



North Oxfordshire Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Sixth Form

Introduction from the Principal



Whether you are considering joining our sixth form from another school or you have been with us since Y7, I would like to thank you for considering North Oxfordshire Academy for the next part of your academic journey.

We are an Ofsted rated Good 11-18 non selective academy in Banbury; part of the United Learning group of academies. United Learning's vision is to inspire and ensure the development of the Best in Everyone, with individual students aspiring to goals never before within their reach. With high expectations, education can transform the lives of students and through them strengthen the wider community.

I am enormously proud of our sixth form. As successful young adults they are hugely influential within the academy; they are role models for younger students to aspire to and they play an integral part in the life of the academy.

Our brilliant sixth form team will assist prospective students in selecting the correct courses to match their intended career path, work closely with them throughout their two years with us and guide them through the university or apprenticeship application process to ensure they progress successfully into the next phase of their learning.

This is an academic school so expect to be pushed! Our students work late into the evening in our fabulous sixth form area and also involve themselves in a full range of additional activities to extend their learning and improve their CV. It's worth it! The number of entrants into top universities and high quality apprenticeships increases each year and it is wonderful to hear the success stories of students graduating and moving into high quality employment.

This prospectus can only give you a glimpse of our rich learning environment and the wealth of opportunities we provide. To see for yourself what the academy has to offer please do come along to our sixth form open evening or make an appointment to visit us.

Sara Billins
Principal

Introduction from the Director of Sixth Form

Welcome to North Oxfordshire Academy Sixth Form's prospectus.

The sixth form at NOA has seen many changes since it opened in September 2008 but, during this time, our ethos has remained the same: to offer a range of relevant, high quality, level 3 academic and vocational qualifications and to supplement this with an enrichment programme that will allow students to develop as learners and young adults.

In the past three years over 100 of our students have been accepted into over 30 different universities in a wide range of courses. Successful applications to Russell Group universities are also rising with NOA students gaining places at Oxford, University College London, Bristol, Warwick, Exeter and Manchester in the last three years.

However, we also realise that different individuals have different strengths, goals and aspirations and our vocational curriculum, with its strong links with local businesses, is valued as much by us as our academic one. This is why we also celebrate the increasing number of students who are gaining places on apprenticeship schemes or in paid employment at the end of their studies.

Irrespective of whether students choose a vocational or academic programme of study, we can promise high quality teaching, resources and support to help guide them through the next 2 important years of their study. Central to this is our firm belief in a collaborative approach to sixth form, where parents and staff work together with students to ensure the best outcomes for them at the end of their time here. Whilst our key focus is our students' success on their courses, we also see the development of personal skills as an important part of sixth form life and have worked over the last few years to put together a wider programme of activities that will help our students to develop as people, and will give them opportunities to take part in fulfilling and enriching activities and events. In the past 3 years, students from the sixth

form have taken part in a range of initiatives including acting as teaching assistants to lower school classes, running youth club sessions, supporting on the lower school camp and the school sports day, taking part in charity programmes, attending events on the Career Ready Programme, completing a week of work experience and acting as buddy readers for year 7s. We also regularly organise trips to open days, career fairs and a range of subject specific training days and conferences as well as organising and running our own apprenticeship fair which takes place in March each year.

Our vision is, and always has been, to create a sixth form that encourages its students to develop academic, vocational and personal skills which will help them to grow and to flourish in the opportunities they will go on to at the end of year 13. I hope the following pages go some way to illustrating this ethos and also to give you a better idea of what kind of student experience to expect if you decide to join us here at NOA.

Adam Leyburn – Director of Sixth Form

"I get treated like a young adult but support is there when I need it"



The Curriculum

The Sixth form offers students a range of courses in two different pathways or areas (A Levels and Career Zone). Students may choose all of their courses from one area, or combine courses from both, depending on their higher education or career goals. Many university courses will accept these kinds of combinations. The Football Elite programme is an additional course allowing students the opportunity to continue their interest in the sport alongside the study of academic or vocational qualifications. The courses offered are as follows.

The A Level Programme

NOA offers a wide range of A levels that provide students with the opportunity to gain qualifications across the full academic spectrum. A levels are the most popular choice for those wishing to continue their studies at university on academic programmes such as maths, science, English or law.

In response to recent government changes to A Level programmes, we have decided to continue to offer subjects at AS level in year 12. We feel this gives students a clear goal at the end of their first year of study and allows them to become better accustomed to the assessment methods used on these types of programmes. Universities also value the insight into student progress given by AS grades at the end of the first year. Students who successfully complete the AS Level in year 12 will go on to study for the full A level qualification in year 13.

