Guilsborough Academy
Sixth Form



Sixth Form Prospectus
2026 / 2027



Welcome Messages: 3

About the Sixth Form: 4

Curriculum: 6

Sixth Form Life : 8

Enrichment: 10–12

Mentoring Roles: 12

Rewards and Recognition: 13–14

Post-18 Preparation: 15

Destinations: 16

Choosing Your Options: 17

Where Are They Now?: 18

Frequently Asked Questions: 19

Key Dates and Links: 20

Welcome Messages

From the Principal



A very warm welcome to all students looking to join Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form. Here, you will be encouraged to excel academically while involving yourself in a wide range of extracurricular activities. We believe it is our responsibility to help you see beyond the limits of your own expectations and ensure that you can reach your full potential. If you believe it, you can achieve it.

At Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form, we pride ourselves on providing a welcoming yet challenging learning environment that enables all students to aspire and succeed. Our range of qualifications allows students to select courses of study that interest them and enable them to pursue their chosen post-18 pathways. Our focused careers advice and guidance support students in accessing a wide range of impressive university and apprenticeship opportunities, as well as helping those considering gap years or entering employment.

Mr S Frazer
Principal

From the Director of Sixth Form



The Sixth Form at Guilsborough Academy is an inclusive learning environment. We put students at the heart of everything we do and work closely with the student body to make continuous improvements to our provision. During your time in the Sixth Form, you will be supported by a highly experienced tutor who will be available to guide and support you every day. Your progress will be closely monitored and supported by a team of teachers and support staff with a wide range of expertise.

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

We look forward to welcoming you to our happy and successful Sixth Form, where we provide both high support and high challenge for every student.

Mr D Mills
Director of Sixth Form

About Our Sixth Form

The majority of our Sixth Form students continue their studies at Guilsborough following a successful Year 11. An increasing number of students also join our Sixth Form from a range of other schools.

We are proud of our outstanding examination results and excellent value-added outcomes for students of all abilities. The majority of our students achieve their chosen post-18 destination each year. We encourage every student to aim high and provide the support they need to succeed, whatever pathway they choose.

Independent study is a fundamental part of Sixth Form life. Alongside bespoke classrooms, our purpose-built facilities provide a variety of environments for both silent and quiet study, as well as more informal and collaborative spaces. Art and Photography students benefit from dedicated studio space, our Media department houses a suite of specialist PCs equipped with industry-standard software, and our Performing Arts suite includes a drama studio and several music practice rooms.

We encourage our students to embrace their growing independence and identify the study environments that suit them best. In doing so, we support their transition from school through Sixth Form and on to higher education, apprenticeships, training, or employment.





From the Student Leadership Team

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Guilsborough Sixth Form, where, if you believe it, you can achieve it!

Our Sixth Form provides the support and opportunities needed to flourish academically while developing into confident, well-rounded individuals. Although the transition from Year 11 to Year 12 brings greater independence and self-directed learning, we are supported throughout this journey.

We recognise the importance of mental wellbeing alongside academic success. Through wellbeing days, workshops, external speakers and activities organised by the Student Leadership Team (SLT), we ensure that students have opportunities to relax, connect and look after themselves.

Our wide range of extracurricular activities, community events and leadership opportunities encourages both personal and academic development. Students can run societies, deliver assemblies or join the SLT, while our focus on exceeding expectations and meeting deadlines helps us make the most of every opportunity.

Student voice is also central to life at Guilsborough. The SLT acts as a bridge between students and teachers, helping create meaningful improvements and strengthen the connection between Year 12 and Year 13.

We wish you the very best of luck in your forthcoming examinations and hope to welcome you to Guilsborough Sixth Form in September 2027.

Student Leadership Team
2026–27



The Curriculum

At Key Stage 5, we offer a diverse, challenging, and engaging curriculum. The Sixth Form is committed to providing students with courses that match their aspirations, with the majority progressing to higher education.

Our range of courses cater for students who wish to follow an academic pathway, a more vocational route, or a combination of both. Most importantly, we support all students to enable them to follow their chosen post-18 pathway.

Programme of Study

The majority of our students will study three A Levels or Level 3 vocational courses.

In addition to their core programme of study, students will be able to select from a range of enrichment opportunities. Study programmes will also include tutorial time, study support, independent study time, assemblies, and work experience.

