



**SIXTH FORM  
INFORMATION  
2020 - 2021**

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# BRANSTON SIXTH FORM

## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Today young people are extending their full time education beyond the age of sixteen; more students are deciding to stay on or join us from other schools to benefit from some of the special advantages to be found in the 16-19 traditions of excellence we can offer through the Branston Academy Sixth Form, which has traditionally had one of the highest "staying on" rates in the Lincoln area.

Students in the sixth form are given an individual timetable made up of compulsory and optional subjects. All students are expected to attend tutorial periods and to engage in voluntary work, as we feel that they cover essential broadening elements of their education. The core programme is negotiated individually for each student depending on optional choices and resit needs. The optional elements are chosen by students from the subjects and courses we offer for study at a number of different levels. Combinations can form a wide range of individually tailored courses for all ability levels.

There are several reasons why students choose to enter the sixth form. Traditionally it is a successful avenue to courses in all institutions of Higher Education and high quality apprenticeship schemes. Increasingly the courses offered in our sixth form, both academic and vocational give direct entry to the professions or Industry.

For existing students many advantages are offered by continuing study in **BRANSTON** Sixth Form. Our highly qualified staff provide the continuity of approach and the expertise necessary to prepare candidates for demanding courses in Higher Education. This is a big advantage of the Academy that we are able to offer continuous academic development from 11 to 18, since the staff will already have an excellent knowledge of the individual needs of each student on their post-16 courses. Smaller teaching groups allow the introduction of more independent learning, through methods such as individual and small group tutorials. Our private study facilities offer the academic environment necessary for study at this level. Branston Academy pastoral system continues to give close personal guidance which is still vitally important while students are gaining an independent approach to their studies.

Close liaison with 11 – 16 schools in the area also makes for a smooth transition to Branston Sixth Form.

We provide an induction period in June/July of Year 11 after GCSE exams have finished, which we feel enables all students to begin their academic studies immediately in September thus avoiding any transfer difficulties. We encourage all students new to the Academy to attend this induction period if at all possible. The use of compatible subjects and examination boards enables the smooth transition from GCSE to A and AS level, and from BTEC Level 2 to BTEC Level 3 courses.

A number of students from outside of the area enter our sixth form. Some join us because of a house move or parents being posted to one of the RAF stations in travelling distance from us. Students also join us from local 11-16 schools; if Branston is the nearest, most appropriate Sixth Form, then transport subsidised by the Lincolnshire County Council will be available.

## POST 16 EXAMINATION RESULTS 2020

2020 was another successful year for A level results. For the past 5 years the average pass rate figure has been over 98.8% - well above the national average. In 2019 the pass rate was an excellent 98% continuing the trend set by previous year groups and establishing the Sixth Form at Branston firmly as a very good centre for successful results. Virtually all subject departments achieved a 100% 'A' level pass rate, and over half of all passes were at the highest A level grades A\*-B. On Value-Added measures Branston's A level and BTEC First and National results have been excellent, among the best locally and nationally. As a result ex-students took up University and other Higher Education places in over 40 locations all over the country, in addition, students secured prestigious apprenticeships.

Full statistics on the results of our 11-18 year old students are available in the Parents' Handbook and Autumn Newsletter.

## INITIATIVE AND ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the academic advantage of study in Branston Academy Sixth Form there is the extra benefit derived from greater involvement with both the Academy and local community. All students are expected to participate in some form of Volunteer or project work using up to four single lessons on their timetable. Where students participate in volunteer activities, they can bank the hours and receive accreditation through V Involved (formally Millennium Volunteers). A number of options currently operating are described below but we welcome further suggestions from students:

### NCS

Lots of sixth form students enjoy taking an active part in National Citizen Services. Students have the chance to work with companies and charities. Great opportunity to explore leadership and team skills.

### Engineering Education Scheme

Those students studying A Level Mathematics can apply to join this scheme. Those selected then work to solve a real life problem for an allocated business.

### Debating Society

A small group of students are trained to deliver well structured arguments. They enter both local and national competitions.

### Primary School Volunteer

Several of our feeder schools allocate a number of placements for Sixth Formers to go into the primary schools and assist with the youngsters. This is an excellent opportunity for students wanting to work with children but also a rewarding experience for anyone.

