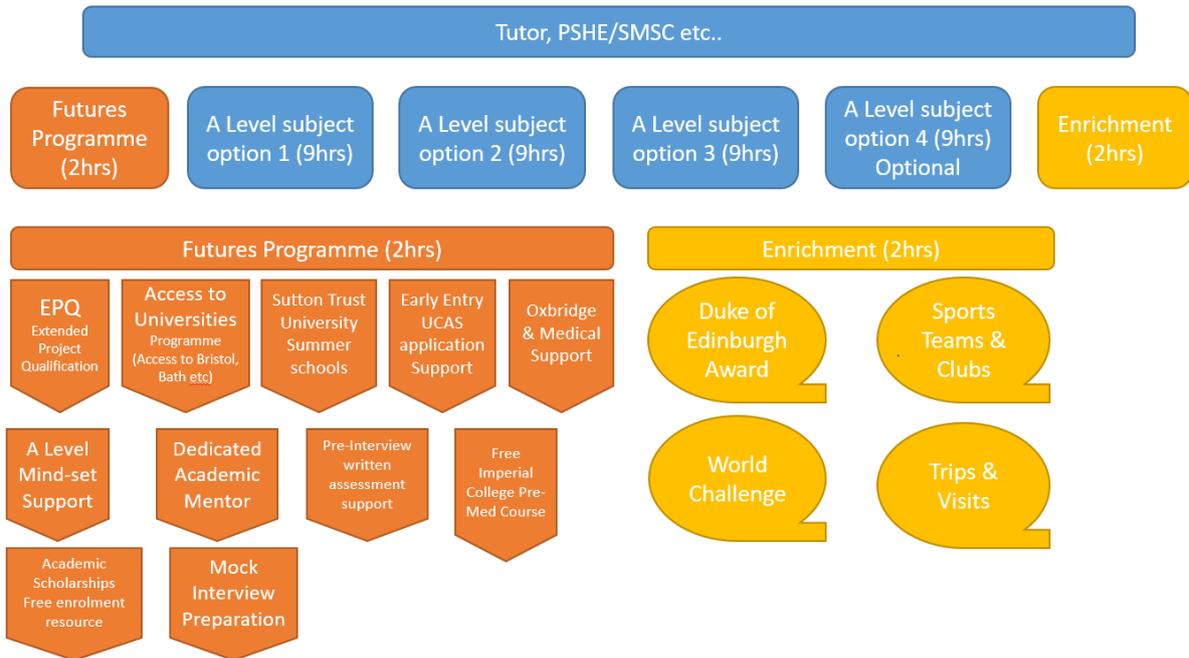
Mr Danny Wilkinson
WMAT Sixth Form Lead

WMAT Study Programmes 2020-2021

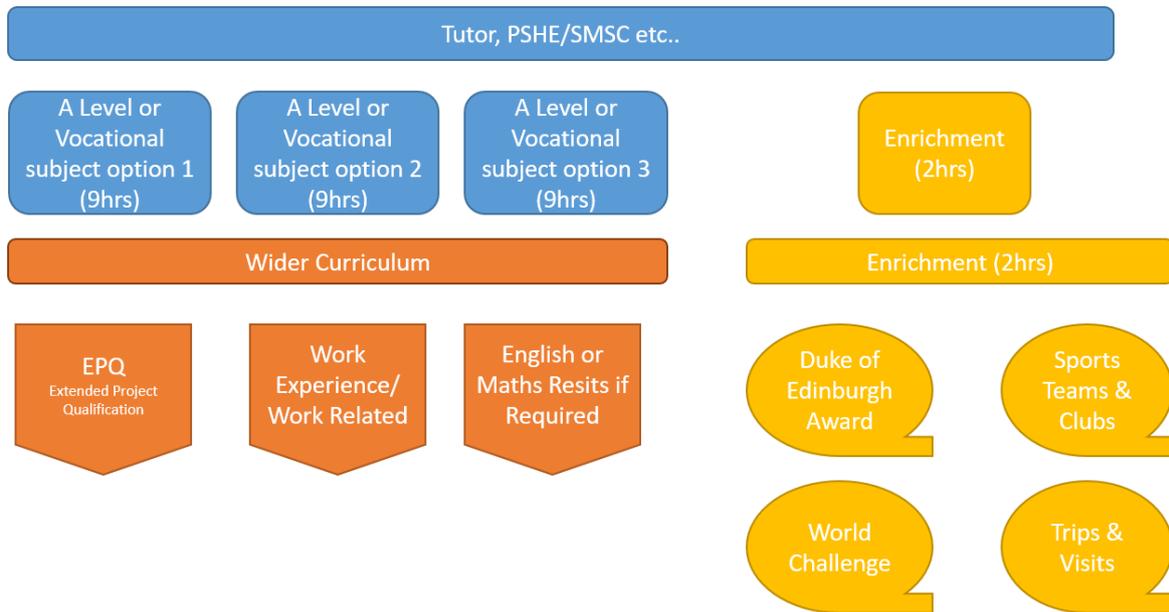
Students in Sixth Form choose subjects that fulfil a wider study programme, so it is important that they understand which study programme they will be part