



The Way Ahead

Northampton School *for Boys*'

Sixth Form

September 2017

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Introduction from the Headmaster

Mr Richard Bernard

A warm welcome to all internal and external applicants for the Sixth Form at Northampton School *for Boys*. I am delighted that you are interested in joining our thriving Sixth Form and I am confident that we in return can maximise your academic potential and personal development.



The Sixth Form at Northampton School *for Boys* has been moving from strength to strength and this was highlighted in our recent Ofsted inspection where every aspect of the Sixth Form provision was graded as outstanding. In the words of the inspectors, 'Teaching in the Sixth Form is outstanding. Extra-curricular provision and leadership opportunities for Sixth Form students are exceptional. Students speak very highly of teachers' commitment, their passion for their subjects and the extra help they provide when students need it. As a result achievement and behaviour is outstanding'. For me, as Headmaster, the proof of the success of our Sixth Form provision lies in our outcomes; academically our results are consistently above the national average. Over the last two years 50 Year 13 students have achieved a minimum of 3 straight A grades in their A Levels with an average points score significantly higher than national expectations. The Year 12 AS results in 2016 were exceptional, graded as outstanding by the nationally recognised ALPs external benchmarking system. Extra-curricular involvement last year for our Post 16 students was extraordinary, lead roles in *Les Miserables*, performances in the national music finals and lifting the Nat West Vase at Twickenham just three examples of the type of success enjoyed. Our Sixth Form students are without doubt outstanding role models for the younger students in the school and one hundred per cent of students over the past three years have gone on to education, employment or training Post 18 with the large majority moving on to Russell Group Universities including Oxbridge. When you set these outcomes against the state of the art facilities that the school enjoys then I hope that you will feel fully confident that NSB has a Sixth Form that will allow you to peak in preparation for life beyond school.

You will be joining the Sixth Form at a time of significant change in Post 16 education. All of the A Levels we offer have now returned to a linear format which are more rigorous than the previous modular courses and will mean that you will only sit Public Examinations at the end of Year 13, although you will be rigorously assessed internally. As a result of these changes and following comprehensive consultation by the school with universities, the majority of students will opt for three subjects at the beginning of Year 12 which they will see through to the end of Year 13 and a minority of students will be allowed to take four A Levels through Year 12 and 13. To study four A Levels through two years students will need to demonstrate academic excellence in their GCSE results. This year we are also excited to offer the BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport (Rugby focus) as an extension to our curricular provision which is the equivalent of three A Levels.

Richard Bernard



A Levels at Northampton School for Boys

The school expects that the majority of students will follow a course which consists of three full A Levels for two years. There is the opportunity for exceptional applicants to study a fourth subject and if you would like to be considered for this offer you can indicate this on the application form. Please note that Further Mathematics counts as one subject and therefore you will need to pick two other subjects to complete your application. To study four subjects you will need to achieve minimum A grades in the relevant subject entry requirements for your A Level choices.

In Year 13 we offer the opportunity for students to obtain additional qualifications such as the Extended Project Qualification. In Year 12 we offer Core Mathematics for those who achieve a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics. This course lasts for two years and qualifies for UCAS points for University.

It is vital that you choose your subjects with care. Our Application and Induction processes have therefore been designed to ensure that every student who joins us in Year 12 is studying the most suitable course possible.

The following guidance in association with the rest of the admissions pack should be of general interest. **In particular I would draw your attention to both the basic entry requirements and the subject specific entry requirements. A summary of these requirements can be found at the end of this booklet.**

Subject Choices

Some combinations of subjects are acknowledged as being the route to a particular career or university goal. If you have a firm idea of where you wish to progress, please make sure that you are aware of any subjects that are required at Advanced Level.

If you are uncertain about your future plans, it is important that you choose subjects where you know you will be successful. Certain subjects appear to “make sense” together. Some subjects complement others and even enhance a student’s all round learning. Other combinations may place too great a demand on a student in terms of time spent on coursework or practical work.

