

January 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,



**Hertswood Academy**

*Aim High • Achieve Excellence*

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Hertswood's extremely successful Sixth Form. We have been working for a number of years to develop our Sixth Form provision and want to ensure that students are given every opportunity to succeed.

Sixth Form is a unique opportunity to develop as a learner. We expect students to work hard and to enjoy the challenge of working at a higher level. Therefore, we have developed a curriculum that is renowned across the county for the wide range of courses on offer, from Geography and Chemistry to Photography, from Health & Social Care to ICT.

Our application process is designed to ensure that you make the choices best suited to you. Students are interviewed twice during the application process and parents are involved and informed every step of the way. Everything is planned to ensure the smoothest possible transition in September.

Studying is about much more than what goes on in the classroom. That is why at Hertswood, we have a wide range of facilities and sources of support available to students. All students have access to a Chromebook for their own personal use throughout their time in Sixth Form. Our stock of online resources, books and journals is constantly updated and our Lead Academic Tutor is always on hand to offer help and advice. In both years students also have access to a dedicated study centre.

Experiences outside of school are also integral to learning. We give all students the opportunity to take on a weekly internship placement or do professional work experience during the holidays. Students can also take part in both Sixth Form and subject based trips. Recent destinations have included the Houses of Parliament, various subject specific conferences at universities, art visits to the Royal Academy, English trips to the theatre, the Humanities trip to Italy, university open days, summer schools in the UK and abroad as well as careers fairs.

The consequence of all of this is rising standards and improving results. Our 2019 Year 13 results were the best the school has ever seen, with the highest ever average grade and a record number of A\*-B Grades. This means that whatever you plan to do after school, you will have the grades to get there. In recent years this has meant that students completing Level 3 qualifications have gone on to universities including Yale, Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Imperial College, York, Warwick, Nottingham, King's College and Bath, as well as apprenticeships with Grant Thornton, Media Com and the NHS.

These outcomes do not happen by chance. We know that competition for young people entering both Higher Education and the job market is intense. Therefore, we work very hard to prepare students for the future. From the very first week in Sixth Form, we focus on plans for the future. From lessons on personal finance and completing university applications, speakers on topics such as study skills and going to university, gap years and taking up apprenticeships through to our successful futures preparation programme in the summer term, there is ample opportunity for students to consider where they are going and how they plan to get there.

We also know that it is not only qualifications, which matter in the world beyond school. Therefore, we maintain high standards that will ensure that graduates of our Sixth Form are well prepared for what is expected of them. All students have an opportunity to do community enrichment activities and the Extended Project Qualification as well as subject related activities such as the CanSat project. Students are expected to dress in accordance with our smart dress code, attend school all day every day and maintain a high level of punctuality.

The transition from Year 11 to Year 12 is exhilarating but it can also be challenging. That is why Hertswood students are supported by a dedicated Sixth Form team, a team of Sixth Form tutors and a Senior Student team. The focus of each one is on ensuring that you have the best possible experience of Sixth Form and achieve your potential both academically and personally. Whether you are enjoying the benefits of working with staff and students you already know very well or are coming here for the first time, there is no doubt that you will find the levels of support, second to none.

A successful Sixth Form experience is a passport to future success. What the Hertswood Sixth Form experience adds up to is young people who are well prepared for the rigours of life after Sixth Form and ready for success in the wider world. Ofsted acknowledged this stating, "Students are focused on achieving high grades and gaining places at highly competitive universities and sought-after apprenticeships."

Whatever you want to do, Hertswood has something to suit you. We hope you enjoy considering the options available to you this evening and over the coming weeks. If you would like further course information, please consult our website at [www.hertswoodacademy.org](http://www.hertswoodacademy.org) where you will find information about each one of our Sixth Form courses. If you have a more specific query, please feel free to contact Ms Jo Walsh, who is part of the Sixth Form team who will be very happy to answer your queries, arrange for you to speak to another member of the team or arrange for you to come in for a meeting. If you are not familiar with the school, you are also very welcome to make an appointment to tour the Sixth Form.

I hope you enjoy your evening and that we will see you again in September to study, learn and enjoy Sixth Form with us.

Yours sincerely  
Carey McFerran  
Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form)