
Sixth Form Parents' Information Evening

How can you support your son/daughter?

- Structure of the courses and year
 - What do we expect of the perfect student?
 - Expectations and procedures
 - Planning for their future
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Main contacts

Pastoral Support

MSN Sixth Form - Deputy Director of Sixth Form

Ms Oxley-Hughes - coxleyhughes@msnsixth.com

Writhlington Sixth Form - Deputy Director of Sixth Form

Ms Taggart - ctaggart@writhlingtonschool.org.uk

Somerset Studio School - Sixth Form Lead

Ms Baber - tbaber@mendipstudioschool.org.uk

Deputy Director of Sixth Form - Quality Assurance

Ms Barker-Starling - kbarkerstarling@writhlington.org.uk

Sixth Form Administrator

Ms Fuller - sixthformadmin@msnsixth.com

Sixth Form Attendance

Ms Malone - Tlevel@msnsixth.com

All students in Year 12 take 3 courses.

The courses will be a combination of:-

- A levels
 - BTECs
 - Extended Project (Can be taken as an additional qualification at end of Year 12)
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Assessment of qualifications

- Government reforms mean that all A Levels are now linear.
 - All A Level exams are at the end of Year 13.
 - BTEC qualifications have exams throughout the course
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Level 3 BTEC

- Students are awarded grades of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction *.
 - Two year courses
 - Radical change in assessment
 - Far greater emphasis on external assessment. For example, the Business externally assessed component is almost 60% of the entire grade.
 - These subjects will maintain the current reliance upon internally assessed coursework to establish the overall grade.
 - Exam defines whether a student passes or fails.
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GCSE English Language and Maths Retake

- Must have a grade 4 in both of the above.
- Lessons are compulsory if a grade 4 is not achieved in either of these subjects.

HEAD OF SIXTH HOMEWORK

- To support students with revising throughout the year we have introduced Head of Sixth Homework.
 - Each subject will set a piece of revision per week in addition to normal homework.
 - Initially staff will give support with this using model revision resources.
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Year 13 Admissions

- Students need to achieve at least a Pass in BTEC courses and a D grade in A level courses in end of Year 12 exams to automatically progress to Year 13.

Personal Super-Curricular Education

Weekly sessions to compliment the curriculum and 'life skills'.

Sessions are discussion led and provide activities which provoke debate and reflection alongside factual information to inform.

Topics include;

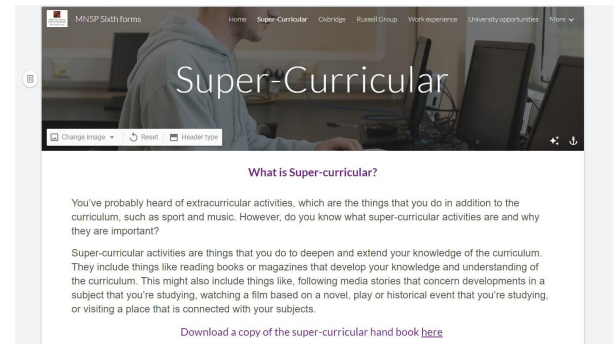
Road safely and driving

How to budget and manage money

Sex and relationships

The wider world religion and politics

Destinations, skills and exam support - super-curricular website



Structure of the Year

- Year 12 end of year exams –June
- Teaching continues after end of year exams
- Sixth Form calendar on the Sixth Form website
 - www.msnsixth.com

Career Planning

- All students must take part in some outside experience that links with their career plans.
 - Students can take part in these virtually.
 - This can be any of the following:
 - Volunteering
 - Shadowing
 - University taster days
 - Work experience
 - It does not need to be traditional experience
 - Google classroom used to highlight both DIW and University opportunities
 - Contact the pastoral lead on their site for more support/ guidance on this if needed.
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What do we expect of the Perfect Student?



An understanding of the differences between GCSE and post-16 courses – both in work quantity and grades.

What qualities does the perfect student have?

- Good work ethic
 - Determination
 - Always striving to improve
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What resources do they need?

