

How does WGHS Sixth Form meet the requirements of the 16-19 study programme?

Requirement:

All ESFA funded education for 16 to 19-year-olds should be delivered as a study programme which combines qualifications and other activities, and which is tailored to each student's prior attainment and career goals. Every study programme must have a core aim. For the majority of students, this will be either the study of substantial technical, applied or academic qualification(s) or preparation for employment.

The WGHS Sixth Form evidence:

All Wolverhampton Girls' High School Sixth Form curriculum routes are Level 3 programmes, which are composed of a wide variety of academic subjects. They are designed to stretch students and prepare them for their next level of education or employment and are made up from traditional A-levels. Our subjects are not blocked initially allowing students to choose their preferred courses to study at A-level. Our entry requirements for Sixth Form are on the basis of best six GCSE subjects at grade 6 or above, plus minimum grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and English Language (plus some individual subject entry requirements).

At Wolverhampton Girls' High School, it is our goal that all students who enter the Sixth Form do so from an informed viewpoint. All our Sixth Form students, both internal and external, are interviewed at the application stage to ensure that each study programme is tailored towards their prior attainment and career goals. Through a careful selection process involving a preliminary interview, the Open Evening, and a more detailed one-to-one interview, students have a study programme shaped around their attainment to date (based on predicted grades initially but refined in light of achieved GCSE grades before commencing the Sixth Form), and their education and career goals.

The programme of study in the Sixth Form at Wolverhampton Girls' High School is designed to provide all students with a structured and challenging personalised learning programme, which supports their development and academic progress in line with their future career plans.

All students are expected to study three full A-level courses, with each A-level subject taught over 10 hours per fortnight. Some students choose to study four full A-level courses. We also offer an Extended Project Qualification to all of our students to supplement their studies, if desired. This is launched in the summer term of Year 12. Study programmes are focused on progression to the next level, whether in the form of degree apprenticeship, Higher Education or employment. University visits, workshops, guest speakers, and a HE/careers fair are available to help students choose their pathway post-18. We have a Careers Adviser on hand for one-to-one interviews. Students will also have one-to-one meetings with their personal UCAS Adviser to discuss their options, next steps and future aspirations.

During each year a variety of activities are arranged to develop student's character, broader skills, attitudes, and confidence and to support progression. We have a detailed enrichment programme which consists of fortnightly Core Enrichment and weekly Optional Enrichment lessons. The Core Enrichment lessons focus on a range of themes, starting in Year 12 with study skills, core personal development topics, preparing for post-18 options, careers support and financial management regarding university student loans. The Optional Enrichment lessons are a compulsory part of the student timetable where students get a choice of what enrichment they would like to do. These range from BSL, TEFL, Sports Leader, ESB, finance and first aid qualifications to creative writing, mindfulness, aspiring to Oxbridge and cookery options. This programme gives students the soft skills that enable their success when applying for future roles, and when embarking upon their next steps. These enrichment and personal development lessons are also complemented by content delivered in vertical tutor group periods and a fortnightly PSHCE programme (including RSE); the latter covers a range of relevant and required topics including drugs awareness, sexual consent, social media, the law, mental health, sexual health, finances.

Students in Year 12, supported by the Assistant Director of Sixth Form, are encouraged to actively seek work experience placements during a designated WEX week in the summer term. All Sixth Form students are encouraged to volunteer as part of their prefect role in school with many working with their chosen departments as Academic Prefects by mentoring students in the lower years of the school or supporting (or running) extra-curricular. Many students also volunteer locally at two partner care homes and as paired readers at a local primary school. Students' personal development is further supported through opportunities for leadership and responsibilities within the school, as well as the wider community. Students are actively encouraged to take on senior student roles and to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the plethora of enrichment activities and visits on offer.