A Levels

A Levels are linear, two-year courses. Students study their chosen subjects for the full two years, with no option to sit an AS Level at the end of Year 12. This means that students complete all of their examinations at the end of Year 13. Some subjects include a Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) component.

BTECs

Vocational courses are closely linked to the world of work and have a practical focus.

Assessment may include a combination of practical assessments, portfolios/coursework, and examinations across both Year 12 and Year 13.

Vocational courses are predominantly assessed through coursework, with a smaller examination element. They are well suited to hardworking students who may find the examination element of qualifications more challenging. They are suitable for a wide range of students, designed to meet the needs of employers, and provide opportunities for progression to university. They can also be studied alongside A Level subjects.



Guilsborough Academy
Sixth Form





Sixth Form Life

The step up to Sixth Form requires significant adaptation to the way you currently learn at school, particularly in terms of the amount of independent effort you put in. The approach you take directly influences what you gain from your time at our Sixth Form, both academically and socially.

We pride ourselves on the integration of all students across both year groups. Our Sixth Formers have privileges and are treated as mature young adults, preparing them for their role as global citizens in the 21st century.

We like to think of ourselves as a ‘halfway house’ between school and university or the world of work, providing students with the independence and autonomy they deserve while stepping in to offer additional support, guidance, and pastoral care where needed.

We also hold events throughout the year to promote student integration. For example, we host a yearly Summer Ball organised by the student body, a Year 12 team-building day, and a range of extra- and super-curricular trips. Recent popular options have included an Art and English tour of Paris, Media trips to Warner Bros. Studios, and a Geography field trip to Iceland.

The Student Leadership Team leads a range of committees and in-school events, including sports days and charity fundraising activities.




RLX






NICHOLLS


Northampton
Students'
Union


TOP TEN
IN THE UK FOR A DECADE
SUBJECT AREAS

Our Enrichment

Students are encouraged to take part in timetabled enrichment activities alongside their core programme of study. Two popular qualification options are the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and Core Maths.

Core Maths

Core Maths is ideal for students studying alongside subjects with numerical content, such as Psychology, Geography, Science, Economics, and Business. This is a two-year course that enables students to retain and further develop their mathematical skills while supporting their learning in other subjects. The qualification is highly regarded by universities and is worth UCAS points equivalent to an AS Level.

Young Enterprise Company Programme

At Guilsborough Academy, students have the opportunity to take part in the Young Enterprise Company Programme as part of their Enrichment offer. This exciting programme enables students to create and run their own business, developing essential skills in leadership, teamwork, communication, creativity, problem-solving, and financial management.

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our Young Enterprise team for 2025/26, Wires and Pliers, who enjoyed outstanding success at the county finals last term, winning the Best Team award and achieving Runner-Up recognition. Their innovative approach, commitment, and entrepreneurial spirit were exceptional, and they represented the Academy with great pride.

Previous teams have also achieved significant success. In 2024, our team Ginovate impressed judges with their innovative company, creating candles from recycled gin bottles and progressing to the Regional Final. These achievements highlight the ambition, creativity, and determination of our students.





Duke of Edinburgh Award

Many young people find that achieving a Duke of Edinburgh Award is a life-changing experience. Sixth Form students have the opportunity to undertake the Gold Award, which consists of five sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Residential, and Expedition.

As part of the programme, students complete one hour per week of volunteering, alongside one hour per week each for their chosen Physical and Skills activities. The programme is completed over a period of 6 to 18 months, depending on the student's pace.

Students will also train for and participate in two self-sufficient expeditions, each lasting four days and three nights. These challenging and rewarding experiences usually take place in the Lake District or Wales, allowing students to develop resilience, teamwork, leadership, and independence.

EPQ

For the EPQ, students produce either a 5,000-word academic report or an artefact/performance accompanied by a report of at least 1,000 words. The topic can be anything of their choosing. There are three compulsory components: the product, a presentation, and a detailed written log documenting the process.

Skills developed include research, critical thinking, decision-making, presenting, and referencing. The course requires a high degree of independent study, including planning and research. It is suitable for students who are highly motivated to explore a specific question in depth. The qualification is worth UCAS points equivalent to an AS Level, is highly sought after by leading universities, and may contribute to a reduced offer being made.