### CHARITY COMMITTEE

Student led group raising money for local charities.

## ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

### Lower School Support

Students help in Expressive Arts and Drama lessons, lending support to group work and advising on performance. Those interested in ICT Skills give support in a variety of ways.

### Community Day Nursery

The nursery benefits from sixth form help, as a number of students assist on a regular basis, reading stories, setting up role-play situations and helping encourage oral skills. Students gain valuable experience in this way and both give and receive pleasure from the situation.

### Year 7 Student Support Scheme

Students work alongside Year 7 tutors in a student support scheme. The main aim is to assist Year 7 students who need help in settling in and coping with the transition from primary to secondary school.

## **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

The extra-curricular activities that are available to all students continue to be enjoyed by the sixth form student. Our staff encourage sixth formers to take a leading role in many of these activities, both cultural and sporting. For example, sixth form students take some responsibility for the running of sports teams and KS3 dance and drama clubs. Other suggestions are always welcomed by staff.

The sixth form has its own committee which is responsible for organising the running of the sixth form both culturally and socially. The sixth form provides the senior representatives for the Academy Council representing student voice.

## **MUSICAL ACTIVITIES**

Apart from our range of advanced courses in Music and Performing Arts, Music and Drama are available as recreational subjects 'taught' outside the timetable through involvement with concerts, chamber ensembles and musicals.

It is hoped that musicians of all abilities continue to make themselves known to staff so that productions of various kinds can continue. Students new to the Academy are particularly requested to join in these activities.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Year 12 students take part in one week's work experience as part of their sixth form course after their first year exams. We ask students to arrange their own placements if at all possible. We encourage every student to find a placement that suits his or her career interests. BTEC First and National students often have the added advantage of work placements and visits as part of their course. A number of A level students are also involved in work experience placements during the Academy week. We have placed students in a wide variety of organisations over the years. Many Institutes of Higher Education recommend that those intending to follow a career in teaching spend some time in primary schools, and we are always able to place them locally.

Similarly, students considering medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry will all need relevant work experience.

All UCAS applications require the student to write a personal statement. Work experience is a worthy inclusion in this report.

## **FACILITIES AVAILABLE**

Sixth Form Students have extra study and social facilities to those already available for the general Academy. There are areas for quiet study, ICT work and a careers library containing up-to-date prospectuses and course leaflets for Higher Education Courses. The dining room is also available to Sixth Form students during lesson time with internet access through laptops. Sixth form students do of course benefit from all the facilities available at the Academy which include purpose-built SCIENCE laboratories, a separate specialist suite of rooms in the MUSIC block and a large Concert Hall with adjacent DRAMA Studio. Students also enjoy the benefits of extensive outdoor and indoor PHYSICAL EDUCATION facilities including an indoor, heated, swimming pool and become a student member of Heron's gym.

We are fortunate to have a large social area to gather in with kitchen facilities, coffee/tea machine.

Please see the Academy Parents' Handbook for a description of all relevant policies and procedures not mentioned explicitly in this handbook.



# RESPONSIBILITIES

## WORK COMMITMENT

Whatever course is being followed in the sixth form we expect all students to show commitment and effort. Such qualities are demonstrated by good attendance, punctuality and rigorous completion of work set. Students are expected to organise themselves, keep their own record of work, ensure notes are thorough and up to date and make full use of their private study time to read around their specialist subjects. In addition to their taught timetable, students should spend two to three hours per day extra in private study both in the Academy and at home. With such commitment students can aim at achieving their best possible results.

We emphasise that sixth form studies are full time and require **at least a 39-hour week** of concentrated study to obtain satisfactory grades. Regular essay and assignment work is set and students are expected to read around their subjects. While paid part-time work is a maturing influence for students, we emphasise that examination grades will suffer if too many hours are worked. We recommend **no more** than 8 to 9 hours per week.

## PROGRESS MONITORING AND REPORTING

Over the two years of the sixth form various progress reports are completed on students. On all occasions parents will receive detailed information on progress. The change in the A level system means that some students will be taking external examinations in June of Year 12 completing A2 in June of Year 13. Students receive results of any external examinations they take as they occur.

