

FUTURE ACADEMIES WATFORD



Sixth Form Prospectus 2023 Entry





WELCOME TO FUTURE ACADEMIES WATFORD SIXTH FORM

Dear student

Thank you for expressing an interest in continuing the next phase of your education at Future Academies Watford. We welcome enquiries from students who are currently in Year 11 at the academy and also those who may be considering moving schools to join us in the Sixth Form. We are very proud of the fact that students who join us in the Sixth Form are met with a warm and welcoming environment.

Staff and students are very proud of our Sixth Form and the important role it plays in the life of the academy. We have a strong record of success and achievement, and are recognised for the personalised support and development we offer each student.

Students in the Sixth Form benefit from an area of the academy dedicated to their sole use for both teaching and personal study. This works to create a positive and focused learning environment supporting students as they develop into effective independent learners.

Knowledge, Aspiration and Respect are central to the learning experience at Future Academies Watford. We deliver a curriculum that is ambitious, inspiring and challenging, providing students with an opportunity to find the areas in which they excel and for which they have a true passion. This starts with high quality learning in lessons taught by subject experts, and a desire to enable students to achieve their goals.

We are committed to ensuring that all of our Sixth Form students achieve excellent academic results, so that every student has the freedom of choice in their adult life. We aim to develop independent, ambitious and successful individuals who set themselves high expectations. All of our students are supported in a uniquely tailored approach to offer them a successful route to university, other higher education or employment, so that they can have the freedom to excel. The Sixth Form provides a wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities to complement our academic programme; this is supported through face-to-face sessions, coupled with a highly successful UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) programme, careers and employability sessions, opportunities for volunteering, and work experience.

We are incredibly proud of the personalised pastoral care and guidance provided by the Sixth Form Team, enabling all students to be happy and successful. We closely monitor student progress and personalise the support that each student receives in order to be successful.

The Sixth Form is a time when we encourage students to mature and become adults. We expect our students to act as role models to the younger students and to contribute to the whole academy community. Students take a very active part in contributing to the local community.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions and we hope to welcome you to Year 12 very soon.

Deborah Warwick

Principal



QUALITY OF PROVISION IN THE SIXTH FORM

We are extremely proud of the quality of provision that we offer in the Sixth Form and this was recognised by Ofsted as a strength of the academy in June 2022, when the quality of 16-19 study programmes was judged to be ‘Good’.

“Sixth-form students are well prepared for their next steps through the support provided by staff”.

“Students demonstrate mature approaches to learning and are good role models”.

“Leaders have ensured that the curriculum is ambitious. It is adapted to the needs of all students, including those students with SEND”.

“Students have positive attitudes towards their studies and talk positively about how they are supported well by teachers”.

“Sixth-form students are typically confident and professional in the way that they conduct themselves in school. Many of them take on wider roles, acting as mentors and ‘reading buddies’ for younger pupils. Effective careers information advice and guidance helps to prepare students for their next steps in education and/or training.”
Ofsted March 2019

Our expert teachers have high expectations of our students in their A-level exams; to achieve this, they personalise their teaching, support and intervention. Our aspiration for every student is that they achieve the best outcomes; through their academic studies, and by engaging in our extra-curricular programme, the doors to further opportunities will open.

We pride ourselves on ensuring that students have access to the best curriculum support, resources and guidance throughout their time at the academy.

Good passes at A-level are our minimum expectation and, once public examinations resume, we aim to be one of the top performing schools nationally.

A summary of historical results can be accessed at:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/135876/future-academies-watford/16-to-18>



TIMELINE FOR THE YEAR 11 OPTIONS PROCESS



Thursday 17th November 2022	Sixth Form Open Evening
22nd November - 17th December 2022	‘A subject a day’ presentations in tutor time
Friday 6th January 2023	Deadline for internal applications to the Sixth Form
January 2023 – February 2023	Individual interviews with the Sixth Form Team
February 2023	Taster sessions
July 2023	Our bridging work will begin, supporting students to transition into the 6th form and A-level standard work
<i>November 2022 – February 2023</i>	<p><i>As part of our support package, all Year 11 students will be invited to attend an individual Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) meeting with a member of the Sixth Form or IAG team</i></p> <p><i>Parents and guardians are welcome to attend with their child</i></p>

A GUIDE TO CHOOSING A-LEVEL SUBJECTS



Students who are applying to Future Academies Watford should choose at least 3 A-levels. The A-levels chosen should complement each other and also enable a student to progress onto their chosen next steps. For example, if you are thinking of studying medicine at university, you should aim to study science/maths subjects.

