



WEST COVENTRY SIXTH FORM

Comprising Woodlands Academy and Tile Hill Wood School and Language College



WELCOME TO WEST COVENTRY SIXTH FORM

The West Coventry Sixth Form is a large and thriving community which offers excellent opportunities for students to develop and prepare for the world beyond school. Our positive, supportive environment challenges students to be the very best they can be in fulfilling their

academic and personal potential. Students benefit from a wide range of resources and high standards of teaching and learning. Being part of the WCSF community ensures a progressive way forward into higher education and employment, providing a firm foundation for future success.

Neil Charlton
Headteacher
– Woodlands



Gina O'Connor
Headteacher
– Tile Hill Wood



John Griffin
Assistant Headteacher
Director of Post 16



Margie Thomason
Post 16 Learning
Manager



We are delighted that you are considering joining our joint sixth form and hope that this prospectus and the open evening help you to make that decision. We are very proud of our sixth form and the way we work together to offer our young people an educational experience which enables them to achieve their very best.

We value the contribution the sixth form make to school life. You can mentor younger students in the school or apply for one of the leadership positions within our student council or seek responsibility in our wider community through the enrichment programme. Our sixth formers are mature, successful and excellent role models for the rest of the school.

Our curriculum is comprised of both traditional academic subjects and subjects with a more vocational approach to learning. Our partnership links enable us to offer one of the most comprehensive range of courses in the city. We are justifiably proud of our success rates at A-Level which testify to the strong work ethic cultivated within the sixth form, the supportive pastoral care system and the expertise and dedication of our teaching staff. Consequently our students leave prepared for success at university or in employment.

Whether you are an existing student or whether you join us from elsewhere, please read the prospectus, talk to the students and listen to what they say about their sixth form. The teachers and tutors are here to help you make the right decisions.

We are extremely proud to work in such a positive, lively environment, one which allows students to thrive academically but also importantly enjoy their time in sixth form. Students succeed where they feel respected, listened to and supported. First and foremost we are here to develop confident, successful learners and we believe the structures we have in place enable this to happen in the classroom as a result of the positive relationships that exist between students and staff. Quality teaching and learning are reinforced by a caring supportive tutor system and enrichment opportunities that seek to develop the well-rounded young person equipped for life and the challenges that will follow post 16 education.

We believe that every student is unique and has unique potential. WCSF provides a bespoke educational experience, designed to unlock both academic and personal potential. Our students are taught with passion, learn with enthusiasm and are encouraged to become the very best they can be. If you asked our students what they most like about WCSF, the quality of learning would be a common answer – but there are several other advantages – just ask our students! We look forward to sharing these experiences with you over two of the most important years of your life.

IT IS YOUR CHOICE:

OUR POST 16 CURRICULUM

“Students make good progress and achieve above average standards in the sixth form... The quality of teaching is good... Students are well supported and guided in their work.”

OFSTED 2009

West Coventry Sixth Form is proud to offer a diverse range of both academic and applied courses to suit the needs of all learners. With teaching shared across both sites we can provide a flexible timetable that will allow you to choose any combination that will meet your needs in terms of your academic interests, strengths, and future career plans. Strong links with the West Partnership of Coventry Schools ensures increased opportunity for picking the subject combination you need.

Some subjects will be familiar from your GCSEs and build on your existing knowledge whilst some will be totally new and appeal to those of you keen to study a different subject or pursue a particular interest in that area. There are many subjects like Business which do not require you to have studied them before at GCSE whilst others like Maths may demand a specific level of prior understanding and achievement at GCSE. Our full entrance criteria and subject specific advice and guidance are provided in the book that accompanies this prospectus.



We will also expect to receive an excellent reference from your school showing your positive approach to learning, behaviour and attendance.

Whatever combination of subjects you choose you can be assured that you will be taught by experienced and enthusiastic staff who want to share your success. They will provide a learning environment that should encourage but challenge you to achieve your potential. We are all keen to maximise your own success and that of the entire WCSF.



“The lessons are different – there is more discussion in class and you really have to listen to everyone. We are encouraged to be far more independent in order to prepare us for University.”

“Teachers are enthusiastic about their subject, it is clear the student teacher relationships change and it is far more of a level playing field, they care and want us to do well and go out of their way to encourage us and achieve our target grades.”



“The sixth form is totally different from Yr 11, the fact we are studying the subjects we chose and that really interest us makes work more enjoyable. It's definitely harder but we are in an environment where everyone wants to learn and that makes it more interesting.”

