



# Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form

Prospectus  
2024



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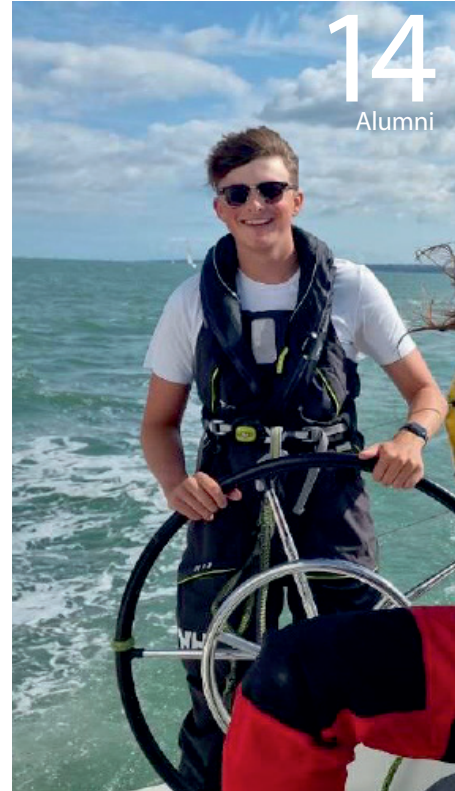




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# Welcome

## from the Principal

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I would like to offer a very warm welcome to all students looking to join Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form.

In the Sixth Form you will be encouraged to excel academically while involving yourself in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. I believe it is our responsibility to help you see beyond the limits of your own expectations and ensure you have the opportunities to reach your potential.

Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form is an inclusive learning environment where we put the student at the heart of everything we do. We have invested heavily in the facilities available to them, including a modern café where students can choose to study.

During your time in the Sixth Form you will be supported by a highly experienced tutor who will be available to support you daily. Your progress in the Sixth Form will be monitored and aided by a team of teachers and support staff with a wide range of expertise.

Following the return of examinations in the summer of 2023, we were able to celebrate fantastic results which allowed our students to take their next steps in education and employment. With one in five students attending a Russell Group University and the vast majority gaining a place at their first choice establishment, the support we offer to students looking to attend university is excellent. Our focused careers advice and guidance also supports students who wish to follow alternative routes, including higher level apprenticeships and employment.

For those students not currently studying at Guilsborough Academy, we look forward to welcoming you and giving you a tour of our facilities. In the meantime, I would like to wish all Year 11 students the very best of luck in the summer examinations.

**Mr S Frazer**

Principal





# Welcome

## from the Director of Sixth Form

### The Sixth Form Team

Mr Mills

Director of Sixth Form

Mrs Stewart

Deputy Director of Sixth Form

Ms Ritchie

Sixth Form Super Study Supervisor

Miss Fairlie

Sixth Form Learning Supervisor /

Administrator

Miss Hunt

Director of Careers/

EPQ Coordinator & Enrichment Lead

At Guilsborough Sixth Form, we pride ourselves on providing a welcoming yet challenging learning environment that enables all students to aspire and succeed. Our range of courses caters for students who wish to follow an academic route, a more vocational pathway, or a mixture of the two. Most importantly, we support all of our students to enable them to follow their chosen route to post-18 options.

Our students are encouraged to inspire others through their successes, leading as role models and mentors as well as contributing to the wider community, both within and beyond the academy. We are proud of our students; they are at the heart of our Sixth Form and academy.

We are proud of our purpose-built facilities which include exclusive Sixth Form classrooms and a cafeteria. Our students can choose from a range of spaces in which to study, contributing to a positive study culture which supports students' transition to independence.

We look forward to welcoming you into our happy and successful Sixth Form where we offer both high support and high challenge to all.

**Mr D Mills**

Director of Sixth Form

# Welcome

## from the Student Leadership Team

We would like to wish you a warm welcome to Guilsborough Sixth Form, the next step to your success.

As a sixth form, we pride ourselves in our ability to allow all students to flourish and better themselves both academically and also through a plethora of exciting extracurricular opportunities. Far reaching support is always available throughout your academic studies with a dedicated academic tutor as well as constant support from subject teachers. Personal support is also always available.

Mental health is paramount at Guilsborough, and, given the pressures of exams and in our own private lives, it has become one of the main focuses of the sixth form to promote mental health wellbeing through several routes including external speakers, workshops, and activities.

The fantastic extracurricular activities we provide at GASF support students' social and academic development and help to encourage a greater sense of knowledge and understanding of the wider world. As students we also have the opportunity to run some of the societies and clubs which is also invaluable in producing well rounded students.

