

BUILDING BETTER FUTURES >

A wide range of courses

Outstanding levels of achievement



Midsomer Norton
Sixth Form



Student: Liam
Options: English Language &
English Literature A Level;
Business BTEC; Sport BTEC

Post Sixth: An advanced
Form apprenticeship

Comments

It's a very good social environment.
The work is hard but has a high
reward for completion. You need a
good work ethic to succeed.



“ Midsomer Norton Sixth Form
provides a broad curriculum that
meets students' needs well.”

OFSTED



WELCOME TO THE SIXTH FORM

RESULTS 2019

A*– A 35%
(national average 26.4%)

A*– B 65%
(national average 53%)

Our aim is to provide the guidance and support necessary to ensure you succeed on your chosen Post-16 courses. We also offer a wide range of fresh experiences designed to allow you to develop into confident individuals equipped with the skills and independence to lead fulfilling lives.

We take great pride in your success and want to ensure that, no matter what your ability or background, you enjoy your time here and succeed in realising your potential.

If you want to know more about the Sixth Form please contact Mrs Ward (Director of Sixth Form) and in the meantime we hope this information will give you a flavour of things to come.

Over 40 Courses

The greatest attraction of the Midsomer Norton Sixth Form is the quality and quantity of courses on offer. You can choose from over 40 courses including A Levels, BTECs and Cambridge Pre-U Courses.

With so much choice, you may need some advice on the combination of courses that will best fit your interests, abilities and ambitions. To do this, find out about the courses that interest you, discuss the opportunities at home and check the advice in this prospectus.

A fresh way to study

In the Sixth Form, you will study subjects in depth. You are more responsible for your learning and creativity, for the direction of your studies and for planning your private study. In most courses, much of the work is done in your own study time.

The students around you are well motivated, and the emphasis is more on working with your teachers than working for them.

This style of teaching and learning leads to you becoming more self-confident, articulate, and for you to take ownership of your own learning.

Destinations

We are exceptionally proud that we can ensure you will have both a fantastic time in the Sixth Form, and also a clear plan and destination at the end of your time here.

100% of all our Year 13 students went on to their first choice destination, whether that was an apprenticeship, a job or a place at university or college. In addition, over one third of students progressed to the prestigious Russell Group of universities compared to the South-West average of 9%.

THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM



“Creative and inspiring teaching...” **Year 13 student**

A Level

These are two year courses. Study begins at the start of Year 12 and continues into your second year in the Sixth Form. Each A Level course contains two or three modules. All exams are at the end of Year 13. The final A Level grade can be used to enter Higher Education.

BTEC Nationals

BTEC – Level 3 are the “real world” equivalents of A Levels. These qualifications are the most popular vocational qualification in UK further education, recognised and respected world-wide and valued by universities as well as employers. They also enable you to go on to study for an Honours degree. You will take a BTEC Extended Certificate over two years. This is the equivalent to one A Level.

Further information for entry requirements can be found in the Course Outline Booklet.

Cambridge Pre-U Course

We are the only state school in the area to be approved to run the Cambridge Pre-U Course. It has proven to be highly successful, with students achieving outstanding results. This course is designed to offer students a linear approach to study, with opportunities for more in-depth analysis. The programme has been identified by the Russell Group of universities as the ideal preparation for study at their institutions. More information on the Pre-U Course is available on page 4.

English Language and Maths GCSE Re-takes

We provide exceptional support for those who need to retake English Language and/or Maths.

Student: Emily
Options: Psychology A Level;
Geography A Level;
Economics Pre-U; EPQ
Post Sixth: University to study
Form Psychology

Comments

I enjoy the independence in the Sixth Form and focusing on subjects I'm passionate about.



“Students develop independence well.”

OFSTED

“Students feel they receive very high-quality personal support. This helps them to successfully complete their courses and to develop further as individuals.” OFSTED



Enrichment Courses – Year 13

In Year 13, you will have the opportunity to complete the Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives Short Course. This gives you the opportunity to look at global issues as well as to hone the critical thinking skills valued by universities, particularly for courses such as Law and Medicine. You will also have the opportunity to complete an extended essay in your chosen subject.