Certain subjects such as English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and Psychology will complement many others. Similarly, many careers look for a level of intellectual achievement rather than expertise in any particular area. The Russell Group of Universities have produced a guide to making decisions about A Level choices and you can find this at <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices/>

Some subjects are so closely linked that many Universities do not regard them as distinct courses. Some subjects overlap so much that the examination boards do not permit you to claim them as separate A Levels.

In order to make a sensible decision it is important to understand where your individual strengths and interests lie. Making the correct subject choice is vital. At your Course Guidance Meeting before entering the Sixth Form you will discuss your choices but even in the first few weeks of being a Sixth Former if you are really not happy with any of your subjects you can change course. **Your success** is what matters.

Students are required to continue to study English Language and Mathematics GCSE if they fail to achieve at least a Grade 4 by the end of Year 11.

NSB Sixth Form Co-Curriculum

Joining the Sixth Form is not an end in itself. The two years that you spend studying your A Levels is just the start. We have developed a co-curriculum that complements your studies and challenges you to develop skills and talents beyond the classroom. The school has always been proud of the vast number of extra curricular opportunities available to its students and the Sixth Form is no different.

The skills that you will develop will enable you to work with others, take on board your social responsibility towards the school and wider community and work out for yourself how to find out the things that you need to know in order to be able to thrive in the future.

There are a wide range of opportunities, some compulsory and some optional, all of which will be focused on developing different skills. The most urgent skill that will need to be developed is working independently. Our study group programme enables you to become more independent whilst at the same time working with others. Other compulsory elements of the co-curriculum include Sport & Recreation every week, a Pre-U Skills course, Work Experience, mentoring from your Form Tutor and preparation for life after A Levels.

In addition you will be required to undertake two extra-curricular activities for both Year 12 and Year 13. Work experience is important so that you can build your employability skills as well as gain vital experience that could help you in your progression to competitive University courses or employment.

The extra-curricular opportunities offer something for everyone. Our “elite” programmes in sports, music, dance and drama enable top performers to develop under the guidance of expert tutors and coaches as well as to perform in the highest level of national competitions or regularly on the local/national stage. For example, in the last few years NSB Sixth Formers have played in a national final at Twickenham and performed at the Royal Albert Hall.

You don't have to be a top performer to join any of our sports or performing arts groups though. Whether it recreational activity or support for younger boys, there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved.

We run the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme throughout the school. This is extremely popular and if you wish to take the award you will need to sign up quickly at the start of the year!

We run a highly successful Peer Mentoring programme where you will be trained to mentor students in the lower school who may be finding it difficult to settle to help them make the most of their time at the school. This is a very popular scheme with our Sixth Form and it is also very rewarding. You will see yourself grow as a person as well as knowing how much you have helped someone else. The younger boys look up to the Sixth Form and really value the time that they spend with you

Curriculum Teams also offer opportunities for Sixth Formers to help younger students. You can work with individual students or small groups to support them in their studies. It is not unusual to see Sixth Form students sitting with boys from the lower school in the library, listening to them read, helping them with their homework and also working in classrooms to support boys during lessons.

Sixth Form students are role models for the rest of the school. Within the House System there are positions of responsibility where you can make a real difference to the life of the school. This will develop essential skills that are useful both for Higher Education and Employment such as organisation, communication, leadership and working with others.

A full list of all the activities on offer can be found in the Co-Curriculum Information Sheet in your Application Pack.

University or Employment?

“An excellent programme of information, advice and guidance, and a pre-university course for all students prepare them very well for the next stage of their lives, whether in education or in work.”
Ofsted report November 2014 In 2016, 75% of students who left Year 13 gained a place at university, half of these at the most prestigious UK universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.



Whichever path you want to take we can support you. We offer a unique Employment Opportunities Evening where companies from Northampton and beyond come to talk to our Sixth Form about jobs that are available after A Levels. Professional apprenticeships are an increasingly popular way of gaining qualifications while earning a living. The event takes place in March of each year. Additional opportunities for work experience are available for every Sixth former.

It is so successful that in the four years that it has been running the number of companies who want to be involved has grown from an initial 20 to well over 30. The links that we have with these firms persist throughout the year and our Careers Advisor is always on hand put you in touch with a company to discuss your future. In the weeks running up to the Employment evening, we run employability seminars where Sixth Formers are made aware of what it takes to be successful in the world of work.