“Getting to discover new subjects and learning a lot more than I had ever expected has been great”

AS / A levels are available in the following subjects:

Languages and Arts	Science and Maths	Business and Humanities
Art	Biology	Economics
Drama	Physics	Geography
English Language	Chemistry	History
English Literature	Maths	R.E / Philosophy
French	Further Maths	
Spanish	Psychology	
Media		
Music Tech		

*subjects without sufficient demand will not run. Final decisions will be made after completion of the interview cycle.

Career Zone

The academy offers an exciting vocational curriculum including BTEC (Edexcel), OCR (Cambridge) and ABC qualifications. Each of these is equivalent to one A Level in terms of size and the number of UCAS points (university entry points) awarded for successful completion with the exception of the level 2 Administration Foundation Year. These qualifications are suited to those wishing to pursue more vocationally based careers and those looking to gain apprenticeships at the end of year 13. However, universities will accept these courses for admission onto certain undergraduate programmes as part of a wider programme of study.

Courses are available in the following subjects

■ Business	■ Information Technology	■ Sport
■ Engineering	■ Music	■ Youth Work (more details overleaf)
■ Hospitality	■ Science	

Details of all A Level and Career Zone courses can be found in the NOA Sixth Form Course Booklet which is available from the school and is also available on the academy web site.

Youth Work Level 3 Diploma

The Youth Work Level 3 Diploma provides an opportunity for students to develop a wide range of skills in working with, and leading young people. The course also offers recognised accreditation through the ABC awarding body. The classroom work is portfolio based and draws on the youth work practice that forms the basis of the course. This practical work involves students working with young people to support the ethos of the academy through a number of initiatives: these include mentoring, supporting school trips and events, leading and organising after school and lunchtime clubs and taking leadership roles in the Personal Enrichment Programme. Students are also given the opportunity to work at other local schools including Frank Wise, Hanwell Fields, Dashwood and Orchard Fields. A number of students who have taken this course in the last few years have gone on to study a related subject at university or have gained apprenticeships or jobs in the educational and youth work field. NOA is one of only a handful of schools nationally which run this course.

"During the commission's evidence gathering, we visited NOA which runs a highly successful youth work course for year 12 and 13 students to impressive effect"
National Youth Agency commission into the role of youth work in formal education (October 2013)

Administration Foundation Year (Career Academy: Level 2)

This one year (Level 2) course is suitable for students with 3 or more GCSEs at grade C (4 or above). Students will have the opportunity to retake Maths or English as part of this course. This course is full time so students selecting it do not choose any other courses.

This course is designed to provide the necessary transferable skills for students wishing to go into some form of administrative career, for example customer support assistant, secretary, PA, legal secretary, administrative assistant etc. The course will also help

students access intermediate or advanced apprenticeships or level 3 courses at college after successful completion of the year.

The Administration Foundation course will cover working in administration, written business communication and communicating with customers as its core units. It is also likely, depending on the requirements of the students, to include shorthand/speed keying skills, financial transactions, word processing and handling diary systems. As well as the development of skills, the course will allow students to gain vital work experience. Students will complete both internal and external work placements so that they can apply their learning in practice.

Football Elite Programme

The programme gives students the opportunity to continue their academic or vocational education whilst continuing their pursuit of a career in football. Students will receive three sessions of training or mentoring each week which will focus on all aspects of the game including fitness, skills development, decision making and nutrition. Additionally The Elite First Team will play competitive matches in the form of National Cup and County League games or friendly fixtures against other academy teams. There are similar programmes linked to other clubs like Oxford United but these generally only allow students to follow a limited vocational pathway alongside their football training. At NOA the course is designed to allow students to combine the study of football with that of other academic or vocational subjects including A levels. The BTEC (Edexcel) qualification in Sport is also available as part of the Career Zone and is often taken in conjunction with the Football Elite course and other subjects.

Applications And Entrance Requirements

Applications to NOA Sixth Form are open to both NOA students and external applicants. Forms will be available from Reception / Student Services at the school or online from the end of November each year. The deadline for applications is January 31st of that academic year; applications received after this date will be considered depending on course numbers.

Courses offered at NOA Sixth Form require students to achieve a minimum of five A*-C (grade 9 – 4) in their GCSEs including English and Maths at grade 4 or above. Students

wishing to pursue courses from the Career Zone (BTEC and OCR) will also require a minimum of a Merit grade in that subject at level 2.

To study an AS / A Level, Students will also need to achieve a B (or grade 5) or above in that subject at GCSE where applicable. Those who do not achieve this may still be offered a place but their choice of courses may be limited. Students who do not achieve a grade 4 in English or Maths GCSE are unlikely to be accepted but may be considered if they gain good grades in other subjects. Where this is the case they will be required to retake these subjects during year 12 and 13 if necessary. We will not offer places to students who fail to achieve a grade 4 in English and Maths at GCSE.