This course is highly valued by universities, allowing them to identify the students with the greatest potential through their demonstration of these skills.

Extended Project

You can choose this course as part of your curriculum in Year 13. You can complete a project in any area that interests you.

Students have completed projects on a wide variety of topics, from 'What Position should Sharia Law have in the UK?' to 'Medical Negligence and its Impact on Society'. This is equivalent to an AS Level, and is highly regarded by universities as it allows you to demonstrate your passion for a subject you may want to study and will also enable you to develop your ability to research and work independently.

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE...



Student: Alice
Options: History Pre-U;
Economics Pre-U;
Design BTEC; EPQ
Post Sixth: Study Law at Warwick
Form University

Comments

Very friendly atmosphere, the subjects are fun and teachers are always willing to help.

The Cambridge Pre-U

The Pre-U has been designed to inspire, challenge and reward students. It takes individual learning seriously and enables you to study a programme tailored to suit your own interests, enthusiasm and expertise.

An increasing number of students are applying to university each year, coupled with a growing number achieving A grades. This has led to increased competition for places at the top universities who are looking for more than just A grades at A Level. They are looking for students who have independent study skills and thought, and who have gained greater knowledge than simply completing modules. University admissions tutors believe, in many cases, that the Pre-U is an even better preparation than A Levels for the challenge of academic degree courses.

The course places a greater emphasis on study skills, as well as the knowledge that will make students successful – both as applicants to university and as students once they are there.

Universities value the Cambridge Pre-U and the skills it develops. Universities have also welcomed the clarity of the Cambridge Pre-U grading system, which allows

the most selective universities to distinguish between students who may receive the same grade at A Level and allows them to identify the truly gifted and talented. It also allows students to show achievement at higher levels than the A grade or A* grade.

Harvard UK

The Sixth Form has been chosen by America's Harvard University to be the link Sixth Form in the South-West, developing specialist skills amongst our staff to support students applying to American universities.

Each year, students successfully achieve places at American universities.

Russell Group university support

Students also have the opportunity to take part in a specialised programme which will aid their success in applying to Russell Group and Oxbridge Universities. 40% of our leavers went to leading universities including Oxford University, Cambridge University, Imperial College London and Bristol University.



Designed in partnership with Oxbridge and the Russell Group of universities





“Students are prepared well for their next steps and for life in modern Britain; attaining places in (often prestigious) higher education institutions.”

OFSTED

Direct to work

In response to the changing economic climate and students' desire to go straight into the workplace we have designed a specific Direct into Work Programme to help students prepare themselves for the working environment.

This includes individual mentoring and guidance with an opportunity to take part in the Business Academy and a specialist Business Administration course.

This considered approach to students' futures has meant that we have achieved a much envied 100% success rate, with all our students leaving the Sixth Form with clear destinations.

Opportunities include:

- Sutton Trust Summer Schools in the USA and UK
- Access to Bristol – university experience course
- Nutrition and Dietetics pre-university day at the Royal United Hospital, Bath
- University of Lancaster Law Conference
- Hospitality apprenticeship experience with Hilton
- Oxford Law Open Day
- Oxford University Summer School
- UWE (Bristol) Summer School
- Airbus apprenticeship experiences
- HE workshops at the University of Bath in areas such as Sports Therapy, TV Production, Robotic Computing, Motor Sport Engineering and a day at Bristol Barristers Chambers
- Institute of Economic Affairs



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

“They receive very high-quality personal support.” *OFSTED*

The move from GCSE to Post-16 study can be a daunting prospect, however at MSN Sixth we support students to adapt to their new academic environment through our tailored Tutor Programme and Academic Mentoring. Students have regular one to one meetings with their tutors to assist with the challenges of both time management and organisation; these are crucial skills for students to utilise if they are to get the most out of their courses.

Transition support is also offered at subject level with course leaders tailoring their teaching to support students in developing the skills they need.

The Tutor Programme is also designed to support students' well-being and looks at mindfulness techniques and study skills, such as note-taking and effective revision. We have a programme of external speakers who visit school to speak to the students about their experiences and cover topics such as 'How to Develop Resilience'. We also recognise that some students need extra support with transition and so at MSN Sixth we offer students an opportunity to access counselling services on site.

