



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership

# The Sixth Form

Pathway Guidance Booklet 2022-23

This handbook has been created to help give you some ideas of what qualifications are needed for a wide range of different careers. It is designed to be used in conjunction with the prospectus and the Virtual Open Event site. The Virtual Open Event will be available on our website from 11th November. You have worked really hard to get to this point and we want to make sure that your experience at Sixth Form allows you to progress Post-18 and secure your future ambitions.

This guide aims to give you clear advice and also help to dispel some of the myths surrounding progress into university and the world of work. The advice we give here cannot cover every pathway, but please ask and we can help you look to see how to achieve your dream goal in the future.

The routes indicated here follow advice offered by universities and employers, and is also based on our experience. As a rule of thumb, we advise that you choose a balanced range of subjects which you enjoy, especially if you do not yet know what you want to do in the future, as this helps to keep your options open.

This guide also contains the entry requirements for the courses we offer and details on how to apply using the online application form.

If you are unsure of what options to pick then we are happy to meet with you to give some additional guidance. Please contact us on [sixthformadmin@msnsixth.com](mailto:sixthformadmin@msnsixth.com) or 01761 402280 to arrange an appointment.

## Areas of study for after Sixth Form

Archaeology	A Level in History, English and a Science subject.
Architecture	A Level Maths and Physics and either Graphics or Art.
Art related courses/ 3D Design	Any Art/ design courses.
Biochemist	A Level Chemistry and Biology and some require Maths.
Biologist	A Level Chemistry and Biology.
Biotechnology/ Medical engineering	2 or 3 from A Level Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Maths.
Business	No specific requirements - International Business courses will require a language at A level and some with a Financial element will require A level Maths.
Chemistry	A Level Chemistry and another science subject.
Computer science courses	A Level Maths and a science subject required for some courses.
Childcare/ Early Years teaching	Children's play, learning and development (BTEC) & Health and Social Care BTEC are both highly recommended.
Dance	Practical experience required, but no specific A Levels.
Dentistry	GCSE grades need to be mainly A* & A grades. A Level Chemistry and Biology required.
Dietician	A Level Biology and/ or chemistry.
Drama	English and Drama may be required.

Economics	A Level in Maths, Economics or Business.
Education/ Teacher Training	For secondary teaching a course in subject you would like to teach is required. For Primary school teaching there are no specific course requirements.
Engineering	A Level Physics and Maths. Some courses recommend Further Maths..
English (including Creative Writing and journalism)	A Level English Lit / Lang or English Literature.
Environmental Related careers	One or two science A Levels required – Geography often accepted. Some require Maths A Level.
European studies and Languages	An A Level in a modern language is required. Some courses will require a second Language A Level.
Law	No specific requirements, however English Literature, History, Philosophy, and Politics are all viewed favourably.
Maths	A Level Maths and Further Maths.
Media	Any creative arts or humanities/social science can be useful.
Medicine	A Levels in Biology and Chemistry.
Music	Subjects relating to performance or Music – either A level Music.
Nursing/ Medical related careers	Two A Level or BTEC Science subjects required - Applied Science, Health and Social Care, Medical Science, Applied Human Biology, Childcare or Psychology are generally accepted. A Level Biology generally required for Paramedic Science.
Physiotherapy	A Level Biology is usually required for most courses; a Science based BTEC is acceptable for some.
Psychology/Counselling	Psychology, Sociology is viewed favourably. Chemistry is required for some Psychology courses.
Sports Coaching	BTEC Sport recommended.
Sports Science	An A Level Science subject required.
Uniformed Services	No specific requirements.
Veterinary Science	A Level Biology and Chemistry are required.

## Entry requirements for the Sixth Form

Listed below are the entry requirements for all the courses offered across all three sites;  
we have indicated next to each course title the sites on which it is offered.

MSN - MSN Sixth      MSS - Mendip Sixth      WRI - Writhlington Sixth

Applied Human Biology (Level 3) (MSS)	Minimum of five grade 4s at GCSE including English and/or maths. In addition, a minimum of a grade 44 in GCSE Science or two of the three separate sciences.
Applied Law (BTEC) (MSN)	5 9-4 Grades at GCSE or equivalent, including a grade 4 or higher in English Language and a grade 4 or higher in either History, Geography, English Literature or Philosophy and Belief
Applied Science Level 3 (MSN, WRI)	Minimum of five grade 4s at GCSE including English and / or Maths. In addition, a minimum of a grade 44 in Double Award GCSE Science or two of the three separate sciences.
Art & Design (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 in GCSE Art.
Biology (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science higher paper and a Grade 5 in Maths. Grade 66 in Combined Science is desirable.
Business (BTEC) (WRI)	5 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent including a 4 grade in GCSE Mathematics.
Business (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Business and a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics in addition to 6 9-5 grades at GCSE.
Chemistry (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science higher paper and a Grade 5 in Maths. Grade 66 in Combined Science is desirable. The continuation of Maths Post-16 would be advantageous.
Childcare & Education Early Years Educator) (Level 3 Diploma) (MSS)	Minimum of five grade 4 GCSEs.
Computer Science (A Level)	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and/ or GCSE Computer Science.
Core Maths (Level 3) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics or at the discretion of the Head of Mathematics.
Creative Media Production (BTEC) (WRI)	No previous qualification in Media Studies is necessary, but candidates must have a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or English Literature and have an interest in the media.
Criminology (Level 3 Diploma) (MSN, WRI)	5 9-4 Grades at GCSE or equivalent including a grade 4 in English Language or English Literature.
Design Technology (A Level) (MSS, WRI)	Grade four in GCSE Design Technology, Graphics, Resistant Materials. If a student has not studied the subject before the entry is at the discretion of the Head of Technology.