of and how that will impact the extra-curricular and wider curriculum offer they will need to engage with. These study programmes are discussed in more detail during the student's interview in term 3.



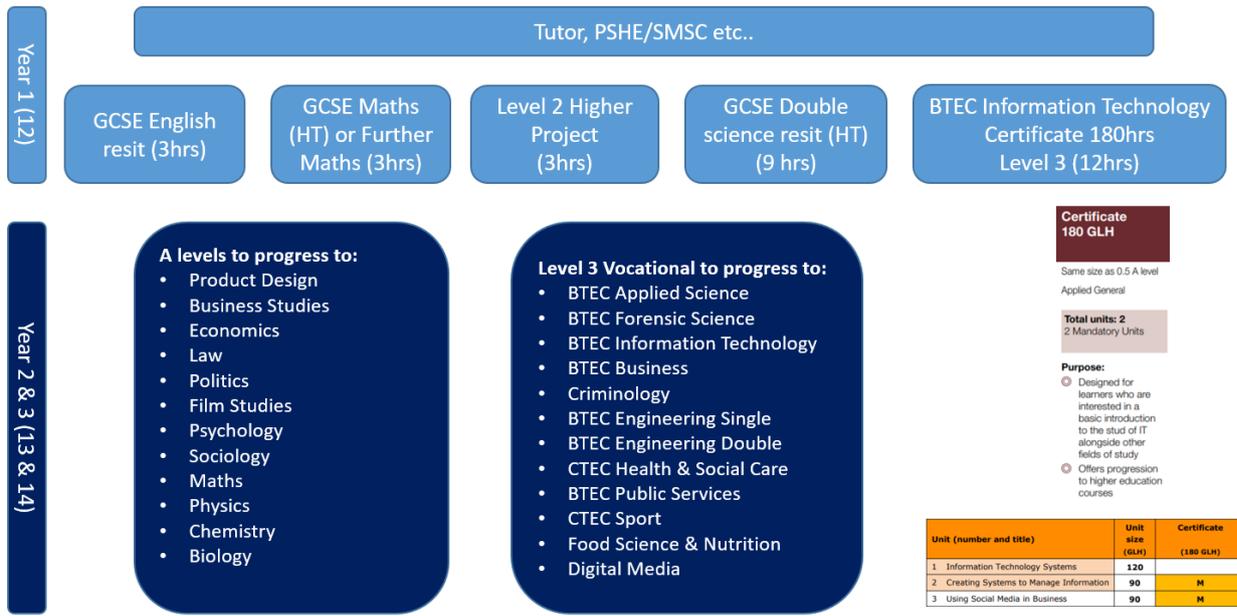
WMAT Sixth Form Futures/Scholarship 2021-22 (Study Programme E)