Some subjects do have additional entry criteria that students should bear in mind when making their applications. These are summarised below:

Maths AS/A level	-	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths
Further Maths AS/A level	-	Grade 8 in GCSE Maths
Biology, Physics and Chemistry A level	-	Grade B (6) or above in GCSE Maths, Science and Additional Science
Psychology, Economics	-	Grade 5 or higher in English and Maths
Spanish or French	-	Grade A (7) in GCSE Spanish or French

Choosing Courses

Students study three or four A Levels or equivalent courses. Most students leave with three good A Levels or equivalent.

We would advise students to choose subjects which

- They find enjoyable
- They are good at
- That will make a good combination for future courses and careers
- That will keep options open (this is especially important if students are unsure of their future career pathway)

If you are applying to NOA and are unsure of your final choices, don't worry. Fill in the application form with the courses you feel you may wish to do and your choices will be discussed with you at interview.





Facilities and Support

The sixth form is located at the centre of the school both literally and metaphorically. The sixth form students have a huge impact on our lower school pupils and their status as aspirational role models is reflected in the position of the sixth form centre at the heart of the school. Some sixth form classes are taught in the classrooms located here though many take place in school's main subject department areas. All classrooms at NOA are equipped with electronic whiteboards or touch screen boards and teachers are expert in using these facilities to enhance students' learning experiences.

The sixth form area is where students can go at break and lunch times and also a centre where they can work on assignments in their study or free sessions. We have worked hard to ensure that this area is designed to allow students to make the most of their time out of lessons at the sixth form and it is well equipped for this purpose containing the following areas:

- A monitored study area. We have 20 computers with the latest software for students to complete work during study periods or free time. The study area is open from 7.00am until 6.00pm every day and sometimes during holiday periods.
- A study room with 12 computers. This is used for some lessons and is also an overflow area for students when the main study area is busy
- A quiet work area. A sixth form classroom is kept available every lesson to allow students to complete non-IT work such as essays or mock exams. Students who need to do group work may also use this space.
- A sixth form library. This area has text books for each subject, apprenticeship information and all the university prospectuses so students can research H.E institutions to make the best choice for their future.

Study sessions

Every student is allocated one compulsory study session a week for each subject they take. So a student taking 3 subjects will sit 3 study sessions in addition to their

timetabled lessons each week. These will be added to the students' timetables with the same expectations of any normal taught lesson. These study sessions allow students to maintain their workload by doing homework, finishing classwork/coursework and partaking in extra research around their subject. Students who fall behind will have extra study sessions added until they have caught up with the work.

I.T access

All sixth form students are given a log-in for the school's I.T system. They each have their own area to keep completed work etc. and all have free access to the internet through the school's computers. A printer is located in the sixth form library which students are also free to use. In addition to this, all students have access to the following:

- A free downloadable version of Microsoft Office which they can use on their own device for the duration of their time at sixth form.
- A log-in to the school's Go 4 Schools website where live details of any homework or assignments they have due can be accessed – parents also have access to this website.
- Access to Bring Your Own Device through which students can access the internet on their own tablet or laptop.
- Access to a range of other educational websites including UCAS, careers and apprenticeship focused sites.

“A welcoming and friendly environment where all are working towards success.”



Career Development & Enrichment

We believe in ensuring that students not only have the necessary academic qualifications to succeed but that they are given opportunities to build their social capital so that they can more readily access quality university places or apprenticeships that will lead to successful employment.

We work hard to establish close working partnerships with businesses, higher education establishments and apprenticeship providers so that students are able to gain a greater understanding of the world of work, the attributes that will be needed and the different routes that could be open to them.

In part, this is about facilitating the development of transferable learning and work skills, but also about students being able to tap into a range of targeted programmes that support their aspirations (for example, Career Ready Programme or United Learning Scholars Club). Recognising the importance of hands on experience to successful HE or apprenticeship applications, we work with all students so that they can gain relevant work placements and internships that will help them to develop their communication and leadership skills.

We also run assessment centre simulation days and CV and branding workshops that help prepare students for those first steps on their career journey. This immersion in employability initiatives ensures our sixth formers feel empowered and informed to take ownership of the choices they need to make for their future beyond school.

The workplace of the future will be competitive, so we feel that students need to have something extra on their CVs and UCAS applications to help them stand out from the 'average' candidate. Therefore, in addition to their studies, we offer a whole raft of enrichment activities that allow students to explore different options, develop new skills, expand their interests, engage with current issues and become more involved with their local community. These activities also play an important role in developing our students' personal skills and levels of independence and maturity.

From providing opportunities to showcase their talents to engaging with outside speakers to living the 'student life' on residential university trips, students are given the freedom to 'try' new ideas and widen their horizons.

North Oxfordshire Academy Sixth Form:

Helping to answer questions like "How do I gain the right experience and right skills, and make the right choices at the right time for the right career?"