PASTORAL SUPPORT SYSTEM



“Students’ personal development is outstanding because of the good care, guidance and support provided... Teachers have warm and supportive relationships with students and offer them effective guidance.”

OFSTED 2009

All WCSF students are allocated to a tutor group. Tutors are all experienced sixth form teaching staff and act as the daily contact. The tutor will invariably act as mentor, counsellor, advisor and even friend in this time; they help and guide the student with study skills, academic and personal issues and deliver the PSHE program of tutorial lessons.

Tutors also offer advice on university and employment applications. We work closely with our local universities to improve academic opportunities and benefit from their expertise in the admission procedures.



“My tutor was fantastically helpful and knowledgeable about the whole university application process, we worked together to submit a really impressive application that has given me a good chance to get into one of the top universities.”

“The Heads of Sixth Form or tutors are always available to see us throughout the school day and after lessons, we can take any problems, personal or academic to them for support.”

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Enrichment activities offer opportunities for students to develop the confidence and independence that is so in demand today from universities and increasingly from employers. All students will be encouraged to pick an additional academic enrichment course such as World Development, Further Maths, or the Extended Research Project. We have recently expanded this programme to support students with non academic enrichment which might involve work experience, short course language learning, first aid courses, in-school service or work in our wider school community.

We look for sixth formers to be role models for younger students and as such we have them acting as subject ambassadors, peer mentors, counsellors and classroom assistants around our site. They are also prominent this year volunteering in local charity shops and primary schools to support our community whilst developing their own interpersonal skills.

In the schools performing arts it is the sixth form who set the standards and actively support and encourage the lesser experienced performers in the schools joint productions and musical ventures.

Students are also given the option to use the schools sporting facilities on a Wednesday afternoon to help maintain the healthy mind and body essential for modern day life.



“Tutorial periods and PSHE lessons are times to touch base with tutors and fellow students and think about other issues which are equally important at this stage in our life.”

OUR STUDENTS

“ Sixth Formers are confident and positive about their experiences throughout sixth form. ”

OFSTED 2009



James McArthur
Head Boy



Bobbie Hall
Head Girl



Toby Croft
Head Boy



Kate Bushen
Head Girl

The prospect of moving up to sixth form is a new and exciting one for everyone, wearing our own clothes, having our own space and choosing our own subjects brings a new outlook on school life. When entering the sixth form you are quickly aware of the increase in responsibility, independence and higher levels of learning expected from you in your new subjects. Your choices are vitally important, the time and effort needed to succeed at this next level more than doubles than at GCSE and therefore you must have a keen interest and enjoy the subjects you choose. You will quickly understand the need to carefully manage your time; organising and prioritising your work is essential to stay on top of your workload. Teachers will expect you to work independently and reading and study outside lessons are essential to make progress. Staff are supportive and willing to help and the relationships between pupils and staff are very much different.

Despite the increased workload and need for higher commitment you will quickly find that sixth form brings with it exciting opportunities and certain freedoms exclusive to Year 12 and 13 students. We have our own common rooms with space, computers, comfortable seating and kitchen areas. The environment builds a sense of community between both years making it easy to build new and lasting friendships. There is always lots happening outside the classroom and our advice is to get involved! Enrichment, charities, social activities or sport! Perhaps the most memorable experience though is the opportunity to be part of the annual trip to Lake Garda which is one of the 'must do' experiences of WCSF life! All these opportunities and the constant guidance and support from staff help us to progress and achieve our best in our A-Levels. WCSF is a happy place to be and we are sure we will leave here thankful and prepared for a successful future.



"The chance to take part in the Lake Garda trip was a unique experience. Whilst there the entire group had a chance to experience a different culture whilst bonding with staff, as well as their peers. The whole group has returned to Year 13 considerably closer, more confident and now feel far more comfortable with each other.

In Italy we took part in a wide range of activities, ranging from experiencing the amazing city of Venice, walking along the mountain tops, theme parks, boating on the lake and practising our Italian by ordering lots of ice cream! One of our favourite days was the chance to relax in the sun at the beach and spending the evening in the cultured environment that is Verona. It was truly an unforgettable experience and the trip of a lifetime."



The booklet in this section contains the most up to date statistics for WCSF and full course information. This includes entrance criteria, the application process and all key dates.



Being a member of the WCSF is a privilege, it isn't just about academic achievement and success, it is about developing as a person and discovering the skills, qualities and friendships that will stand you in good stead once you leave sixth form.

It is about recognising what you are capable of; providing you with confidence and independence; equipping you with the knowledge and skills required for the next stage of your life.



WEST COVENTRY SIXTH FORM

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