WMAT Sixth Form Study Programme C & D 2021-22



WMAT Sixth Form Bridging Year 2021-22 (Study Programme B)



Study programmes are an important aspect of your sixth form education and the WMAT Sixth Form is an inclusive sixth form which can provide opportunities for all abilities. We are particularly proud to be able to offer a bridging year study programme, specifically designed to support students who may have missed content and would like to spend an additional year improving their English, Maths and Science grades whilst undertaking a useful IT course for one year before accessing a two year A Level or Vocational study programme.

For the most able and academic students we are also proud to offer a Futures/Scholarship study programme which comes with additional timetabled support to ensure that you develop the skills and attributes to make you stand out in the crowd and ensure you are successful in applying to the most competitive courses at university, including Oxford, Cambridge and Medical degrees, as well as degree apprenticeships.

The School Day

At the WMAT Sixth Form we operate a two week timetable, week A and week B. Students will typically receive 9 hour long lessons per A level over the course of the two weeks. Students generally choose three A levels or equivalent subjects to study in Sixth Form.

All students are expected to arrive in school by 8:45am for tutor during which time we will deliver a comprehensive PSHE/SMSC programme and mentor students.

A typical sixth form student will attend a tutor session every morning, have a minimum of 27 hours subject lessons, will be directed to be involved in a number of enrichment activities alongside work experience and PSHE/SMSC sessions. Some lesson sessions will have nothing timetabled and the expectation is that the student will be studying independently; curriculum teams may support these sessions.

We timetable Wednesday afternoons as enrichment time for sixth form students; this allows the flexibility to schedule whole year group activities such as UCAS applications and support, or external speakers.

8:30am	Transport between centres runs
8:45am to 9:05am	Tutor Activity
9:05am to 10:05am	Period 1
10:05am to 11:05am	Period 2
11:05am to 11:25am	Break (Transport between centres runs during break time)
11:25am to 12:25pm	Period 3
12:25pm to 1:25pm	Period 4
1:25pm to 2:05pm	Lunch (Transport between centres runs during lunchtime)
2:05pm to 3:05pm	Period 5