At the same time of choosing A-level subjects, students should look into whether certain options at university require certain subjects to be studied. It is important to note that university courses such as Law or Psychology do not require prior learning at A-level, whilst for subjects such as History, an A-level in the subject is required.

Some students will select subjects based on what they enjoy, others using their GCSE grades to help them make these decisions. However you chose your subjects, please research what you will be required to do: where possible, pick subjects that complement each other in terms of the skills you will develop and the work that you are expected to complete. Previously, guidance around choosing subjects at A-level centred on 'keystone subjects'. These were a list of subjects that were published by the Russell Group and included those that were most commonly asked for in university entry requirements. It is worth noting that studying one or more of these subjects may strengthen your university applications; students wishing to apply to Oxbridge or a Russell Group university, may wish to consider studying at least two of these subjects. The keystone subjects offered at Future Academies Watford are: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, Geography, History, and Mathematics, and French and Spanish (with a partner school).

The table below provides information about the types of degree that you might be interested in studying at university, and the A-level subjects that might be useful for these. If you are interested in a particular area of study, there may be subjects or combinations of subjects that are particularly useful or that the Russell Group universities would prefer students to study. You can find out more information about choosing the right A-levels for you by using the Informed Choices website.

Key links can be found here:

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/degrees> (provides information about specific degree courses)

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/which-degree> (provides information about the different types of degree)

Area of study at degree level	Examples of degree courses	Useful A-level subjects
Creative Arts	Art Design Drama Fashion Film-making Music Photography	Art, D&T, Drama, Media studies
Humanities	English literature History Philosophy Religious studies	English literature, History, Mathematics, Psychology, Religious studies, Sociology
Languages	Languages from around the world	French, Spanish
Science and Maths	Biochemistry Biomedical sciences Dentistry Engineering Environmental sciences Forensic science Geography Geology Materials science Mathematics Medicine Pharmacy Physiotherapy Veterinary science	Mathematics, Further mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics Other subjects, such as PE (Physical Education) and Geography , may be useful for certain courses
Social Sciences	Anthropology Business Economics Education Geography Law Politics Psychology Sociology Social work	Mathematics, Geography, Government and politics, Psychology, Religious studies, Sociology



OUR SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

At Future Academies Watford, we have our main curriculum. These are the subjects that students are expected to select three A-levels from. Alongside these formal qualifications, we also provide opportunities for students to develop other skills, knowledge and qualifications.

Students also have the opportunity to select from our enrichment curriculum. This might be something that lasts for the whole year – for example, the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award – or only for one term – for example, games and Sports Leadership. Our expectation is that all students take part in enrichment opportunities in addition to their subject curriculum.

Main Subjects	Other Enrichment Opportunities
Art* Biology** Chemistry** Design and Technology* Drama English Literature Geography Government and Politics* History Mathematics Media Studies* Physical Education Physics** Psychology* Religious Studies* Sociology* Languages: French or Spanish (with a partner school)	Educational trips and visits First Aid qualifications Games and Sports Leadership Lecture series Life-guarding qualification Reading buddies and mentoring Student Leadership including accreditation Student newspaper The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Work experience World Challenge Young Enterprise

* Indicates that a GCSE in this subject is not a necessary prerequisite to studying it at A-level.

** We will accept students with Combined Science; please see our subject-specific grade requirements.

A guide to homework and independent study:

Students will receive homework for each subject each week. This will be set using our online VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) system and monitored by both the Sixth Form team and the individual subject teachers. Non-completion of homework will result in students losing Sixth Form privileges and being entered for our weekly catch-up sessions.

