

ARNOLD HILL SIXTH FORM



PROSPECTUS 2020

SHAPING YOUR FUTURE



Arnold Hill has a good Sixth Form with a strong track record of preparing students for the next stage in life whether that involves studying at university, embarking on an apprenticeship, or taking up an offer of employment. We offer a range of courses with progression routes for all to succeed.

We are open to all students from across Nottinghamshire and are pleased to welcome students from other schools. Each year a good number of students join us from other schools and go on to enjoy considerable success. We understand that the future might seem daunting and how important it is to ensure that you are equipped with the confidence and qualifications to make the most of your opportunities.

The Sixth Form at Arnold Hill will provide you with the support you need to succeed, expert teaching for you to flourish in your courses and opportunities to make the most of your unique talents. In return we ask that students work hard, build friendships and support each other. Our Heads of Year and tutor team provide caring pastoral support; providing guidance through each phase of the journey through Years 12 and 13, encompassing the UCAS applications process, work experience and apprenticeship support.

We encourage and expect all students to take part in at least one enrichment activity. These include sport, performing and creative arts, the Duke of Edinburgh award, peer mentoring or community voluntary work. Departments also offer a full range of fantastic trips and visits in the UK and Overseas all of which contribute towards a sense of fulfilment and foster a lively and vibrant sense of community with the Sixth form integral to the life of the wider school.

Our School buildings and facilities are new and they are a great place to study. The common room is light and spacious and exclusively for the Sixth form. It's the perfect space to talk and reflect on the day's events, plan your studies and interact with your peers. Private study rooms fully equipped with computers and modelled on a university library allow for quiet, contemplative study time during non-contact time.

In summary Arnold Hill is, above all, a happy and inclusive Sixth Form, a place where students work hard and where they find friendship, enrichment and support. It is a fulfilling place to work and study, and we look forward to welcoming you to the community.

Kevin Callaway
Head of 6th Form

“This is a great school and I am really looking forward to the challenge in the 6th form”



We offer a broad range of courses and are proud of the way in which we match individual learners to appropriate curriculum pathways based on prior attainment, learning style and their desired path beyond the Sixth Form. Not only does this maximise the chances of success but it ensures learners enjoy their studies and get the most they can from their time in the Sixth Form. Crucially, we are flexible and able to adjust a student's programme should the need arise. Our entry requirements for each subject is clearly stated on the website for each course and provided by Faculties on the Open Evening. **It is important to stress that we are consistent with these requirements.**

A Levels:

Art & Design	Further Maths
Biology	Geography
Business Studies	Government & Politics
Chemistry	History
Computer Science	Maths
Creative iMedia	Music
Dance	Philosophy & Ethics
Drama & Theatre	Physical Education
Economics	Physics
English Language	Product Design
English Literature	Psychology
Fashion & Textiles	Sociology
Food Science & Nutrition	Spanish
French	

BTEC:

Business
 Extended Certificate in Music
 Performance
 Health & Social Care
 Sport & Exercise Science
 Travel and Tourism

Extended Project Qualification
 (see Mr Callaway for more details)

All students leaving Year 11 must now remain in some form of education or training. Since September 2017 all A Levels are now linear. A Level courses are taught over two years with all exams at the end of the second year (Year 13). Most students will follow a course of three subjects over the two years.

BTEC Level 3 courses are modular in structure with six, twelve or eighteen units. BTEC courses include external exam assessments. It is important to note that all BTEC courses run for the full two years but students are able to follow a programme that combines A Level and BTEC qualifications. The BTEC Qualifications are awarded UCAS points the same as A Levels and further information can be found at the UCAS website (www.ucas.com).

Choosing Subjects

It is important that students take their time over subject choices as making changes later in the process can be more difficult. Having said that, we do try to accommodate all alterations as we understand that things do change, particularly once students have received their examination results. Students should take the opportunity to discuss their suitability for a course with their current subject teachers and form tutors as well as reading the information contained in this booklet. It is possible to take some subjects at A Level or BTEC Level 3 where they have not been studied at Key Stage 4.

Our application process includes the opportunity for each student to have an individual 'interview' with a senior member of staff, during which their option choices can be discussed fully and they can ask questions, review ideas and seek advice.



Assessment and Monitoring

Students are encouraged to review their learning and progress regularly in each subject area through a series of individual dialogues with teachers and tutors. Targets are identified in order to help students to improve their progress. Targeted, personalised support for individual learners is based on formal assessments as well as our discussions with and knowledge of individual students. Parents and students are able to meet with tutors on our tutor parents' evening and are able to meet subject staff to discuss progress twice during the year at subject focussed parents' evenings.