Dress Code

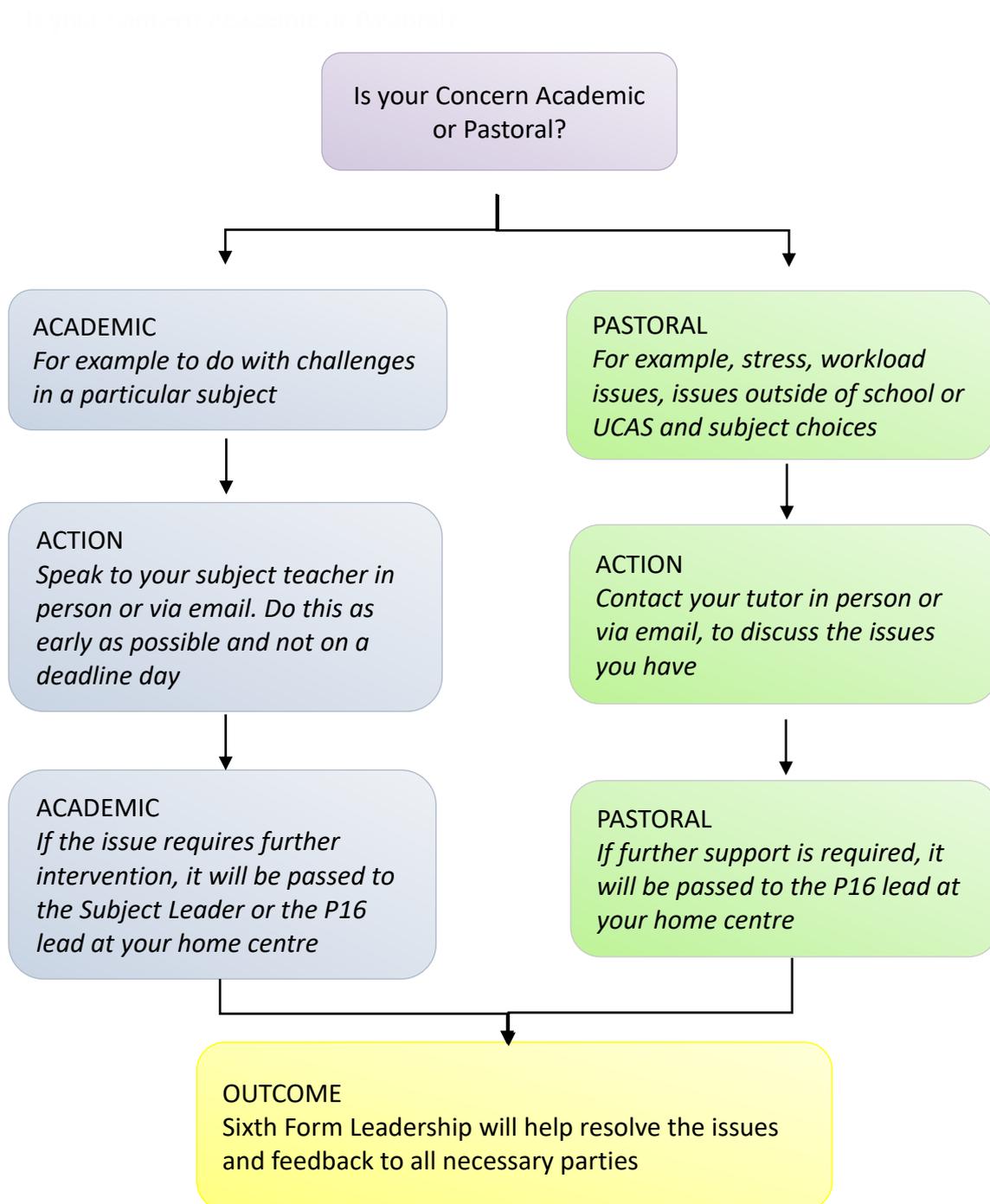
Students are expected to dress appropriately for the task of learning and being a part of the WMAT Sixth Form. A smart appearance is therefore expected of all students and the following expectations should be met:

- No revealing clothes, including crop tops or low-cut tops / short skirts or dresses
- No tops with slogans which may be regarded as offensive, aggressive or out of place in a school context
- No beach-wear or sports shorts
- No flip flops or high heels
- No headwear, including baseball caps (except for religious reasons)
- Conventional jewellery / earrings with no facial or visible body piercing (with the exception of a small nose stud)



Accessing Support in the Sixth Form

Every student will be supported by their tutor throughout the sixth form – your tutor is the first person you should go to if there are any issues which are causing you anxiety or preventing you from learning. Over the course of the year, your tutor is someone you should seek to form a good relationship with; they will be able to support you in a variety of ways and will make time to work through any difficulties with you.



The Pastoral Programme

Our tutor system

We have experienced personal tutors who work alongside the Directors of Sixth Form to help support you throughout your time with us.

You will work closely with both Year 12 and Year 13 students during tutor sessions, developing skills outside of academia that will help you flourish both in sixth form and in life beyond. Typically, we would look to develop your employability skills such as team working and communication, combining this with work experience and the wider study programme you will be enrolled into. This is taken further in our Year 12 transition programme in Term 1, where we work with you to develop the skills you need to make a successful transition from Year 11 into Year 12.

As soon as you begin sixth form, you will complete an audit of your strengths and areas for development and will start to build a record of your achievements. You will record your employability skills and academic progress throughout the year, as well as all of your other achievements both here and outside of school. This is used to help you and us understand and maximise your strengths and address areas for development to ensure that when you need a reference for university or the world of work, we can provide information that is accurate, informed and individual.

