



BHGS SIXTH FORM

FAQs



We have recently been interviewing all our Year 11 pupils, as well as a record number of external applicants from other schools, to discuss with them their plans and applications for next year. The feedback from all staff involved has been incredibly positive about the response from Year 11. They have been well-prepared for the interviews, given careful thought to the subjects they would like to do next year and shown great maturity in their approach.

It has been lovely to hear our own pupils speak so positively about their experiences at Bishop's and to look forward to the next part of their seven-year journey with us.

Each year these interviews also allow us to address any questions pupils may still have. We thought that it would be useful to share with you some FAQs about the strengths of our Sixth Form at Bishop's, the options process and what happens next.

Please do contact us if you have any further questions regarding the Sixth Form and the application process. We look forward to supporting all those who join our Sixth Form, not only in achieving their academic potential but also in becoming well rounded responsible young people, ready for their life after school.



How do A level exam results at Bishop's compare with other schools?

We are really proud of how well our students do in their exams. The most recent Department for Education data (for 2023 exam results) put Bishop's in the top 10% of schools in the country for A Level results and this rises to the top 6% of schools when looking at students' 'best 3' A Level subjects. By this measure Bishop's is in the top 8 state schools in Hertfordshire, with most of the schools above us either selective or partially selective in their intake. In 2023 34.3% of student grades were A/A*, and 61.8% were A*-B. 16 of last years' Year 13 got 3 or more A*/A grades. Unlike many of the other schools that achieve these sorts of results, our entrance criteria for 6th form means we welcome students with a range of abilities, and all make significant progress.

These results enable our students to go on to study at Oxbridge and the top Russell Group universities in the country and in some of the most competitive courses, including medicine and veterinary medicine. All of our students who wanted to go to university secured a place at their chosen destination.



I've heard that there are positions of responsibility that Sixth-Formers can take on, what are these?

Taking on leadership roles and positions of responsibility is a key part of being a sixth-former at Bishop's and nearly all our students take up these opportunities to develop their skills and talents. Examples include: Form Prefect - supporting with form activities in younger years; Subject Prefect - representing a subject at school events and supporting within that Department, e.g. in enrichment and sporting clubs; House Captain and Vice-Captain - working with the Head of House to run House events and competitions; Head Girl/Student - this is the most senior role and involves working closely with staff, including the SLT, to run School Council and help to make decisions that can benefit everyone at the school.

Since we know our students well we can encourage and support them to take on these responsibilities. Our sixth-formers say how much their confidence has grown from being able to take on these roles in a safe and secure environment, and these opportunities then support their future applications, where they are able to explain their role and the skills they have developed.

How are Sixth form students supported outside the classroom?

One of the unique aspects of our Sixth Form is that students do not just become part of a big form group - every student has a Personal Tutor. They meet them fortnightly and so get individualised support with their academic progress and with accessing wider opportunities. We have an extensive programme of enrichment to ensure that our students enjoy life outside the classroom. This includes the opportunity to take part in societies, clubs and competitions, expeditions through World Challenge, a community volunteering programme and an extensive range of guest speakers, trips and visits. We also have students successfully becoming Arkwright Engineering Scholars. Students have also been very successful in their Young Enterprise Company programme, achieving awards for team work and product design. The opportunity to undertake extended work experience in Year 12, and support given in finding placements and appropriate programmes, university residential courses and summer schools is always welcomed by our students. Former students offer support through the Future First network, giving additional insight opportunities to network and gain experience with female leaders across a range of industries.

<https://bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk/school-enrichment-programme/>



What support will I get with my future choices, e.g. making applications to university or to apprenticeships?

We provide personalised support for our sixth-formers through the one to one tutor system and the Life Skills programme. Students have individual conversations with their tutor on a fortnightly basis throughout the Sixth Form, and this includes support with researching courses and universities using specialist tools such as Unifrog and understanding the techniques needed to make a strong and successful application. Additional support includes our programme of Supra-curricula events for all, and the dedicated Masterminds Programme aimed at those applying for the most competitive courses. Increasing numbers of students are applying for Apprenticeships in top level companies, and our strong links with employment networks mean that we are able to support students through the steps of the application process.

<https://bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk/the-super-curriculum/>

<https://bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk/masterminds-society/>



When do I find out if I have been accepted into the Sixth Form?

All applications are processed centrally across the Welwyn Hatfield Consortium. With many hundreds of applications to process, this can take a little while. We aim to confirm each student's offer by letter by the end of this term.

What if I have changed my mind about my subject choice?

When students get their letter confirming their choices they will be asked to return it to school with any requests for amendments. Any change requests must be in line with the course requirements and should align with the blocks listed on the applications form. This can be viewed on the Welwyn Hatfield Consortium website.



I have heard that there is a 'reserve' list, what does that mean?

If a student does not meet the entry requirements for a course based on their predicted grades they may be added to the reserve list for that subject. If the required grade is then achieved at GCSE they may be moved onto that course if there are spaces remaining.

I have heard that there are plans to further improve Sixth Form facilities at Bishop's - what are these?

The Sixth Form have great facilities - their own Cafe, Common Room and Study Room and can make use of school meeting spaces when they are available too - all in a building that is only 7 years old! We have been speaking to the current sixth-formers as well as Year 11 about what they would like to see in the Sixth Form areas and have some exciting ideas about this. Although our building is relatively new, we think it is time to invest in some improvements and are keen to hear ideas about this from our students.



What can Bishop's offer in the 6th form? A summary:

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| Top 6% of schools in the country for best 3 A level results. Top 8 state schools in Herts (those above us are selective and use an entrance exam to do this) | Specialist expert staff dedicated to student success, building lessons that challenge you to be your best. |
| Masterminds - specialist support with the most competitive applications to the most competitive universities and courses. | Smaller class sizes, with plenty of one to one support. We split subjects into small groups to enable this. |
| Personalised tutoring with a one to one tutor who supports you in your study and responds to your needs | The opportunity to study a wide range of subjects across five sites, so maximum student choice, with free transport between them. |
| No gender stereotyping between subject intakes - all subjects are 'for girls' and girls excel in all subjects. | Positions of responsibility - opportunities to develop important team and leadership skills and stand out in applications |
| Strong enrichment: competitions, debating, trips and visits, guest speakers, World Challenge, Young Enterprise, business links, employability skill workshops, application support, careers guidance. | Support and guidance in study skills and in making strong competitive applications to university or apprenticeships |



Any questions?

Do get in touch with us if there is anything you need to know:

General Enquiries: admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk

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