Student: George
Options: History Pre-U; Business & Management Pre-U; Politics A Level
Post Sixth: Joint honours degree in Form Politics & Economics

Comments

I really enjoy the Sixth Form, the social side is great, but it is a big step from GCSEs. Teachers are supportive and help you achieve the best grades.





BATH DANCE COLLEGE



Students receive fully rounded dance training, taught by some of the country's most celebrated performers.



BDC Theatre College is a private specialist performing arts school which offers a vocational training course that prepares students to take the next step towards a career in the performing arts industry.

The course includes intensive training in a variety of dance and musical theatre genres. With 35 hours of classes each week, students develop the skill, stamina and discipline required for higher level training or professional work. Three formal performances throughout the year give students the chance to demonstrate their skills in-front of a live audience.

Our foundation course is made up of two elements:

Element One: **Practical Foundation Training**

The course is built around a vigorous programme of dance technique training. Regular classes in ballet, contemporary, jazz and tap form the backbone and are complemented by additional classes in commercial dance, improvisation, choreography, body conditioning, drama, ensemble singing, private singing tuition and musical theatre integration classes, as well as masterclasses with leading industry professionals.

Certain core classes are split by ability, ensuring that classwork is of an appropriate level, allowing students

to continually develop and improve. Our qualified teaching staff, having completed their own training and worked professionally within the industry, have the knowledge and experience to guide students towards their next steps.

Element Two : **BTEC Qualification, 168 UCAS points**

We also offer a Level 3 Extended Diploma in performing arts, equivalent to three A Levels, enabling students to continue their academic journey whilst also pursuing our foundation course. Students use skills developed through the practical foundation training to complete projects including; performance workshop (choreography), performing arts in the community, individual performance commission and examinations in core subjects such as; ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary dance technique.

Practical work makes up the majority of the BTEC, assessed through classwork and performance. There are also a small number of written assignments on which students are assessed. We offer this qualification alongside our foundation training as it gives students the necessary UCAS points to gain access to degree courses, should they wish.

www.bathdancecollege.com



CHOOSING YOUR COURSES



Student: Callum
Options: Geography; Psychology;
Politics; Economics
Post Sixth Form: I hope to study
International Business &
Marketing at university

Comments
Students and staff are warm, friendly
and approachable. I am enjoying my
subjects as well as the independent
approach to learning.

Course Guidelines

If you are aiming to study at A Level or Pre-U Level, it's usually expected that you would achieve at least a 5 or 6 at GCSE. To study a BTEC course, you will need a 4 or 5 in the subjects you are hoping to study.

Students normally choose 3 courses. Four may be taken if the fourth is Further Maths, Pre-U Global Perspectives and Research or Core Maths.

Detailed course specific requirements can be found in the Sixth Form Course Outline Booklet.

Study is divided into 60 periods each fortnight. Your programme will be made up of a combination of the courses you have chosen, together with private study periods. The tutorial programme is part of the Core Activities that all students participate in. This comprises:

- Tutor time
- Assembly
- Academic tutorial
- Community service

“Students feel they receive very high-quality personal support. This helps them to successfully complete their courses and to develop further as individuals.” *OFSTED*

Considering
which courses
to take?

**Talk to
as many people
as possible...**



“Students are
provided with good
information and
guidance about their
next steps.”

OFSTED

There is plenty of information available.
The Open Evening is a good opportunity
to talk to teachers about subjects.



The Process

Stage One

We recommend that you read this prospectus and the Course Information Booklet carefully, then attend the Sixth Form Open Evening. Take the opportunity to talk to the staff about their subjects and find out what interests you and are appropriate to your needs.

Stage Two

Talk with as many people as possible. You may want to approach:

- Your parents
- Your tutor
- Your subject teachers
- Sixth Form students
- Mrs Windsor (Careers Adviser)
- Director of Sixth Form (Mrs Ward)
- Deputy Director of Sixth Form (Ms Oxley-Hughes)

Stage Three

Select your course(s). Fill in your application form with your tutor group and hand it in by the December deadline. The deadline for external candidates is also December. All external students will be interviewed. Further information for External Applicants can be found on page 13.