Support with study

We run a variety of support programmes throughout the year including:

- Sessions to broaden your horizons and develop invaluable study and employability skills
- Subject study groups
- Our Careers Adviser helps you with decisions about apprenticeships, gap years and work
- Our UCAS programme provides extensive support and advice to help you access university
- Our Challenge Futures Programme runs bespoke support for those targeting Oxbridge and Medicine or other highly competitive courses
- The Apprenticeship and Employment Support Group to help prepare you for life beyond sixth form

Sixth form bursary

These awards are intended to help students who may need financial assistance to enable them to study. Please see this [explanatory guide and application form](#) (Pdf, 309kb) for more details.

Spaces to study, and relax in

The Sixth Form Learning Centres provide spaces where you can work individually in study pods, in small quiet groups or individually on computers. These areas are also equipped with data points where you can plug in your laptop or tablet and has free Wi-Fi.

The Common Rooms are dedicated sixth form spaces where you can relax or study in as you wish. Food and drink is available from the Sixth Form cafes.

Attendance and Academic Procedures

Attendance

All WMAT Sixth Form students are required to attend all timetabled sessions; these include subject lessons, tutorials, assemblies, PSHE lessons and work placements. Students are expected and supported to achieve 100% lesson attendance.

If students are ill or unavailable to attend any timetabled lessons, they must ring and report this to their home centre. Any planned absence for interviews, driving tests etc, that cannot be planned for outside of lesson time must be approved by completing the required advanced absence form.

Students' free time on the timetable is classed as independent study time. Should lesson attendance drop below 96%, the student may be subject to an attendance contract and have the independent study time removed.

Any unauthorised absence will be recorded as an 'N' mark in the register and must be accounted for during tutorial sessions.

Maintaining Deadlines

WMAT Sixth Form students will be expected to complete and submit homework set by subject teachers. Meeting deadlines for submitting homework is vital to ensure students maintain the pace required to deliver all subject content needed to complete an A-Level course or BTEC vocational qualification. It is expected that each subject (equivalent to 1 A-Level) will issue up to 6 hours of additional independent homework every week.

Within the BTEC vocational qualifications independent home learning is also expected to be used to complete assignment course work which contributes to the final overall grading for the qualification. Therefore homework must be submitted on time as per the guidance from the examination board.

Should students fail to submit independent homework or assignment coursework by the deadline set, they will be subject to letters home informing parents, after school detention catch up sessions, parent and student interviews, academic and attendance contracts, or they potentially risk being withdrawn from their qualification.

Academic Contracts

Students are expected to complete all homework; manage their study files and work hard in all lessons. Should a student require additional support they will be supported by the curriculum team outside of lessons, using their free time.

Should students fall below the expected academic standards we set, or not be achieving in line with their targets, students could be placed on academic contracts to support them – failure to meet agreed targets will result in them potentially losing their free time and having this timetabled to ensure they are maintaining the academic standard we would expect.

Monitoring Progress

Student progress is aligned across all sixth form centres and consists of the following:

Year 12

1 x AIR review. A review completed by teachers which includes an **Attitude to Learning, Independence and Readiness for Learning** indicator.

3 x Progress reviews. These reviews include a predicted grade alongside the AIR indicators that show how well the student is applying themselves to learning.

2 x Parents evenings. Parents' evenings are aligned to allow students and parents to meet with subject teachers to discuss performance and progress.

Year 13

1 x AIR review. A review completed by teachers which includes an **Attitude to Learning, Independence and Readiness for Learning** indicator.

3 x Progress reviews. These reviews include a predicted grade alongside the AIR indicators that show how well the student is applying themselves to learning.

2 x Parents evenings. Parents' evenings are aligned to allow students and parents to meet with subject teachers to discuss performance and progress.

Homework & Remote Learning

Sixth form students are given 'Insight' accounts at each school depending on the subjects they are studying. 'Insight' is the software application we use to set homework; this application can be accessed by parents so they can monitor the homework being set.