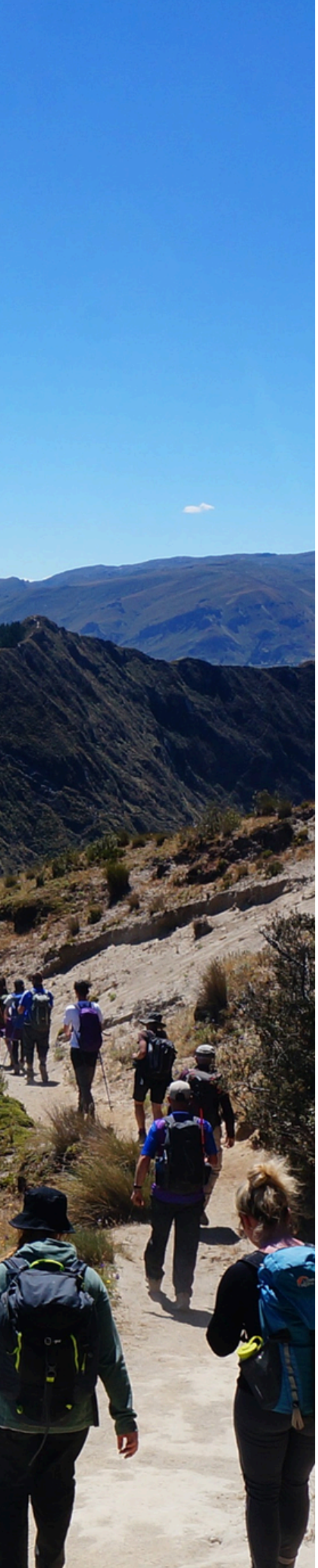
Wider Curriculum

Our wider curriculum supports students in learning about and developing their personal strengths and characteristics, understanding how to relate to and support others, and exploring wider ideas that affect the world in which they live.

Our tutorial programme covers statutory topics, including Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and British Values. The schedule is flexible and regularly adapted to include current events and topics requested by our student body. Careers is an important part of the tutorial programme and we ensure students are well prepared for future Post 18 options through guest speakers, Unifrog sessions and visits to Universities.

Topics are delivered through tutor-time activities, assemblies, workshops, and guest speakers.





World Challenge

We offer a World Challenge expedition every two years, giving students the opportunity to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime overseas experience. Students are encouraged to fundraise towards the cost of the expedition before embarking on an adventure that combines cultural exploration, physical challenge, and meaningful community or environmental projects.

In 2023, 15 students travelled to Cambodia, where they immersed themselves in a new culture and contributed to local initiatives. In 2025, students explored Tanzania, continuing the tradition of adventure, personal growth, and global engagement. Our 2027 expedition to Borneo has now been launched for current Year 11 and Year 12 students, offering the next group of students the chance to take on this incredible challenge.

Mentoring Roles

You may have seen or taken part in some form of mentoring during your time in the Lower School. It is a fantastic programme that builds links between Lower School and Sixth Form students, providing opportunities to develop confidence, leadership skills, and positive relationships across the school community.

We offer a variety of mentoring roles:

Pastoral Mentoring

During tutor time once a week, you will support younger students by building relationships, encouraging confidence, and providing guidance. Training is provided.

Subject Mentoring

During tutor time once a week, you will provide support to GCSE students, helping them develop their understanding and confidence in specific subjects.

SEN Mentoring

During tutor time or independent study periods, you can choose how many sessions you would like to be involved in. This role involves supporting students with specific educational needs in lessons. Training is provided.

Reading Buddies

During tutor time, you will read with KS3 students, listening to them read and supporting the development of their confidence and literacy skills while building a positive relationship.



extra super me

Extra Super Me is a way to record all the things you do that go above and beyond the basics to help you excel in your personal development. When you complete tasks or achieve goals, you earn credits. These credits add up to in-school rewards, but, more importantly, they'll help you write amazing applications and develop the skills that will impress employers, universities, and training providers after you turn 18.