- Folder and dividers are required for each subject.
 - Study planner - should come to site with them everyday.
 - Pens/ pencils etc.
 - Notebook/ pad of paper
 - Laptops can be used in school.
 - Advice for parents booklet has any specific requirements for subjects.
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WORK TO BE COMPLETED

Week Commencing:

Subject/Course	Specific Tasks

STUDY PLANNER

Week Commencing

	Study Periods	Evening
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		

What do students need to do to achieve their best?

- They should make use of their study periods – 2/3 of them should be in the library. They should mark them on their timetable.
 - They should spend even amounts of time on each subject and mark which study periods they are going to spend on each subject.
 - They should be spending, on average, 2 hours working each evening (not including the work they complete during the day).
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What makes people successful?

In 1991, Anders Ericsson

(Psychologist at Florida State University)

carried out a study into what caused success

He studied violinists at the renowned Music Academy of West Berlin in Germany.

Three groups were identified

- **Group 1** - Top group - super talented - expected to become international soloists
 - **Group 2** - Middle group - very good - expected to play in world top orchestras but not as soloists
 - **Group 3** - Bottom group - training to be music teachers
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Each group were interviewed

- Interviews with students in all three groups revealed similar experiences:
 - started playing violin around 8 years old
 - number of music tutors (4 tutors)
 - number of additional instruments played (average of 1.8)
 - age decided to become a musician (average 15 years old)
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BUT... one key difference

- number of hours practised for EVERY member of the top group was far greater than the other groups.

Group 1 - 10,000 hours

Group 2 - 8,000 hours

Group 3 - 4,000 hours

Every member of the top group had practised for at least 10,000 hours. Every one!

What do students need to do to achieve their best?

- Completed their homework? To help improve further, students can study extra exam questions, review their notes and undertake wider reading.
 - Details of wider reading and study are available in the Sixth Form extension work handbook – available on the Sixth Form website
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Support from tutors

- Academic mentoring at least once every half term.
 - Students to focus on working towards their target grade.
 - Before each mentoring session, students are expected to consider what areas to focus on.
 - Tutors then work with students to draw up targets and consider how to achieve them.
 - Tutor programme focuses on study skills, time management and mindfulness.
 - Head of Sixth homework is given to help students develop their revision skills.
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Expectations and Procedures

- Dress code
 - No smoking/ vaping
 - Attendance / Leave of Absence
 - Reporting illness
 - Home study
 - Leaving site
 - Catch up sessions/ Head of Sixth Detention
 - Discipline procedure and monitoring sheets
 - Study period monitoring sheets.
 - Attendance at tutor time
 - Bursary
 - Contribution to Sixth Form life.
 - Trips/ Volunteering/ Opportunities such as Access To Bristol.
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Preparing for their future – DIW/ Higher or Further Education

- Mrs Windsor – Post 16 Careers Lead available for support
 - Next Steps Evening – HE information and Year 13 courses – March
 - HE Convention – April
 - June/ July – HE/ DIW preparation programme
 - Extended project – Activities week.
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The reality of what the Uni tells you

- Offers are likely to be higher than published.
 - Offer will be made on three courses, but additional enrichment courses make you more appealing.
 - Unis will make a decision based on your end of Year 12 grades and the predicted grades staff make in Year 13.
 - Better grades give you more choice.
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What does this mean?

- Your predicted grades are the ones that universities will see. These will be based on performance throughout year 12 and in the end of year exams.
 - A Levels are not the same as GCSEs.
 - Swallow a revision guide at GCSE probably get a B grade – do the same at A Level probably get a D or E grade.
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Communication

- Fortnightly Update emailed to parents
 - Twitter @MSNSixth/ Facebook - The Sixth Form MSNP
 - Website with specifically designed section for parents and important info on front page
 - Most communication by email
 - Phone calls responded to within 24 hours.
 - Parents invited to join google classrooms so can see daily notices, work set and homeworks
 - Parent handbook/ Subject Advice to Parents handbook/ Extension work booklet/ Coursework deadline booklet/ Student Handbook
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