



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership
The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form

Pathway Guidance Booklet 2023-24

This handbook has been created to help give you some ideas of what qualifications are needed for a wide range of different careers. It is designed to be used in conjunction with the prospectus and the Course Outline booklet. You have worked really hard to get to this point and we want to make sure that your experience at Sixth Form allows you to progress Post-18 and secure your future ambitions.

This guide aims to give you clear advice and also help to dispel some of the myths surrounding progress into university and the world of work. The advice we give here cannot cover every pathway, but please ask and we can help you look to see how to achieve your dream goal in the future.

The routes indicated here follow advice offered by universities and employers, and is also based on our experience. As a rule of thumb, we advise that you choose a balanced range of subjects which you enjoy, especially if you do not yet know what you want to do in the future, as this helps to keep your options open.

This guide also contains the entry requirements for the courses we offer and details on how to apply using the online application form.

If you are unsure of what options to pick then we are happy to meet with you to give some additional guidance. Please contact us on sixthformadmin@msnsixth.com or 01761 402280 to arrange an appointment.

Areas of study for after Sixth Form

Archaeology	A Level in History, English and a Science subject.
Architecture	A Level Maths and Physics and either Graphics or Art.
Art related courses/ 3D Design	Any Art/ design courses
Biochemist	A Level Chemistry and Biology and some require Maths.
Biologist	A Level Chemistry and Biology.
Biotechnology/ Medical engineering	2 or 3 from A Level Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Maths
Business	No specific requirements - International Business courses will require a language at A level and some with a Financial element will require A level Maths.
Chemistry	A Level Chemistry and one other science subject.
Computer science courses	A Level Maths and a science subject required for some courses.
Childcare/ Early Years teaching	Education & Childcare T Level and Health and Social Care BTEC are both highly recommended
Dance	Practical experience required, but no specific A Levels.
Dentistry	GCSE grades need to be mainly A* & A grades. A Level Chemistry and Biology or T Level Healthcare Science required for most courses.
Dietician	A Level Biology and/ or chemistry
Drama	English and Drama may be required.

Economics	A Level in Maths, Economics or Business.
Education/ Teacher Training	T Level Education and Childcare is useful. For secondary teaching a course in subject you would like to teach is required. For Primary school teaching there are no specific course requirements.
Engineering	A Level Physics and Maths. Some courses recommend Further Maths. T Level Engineering is also acceptable for some courses and for direct access into apprenticeships.
English (including Creative Writing and journalism)	A Level English Lit / Lang or English Literature
Environmental Related careers	One or two science A Levels required – Geography often accepted. Some require Maths A Level.
European studies and Languages	An A Level in a modern language is required. Some courses will require a second Language A Level.
Law	No specific requirements, however English Literature, History, Philosophy, and Politics are all viewed favourably.
Maths	A Level Maths and Further Maths
Media	Any creative arts or humanities/social science can be useful.
Medicine	A Levels in Biology and Chemistry.
Music	Subjects relating to performance or Music – either A level Music.
Nursing/ Medical related careers	T Level Healthcare Science or Two A Level/BTEC Science subjects required - Applied Science, Health and Social Care, Childcare or Psychology are generally accepted. A Level Biology is required for some Paramedic Science.
Physiotherapy	A Level Biology is usually required for most courses; a Science based BTEC is acceptable for some. T Level Healthcare Science is acceptable for some courses. (Contact Tlevel@msnsixth.com for more information)
Psychology/Counselling	Psychology, Sociology is viewed favourably. Chemistry is required for some Psychology courses.
Sports Coaching	BTEC Sport recommended
Sports Science	An A Level Science subject required
Uniformed Services	No specific requirements
Veterinary Science	A Level Biology and Chemistry are required

Entry requirements for the Sixth Form

Listed below are the entry requirements for all the courses offered across all three sites; we have indicated next to each course title the sites on which it is offered.

