WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in Whitley Bay High School Sixth Form. You are in the process of making exciting decisions about your future options after you have completed your GCSE examinations.

The decisions you make will not only affect the next two years, but will also shape what you go on to do in the longer term future. We realise students need a lot of support and guidance throughout the whole process. We want to ensure that you make an informed choice so that the course you study will allow you to be successful and lead to your chosen degree or career. Our application and enrolment programme will ensure you get the help you need to make the right choices.

At Whitley Bay High School our outstanding A Level examination success is just one of many reasons why you should consider joining us. However, our Sixth Form is about so much more than results. We want:

• students to enjoy their learning and the whole sixth form experience
• students to take part in the huge range of extra-curricular activities on offer
• to help students develop confidence and self-esteem
• students to fulfil/exceed their potential
• students to achieve their Post 18 degree/career intentions.

We will work very hard with you to help achieve these aims and ensure you have an enjoyable and successful time at Whitley Bay High School Sixth Form.

If you would like to find out more about the courses we offer and talk to teachers and current students please come to our Sixth Form Courses Evening on Tuesday 9th December 2014 from 5 – 7pm.

If you are currently at a different school and would like to receive all future information about applying and enrolling in the Sixth Form please contact Helen Davison or Sheila Scoffham on 0191 2008829.

Steve Williams
Director of Sixth Form
OUTSTANDING REPUTATION AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Whitley Bay High School Sixth Form has an excellent reputation regionally and nationally for:

• Outstanding Teaching
• Outstanding Academic Success
• Outstanding Advice, Guidance and Care
• Outstanding Retention - students who join courses complete them
• Outstanding progression to university, training or employment.

We were the only provider in the area in 2014 where students achieved better A Level results than predicted based on their GCSE grades. We have consistently achieved the best A Level results (average point score per entry, i.e. the grades achieved by students in each individual subject) in the area for several years.

(See Appendix 1 for a summary of the 2014 A Level Results)
99.7% PASS RATE

81% OF ALL GRADES WERE A*-C

52% OF ALL GRADES WERE A*-B

2014 Results
THE A LEVEL COURSES ON OFFER

You can choose from 30 A Level courses

Teaching is outstanding at Whitley Bay High School and teachers devote a huge amount of time to making their lessons enjoyable, interactive and fun. This is another reason why students enjoy the learning experience in the Sixth Form.

It is important to point out that the courses we offer are in some cases very different from the same subject at GCSE. You will need to look at the subject content information provided by the departments at the Sixth Form Courses Evening very carefully to check that the course is what you expect.

Continuous Academic Support

As part of our continuous help for students, every A Level subject provides additional support sessions each week to allow students to discuss the content covered in lesson or to get further help with any material they found difficult. Students (and parents) also receive regular Progress Reports to help set targets and work with teachers to fulfil their potential.

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Course codes may be subject to change from September 2015.
Student View

Peter Dyers, Year 12
(studying Geography, Physics, Music and Maths)

‘I joined Whitley Bay from John Spence so I was a little nervous when I first started but everyone made me feel at home. On the first day I met lots of people who had been at Whitley Bay since Year 9 and some new students from Marden and it felt like we were all in the same boat. I’m really enjoying getting involved with the opportunities here and I’ve joined the Jazz Band and I’m in the Choir so I’m keeping busy!’
How Many Subjects?

We want you to enrol on a course that you can cope with and which will allow you to fulfil your potential. We therefore use the following guidelines to help you select your course.

5/6 A* - C Grades
We encourage you to take three subjects in Year 12.

7/8 A* - B Grades
You can consider taking 4 subjects in Year 12.

8/9+ A* - B Grades
You are encouraged to take 4 subjects in Year 12.

This is a useful guide, however, you will have an opportunity to discuss the number of courses you study at your guidance meeting.
Changes to A Levels

It is proposed that, in September 2015, some A Levels will be ‘de-coupled’. This means that the grade awarded will be based on exams taken at the end of Year 13 only. It will still be possible to sit an AS in these subjects but if a student moves to A2, the marks will not count.

However, the situation is very unstable. The Universities, most schools and the Government’s own advisory group have expressed opposition to this proposal and the shadow education minister has said that this policy will be abolished if Labour form the next government. We have a plan in place for either eventuality, however, students should be aware of this issue but, as before, choose subjects that they enjoy and are skilled in.

The sixth form provides a wide range of courses, and students benefit from first-rate advice, guidance and support.

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Student View

Parvez Zaman, Year 12
(studying ICT, English Language and History)
“The transition to Year 12 has been excellent and I really feel like I fit in. The jump from Year 11 to Year 12 in terms of work has been a challenge but I’ve been able to adapt to my new studies and the extra work with the help of my teachers.”
WHO CAN JOIN THE SIXTH FORM?