If you are a Norton Hill or Somervale School student, you will be seen by one of our Sixth Form Transition Team to ensure your choices are suitable for your career aspirations.

Stage Four

After the results of your GCSE examinations you will be able to discuss any concerns or changes you might wish to make with either Mrs Ward, Director of Sixth Form or Ms Oxley-Hughes, Deputy Director of Sixth Form.

EXPERIENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES



“There are endless opportunities
and the facilities are fantastic...”

Year 13 student



Student: Charlotte
Options: Art A Level; BTEC Design;
History Pre-U
Post Sixth: University to study Art
Form or Fashion

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Comments
More freedom than in the lower
school, especially in Art and
Textiles.



“An extremely positive climate for learning where students want to succeed and do well.”

OFSTED

Widening your Experience

Important as academic achievement is, you will find there is much more to life in the Midsomer Norton Sixth Form.

During the summer term of Year 12, you will have the opportunity to work with Bristol University to complete an Extended Project. This is equivalent to an AS Level and allows you to produce an in-depth analysis of an area that particularly interests or inspires you. It will allow you to develop the independent learning and research skills that higher education institutions and employers desire.

As well as participating in a wide range of sporting activities, a large number of students are involved in the most challenging Ten Tors expeditions and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Each summer students travel to Europe to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award expedition – a truly unique experience. Next year students will again have the opportunity to take part in this..

The creative arts, sports and community programmes offer opportunities which are open to all. You will have the chance to visit theatres, concerts and art galleries throughout the year as well as the chance to perform in the Sixth Form's musical and drama productions.

In the past, Sixth Formers have visited France, Spain, Italy, Poland and Germany. You may wish to get involved with the Sixth Form Council and help arrange Sixth Form events, work with younger students, or to be involved in voluntary activities and events within the wider school community.

There are a wide variety of first class facilities for Sixth Form students across Norton Hill and Somervale sites. These include:

- A dedicated Sixth Form independent study area on both sites.
- ICT Suites with interactive screens
- Sports Hall and Astro Turfs on both sites
- Extensive specialist facilities in Science and Technology, including 3D printer
- Sixth Form libraries on both sites
- Business Academy
- Specialist Drama performance areas
- Music performance rooms and Music Tech areas
- Specialist Media Suites, including TV and Radio studios
- Dance studio
- The opportunity to purchase a high quality laptop to use on-site and at home

YOUR TUTOR AND OTHER SUPPORT



The Tutor

Your tutor is central to your progress in the Sixth Form. Your tutor will be a member of staff who understands your needs and aspirations well and who is best placed to guide, inform and support your academic progress.

Your tutor:

- Is the first point of contact between teachers, you and your parents
- Ensures that you make progress and succeed
- Helps you to overcome any difficulties or problems
- Organises tutor sessions, writes your references and administers University and College Admission Service (UCAS) procedures

Supported Study

Supported study sessions should take up two-thirds of your private study periods and will allow you to work in the quiet atmosphere of the libraries.

Career Guidance

In the Sixth Form you will be offered a full programme of Career and Higher Education guidance including:

- A range of activities in tutor periods to help with your career choice
- Opportunities for work experience
- Visits to universities and colleges
- A specifically designed preparation programme if you are planning to go directly into work after the Sixth Form
- A preparation programme to assist those planning to apply for Oxbridge, Medicine or other competitive courses at university, such as the Russell Group
- A preparation programme to help you to complete your university application process
- Information evenings for your parents to help them in supporting you
- A chance to take part in a wide range of HE opportunities such as Access to Bristol, Pathways to Law Course, Maths lectures at Bristol University and visits to Cambridge and Oxford Universities
- An opportunity to talk to medics about their experiences

“You are treated with respect from day one...”

Year 13 student

Student: Emerson
Options: Drama A Level; GPR;
English Literature Pre-U
Post Sixth: Stage Management/
Form Theatre Production
degree at drama school

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Comments

Sixth Form has allowed me to become more independent in my study and helped me to get a step closer to my end goal.