An Assessment Week is scheduled for both Year 12 and 13 in Autumn followed by mock examinations in January for most courses where an AS level is not being taken there is a further mock week scheduled in June. These are complemented by progress reports, parents evenings and one full written report for each year group. Please see the annual Academy calendar issued in September at the start of each academic year for specific dates.

## DRESS CODE

No formal dress is stipulated for Sixth Form students. However, at the very least we expect students to be well-presented, neat and clean as befits their senior position in the Academy.

Dress should be smart casual with no shorts/cropped trousers/leggings or revealing clothing. Denim is acceptable but not ripped or holed. Tracksuits (etc) are acceptable for PE students.

## COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

All sixth form students are expected to help the teaching staff in general supervision of students around the Academy. Many other ways of developing community responsibility are available and all sixth form students are encouraged to lead or participate in activities which develop their interests and specialisms and are often relevant to their future careers

## **COURSES AVAILABLE**

We offer subjects and courses for study at a number of different levels so that combinations can form a wide range of individually tailored courses for students of all ability levels:

### **LEVEL 3 COURSES ADVANCED AND ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY LEVEL COURSES BTEC AND OCR TECHNICAL COURSES**

A level courses are graded A\* to E and the grades are awarded UCAS points for University entrance. The BTEC and OCR National and A level 'Applied' courses have two features, a different combination of the types of teaching and learning styles used and the assessment pattern of the courses.

The Academy provides a range of level 3 courses. A three or four advanced course package is still the favoured route for most students, particularly future Higher Education applicants. AS or Advanced Subsidiary is intended to extend the range of options that A levels offer at a level intermediate between GCSE and A level.

All the level 3 courses offered at Branston Community Academy are acceptable for entry into Higher Education. It is very rare that a particular combination is required for a course, although certain professions require specific subject to be studied. Students with definite career plans should research particular advanced course requirements before making their choice. Most Higher Education Courses require students to gain most of their UCAS points from three or four full advanced courses.

We feel that a large number of students benefit from including at least one Applied or BTEC/OCR Technical course in their choices for a number of reasons:

- the type of work is more relevant to certain sorts of employment
- work related visits and placements can result in firm offers of permanent employment
- students obtain experience to enable them to apply for a wider range of both vocational and academic higher level courses by BTEC, City & Guilds and degree courses at Universities and Colleges
- students might gain more 'job-satisfaction' and improved results by including one or more courses with a greater proportion of continuously-assessed units as compared with those tested by formal written examination.

Some advanced courses allow students to take an AS qualification at the end of Year 12. An increasing number of courses now take a linear approach where all of the units are examined at the end of Year 13.

For University courses the AS level is worth exactly half the number of points awarded at each grade of an A level. However, universities will, in the main, continue to ask for specific grades of A and AS levels.

It is possible therefore to "mix and match" AS levels to either contrast with or complement your A levels. Below are two example packages - one of a complementary AS level and one contrasting.

- (1) A level Geography, BTEC National Award in Travel and Tourism, A level Sociology and AS level Mathematics - the mathematics contrasting with the humanities and adding a valuable dimension to the package.
- (2) Mathematics, Physics and Design Technology at A level and Information and Communications Technology at AS level - giving a fairly full science and technology package.

## **LEVEL 2 COURSES (2 GCSE Grades A\*-C Equivalent)**

These courses are mainly equivalent to 2 GCSEs at Grade C or above and are intended for students who have obtained most of their GCSE results at grades D to G. Students who have already followed a vocational BTEC or OCR course will be familiar with the learning style used and can progress from Introductory level to BTEC First Diploma or from BTEC First Certificate to BTEC First Diploma. One BTEC First Course and an English and Mathematics resits package is taken full-time for one year with periods of work placement and visits included. Students successfully completing this one year course can progress onto two year advanced courses, choosing from the full range of academic and vocational courses on offer.

## **EXTRA OPTIONS**

### **GCSE ONE YEAR**

We offer English and Mathematics and GCSE level, but depending upon demand it may be possible to arrange alternative or extra courses for those wishing to retake other subjects.