If you have set your sights on University the support programme will start in the spring of Year 12. You will receive a handbook to guide you through the process and your enrichment lessons will be used to deliver advice and guidance as you research courses and prepare your personal statement. We have a Post 18 Choices Coordinator who has extensive knowledge of different universities and what they want to see in an applicant. You will have the benefit of the insights that the Coordinator has and this can often give you the “inside track” in your application. This is particularly useful for those applying for Medicine/ Dentistry/Veterinary Science.



We will also involve your parents by inviting them to their own UCAS Evening where the process is explained and they are given information about all of the different aspects of the application process.

We also offer an Oxbridge application scheme. If you wish to apply to either Oxford or Cambridge you will be asked to put your name forward in Year 12. You will be interviewed by our Post 18 Coordinator and will follow a “fast track” programme because Oxbridge applications are required to be with UCAS by early October. You will attend meetings throughout Year 12 and after the summer examinations to make sure that your application is progressing well. There will be an Oxbridge Evening where you and your parents can meet admissions tutors from each university and attend seminars about life at Oxbridge, including the interview process. At the start of Year 13 we also run a separate interview programme where, in addition to an Oxbridge admissions tutor session, each applicant will get interview practice on a one to one basis.

Studying in the Sixth Form

The demands of Sixth Form study are very great.

You should see the Sixth Form at NSB as an opportunity to succeed, not as a guarantee that you *will* succeed. If you found GCSE courses relatively straightforward, please do not assume that you will automatically achieve at A Level merely because Northampton School *for Boys* has a reputation for examination success. You will have to adapt to a different level of working and you will only get out what you put in.



The new “reformed” A Levels will all be up and running from September 2017. None of you will be sitting AS examinations at the end of Year 12. Instead, you will be sitting all of your examinations at the end of your two years of study

This means that you have to be on top of your work all the time as you cannot afford to leave everything until the final few months—there is just too much to learn.

Year 12 into Year 13: In order to carry your studies through to Year 13 you MUST pass the End of Year Examination in your subjects.

Frequently asked questions about studying A Levels:

Q. *What are the differences between GCSEs and A Levels?*

The differences are two-fold. Firstly, the actual QUANTITY of knowledge which you will be expected to acquire is vast in comparison with GCSEs. This is true right from Day 1 in Year 12. Secondly, you are expected to be able to demonstrate higher order intellectual skills with the knowledge you have acquired. So A Levels differ from GCSEs in QUALITY as well.

Q. *How much homework will I be expected to do?*

We expect you to do as much self-study for each subject as the time you spend in classes for each subject. This, of course, does not include extra time spent on revision.

Q. *Will we be taught in the same way as we were at GCSE?*

No. There is much more emphasis on the student working on their own, in their own time. You are much more responsible for your own progress. We know that this is difficult for many students to come to terms with and so we have provided special sessions where you will be taught the skills you will need for successful study at A Level. These are delivered through our Pre-University course which runs from September to Christmas in Year 12.

Q. *How much free time will I have?*

None – except of course, lunchtime and break-time! If you are not in a class, you are on non-contact time. You may well choose to take your non-contact time at home, however this privilege will be rescinded should you need additional support to ensure expected progress. You are expected to study during your non-contact time.



Q. Do we still get reports and have parents' evenings in the Sixth Form?

Yes – Every student in the school, including the Sixth Form gets an end of Term Report that shows how they are progressing in each subject. There is also a Parents' Evening where your progress can be discussed. There are two additional Parents' Evenings, the first of which explains to your parents what to expect in the Sixth Form and what the arrangements are for the Year 12 Residential Education Trips. The second evening will introduce your parents to the University Application procedure.

A different role for the Form Tutor

A Sixth Form Tutor acts in the same way as a Form Tutor would do for any year group, delivering the Citizenship & Guidance element of the curriculum and taking an interest in the progress of the students. However, there is an additional period on Sixth Form students' timetables when Form Tutors will have time to discuss, on a one to one basis, individual progress. This is the cornerstone of our mentoring programme and makes the difference in providing students with the guidance and assistance that they may need in adapting to Sixth Form life.