“Students are provided with good information, advice and guidance.”

OFSTED

Applicants from other schools are always welcome



Unlike other Sixth Forms, our curriculum is built around the students' requests and allows maximum choice.

We will send you an acknowledgement as soon as we receive your application form. You will be invited for an interview early in the Spring.

After the interview, we will contact you as soon as possible to let you know the result and we hope to offer you a place in the Sixth Form. If you are an external applicant, you will be invited to the Sixth Form Taster Day in July to meet your teachers and to sample some lessons.

When the GCSE exam results are issued we will send a letter with details of the start of term arrangements. The deadline for applications from other schools is the

end of the Autumn term. Applications after this date will be considered, but you may find your choices are restricted if you apply late.

Visiting the Sixth Form

If you would like to visit the Sixth Form and meet staff and students, or if you have any questions relating to the information in this prospectus, please contact the Sixth Form Administrator on 01761 402280.

Sixth Form Bursary

The 16–19 Bursary Fund helps young people facing financial hardship stay on in full-time education after Year 11. The scheme comprises two parts:

- A full bursary (£1,200 per academic year) for those most in need of support e.g. young people in care.
- An Educational Support Grant available for those in need of finance to help enable them stay in education.



Student: Josh
Options: Physical Education
A Level;
Psychology A Level;
History Pre-U; GPR; EPQ
Post Sixth: Sport scholarship at an
Form American University

Comments
Friendly environment and lots of
motivation to work hard.



100% pass rate,
with 90% of students
achieving A*–C



RESULTS AND DESTINATIONS

“The curriculum in the sixth form meets the needs and aspirations of students well and fully prepares them for the next stages in their education, training or employment.” OFSTED

We are exceptionally proud that we can ensure you will have both a fantastic time in the Sixth Form, and also a clear plan and destination at the end of your time here.

100% of all Year 13 students went on to their first choice destination, whether that was an apprenticeship, a job or a place at university or college. In addition, over one third of students progressed to the prestigious Russell Group of universities compared to the South-West average of 9%.

Destinations

Manchester University – *Chemistry*
Birmingham University – *Psychology*
University of Sheffield – *Law with Spanish Law*
University of Kent – *Biomedical Science*
University of Bristol – *Medicine*

University of Oxford – *Maths & Computer Science*
Plymouth Marjon University – *Sport Coaching*
University of Bath – *Mathematics*
University of Exeter – *Politics, Philosophy and Economics*
University of Nottingham – *Archaeology and Geography*
University of Southampton – *Education and Psychology*
Swansea University – *Biochemistry*
University of East Anglia – *Chemical Physics*
University of Exeter – *Engineering*
City University of London – *Investment and Financial Risk Management*
Cardiff University – *Law*
University of Portsmouth – *Film Production*
Plymouth University – *Geography*
University of Bristol – *Veterinary Science*
Bournemouth University – *International Hospitality Management*

ONE SIXTH FORM TWO SITES

“The Sixth Form is just one of those things that you won't forget. It's an amazing experience...”

“The joint Sixth Form is a great chance for young people to experience the best that both schools have to offer...”

As a student at the Midsomer Norton Sixth Form, you will benefit from a huge range of rigorous subjects with expert subject teaching being pooled from across the two sites.

This is designed to provide you with the best possible opportunities, as well as giving you the chance to expand your friendship groups.