## Entry requirements for the Sixth Form

Drama & Theatre Studies (A Level) (MSN)	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama plus an interest in Performing Arts.
Economics (A Level) (MSN)	Grade 5 in both GCSE Maths and GCSE English Language or English Literature, in addition to 6 GCSEs at grades 9-5.
Engineering Diploma (BTEC) (MSS)	Minimum of five grade 4 GCSEs including English and maths (ideally grade 5*). In addition, a minimum of a grade 44 in Double Award GCSE Science or 4 in physics separate GCSE. <i>*If grade 5 or above in maths GCSE is not attained, additional maths support is compulsory alongside this course.</i>
English Language and Literature (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 or above in English Language and/or English Literature.
English Literature (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 or above in English Language and/or English Literature.
Extended Project (EPQ) (MSN, WRI, MSS)	5 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent.
Food & Nutrition (Level 3 Diploma) (WRI)	4 or equivalent in Hospitality and Catering or similar Food related course or if the students haven't done a Food course 4 or above in Science.
Forensic Science & Criminal Investigation (BTEC) (MSS)	Minimum of five grade 4s at GCSE including English and/or maths. In addition, a minimum of a grade 44 in Double Award GCSE Science or two of the three separate sciences.
Further Mathematics (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics
Geography (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 in GCSE Geography or through discussion with Head of Geography if not studied Geography at GCSE.
Graphics and 3D Product Design (BTEC) (MSN)	Grade 5 in GCSE Graphics or Resistant Materials.
Health and Social Care (BTEC) (MSN)	5 9-4 grades at GCSE or equivalent.
History (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 in GCSE History. If History not taken at GCSE then a Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.
IT (BTEC) (MSN)	5 9-4 at GCSE or equivalent. No previous IT qualification required, however a short IT competency test will need to be passed for students who do not have an IT or Computer Science qualification.

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Mathematics (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics (1-9). Entry is at the discretion of the Head of Mathematics.
Modern Languages – French, German (A Level) (MSN)	GCSE Grade 5 or higher in the chosen language.
Music (A Level) (MSN)	A minimum of a Grade 5 in GCSE Music or Grade 5 standard on an instrument or voice (exam doesn't have to have been taken) and a passion for the subject.
Performing Arts BTEC (WRI)	Grade 4 in GCSE Drama or a Grade 4 in English with extra-curricular experience in Performing Arts.
Philosophy & Ethics (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	GCSE Grade 5 in Philosophy & Belief and a GCSE Grade 5 in English Language.
Photography (A Level) (MSN)	All students should submit a portfolio of work to the Art & Photography department. Also students will need to have their own camera to complete this course. Places on this course will be allocated following an interview with the Head of Art.
Physical Education (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 or above at GCSE PE or Distinction at VCERT Health & Fitness. Student must be taking part in competitive sport outside of school.
Physics (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science higher paper and a Grade 5 in Maths. Grade 66 in Combined Science is desirable. The continuation of Maths Post-16 would be advantageous.
Psychology (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 or above in English Language. Grade 5 or above in Mathematics. Grade 55 or above in Combined Science.
Sociology (A Level) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 5 or above in English Language GCSE. Grade 5 or above in Mathematics GCSE. Grade 4 or above in Science GCSE.
Sport (BTEC) (MSN, WRI)	Grade 4 in GCSE PE and a grade 44 in GCSE Science. Students must be taking part in competitive sport outside of school.
T Level Healthcare Science (MSS)	5 GCSEs at grade 9-4 (including English, Maths & Science).
T Level Business Management & Administration (MSN)	5 GCSEs at grade 9-4 (including English and Maths).
T Level Science (MSS)	5 GCSEs at grade 9-4 (including English, Maths & Science).

## How to apply to The Sixth Form

The application form for The Sixth Form is electronic and the link will open for applications on 12th November via the Virtual Open Event page. If you are an internal applicant, you will be given a login to the application system by Friday 5th November.

You will need to choose three courses you would like to take. You can also choose an additional Enrichment option; in some cases students do choose more than three options.

The subjects are organised in blocks so that you have a clear view of which subject combinations are possible. These blocks have been designed to allow for all the main career pathways to be followed. However if your desired combination does not fit then you can indicate this on the application form and we will see what we can do to assist.

Further details of how to apply, and subject blocks, will be available ahead of the Virtual Open Event.

The deadline for initial applications is 17th December; applications after this date will be accepted but course choices may be limited.