“Teaching in the sixth form is outstanding. Students speak very highly of teachers’ commitment, their passion for their subjects and the extra help they provide when students need it.” - Ofsted Report November 2014

Targeting

Each student will receive two achievement targets for their subjects when they begin their Sixth Form courses. Our Minimum Achievement Grade (MAG) is the standard at which we expect students to work and is based upon the mean of all of the GCSE (and other level 2) scores. The Target Achievement Grade (TAG) is the standard that we expect our students to work towards. Feedback and teaching are designed to encourage the maintenance of the MAG and the achievement of the TAG. Parents can follow their son's or daughter's progress against these targets via the Learning Gateway. Information is provided termly for each subject together with a Behaviour for Learning and Home Learning score.

General Advice

When choosing your subjects make sure you investigate them fully. Do they complement each other and lead towards a particular career/degree course? Remember to look at your choices to see if they make sense as a course of study.

How much coursework/project work is involved?

Choosing 3 subjects all with coursework/project work may not be advisable, check the requirements.

What skills are required?

Eg. Verbal reasoning skills, practical skills, scientific skills, numerical skills or any combination of these.

Do not choose your subjects just because your friends are doing the same ones. Think of your own interests and skills.

Find out if a subject is going to be substantially different in the Sixth Form. Subjects are not always the same at A Level as they were at GCSE.

If you are considering a fourth A Level, be aware that this will be extremely demanding academically and you must be sure you have the capacity to cope with this.

Do not assume that you will automatically enjoy a subject at Advanced Level.

You should have a genuine interest in the subject, especially if you are choosing new ones not offered at GCSE.

Some subjects do not require prior knowledge, even those previously offered at GCSE.

Take **advice** from family, friends, teachers and students studying the course but **REMEMBER** it will be **YOU** in the classroom and completing the homework. You must feel comfortable with your choice of subjects.

Sixth Form Dress Code

There is no set uniform, as such, for students in the Sixth Form at Northampton School *for Boys*. Traditionally, the term office dress has been used as a guideline for students, but in the modern office climate this term has become somewhat ambiguous. We therefore propose to clarify what is meant by Office Dress.

Boys

- Compulsorily includes shoes, tailored trousers, shirt, tie, tailored jacket or tailored suit
- Trousers that have pronounced external stitching and/or rivets are considered to be jeans and must not be worn
- Pullovers that allow the tie to be seen are acceptable. Roll neck pullovers are therefore unacceptable, as are some styles of high round neck pullover

General Guidelines: Boys & Girls

- Denim is not to be worn in any form of clothing
- Students should wear shoes, not trainers, fabric walking boots or open-toed shoes
- All students are required to remove coats when inside the school buildings
- Fleece are outdoor wear and as such should not be worn inside the school buildings
- Headphones, earpieces and baseball caps should not be worn
- Hooded tops are not office dress and should not be worn
- Hairstyles and hair colour should be in keeping with the office dress ethos. To this end students should not have hair shaved to less than a "number 2", and hair should not be dyed bright colours
- Excessive jewellery should not be worn
- We do not allow facial studs or rings
- Tops with slogans or conspicuous logos are not permitted
- Tailored trousers should not expose the ankle and should not be skin tight
- Midriffs should not be exposed

Girls

- Compulsorily includes smart shoes with heels no higher than 4cm, choice of tailored suit, tailored jacket and tailored trousers/dress/skirt with blouse or jumper
- Skirts and dresses must be of reasonable length i.e. no longer than mid calf and not short enough to be judged inappropriate by Senior Staff
- Excessively tight or revealing tops are unacceptable as are baggy or casual sweatshirts
- Shoestring or narrow strapped tops or dresses are unacceptable

Students who do not meet the Office Dress requirements will be asked to go home to change and then return to school.

Persistent Offenders will be subject to sanctions.

The final decision on all aspects of office dress rests with the Headmaster

Student Learning Agreement (1)

The student agreement is intended to give students a clear understanding of what they can expect from Northampton School *for Boys* Sixth Form and what will be expected of them in return.