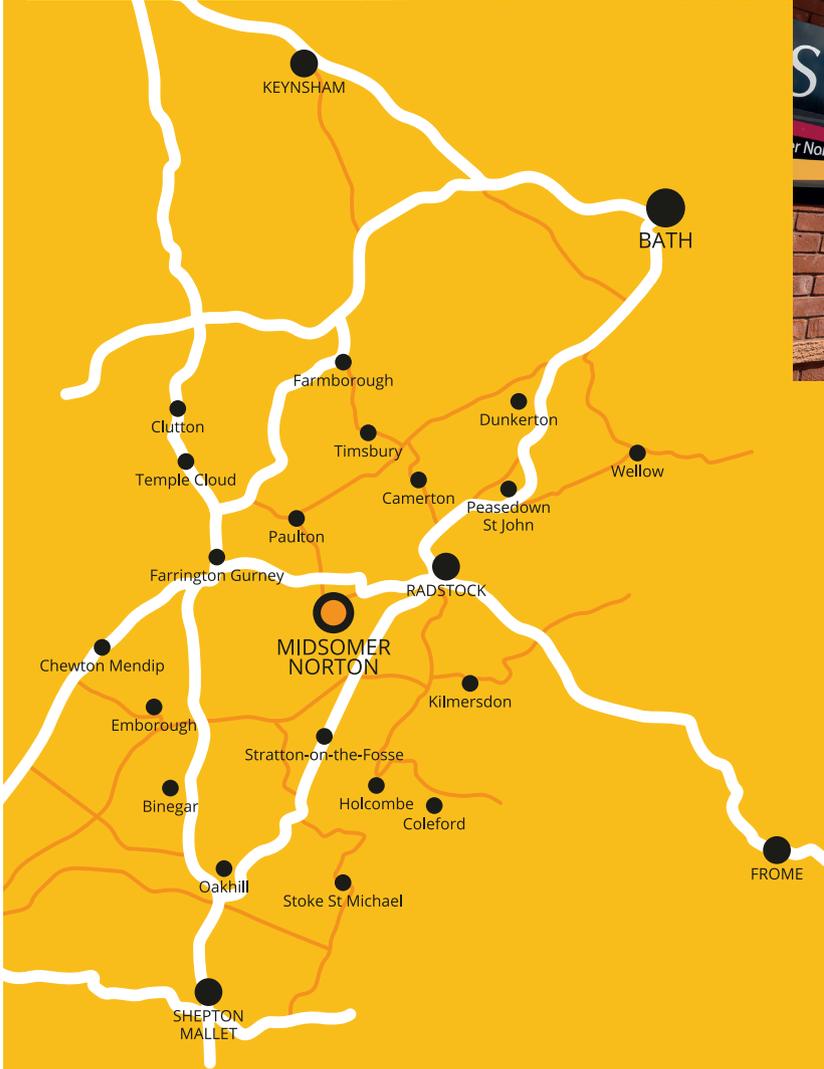
The two Sixth Form sites at Norton Hill and Somervale are conveniently located just a short walking distance from each other in the town of Midsomer Norton, which is within a 12 miles radius of Bath, Bristol, Frome, Shepton Mallet and Wells. Many existing students choose to walk between the sites, which takes them approximately 10 minutes.

Others choose to drive the short distance, as there is Sixth Form parking available at both sites.

Both sites celebrate their own unique characteristics and facilities. The Norton Hill site offers an array of specialist facilities; for example, fantastic ICT suites, excellent sporting facilities, as well as a dedicated Sixth Form Centre where you can study and socialise with your friends.

The Somervale site has a quiet atmosphere and boasts top of the range Media facilities. Both sites have new contemporary Sixth Form Centres, a designated space for sixth form students only. These fantastic spaces provide students with allocated study space as well as being an area in which students can socialise.





The Sixth Form is situated on two sites in Midsomer Norton within a 12 mile radius of Bath, Bristol, Frome, Shepton Mallet and Wells.

School coach transport is provided by B&NES from Farmborough, High Littleton, Clutton, Temple Cloud, Hallatrow, Farrington Gurney and Paulton.

Somerset County Council also provides school coach transport from Coleford and Holcombe.

There is a dedicated school bus service running from Timsbury to Midsomer Norton. This service also stops at Camerton and other outlying villages.

There is also a school bus route running from Shepton Mallet to Midsomer Norton, which will also stop at Stoke St Michael, Oakhill, Gurney Slade and Chilcompton.

Local bus services run from Bath, Frome, Wells and Shepton Mallet. Please check the First Bus website for further details:

www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/bristol_bath/



Midsomer Norton Sixth Form

MSN SIXTH FORM

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Midsomer Norton Sixth Form is part of the Midsomer Norton Partnership Trust