Alongside homework, students will be expected to complete work in their independent study time. This is not homework, but work that will help extend their learning and understanding of their subjects. This work will be guided by teachers and will build upon the knowledge taught in their lessons. Students should aim to complete 15 hours each week of independent study in addition to the work completed in lessons and for homework. Students should remember that, the more effort they put into their studies, the better their chances of exceeding their expectations.



ENTRY CRITERIA

The minimum academic entry criteria for Future Academies Watford Sixth Form are outlined below:

- A minimum of five passes at grade 4 or higher at GCSE, including English and mathematics.
- Additional entry criteria for specific subjects as set out in the table below.

Subject	Specific GCSE Criteria
Art*	Grade 5 in art <u>or</u> a technology-based subject <u>or</u> a portfolio of work
Biology**	Grade 6 in biology <u>or</u> combined science and grade 5 in mathematics
Chemistry**	Grade 6 in chemistry <u>or</u> combined science and grade 5 in mathematics
D&T: Fashion and Textiles*	Grade 5 in art <u>or</u> a technology-based subject <u>or</u> a portfolio of work
Drama	Grade 5 in English language/literature
English Literature	Grade 6 in English language/literature
Geography	Grade 5 in geography
Government and Politics*	Grade 5 in English language/literature
History	Grade 5 in history
Languages	Grade 6 in French <u>or</u> Spanish, including the written examination
Mathematics	Grade 6 in mathematics
Media Studies*	Grade 5 in media studies <u>or</u> English language/literature
Physical Education	Grade 5 in PE <u>or</u> biology <u>or</u> combined science
Physics**	Grade 6 in physics <u>or</u> combined science and mathematics
Psychology*	Grade 5 in English language/literature
Religious Studies*	Grade 5 in religious studies <u>or</u> English language/literature
Sociology*	Grade 5 in English language/literature

* Indicates that a GCSE in this subject is not a necessary prerequisite to studying it at A-level.

** We will accept students with Combined Science; please see our subject-specific grade requirements.



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

At Future Academies Watford, we aim to offer students a rich and broad range of opportunities to develop wider skills and knowledge to help them in their studies as well as their personal development as young adults. Some of these opportunities are listed below; however, we will always look to extend the provision on offer.

Our Lecture Series

Students are able to access lectures from existing staff members with particular interests. The aim of these is to broaden students' wider knowledge and understanding of key issues and topics. In the past, students have listened to lectures on democracy and politics; whether there is a role for religion in our society; and climate change.

Alongside these talks, we also invite speakers into the academy who have excelled in industry. We have previously invited CEOs from the automotive and design industries.

Further Qualifications

During their time at Future Academies Watford Sixth Form, students also have opportunities to complete further qualifications; for example, first aid. We work with local companies and online learning platforms to provide an extensive range of opportunities.

Games

Each Friday afternoon, students will be able to take part in Games activities and may also choose to use this time to work towards Sports Leadership qualifications.

Work Experience

Students in Year 12 are entitled to complete work experience. We support our students in finding suitable work experience placements and providing this opportunity.

Leadership Opportunities

Our Sixth Form students are key to the success of our academy. We expect that students will want to 'give something back' to the academy; therefore, students may take positions on our student leadership council, or they may wish to take part in reading or mentoring schemes, with the opportunity to work towards accreditation.

Educational Visits

Sixth Form students at Future Academies will have opportunities to extend their cultural capital. Whether it is theatre trips, trips linked to subjects or exposing students to new experiences, there will be plenty for Sixth Form students to do.

PASTORAL CARE

At Future Academies Watford, we pride ourselves on our pastoral care, and the Sixth Form is no different. Students enter our academy in Year 7 and we fully expect them to be with us at the end of Year 13 – therefore, we work hard to know and understand our students.

The Sixth Form at Future Academies Watford has a dedicated member of staff who supports the Head of Sixth Form and students to ensure that all students are successful. They monitor attendance and provide mentoring sessions to students to support with all aspects of managing their studies. They also liaise with subject teachers to track completion of homework; as well as supporting students who are working in their independent study time.

All students in the Sixth Form at Future Academies Watford receive independent advice and guidance about their next steps after A-levels. This guidance is organised through the Trust, but comes from an outside agency.