Guidance and Personal Development

The guidance and tutor time programme provides students with opportunities to develop study skills and build a portfolio of evidence for applications (for Higher Education, further training and employment). There are also a range of opportunities for enrichment activities and community projects. Students attend tutor time each morning from Monday to Friday. Tutor time is spent with the tutor and tutor group and is compulsory for all our sixth form students. Through the Bright Day programme and tutor time support, students will be encouraged to complete Future Learn courses as well as voluntary work in the community to support with Higher Education and apprenticeship/employment applications.

Tutorial System

Each student will be placed in a tutor group with a committed and experienced tutor, who will be responsible for the oversight of the student's programme in the Sixth Form.

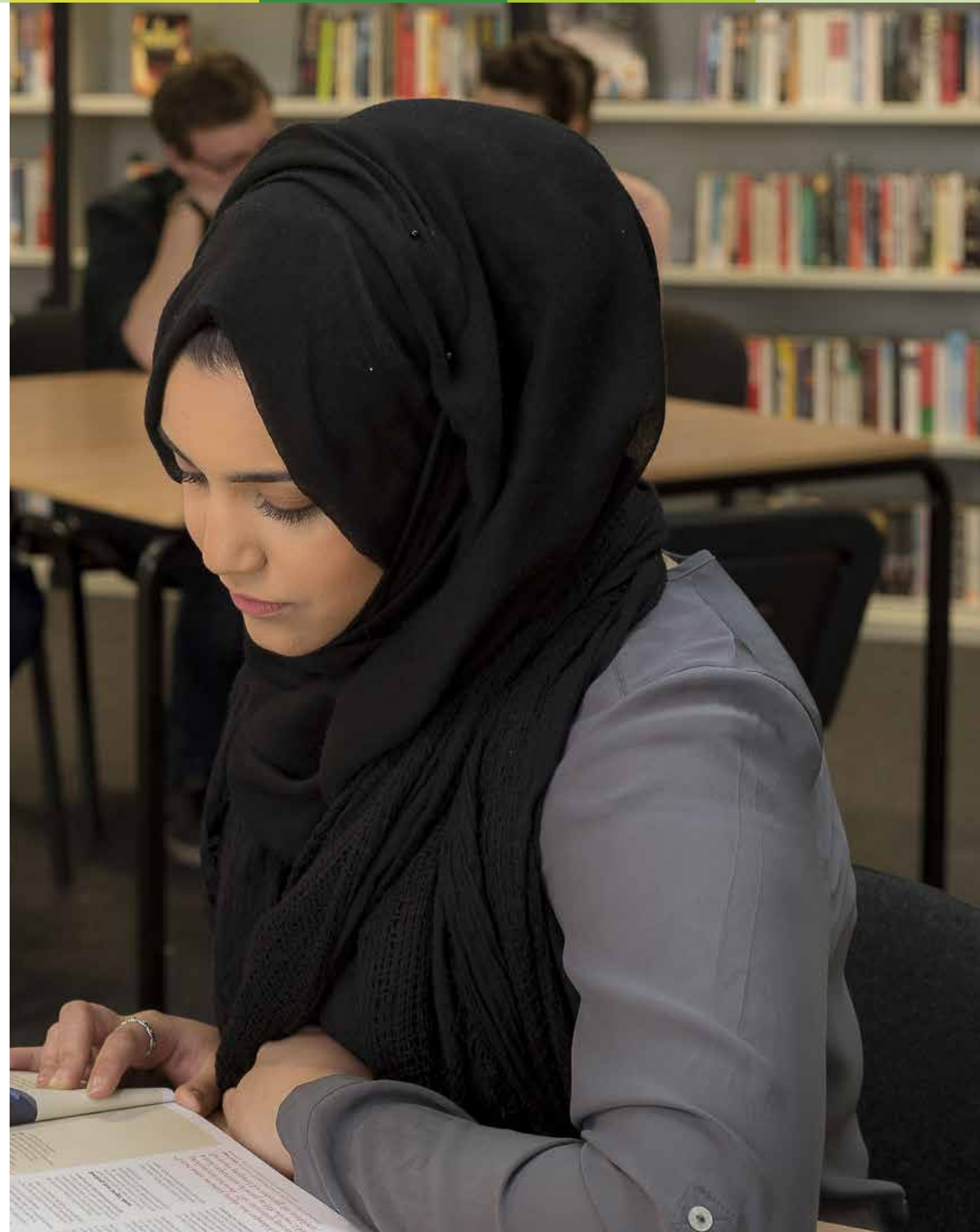
Tutors will be the first contact for both students and their parents, offering support, monitoring attendance and tracking student progress. The Head of Sixth Form, Head of Year 13 and Head of Year 12 will also monitor progress and offer day to day support to tutors and students.