BRONZE AWARD

0-75 Credits

Prize Draw: £50 Voucher

REWARD	AVAILABILITY
Coffee / Cold Drink	On Completion
Muffin / Cake	On Completion
Can go home on Free Period	Day of Choice*
Mufti Day	Day of Choice*

SILVER AWARD

76-150 Credits

Prize Draw: Apple AirPods

REWARD	AVAILABILITY
Coffee / Cold Drink & Muffin / Cake	On Completion
Can go home for 3 x Free Periods	Day of Choice*
Mufti Day x 3	Day of Choice*

GOLD AWARD

151-250 Credits

Prize Draw: Apple iPad

REWARD	AVAILABILITY
Can go home for 3 x Free Periods	Day of Choice*
Mufti Week	Week of Choice*

*log with FAI



The Categories

Academic
What are you doing to ensure success in your qualifications?

Extra-curricular
What are your skills, interests, hobbies?

Super-curricular
How are you exploring the subjects you're interested in further and deeper?

Community
How are you contributing to support others?

2026's Apple iPad Winner: Eleanor Shiels

How did Eleanor achieve Gold?

The Gold Award winner gained the majority of her points through her dedication to volunteering within her local community and school. She consistently gave her time to support others and contributed to making the Sixth Form a more positive, welcoming and supportive place for all students. She has also demonstrated a strong commitment to her A Levels by dedicating additional time to her studies, regularly using the quiet study area to focus on her work and further her academic progress.



Post-18
Preparation

During your time with us, you will make some important decisions about your future.
Our programme provides advice and support on all your post-18 options and helps you prepare for them throughout your time in Sixth Form, incuding:

- Support and Guidance
- A specialist tutor team
- Access to an independent careers adviser
- Use of Unifrog throughout your time in Sixth Form
- Trips to universities and apprenticeship fairs
- Assemblies and workshops led by experts from a range of fields
- An online calendar of university open days, webinars, and virtual work experience opportunities
- The 'Arrows' aspirational society for early entry students
- MedSoc - supporting applications to Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine.



University *Destinations*

Our Sixth Form students progress to a wide range of exciting destinations after completing their studies. In 2026, 63% of students progressed to university, with an outstanding 98% securing their first-choice destination.

Other students progressed to apprenticeships, employment, gap years and a variety of other pathways. Individual successes include a student taking a gap year before reapplying to Oxford or Cambridge following exceptional A-Level results, a student undertaking a Teaching Degree Apprenticeship within a primary school, and a student studying Biological Sciences at the University of Birmingham.

These destinations demonstrate the breadth of ambition amongst our students and the many different pathways available beyond Sixth Form.



Unifrog *Platform*

The Unifrog platform is used extensively in the Sixth Form to help students explore pathways, track achievements, and complete applications.

All current Guilsborough Academy students have a Unifrog account, and Year 11 students are encouraged to use the platform to explore all their options and identify the best pathway for them at Post-16 and beyond, including Post-18. Students can email *careers@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk* or pop into the Careers Hub if they need help using the platform.

Choosing *Your Options*

The decision regarding where and what you study Post-16 is an important one, and you will need to ensure that all options are considered carefully so that you can make an informed decision. When making your decision, you should consider a range of factors:

- **Interest in the subject** - Remember that, even if you have studied a subject at GCSE, A Level courses in some subjects can be very different from their GCSE counterparts. Some A Level subjects are not available at GCSE, so you should find out what they involve.

- **Your predicted grades** - Consider the grades that your subject teachers have predicted for you, as each subject has different entry criteria. Reflect on whether you are choosing options in which you are likely to succeed.

- **Your aspirations, strengths and interests** - Make a careful assessment of your aspirations, personal strengths, and other skills and interests. Ask yourself whether you have the 'soft skills' required for each course.

- **Your future plans** - If you already have a career path or higher education course in mind, ensure that you are choosing the right subjects to keep this option open to you.

- **Advice and guidance** - You can get support and guidance with this decision from your parents, tutor, subject teachers, the Sixth Form Team, or the Careers Hub.

Take all the advice you can, but ultimately, it needs to be **your decision!**



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 alumni stories:



Lyall Lambert
Construction Site Manager Apprenticeship

I studied A Levels in History, PE and Psychology but wasn't sure what I wanted to do in the future. After attending careers fairs and talking to a range of people, I decided that construction would be the best industry for me, as there are so many different jobs and routes available to take.
I arranged a day at a London construction company, where I shadowed Quantity Surveyors and Site Managers, and then secured a placement at Stepnell. I am currently based on site in Oundle, working on extensions to the boarding accommodation at a school. I will be in Oundle for six months before changing location. I also attend Birmingham City University for one day each week.