Under this agreement NSB will endeavour to provide:

- ◆ A programme of courses that is delivered by suitably qualified and effective members of staff using appropriate facilities and resources.
- ◆ A friendly, caring and supportive environment.
- ◆ A programme of Citizenship & Guidance lessons that will include extensive support for the university application process through UCAS.
- ◆ Support in encouraging you to become a more independent learner, capable of organising your time and utilising study skills effectively.
- ◆ A commitment towards the use of effective assessment, recording and reporting processes to support your progress. This will include a formal report each term to inform yourself and your parents of your progress within school.
- ◆ A diverse programme of extra curricular activities, that provide support for learning and/or opportunities for leisure.
- ◆ Support for any special needs that you may have.

In return you will be required to:

- ◆ **Be committed in your approach to school.** Be self critical in your work, ambitious in your aims, seek support where necessary and act upon the advice of staff as you strive to reach your academic potential.
- ◆ **Adhere to your timetable at all times.** You attend, and are punctual to, all lessons on your timetable. Your timetable can only be altered by the Director of Sixth Form and then only after consultation with your subject staff and Form Tutor. Absence notes will be expected to cover days off school.
- ◆ **Take responsibility for your own learning.** Utilise study time effectively, be conscientious in your approach to homework and coursework ensuring all deadlines are met, and do not take holidays during term time.
- ◆ **Adhere to the Sixth Form dress code.** You will take pride in your appearance and adhere to the Sixth Form dress code at all times. Including the wider guidelines pertaining to jewellery and hairstyles.
- ◆ **Contribute to the community ethos of the Sixth Form and the school as a whole.** You will demonstrate a commitment towards helping the school achieve a sense of community, by supporting the work of the school House System, taking part in mentoring the lower school, being involved in the activities of Student Voice. You will also be expected to play a part in supporting whole school events such as Charity Week and Sports Day.
- ◆ **Act as a positive role model for the younger students in the school.** You will be helpful, respectful and courteous to all members of the school community, and you will adhere to the whole school 'Code of Behaviour'. You will also adhere to the School's Use of ICT Policy.
- ◆ **Accept responsibility for your actions and progress within school.** You may be asked to leave the Sixth Form if you fail to meet the expectations outlined above. Where you fail to make satisfactory progress in any subject, the school reserves the right to withdraw you from the examination in that subject, the school will give you support and advice in this matter before such action is taken.

As part of the learning agreement for Sixth Form students, and at the request of our students we have also produced a clear set of expectations for lessons.

Student Learning Agreement: Lessons (2)

Expectations of Students

- ◆ Students will bring the current unit's work with them to each lesson. This will include (as a minimum): Notes from lessons, private study work, notes on feedback from teachers.
- ◆ Outside of lesson time during the school day students will use their private study time effectively in pursuing their studies and developing their broader skills through opportunities to volunteer in helping with the lower school and outside agencies.
- ◆ Notes taken in lessons will be written up according to the guidance given by each subject and kept in the topic file.
- ◆ Deadlines will be met.

Expectations of Lessons

- ◆ Teaching will make use of the skills developed through the Pre University Skills course.
- ◆ Private study activities will be planned to meet the needs of individual students
- ◆ There will be three formal scheduled 1:1 individual discussions with students regarding their progress and how they can improve each year. The first at the beginning of November, then following trial examinations and the final meeting will be in March in preparation for revision.
- ◆ Feedback on private study work will clearly indicate the student's current level of progress and how he / she can improve.

Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements for 2017 Entry – A Levels:

For A Levels, a minimum of 3 GCSE subjects at Grade B and 2 subjects at Grade C. For these minimum admission requirements a Grade 5 in Maths or English (Language or Literature) will be counted as the equivalent of a Grade C, a 6 as a Grade B and a 7 as a Grade A. For each subject offered a minimum of a Grade 5 in Maths AND English Language or English Literature is required unless the subject specific requirements state that a Grade 4 is acceptable in one of these subjects. Please note, if you wish to study 4 A Level courses, GCSE A grades are required in all of the relevant GCSEs listed in the entry criteria for each of the courses chosen (Further Maths requires a grade 8).