1:1 Career advice	Guru speakers
Career check-ins	Industry speakers
Career assemblies	Masterclasses
Careers profiling	Skills Show
Work Experience	Webinars
Internships	Leadership programme
Business Mentors	Career Ready Programme
Attendance at HE Fair	United Learning Scholars Club
UCAS support	Talks on university life
Apprenticeship Fair	Oxbridge visits & talks
CV & branding workshops	University residential
Assessment centre simulations	Volunteering programme
'Business in the classroom'	Mock interview support
National competitions	Subject specific conferences
A Level Geography trip	Sixth Form social committee
Duke of Edinburgh (incl. Gold)	Sixth Form Council

"The hard work and commitment from the sixth form team means there is always a teacher on hand to help"



Sixth Form Team

Year 12 and 13 students at NOA are supported by an experienced team of sixth form teachers, tutors and other support staff. Each student has a personal tutor who is responsible for delivering the tutor programme and is also available to help students with academic or pastoral issues. In addition to this, the sixth form team consists of a number of other important roles.

Heads of Year 12 and 13

The school employs a head of year for years 12 and 13 in addition to the director of sixth form. The heads of year are responsible for monitoring the progress, attendance and attainment of students throughout the year and liaise closely with students, subject staff and parents to ensure students are on track.

Sixth Form Study Support Tutor

The study support tutor monitors the sixth form study area making sure that students are focused on their work and that the area is suitable for all to work effectively. The support tutor is also available to help students with assignments and often works with small groups of students on study or core English and Maths skills.

UCAS Co-ordinator

The UCAS Co-ordinator manages the application process for university, which students complete in the first term of year 13. The role provides training for applicants on the use of the UCAS system, help with personal statements and course selection and the monitoring of progress to ensure all applications are submitted by the deadline date.

Attendance Officer

Good attendance is vital for success in sixth form and, because of this, we employ our own attendance officer who monitors student attendance and contacts students or parents when students fail to arrive for a lesson or study period. Our sixth form attendance rate has been over 95% for the last 3 years and this is due to the importance we place on attendance and the way it impacts on student success. The attendance officer is also the contact for students if they are ill or have to miss school sessions for other reasons and is always available if parents wish to review the attendance record of their son or daughter.



Post-16 progression

At the end of their studies, NOA sixth form students move on to a variety of courses and other positions in Higher Education and the wider world of apprenticeships and employment. The selection below gives an idea of the quality and breadth of opportunity our students have progressed on to in the past 2 years.

University and Higher Education

Jesus College, University of Oxford
 The University of Bristol
 The University of Bristol
 The University of Bristol
 University College London (UCL)
 Loughborough University
 Exeter University
 Canterbury Christchurch University
 Oxford Brookes University
 Oxford Brookes University
 Essex University
 The University of Leicester
 Leeds Beckett University
 Winchester University
 De Montfort University
 De Montfort University
 Liverpool John Moore University
 Coventry University
 Coventry University
 Bournemouth University
 Portsmouth University
 University of South Wales
 Bedfordshire University

Law
 Geography
 Cellular and Molecular Medicine
 Veterinary Nursing and Bio-veterinary Science
 Linguistics
 Mathematics and Sports Science
 Accounting and Finance
 Forensic Investigation
 Music
 Engineering
 Psychology
 Law
 Youth Work and Community Development (JNC)
 Theology, Religion and Ethics
 Journalism
 Economics
 Business
 English
 Business and Law
 Sports Marketing
 Business Information Systems
 Contemporary Music Performance
 Physical Education (Secondary Teaching)

Apprenticeships and Trainee Positions

Brethertons LLP Solicitors
 Wellers Accountants
 Whitley & Stimpson Accountants
 Karcher UK Ltd
 Jaguar Land Rover Limited
 Ellacotts Accountants
 Virgin Airways
 8 Digital Marketing
 Halifax Building Society
 NHS - Horton Hospital
 Next Retail
 Boots Plc.
 Specsavers Opticians
 Hanwell Fields Community School
 Hanwell Fields Community School
 North Oxfordshire Academy
 North Oxfordshire Academy

Legal Apprentice
 Trainee Accountant
 Trainee Accountant
 Engineering Apprentice
 Engineering Apprentice
 Accountant Apprentice
 Management Apprentice
 Marketing Apprentice
 Banking Apprentice
 Clinical Apprentice
 Retail Management
 Retail Management
 Retail Management
 Optical Apprentice
 Teaching Assistant Apprentice
 Business Admin Apprentice
 Business Admin Apprentice
 I.T Technician





North Oxfordshire Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Drayton Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX16 0UD

Tel: 01295 224300

Email: enquires@northoxfordshire-academy.org

www.northoxfordshire-academy.org