Students also receive dedicated taught sessions on applying to university and how to complete their application form, including writing their personal statement. Where possible, Future Academies Watford Sixth Form students visit the annual UCAS fair, which all universities attend to promote themselves. We also hope to take students to visit a university.





ADMISSIONS

Students in Year 11 at Future Academies Watford

Current Year 11 students at the academy achieving the minimum academic entry criteria are able to transfer to Year 12 to study at advanced level, if they wish. Students are to complete and submit an internal application form by the required date. Further details can be found on the academy's website.

External Candidates for Year 12

The academy welcomes applications for admission to Year 12 from external candidates. This Admission Policy sets out the criteria that will apply to applications for the admission of external students, including the minimum academic entry criteria, which are the same for both internal students and external candidates.

Equality and Inclusion

The academy is fully inclusive and welcomes applications for the admission of candidates of all abilities and needs, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. The academy fully complies with its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

Candidates with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC plan)

There are separate statutory procedures in place which govern the admission of candidates with special educational needs ("SEN") for whom an education health and care plan ("EHC plan") has been issued by their Local Authority. Parents/guardians of candidates with an EHC plan who wish to be admitted to Year 12 at the academy should make their Local Authority aware of this, so that it can consider whether to propose to name the academy in the candidate's EHC plan in accordance with the statutory procedure.

Student Welfare and Support

The academy is firmly committed to providing a supportive and caring learning environment that fosters academic success and in which Sixth Form students enjoy their time at school. We welcome students joining Future Academies Watford for their Sixth Form education. The school appreciates that moving to a new phase of education is a big step and that students will benefit from increased support and pastoral care. The school provides an extensive induction programme for all new students.

For all Sixth Form students, the school has a team of professional staff dedicated to assisting with student welfare matters. The team includes a Sixth Form Student attendance and welfare officer, form tutors, learning mentors, a UCAS advisor, and access to a careers advisor and a personal counsellor ensuring that every student receives the highest standard of care and guidance.

STUDENT DESTINATIONS

The majority of our students are accepted by their first or second choice university and, this year, students have progressed on to wide range of courses at a number of universities across the country. We have also had a number of students accept places at a range of apprenticeships.

Institution	Course
Anglia Ruskin University	Animal Behaviour International Business Management
Bournemouth University	Business and Management Media Production
Brunel University London	Biomedical Sciences
City, University of London	Financial Economics
Coventry University	Architecture Automotive and Transport Design Product Design
De Montfort University	Accounting and Finance
King's College London, University of London	Accounting and Finance Electronic Engineering Nursing with Registration as an Adult Nurse
Lancaster University	English Literature
London South Bank University	Business Management
Nottingham Trent University	Business Management and Human Resources Law with Criminology
SOAS University of London	LLB Law
St George's, University of London	Paramedic Science
University of Bristol	Mathematics with Study Abroad
University College London	Physics
University of East London (UCFB)	Football Business and Finance
University of Gloucestershire	Accounting and Finance Business and Marketing Management
University of Hertfordshire	English Literature Nutrition Sports Studies with Psychology
University of Liverpool	Chemistry
University of Manchester	Biomedical Sciences
University of Portsmouth	Business and Management
University of Southampton	History
University of Sussex	Computing Sciences Zoology
University of Warwick	Accounting and Finance
West Herts College	HND in Sport
York St John University	Politics, Philosophy and Ethics

STAFF DETAILS AND CONTACTS



Subject	Lead Staff Member
Art	Mrs Maddock
Biology	Miss Pond/Miss Gauthier
Chemistry	Mrs Sudbery
D&T: Fashion and textiles	Mrs Maddock
Drama	Mrs Langdon
English literature	Mr Cranfield
Geography	Mr Mitchell/Miss Gallagher
Government and politics	Miss Davies
History	Ms L Davies
Languages	Mrs Henderson
Mathematics	Mr Pisano/Miss Kaur
Media studies	Mrs Langdon
Physical education	Mrs Launay
Physics	Miss Pond
Psychology	Mr Moraes
Religious studies	Miss Douglas
Sociology	Mrs Gardner