MSN - MSN Sixth

SSS - Somerset Sixth

WRI - Writhlington Sixth

Applied Law (BTEC) (MSN)	5 9-4 Grades at GCSE or equivalent, including a grade 4 or higher in English Language and a grade 4 or higher in either History, Geography, English Literature or Philosophy and Belief
Applied Science Level 3 (MSN)	Minimum of five grade 4s at GCSE including English and / or Maths. In addition, a minimum of a grade 44 in Double Award GCSE Science or two of the three separate sciences.
Art & Design (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 in GCSE Art
Biology (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science higher paper and a Grade 5 in Maths. Grade 66 in Combined Science is desirable.
Business (BTEC) (WRI)	5 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent including a 4 grade in GCSE Mathematics
Business (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Business and a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics in addition to 6 9-5 grades at GCSE.
Business Management & Administration (WRI)	5 GCSEs at grade 9-4 (including English and Maths)
Chemistry (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science higher paper and a Grade 5 in Maths. Grade 66 in Combined Science is desirable. The continuation of Maths Post-16 would be advantageous.
Education and Childcare (0-5years)(T Level) (SSS)	Minimum of five grade 4 GCSEs.
Computer Science (A Level) (MSN)	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and/ or GCSE Computer Science
Core Maths (Level 3) (MSN)	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics or at the discretion of the Head of Mathematics
Creative Media Production (BTEC) (WRI)	No previous qualification in Media Studies is necessary, but candidates must have a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or English Literature and have an interest in the media.
Criminology (Level 3 Diploma) (MSN, WRI)	5 9-4 Grades at GCSE or equivalent including a grade 4 in English Language or English Literature

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Design Technology (A Level) (MSN)	Grade five in GCSE Design Technology, Graphics, Resistant Materials. If a student has not studied the subject before the entry is at the discretion of the Head of Technology.
Drama & Theatre Studies (A Level) (MSN)	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama plus an interest in Performing Arts.
Economics (A Level) (MSN)	Grade 5 in both GCSE Maths and GCSE English Language or English Literature, in addition to 6 GCSEs at grades 9-5.
Engineering (T Level) (SSS)	Minimum of five grade 4 GCSEs including English and Maths; Maths needs to be at a grade 5. In addition, a minimum of a grade 44 in Double Award GCSE Science or 4 in Physics separate GCSE.
English Language and Literature (A Level) (MSN)	Grade 5 or above in English Language and/or English Literature.
English Literature (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 or above in English Language and/or English Literature
Extended Project (EPQ) (MSN, WRI, MSS)	5 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent.
Food & Nutrition (Level 3 Diploma) (WRI)	4 or equivalent in Hospitality and Catering or similar Food related course or if the students haven't done a Food course 4 or above in Science
Further Mathematics (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics
Geography (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 in GCSE Geography or through discussion with Head of Geography if not studied Geography at GCSE.
Health and Social Care (BTEC) (MSN)	5 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent
Healthcare Science (T Level) (SSS)	5 GCSEs at grade 9-4 (including English, Maths & Science)
History (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 in GCSE History. If History not taken at GCSE then a Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.
IT (BTEC) (MSN)	5 9-4 at GCSE or equivalent. No previous IT qualification required, however a short IT competency test will need to be passed for students who do not have an IT or Computer Science qualification.
Mathematics (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics (1-9). Entry is at the discretion of the Head of Mathematics.

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Modern Languages – French, Spanish (A Level) (MSN)	GCSE Grade 5 or higher in the chosen language.
Music (A Level) (MSN)	A minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE Music or Grade 5 standard on an instrument or voice (exam doesn't have to have been taken) and a passion for the subject.
Performing Arts BTEC (WRI)	Grade 4 in GCSE Drama or a Grade 4 in English with extra-curricular experience in Performing Arts.
Philosophy & Ethics (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	GCSE Grade 5 in Philosophy & Belief and a GCSE Grade 5 in English Language.
Photography (A Level) (MSN)	All students should submit a portfolio of work to the Art & Photography department. Also students will need to have their own camera to complete this course. Places on this course will be allocated following an interview with the Head of Art.
Physical Education (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 or above at GCSE PE or Distinction at VCERT Health & Fitness. Student must be taking part in competitive sport outside of school.
Physics (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science higher paper and a Grade 5 in Maths. Grade 66 in Combined Science is desirable. The continuation of Maths Post-16 would be advantageous.
Psychology (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 or above in English Language. Grade 5 or above in Mathematics. Grade 55 or above in Combined Science.
Sociology (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 or above in English Language GCSE. Grade 5 or above in Mathematics GCSE. Grade 4 or above in Science GCSE
Sport (BTEC) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 4 in GCSE PE and a grade 44 in GCSE Science. Students must be taking part in competitive sport outside of school.

How to apply to The Sixth Form

The application form for The Sixth Form is electronic and the link will open for applications on 7th November via our website.

You will need to choose three courses you would like to take, unless you are choosing a T Level course in which case you should pick only one option. You can also choose an additional Enrichment option; in some cases students do choose more than three options.

The subjects are organised in blocks so that you have a clear view of which subject combinations are possible. These blocks have been designed to allow for all the main career pathways to be followed. However if your desired combination does not fit then you can indicate this on the application form and we will see what we can do to assist.

Further details of how to apply, and subject blocks, will be available on our website ahead of the open evening.

The deadline for initial applications is 12th December; applications after this date will be accepted but course choices may be limited. Applications made before this deadline will be considered with equal parity.