The Government requires all post-16 students to work to obtain a GCSE 4 or above or equivalent level 2 qualification in English and Mathematics during their time in the Sixth Form if they have not already reached this standard in Year 11. Thus, such courses will be included in students' study programmes where appropriate..

### **Please note:**

- 1) The availability of all optional courses is subject to viable group numbers but we will make every effort to fulfil individual requirements.**
- 2) Most of the Sixth Form timetable is constructed following student choices on application. As far as possible student choice is accommodated.**
- 3) Students are advised to check with the member of staff about the precise specification, the teaching and learning styles used and discuss their suitability for the course.**

## **B - CORE PROGRAMME**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The core programme, which so far as possible all students follow, has some universal elements, such as tutorial periods, including RPSE and Citizenship as well as careers and Higher Education advice and guidance.

BTEC first one year students have extra core elements such as work placements built into their programmes. Each individual student's core programme and sensible workload are discussed.

### **TUTORIAL PERIOD**

In line with the rest of Academy, Personal and Social Education British Values and Citizenship are continued into the Sixth Form. In tutorial periods we hope to equip our students for experiences ahead of them as Higher Education students, employees and young citizens of the future. The course includes elements on career choice, decision-making and inter-personal skills. We give many opportunities for students to gain the skills necessary for independent living. A large part of the programme is dedicated to supporting applications into High Education or Apprenticeships.

SUBJECT	AGCE/National Courses	AS	1 A Level or Equivalent	2 A LEVELS or Equivalent
Art & Design (with various endorsements)	AGCE	✓	✓	
Biology	AGCE	✓	✓	
Business	BTEC National	✓	✓	✓
Business Studies	AGCE	✓	✓	
Chemistry	AGCE	✓	✓	
Food Science	AGCE	✓	✓	
DT: Design Engineering	AGCE		✓	
DT: Product Design	AGCE		✓	
English Literature	AGCE		✓	
French	AGCE	✓	✓	
Geography	AGCE	✓	✓	
German	AGCE	✓	✓	
Health and Social Care	BTEC National	✓	✓	✓
History	AGCE	✓	✓	
ICT	OCR National	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics	AGCE		✓	
Performing Arts	BTEC National	✓	✓	✓
Music Practitioners	Rockschool	✓	✓	
Physical Education	AGCE		✓	
Physics	AGCE	✓	✓	
Psychology	AGCE	✓	✓	
RS – Philosophy and Ethics	AGCE		✓	
Science (Applied)	BTEC National	✓	✓	
Sociology	AGCE	✓	✓	
Sport	BTEC National	✓	✓	✓
Travel and Tourism	BTEC National	✓	✓	

## LEVEL 2 COURSES (TWO YEAR)

BTEC Level 2 Technicals Children's Play, Learning and Development

## GCSE (ONE YEAR)

English, Mathematics.

**PLEASE NOTE** All courses are offered subject to viable group numbers. It is important that applications are submitted by the deadline date so that the timetable can be finalised. The choices of late applicants will need to be checked against the timetable grid.

*The information in this handbook was correct in September 2018. It should not be assumed that there will be no change in arrangements or details during the year. Any significant changes will be notified separately.*

All courses are subject to continued Government and Learning and Skills Council funding approval.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS INTO SIXTH FORM

Entry Requirements	Optional Choice Programme of Study	Higher Education or Employment Opportunities
A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, or equivalent with at least grade 6 (or equivalent) in the A Level subjects chosen.	3 A Level (or equivalent) subjects in a suitable combination  Review at the end of Year 12	Higher Education
4 GCSEs minimum at Grade 4 or above, or equivalent with at least grade 5 (or equivalent) in the A Level subjects chosen.	3 A Level or equivalent subjects in a suitable combination and English and/or maths GCSE subjects  Review at the end of Year 12	<b>or</b>  Employment with further training
4 GCSEs at Grade 1- 3  and/or BTEC Level 1 course experience	1 year BTEC first/OCR National level study and English and/or Maths resit as appropriate	AS/A Level and/or BTEC National courses or Employment with further training

Note: GCSE English and/or Mathematics will be included in the programme of study for those students without a grade 4 or above.