Private Study and Study Facilities

Sixth Form students are provided with study periods each week. This time allows students to work in private study areas or to discuss a piece of work with a member of staff or with fellow students. Students are expected to organise their work effectively during this time. Sixth Form students have access to a range of books and printed resources designed to support learning. There are also dedicated computer facilities in the Sixth Form Centre, including the hire of laptops.

Work Experience and Part-Time Employment

Many students will gain valuable experience through their part-time jobs. Students must also arrange a week's work experience placement in a more career specific field towards the end of the summer term and we also actively encourage students to complete further work experience during holiday periods. Some vocational courses (e.g. BTEC Health and Social Care) require longer periods of work experience as part of the assessed units. In Year 13, students who are looking to move into employment will be supported in arranging more sustained work placements to prepare them for their next step in life.



“In the 6th Form I went on a trip to Barcelona. This enabled me to advance my personal and social skills as well as provide me with memories and lifelong friends”

Guidance and Personal Development

Whilst academic achievement remains paramount, it is important for students to be involved in a broad range of enrichment activities. Not only do these provide valuable experiences and help develop essential skills for Higher Education and/or employment but participation also ensures that a student's time in the Sixth Form is enjoyable and rewarding.

Competitive Sport

For those who wish to play sport competitively, fixtures are available at various levels in a range of activities. Sixth Form teams have been immensely successful in a range of competitions in recent years at both local and national level and, while we wish to see continued success, students do not have to have represented the school previously to get involved.

Recreational Sport

As part of the extra-curricular provision offered by the Physical Education department, all students are encouraged to participate in the Sixth Form recreational sport sessions which are run during lunchtimes and after school. The activities on offer are tailored to meet the needs and wishes of our students and include accredited courses in Sports Leadership and access to a range of off-site sport facilities.

Curriculum Enrichment

Curriculum provision and guidance are supported by Bright Days, which cover a wide range of important personal, social, health and economic topics as well as a number of enrichment events. These allow for more extended and flexible learning, tailored to meet the needs of individual learners and the specific courses each of them is following. They provide opportunities for coursework or examination skills days, additional educational visits, visiting speakers and a broad range of other activities. All of this, we hope, will enrich the learning experience for all students, improving both enjoyment and achievement.



HE+ Academic Enrichment Scheme

Some high achieving Year 12 students may be selected to join a scheme called HE+ which provides support for applicants to Oxford or Cambridge Universities. This scheme provides these students with activities to stretch and challenge them academically and provide them with the advice and guidance they need to make competitive applications to Higher Education. The key elements of the programme include:

- A full day launch event where students will be introduced to the scheme, receive guidance from the Cambridge Admissions team on applying to research led universities, hear from HE+ alumni and attend master-class sessions in their chosen subject stream.
- The opportunity to visit Cambridge and Peterhouse College to meet current students, view the facilities and continue their super-curricular subject work.
- A one-day conference and graduation for students with a range of super-curricular provision on offer in subject streams and sessions giving guidance on personal statements.
- Students will also be expected to engage with a range of online resources and discussions on the HE+ website and to evidence this in their HE+ journal.

Extended Project Qualification (AQA 7993)

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is also available for students should they wish to broaden their curriculum studies. This requires the teaching of relevant planning, organisational, project management, study and presentation skills and a piece of independent work undertaken by the student from an area of personal or subject interest.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

This scheme is very successful and has a very large take up within the school as a whole. Our provision has been recognised nationally and our numbers and depth of expertise make us the largest and most successful state school provider in the system. Our Gold candidates have a choice of expeditions between the UK and more demanding experiences such as trekking in the Pyrenees or canoeing in Southern Ireland. Currently we have a number of Gold candidates preparing for their presentations at Buckingham Palace. Universities constantly acknowledge the importance they place on the personal qualities demonstrated by successful Gold candidates by making them offers of places on the most competitive courses. Application to the scheme is open to all. Those wishing to enter for the first time at the higher levels are merely required to fulfil a longer qualifying period.