The Student Leadership Team's main goal is to work as a link between students and teachers to promote the student body's idea for positive change. We aim to fortify the sense of community within the sixth form with members of the Student Leadership Team committing a lot of their time solely to that goal. Another increasing focus is on trying to better prepare current Year 11 students for sixth form and strategies that promote this will become prevalent over this academic year.

We wish you the best of luck in your forthcoming examinations and we hope to see you at Guilsborough Sixth Form in September 2024.

### **2023-24 Student Leadership Team**











“ We like the feel of being in an ‘adult’ part of the academy and enjoy being able to choose where to study. ”

# About the Sixth Form



Guiltsborough Academy Sixth form is part of a large rural 11-18 academy, strongly committed to its local community.

The majority of our sixth formers are students who stay on at Guiltsborough following successful Year 11 studies. External students also join the Sixth Form from other schools, both inside and outside the county.

We are proud of our outstanding examination results and excellent value added outcomes for students of all abilities. A high percentage of students achieve their Post-18 destination of choice each year. These successes include medical students and those aiming for 'Russell Group' Universities; we encourage all of our students to aim high and support them to be successful no matter the route they choose.

Independent study is a staple of Sixth Form life. Alongside bespoke classrooms, our purpose-built facilities provide a variety of environments to facilitate silent and quiet study, as well as more informal and interactive spaces in the cafeteria and common room. We believe allowing students the freedom to identify which study spaces suit them best is an important aspect of the transition from school to Sixth Form, as well as ensuring the development of skills essential for further study and training Post-18.

## Sixth Form Life

The step up to Sixth Form requires significant adaptation to the way you are currently learning at school, especially the amount of independent effort that you put in.

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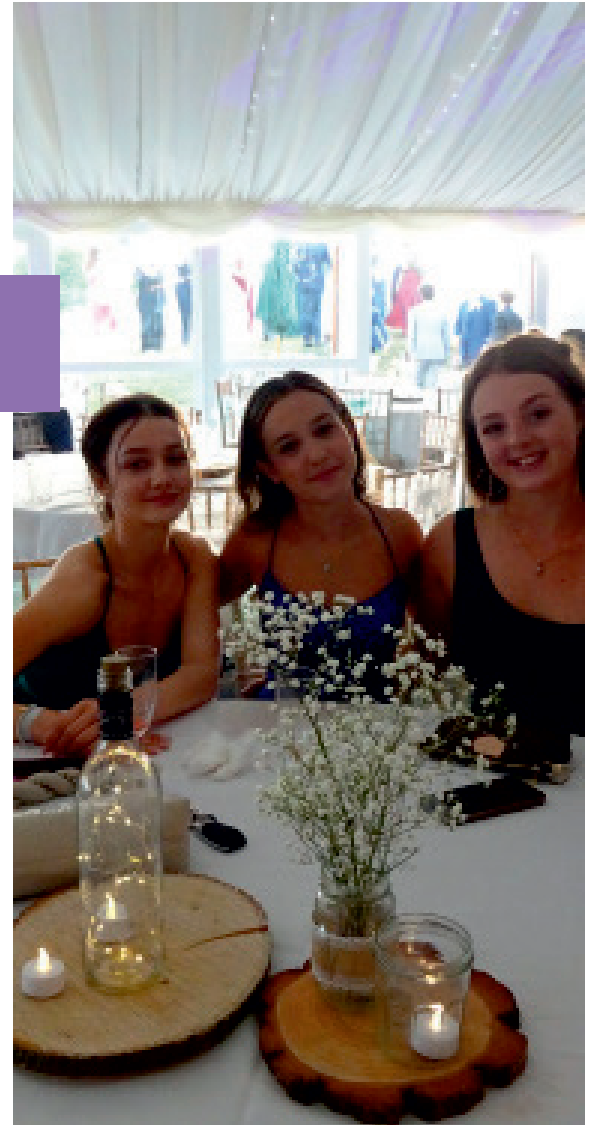
**We feel that the vast array of opportunities that we are given here at Guilsborough have allowed us to pursue important and personalised subjects and career paths.**

The approach that you take directly corresponds with what you get out of your time at our Sixth Form, both academically and socially.