‘A’ Level Subject to Study (**not essential to have studied at GCSE)	Minimum Subject Grade at GCSE where studied	Additional minimum requirements and information (all require a minimum of a Grade 5 in Maths AND English Language or English Literature unless otherwise stated)
Fine Art **	B	GCSE Visual Arts qualification at Grade B or equivalent if Fine Art not studied at GCSE or evidence of outstanding artistic ability (Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Computer Science **	B	Mathematics Grade 6 required. Unless there are exceptional circumstances you need to have studied GCSE Computer Science. GCSE ICT is not accepted in place of Computer Science. If you did not study Computer Science and feel that you have outstanding coding skills then please have a discussion with the Computer Science Curriculum Team Leader, Mr Berkin, before submitting your application.
Drama **	B	If you did not study Drama and feel that you have evidence of outstanding Drama related skills then please have a discussion with the Expressive Arts Curriculum Team Leader, Ms Hasan, before submitting your application. (Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Economics **	B	English Language or Literature Grade 6 and Mathematics Grade 6 is required regardless of whether Economics has been studied at GCSE
English Language	6	(Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
English Literature	6	English Language Grade 5 (Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
French	A	(Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Further Maths	8 (Maths)	(English Language or Literature minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Geography	B	
Government & Politics		One GCSE Humanities (RE/History/Geography) subject at Grade B
History	B	(Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Maths	7	(English Language or Literature minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Music **	B	If Music not studied at GCSE a Grade V in an instrument will be required (Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Photography **	B	GCSE Visual Arts qualification at Grade B or equivalent if Photography not studied at GCSE or evidence of outstanding photographic ability (Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Physical Education **	B	GCSE Biology Grade B or GCSE Core & Additional Science Grade BB is required regardless of whether PE has been studied at GCSE
Product Design	B	(Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Psychology **	B	GCSE Biology Grade B or GCSE Core & Additional Science Grade BB is required regardless of whether Psychology has been studied at GCSE
Religious Studies**	B	If RE not studied at GCSE a Grade B will be required in GCSE History or Geography (Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	For GCSE Triple Science students: Grade B in the subject to be studied and for Physics additionally a Grade 6 in Mathematics	
	For Core with Additional Science students: Grade BB and for Physics additionally a Grade 6 in Mathematics	
Spanish	A	(Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)
Sociology **	B	One GCSE Humanities (RE/History/Geography) subject at Grade B if Sociology not studied at GCSE (Maths minimum Grade 4 acceptable)

PLEASE NOTE: External students without the necessary GCSE background should contact Mrs Kennedy, Assistant Headteacher (Post 16) at the school to discuss their choices before proceeding with their application



Sixth Form

PROVISIONAL OPTION BLOCKS 2017

YEAR 12 - SEPTEMBER 2017

You should choose **THREE** subjects; each subject needs to be taken from a different Option Block (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5)

Option Block 1	Option Block 2	Option Block 3	Option Block 4	Option Block 5
Art	Biology	Biology	Art	Biology
Chemistry	Drama	Chemistry	Chemistry	Computing
Design Technology	Economics	English Language	Economics	English Literature
Further Maths	French	Music Technology	English Language	Geography
Geography	History	Photography	English Literature	History
Government and Politics	Mathematics	Physics	Further Maths	Mathematics
History	Physics	Religious Education	Mathematics	Music
Mathematics	Psychology	Spanish	Psychology	Physical Education
Physical Education		<i>Core Maths</i>	<i>Core Maths</i>	Physics
Psychology				Sociology

*** Further Maths:**

- Please note that Further Maths takes up Option Blocks 1 and 4.
- If you wish to study Further Maths you must still choose two other subjects from the remaining Option Blocks (ie Blocks 2, 3 or 5).
- If you wish to study Further Maths you do not need to select Mathematics as a separate subject too.

The school expects that students will follow a course which consists of three full A Levels for two years. There is the opportunity for exceptional applicants to study a fourth subject and if you would like to be considered for this offer you can indicate this on the application form. To study four subjects you will need to achieve minimum A grades in the relevant subject entry requirements for your A Level.