Sixth Form students are given Microsoft Teams accounts. Teachers use Microsoft Teams as a virtual learning platform. Should any lessons need to revert to remote learning, Microsoft Teams will be used for this purpose. Many teachers also use Microsoft Teams to support their lessons and upload resources which will support students learning, often providing an online method for students to submit work and receive feedback.



Subjects available to study within the WMAT Sixth Form

A Level	Entry Requirements
Art - Fine Art	5 in Art if taken
Art – Photography	5 in Art if taken
Art – Textiles	5 in Art if taken
Biology	6 - 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Biology, plus 5 in Maths
Business	5 in Business if taken, Merit in BTEC Business if taken, plus 5 in Maths
Chemistry	6 - 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Chemistry, plus 6 in Maths
Computer Science	5 in Computing if taken, or 5 in Maths and English Literature or Language if not taken
Dance	5 in GCSE Dance if taken
Drama and Theatre Studies	5 in Drama if taken, plus 5 in English Literature or Language
Economics	5 in Maths, plus 5 in English Language or Literature
English Language	5 in English Language
English Literature	6 in English Literature
English Literature and Language	5 in English Literature or Language
Film Studies	5 in English Literature or Language
French	6 in French
Geography	6 in Geography if taken, or 6 English Literature if not taken
German	6 in German
History	6 in History if taken, or 6 in English Literature if not taken
Law	5 in English Literature or Language
Maths	6 in Maths
Maths (Further)	7 in Maths
Music	6 in Music, ability to read music fluently
PE	5 in PE if taken, plus 55 in Combined Science (or at least two grade 5s in separate sciences), plus regular participation in sport out of school
Philosophy	6 in RS if taken, or 6 in English Literature if not taken
Physics	6 - 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Physics, plus 6 in Maths
Politics	5 in English Literature or Language
Product Design (DT)	5 in a DT subject if taken
Psychology	5 in Maths, plus 5 in either English Literature or Language
Sociology	5 in either English Literature or Language
Level 3 Vocational	
	Entry Requirements
BTEC Applied Science (Single)	4 in Core Science, plus 4 in Maths
BTEC Construction (Single)	4 in Core Science, plus 4 in Maths
BTEC Engineering (Double)	4 in at least one Science, plus 4 in Maths
BTEC Engineering (Single)	5 in at least one Science, plus 5 in Maths
BTEC Forensic Science (Double)	4 in Core Science, plus 4 in Maths
BTEC Information Technology	Meets the entry requirements for the sixth form
BTEC Public Services	4 in Maths, plus 4 in English Literature or Language
CNAT Digital media	4 in Maths, plus 4 in either English Literature or Language.
CTEC Business	4 in Maths, plus 4 in English Literature or Language
CTEC Health and Social Care	4 in English Literature or Language, plus 4 - 4 in Combined Science
CTEC Sport & Physical Activity	4 in PE if taken, Merit in L2 BTEC if taken, or 4 in English Literature or Language if not taken, plus a 4 in a Science
Digital Media	4 in Maths, plus 4 in English Literature or Language
Level 3 Criminology (Single)	4 in English Language or Literature
Level 3 Food Science & Nutrition	5 in Food Preparation and Nutrition course if taken, Merit in VCERT/BTEC or other vocational food course if taken, plus 4 in English Literature or Language
Additional qualifications	
	Entry Requirements
Access to Level 3 (1 year course)	5 grade 3s at GCSE
GCSE English	Re-sit GCSE English Language
GCSE Maths	Re-sit GCSE Maths foundation level
Level 3 Core Maths	4 in Maths
Level 3 EPQ	By interview, plus a minimum 6 grade 6s at GCSE

Futures Programme

Our bespoke Challenge Futures group is part of our whole school Challenge Programme. It helps students progress to the most competitive universities and courses in the country. The group runs from Years 11 -13.