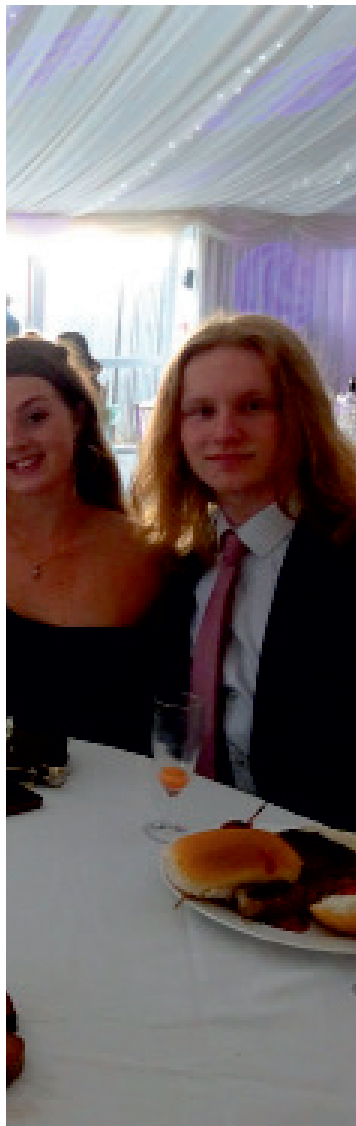
We pride ourselves on the integration of both upper and lower Sixth Form and have found that it strengthens and forms relationships in both year groups. This has proven to enhance students' experience of Sixth Form by increasing the level of fulfilment they feel at the academy, which is important through these two years of hard work and decision making.

We also hold events throughout the year to promote our integrated Sixth Form, for example the yearly Sixth Form Ball, annual visits to the seaside and our Year 12 team building and resilience day.

Students feel that the vast array of opportunities offered here at Guilsborough allow them to pursue their individual goals and interests. We have a variety of student-run committees that facilitate this, including Sport, Newspaper, Fundraising, Music, Debating and Environment.







The committees are just the beginning of what shapes our unique and well-rounded Sixth Form. Mentoring takes place in the Sixth Form in many ways including one-to-one pastoral mentoring to help younger students, a paired reading scheme to increase confidence, subject mentoring and in-lesson support opportunities. Students report these experiences to be extremely rewarding and successful. They are able to take what they have learnt and the skills developed to other aspects of lives, as well as enhancing their CVs.

There is never a 'boring' assembly in Guilsborough Sixth Form. We have a range of external speakers giving information and advice on a range of topics including post-18 pathways including university, apprenticeships, and gap years. The support is always there to broaden your outlook to Post-18 education, with trips to universities and fairs throughout the year.

Our students enjoy giving back to the wider community. They are role models both within and beyond the academy and embrace this element of sixth form life. Students might attend the local annual remembrance service, lead litter picks in Guilsborough village, or visit schools without sixth forms to share their experiences with younger students.

## Enrichment

### Regular opportunities:

- Committees and Clubs
- 'Arrows' aspirational society
- Medical Society
- Peer Mentoring
- Work Experience
- Volunteering
- Sports Teams
- Sixth Form Summer Ball
- Student Leadership Team
- Academy Performances
- Charity Events
- Trips

### Currently exploring:

- Sports Leader Award
- Young Enterprise
- World Challenge
- Journalism qualification
- Finance qualification

### Additional qualifications:

- Extended Project Qualification
- Core Maths qualification
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Lots of opportunities  
for you to get involved!



# Harry Potter

## ENTRANCE



## Post-18 Preparation

During your time with us, you will be making some big decisions about your future. We include advice and support on all your post-18 options and how to prepare for them throughout your time in the sixth form. We also use the Unifrog platform to help you explore pathways, track your achievements, and produce applications.



## Explore different pathways.



unifrog

## Support and Guidance:

- Specialist tutor team
- Access to independent careers adviser
- Unifrog used throughout your sixth form career
- Trips to university and apprenticeship fairs
- Assemblies/workshops from experts in a range of fields
- Online calendar of university open days, webinars, virtual work experience opportunities
- Post-18 applications guidance booklet
- 'Arrows' aspirational society

“ Unifrog has helped me find out what I want to do for my future career, how I get to that, different courses that can help me get there. ”



# Where are they now?

Students from GASF go on to a wide range of Post-18 training and careers. Here are just a few of our many alumni stories...

## Cora Bancroft

Undergraduate Engineer at  
The Dyson Institute of Engineering and  
Technology



"I work three days a week as an engineer at Dyson whilst studying for my degree from The University of Warwick for the other two.

The first two years of the program were spent rotating through different engineering teams, experiencing everything from app development to structural analysis and early stage robotics. Now in my final year I've specialised into software and work in a cloud team delivering the out of box experience for our users; every single time someone opens the Dyson Link App they interact with code I've written which would have been unimaginable just a few years ago.

Compared to a normal university I've had the opportunity to develop so many skills that I wouldn't have been exposed to otherwise, all whilst getting to apply my degree to real world problems as I learn. Plus - no student debt!"