Creative Arts

Sixth Form students take part in a broad range of arts activities across school including: taking on a variety of roles in shows (on stage and backstage); participating in musical events; organising the Arnold Hill Gig Night, in which many talented bands play; leading or supporting with extra-curricular clubs for younger students.



Sixth Form Committee

Sixth Form events and the canvassing of student views are organised through the Sixth Form Committee, made up of representatives from tutor groups and headed by our Head Boy and Head Girl. The Committee discusses learning in the Sixth Form, social events, charity fundraisers and a range of other ideas. Members of the committee and other students volunteer to act as ambassadors; in this role, they take on a range of duties but, most crucially, support the work of the Sixth Form and are a point of contact for students. The committee also leads on the planning of the Sixth Form Summer Ball, where everyone dresses in their finest to bid farewell to those who are leaving and celebrate the successes of the year.

Sixth Form Centre

The heart of the Sixth Form is the Sixth Form Centre. Limited teaching takes place in the centre meaning that space is available for independent learning during study periods. There are study spaces on both floors with computer facilities (including a suite of iMacs and laptops to hire out), that allow students to work in the centre during their private study periods. There is a Sixth Form Library on the top floor of the building; this includes a broad range of books, newspapers and periodicals for studying and recreational reading.

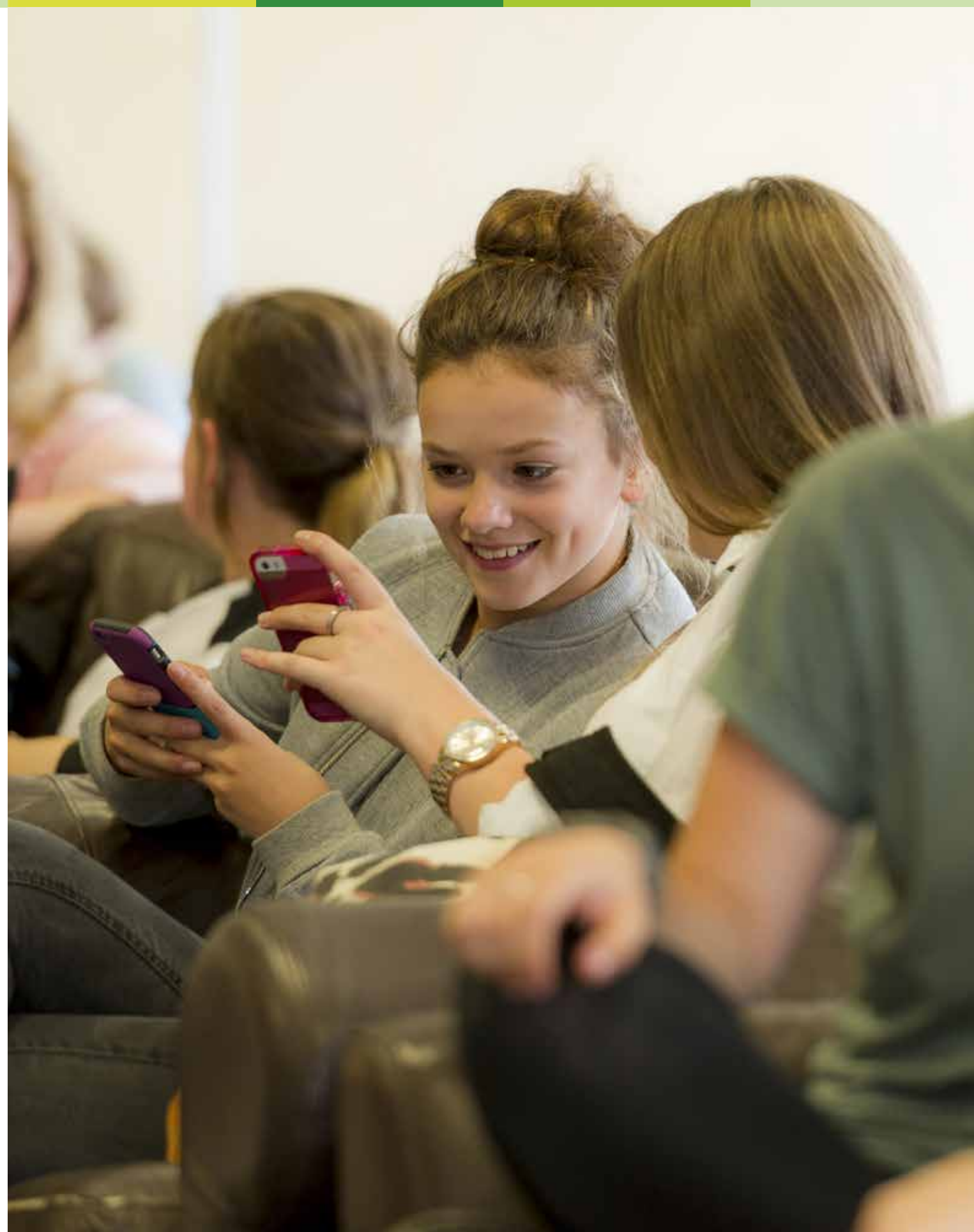
At break and lunch there is time to relax and students can listen to music, watch TV, play pool or table tennis. There is also a dedicated Sixth Form cafeteria from which students can buy drinks, snacks and hot food throughout the day. Sixth Form students were actively involved in the interior design of the centre and will continue to be regularly consulted with about changes and improvements.