Katie Culbert
University of Birmingham - Studying Pharmacy

Katie studied A Level Biology, Chemistry and Maths at Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form, as she had a passion for pursuing a career in the healthcare sector.
Katie is now studying Pharmacy at university and recently returned to Sixth Form to share her experience with our Medical Society. Her session was both engaging and inspirational. Katie delivered a hands-on session to the group, showcasing some of the circulatory system tests she has to perform as part of her studies.
Katie also works part-time in a pharmacy to gain valuable experience and further support her studies.



Noah Scull
University of Oxford - Studying German and Spanish

Noah studied A Level German, History and Spanish at Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form before securing a place at the University of Oxford to study German and Spanish at Lincoln College.
He has embraced university life, proudly sharing his experiences and the opportunities available at Oxford with current Guilsborough students during visits and talks. Noah has also returned to speak with Year 12 and 13 students considering Oxbridge applications, offering advice and encouragement.
Currently travelling and teaching languages, Noah is gaining valuable experience and developing new skills before returning to Oxford to continue his studies.

Frequently Asked Questions

A Typical Sixth Form Day

Our Sixth Form day is designed to develop confident, independent learners and prepare students for life beyond school. Students are expected to be in school from 8:45am to 3:15pm, with a varied timetable including tutor time, lessons, supervised and independent study, and enrichment activities. This balance enables students to take greater responsibility for their learning while developing the confidence, independence and skills needed to succeed in their chosen post-18 destination.

Do Sixth Formers have to stay on site all day?

In Year 12, students are expected to be in school from 8:45am to 3:15pm, providing the support and structure they need while developing resourcefulness and resilience.
Students may sign out at lunchtime but must return for their next lesson. In Year 13, students who demonstrate strong progress and independence may be given the option to study at home during independent study periods.

How many hours of study are expected outside of lessons?

Students are expected to complete a minimum of five hours of study per subject each week, in addition to lessons. This may include wider reading, consolidating notes, completing tasks or practising past exam papers. Supervised and independent study sessions provide valuable opportunities to complete this work and develop effective study habits.

What provision is there for Work Experience?

All students complete at least one week of work experience during their time in the Sixth Form. Students are encouraged to research and secure their own placements, taking into account their interests and potential career paths.
Students must provide placement details to Mrs Brennan so that the appropriate Health and Safety checks can be completed. Work experience takes place on designated dates, usually towards the end of Year 12, and placements outside these dates are unlikely to be authorised except in exceptional circumstances - eg veterinary/medicine.

What are the transport arrangements for Sixth Form students?

Sixth Form students are responsible for the cost of their bus passes, with applications processed by Northamptonshire County Council. Applications should be submitted by May to ensure they are processed in time for September.
Students who drive may apply for a Sixth Form parking permit, providing their registration and proof of insurance. Parking is limited and students must use designated spaces only.

What financial support is available?

We offer discretionary bursary payments to help reduce financial barriers and support students with essential study-related costs, including books, equipment, travel, educational visits, UCAS fees, DBS checks, appropriate clothing and bus passes.
Students eligible for free school meals or with a household income below £25,000 may qualify. A discretionary bursary is also available for students experiencing financial hardship. Applications are assessed individually and in confidence.

Key Dates

- **4th December 2026**
  Early Sixth Form Application Deadline *(for subject blocking)*
  NB. Applications remain open until GCSE Results Day 2027

- **January / February 2027**
  Sixth Form Application *(Discussions begin)*

- **March / April 2027**
  Sixth Form Application *(Offer letters issued)*

- **May 2027**
  Deadline for Year 12 bus pass applications to mainstream transport.
  NB. Charges for bus fares will apply - visit website for info: ***https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/***

- **10th May - 18th June 2027**
  GCSE Examination Period

- **28th June 2027**
  Sixth Form Parent Induction Information Evening

- **28th June and 29th June 2027**
  New Student Induction Days

- **19th August 2027**
  GCSE Results & Sixth Form Enrolment Day

- **September 2027**
  Year 12 Team Building Day

- **January 2028**
  Year 12 Parents' Evening

- **June/July 2028**
  Pre Public Examinations

- **July 2028**
  Sixth Form Summer Ball

- **July 2028**
  Year 12 Work Experience