The group is supported by a variety of organisations including Oxford University, Cambridge University, Bath University, Bristol University, medical colleges and others. The programme is designed to give students an edge when applying to the most competitive courses in the country.

Students are supported with research, interview techniques, personal statement preparation, relevant work placement and pre-admissions tests. You will also receive subject/course specific mentoring from senior teachers, ex-students who have been and gone through the process and our extensive contacts at top universities and other institutions.

We are proud to have helped students go into a wide variety of fields from medicine to veterinary science, law to architecture, maths to sport, creative arts to management and many more at a variety of Russell Group and other leading universities across the country.

The Russell Group have produced a series of helpful videos which give students and parents/carers more information regarding accessing competitive courses at university.



Beyond the Curriculum

Work Placement – It is an expectation that all students during year 12 seek out a relevant work placement. However, this is only organised for you should you chose IKB Academy as your home centre, and at Wellsway School or SBL you need to source your own. Students studying vocational qualifications will be encouraged to follow a work experience programme.

Volunteering – All Year 12 students are expected to do at least 40 hours of volunteering. This could be done as a weekly commitment, or could be a week long opportunity in the school holiday and could also be part of your work experience opportunity. Volunteering is very attractive to both universities and employers. Community groups, faith organisations, youth sports teams, charities, care homes and museums, to name but a few, are regularly looking for young adults to support what they do.

Enrichment – Students are expected to participate in enrichment activities to develop their personal interests. The WMAT has a full timetable of activities, particularly in music and sport, and also other activities and clubs. Student’s interests can be pursued outside of school as well.

Extended Project Qualification – The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an opportunity for students to go beyond the curriculum in their chosen field of interest. It is a formal qualification and is worth half an A level. For most students it will involve a research project that culminates in an extended report of approximately 5000 words, and a presentation of what they have found out. It develops research skill and independence, and as such is highly valued by academic universities.

When do I apply for my Sixth Form Place?

All year 11 students from Wellsway School, IKB Academy and SBL Academy will make an application to the WMAT Sixth Form through Insight through their home schools website, at some point during Term 2 and you will be notified when to do this. All external applications can be completed via any of the schools websites. Bedminster Down students can apply to the WMAT Sixth Form through their website.

Once initial applications have been made, this will prompt student interviews with Sixth Form staff. These interviews are used to reflect on your current GCSE predications and ensure you have selected the correct courses for your sixth form studies. Sixth Form staff are experienced in supporting and guiding students with their choices to fulfil their further education into university or aspirations into career sectors. These interviews typically take place at the start of Term 3 (January) and will be conducted remotely for external applicants.

Useful Contact Information

Wellsway School

School Website: www.wellswayschool.com
Telephone Number: 0117 986 4751
Post 16 Lead: alittleboy@wellswayschool.com
Deputy P16 Lead: kmalone@wellswayschool.com
Wellsway Sixth Form: sixthform@wellswayschool.com
Careers Leader: mmillard@wellswayschool.com
Enquiries: enquiries@wellswayschool.com

SBL Academy

School Website: www.sbllearning.org.uk
Telephone Number: 0117 456 59000
Post 16 Lead: LSH@sblonline.org.uk
P16 Administration: JCO@sblonline.org.uk
Careers Leader: CMU@sblonline.org.uk
Enquiries: sblovell@sblonline.org.uk

IKB Academy

School Website: www.ikbacademy.org.uk
Telephone Number: 0117 916 1025
Post 16 Lead: rrutland@ikbacademy.org.uk
Learning Mentor: dofford@ikbacademy.org.uk
Attendance officer: javent@ikbacademy.org.uk
Careers Leader: cbarclay@ikbacademy.org.uk
Enquiries: enquiries@ikbacademy.org.uk

How to apply

To apply to the WMAT Sixth Form please visit the relevant school's website and follow the links to the WMAT Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening and application page. Here you will find subject and school information to assist your application.