## Hetta Johnson

Hetta was Head Girl in 2019. After taking a gap year, she successfully applied to study English at University of Oxford



"One of the most notable aspects of being an English student at Oxford is the amount of reading there is to do. It sounds obvious but the lists can be extensive so balancing my time in order to complete everything was a valuable learning curve. It also helped me massively during term as it allowed me to keep up with classes and develop my own tastes, refining what I enjoyed studying.

As important as keeping on top of the work is, striking a good social balance is just as necessary, thankfully there will be ample opportunity to immerse yourself in university life.

While moving away from home can be daunting as well as exciting, it was a great choice for me. Everybody begins on the same page and there is a whole new and vast array of people from all walks of life to meet and befriend, made all the better by being in a new place. I look back on my memories of first year fondly (despite the strangeness caused by the pandemic!)"

## Luke Boswell

Acting for Contemporary & Devised  
Performance - University of  
Northampton



"I'm just entering my second year of my 'Acting for Contemporary & Devised Performance' course at the University of Northampton; I've been waiting to get back all summer!

Last year we did a couple of performances, one which we devised from scratch called 'The Next Stop Is...'. This 1 hour piece was our final performance of the year and it was predominantly written by myself which was a new and really fun opportunity I was able to take thanks to my course. The photo above shows me in action.

I'm going to be really busy over the next few months, but I do still catch up with my friends from my days at Guilsborough - especially the team who helped me edit the Guilsborough Guardian newspaper!"

## How do I decide what subject to choose?

Our advice is to choose subjects that you are good at, you enjoy and will support your aspirations for the future. Talk to your teachers, the Sixth Form team, family and friends as well as doing plenty of research into each course; remember that it is you, however, that will be doing the course! If you have any questions about choosing the right subjects please come and talk with us.

## What facilities are available for sixth formers at Guilsborough?

We pride ourselves on the range and quality of our facilities, particularly for our sixth formers. The Sixth Form is a designated area with bespoke teaching rooms including IT facilities, a media editing room and a designated study area. Our study rooms have undergone extensive renovation and it is an area that not only supports learning but one that our students enjoy being in during social times as well.

## What extra activities are available?

We feel that it is important for you to excel academically but also develop a wider set of skills. To facilitate this, we offer a wide range of enrichment activities.

## How much studying will I need to do?

Studying for a Post-16 course is demanding and requires you to take more responsibility for your own learning. Regular homework will be set by each of your teachers and, in addition, you should read around each subject every week. You should aim for a minimum of five extra hours (outside of lessons) per subject, per week.

## What help do I get with applications for Post-18 pathways?

We provide students with all of the support that they need to make successful applications. Every student has a tutor who will support all applications to universities, apprenticeships and job placements. In addition, we lead a series of assemblies so that you have a clear understanding of the process including the important deadlines. There are also higher education events including the externally run UCAS/ Higher Education Fair as well as our own higher education day in the academy as well as extensive VLE guidance. We support students visiting university open days and will often run academy arranged trips if there is sufficient interest in a particular university.

## What advice is available if I would like to apply for a competitive course (Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry etc.)?

We have an excellent track record of our students successfully moving onto these destinations and/ or courses post-18. Mr Ditchburn has considerable expertise in this area. Many students in Year 11 will already have attended university visits and the Arrows programme (for students who are aiming high) runs through Year 11 and Year 12 to support students applying for competitive courses at the best universities and apprenticeship providers. Students who have participated in Arrows have gone on to study Law, Engineering, Physics, Anthropology and Medicine with leading providers, including Oxford and Cambridge universities.

## Is student voice valued in Guilsborough Sixth Form?

Like the rest of the academy, we place high value on the feedback from our students. Our Student Leadership Team meet with us regularly to discuss current issues as well as any queries or ideas that students may have. In addition, you will have the opportunity to be part of committees of your choice.

## What is the dress code?

As part of being a role model for your younger peers, through high standards and high expectations, and in line with the whole academy change of uniform, we follow a smart dress code. Our student working party (2014-2015) along with our Sixth Form Team has written the policy. This followed visits to other sixth forms as well as listening carefully to a wide range of student voice. We want you to be proud of being part of our Sixth Form and this is the first stage of this. If you would like any further details about our dress code, please see the information leaflet on our website.

## Is there any financial support for students in Guilsborough Sixth Form?

Similarly to other post-16 providers, we offer a bursary scheme. It is our intent to support all eligible students through a fair and considered process. We (like other sixth forms) ask students to apply for this and will then consider carefully any application made, involving our Sixth Form Governor. Equally, if a student does not qualify for the bursary, we will always consider the application for one off payments, where it is needed. For example: if applying to take drama and therefore the need for numerous auditions/ interviews, around the country. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.



# Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form

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