Supporting Our Younger Students

As the most senior students in the school, members of the Sixth Form are looked upon to be positive role models to those in the younger years in terms of both learning and conduct. In addition to this, however, Sixth Form students are able to get involved in a number of projects that aim to help and support younger students including classroom support, paired reading and mentoring. These projects benefit our school community hugely but are also very rewarding for the Sixth Form students involved. They also make excellent additions to employment/University applications.

Community

The Sixth Form also gets involved in a range of fund-raising activities and other events that support the school or local community. Some of the charity events raise money for external charities; others help to fund additional resources for the Sixth Form Centre. Those events which involve fancy dress have been particularly popular, with students dressing to a theme like ‘pirates’ or ‘film characters’. The school also liaises with outside agencies that provide opportunities for students. Students have taken part in competitions run by national newspapers and banks; they have gone on study tours, weekend schools and conferences at Universities. Some have been involved in work for charities, including helping organisations like Oxfam and Framework and in the local community, particularly assisting at local primary schools.



- Five GCSE passes at grade 5 or higher for A level Courses
- Five GCSE passes at grade 4 or higher for Vocational courses
- Merit grades in BTEC or other vocational courses will be accepted
- Grade 5 (or better) in both GCSE Maths and English Language
- At least GCSE grade 5 in subjects chosen for study (or closely related subjects for those not previously studied) at A Level
- In certain subjects Grade 6 is required and for Maths grade 7 is required
- Good recent records of attendance, punctuality and conduct

Applications

Arnold Hill students will be given instructions during Guidance sessions on how to submit their application form.

Students from other schools should email sixthform@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk and will be given instructions on how to submit their online application form.

Students are asked to choose three subjects on their application. A fourth option is also required in the event of a student changing course or a combination being unavailable. Once an application has been processed, we will invite the applicant for interview.

Whilst we look to offer as many places as possible, we expect to be significantly over-subscribed for September 2020. As such, we advise students to return application forms as quickly as possible to avoid disappointment. External applicants still in Year 11 will need to bring to the interview a letter of reference (including forecast grades) from their current school. It is important to note that we will try our best to run all the courses on offer, but may not be able to if numbers are particularly low.

Pathways

Tailored pathways are put in place for our students based on their GCSE grades. Examples of these pathways are as follows:

Pathway 1: A student who achieves all GCSE Grades of 8 or 9 would be required to study 3 A Levels and would be encouraged to participate in the HE+ scheme and/or take an EPQ.

Pathway 2: A student who achieves mainly Grade 6 GCSE grades including in GCSE English and Maths will be asked to take 3 A level subjects.

Pathway 3: A student who achieves mainly Grade 5 GCSE grades including English and Maths will be encouraged to take 3 A level subjects and this can be a combination of A Level and BTEC courses.

Pathway 4: A student who achieves mainly Grade 4 GCSE grades including English and Maths will be encouraged to take Vocational courses.

A Level			BTEC		
	2018	2019		2018	2019
A*-A	33%	25%	D*	11%	12%
A*-B	59%	62%	D	38%	46%
A*-E	99%	100%	M	85%	100%
			P	94%	100%

“The sixth form has a really friendly environment. Because the school is large, this presents a great opportunity to make more friends; the pupils at Arnold Hill are very welcoming”





Arnold Hill Sixth Form

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Arnold Hill Academy is part of the Spencer Academies Trust