Subject to numbers, anyone is welcome to join our Sixth Form, provided they meet our entry criteria and an A Level programme is the most appropriate course.

Whether you are joining us from Year 11 at Whitley Bay High School or coming from another school we want to make sure you get all the advice you need. We want to ensure the course you choose is at the right level, will take you in the direction you want to go and that you will be able to cope with its demands. We will help you with these decisions.

Student View

Abbie Wilkes, Year 12
(studying Textiles, Business Studies and English Language)
“The start of Sixth Form has been great and you can really tell the difference in the work. It’s been an easy transition for me as I’ve been at the school since Year 9 but I’ve made lots of new friends and I really enjoy meeting new people.”
ENTRY CRITERIA

Students must have a supportive reference from their current Head of Year which suggests they can cope with the demands of an A Level course.

Students must achieve a minimum of 5 A* - C grade passes in separate subjects* at GCSE level to start an advanced course. All subjects have specific entry requirements that students must achieve to start that course. (See Appendix 2 at the end of this Prospectus).

(*Some GCSE and BTEC courses, e.g. ICT, Media, Health & Social Care, Business Communications, Engineering etc., will be classed as one subject, even if they are equivalent to more than one GCSE grade. Both English subjects and Double/Triple Science will continue to be classed as separate subjects.)

Student View

Millie Elsdon, Year 12
(studying Textiles, Media, English Language and Geography)

“I joined Whitley Bay High School Sixth Form from Marden but I’ve found the move easy and was made to feel so welcome here. I made new friends straight away. I’m hoping to study fashion journalism at university in London when I finish here so I’m working really hard in order to achieve that.”
EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A very good Sixth Form should provide students with lots of opportunities to take part in activities beyond the classroom. These activities are enjoyable, develop new skills and allow students to improve their CV when applying for jobs or personal statement when applying to university.

At Whitley Bay High School Sixth Form you will be encouraged to take part in the busy wider life of the school. Whether it is sport, drama, music, debate or working with younger students as part of our In-Class support programme there is something for everyone.

If you have new ideas, or just want to join in with something you enjoy, there will be many options to interest you. This year you could have chosen from:

- Sports Teams
- Debating Club
- Creative Writing Group
- Café Scientific
- Young Enterprise
- Community Sports Leader Award
- In-Class Support
- Bar Mock Trial
- Soloist of the Year
- Drama Productions
- Bay TV
- University Challenge
- Art Club
- Psychology/Film Club
- Orchestra/Choir/Wind Band
- Senior Maths Challenge
- Percy Hedley Link
- Staff / 6th Form Reading Group
- Web Design
- History Russia Trip
- Art/Media New York Trip
- Physics CERN Trip (Geneva)
- Kenya Club
- Music Theatre
- 6th Form Dance Group
- Teaching to Teach
- Sustainable Design/3D CAD
- Up-cycling Charity Group
- Medicine Discussion Group
- Geography Field Work Residential
- Biology Field Work Residential

These are only some examples of the many opportunities available.
Physics trip to CERN in Geneva

Year 13 Media and Art visit to New York

School Production of Back to the 80s

6th Form Football Team
WORK EXPERIENCE

We appreciate the important value of relevant work experience to help students secure places on degree courses and employment.

All Year 12 students are supported in finding a relevant one week work experience placement. Students often find this one of the most important factors in helping them decide what they want to do in the future.

Students have spent successful weeks:
• in TV production at the Discovery Channel in London
• as a journalist with Metro Radio
• in design at Berghaus
• as an astronomy assistant at the Kielder Observatory
• in speech and language therapy at a local hospital
• as an engineer at British Engines Ltd
• in law at a local solicitors
• at a barrister’s chambers in London
• in hospitals for those students considering medical careers
• as teaching assistants in local schools
• and many others.

Dawn Harvey is our Work Experience Co-ordinator who will support students through the whole process and help students secure relevant work experience opportunities.

Personal Development in the sixth form is a major strength, and the sixth form helps students develop into confident, sensitive and reflective adults.

Ofsted 2013

Student View

Nina Dungworth, Year 13
(studying Maths, Chemistry and Physics)
“I like the freedom and friendly atmosphere of Whitley Bay High School Sixth Form. My lessons are fun and you get on really well with your teachers. I’m a School Ambassador which is a great opportunity to develop leadership skills and get more involved with the running of the school and I’d certainly recommend it to other students.”
They (6th Form students) reach high standards and are strikingly successful in gaining places at university, training or employment.

Ofsted 2013

Student View

Cameron Barlow, Year 13
(studying Business Studies, Economics and Maths)
“I’ve been a student at Whitley Bay High School since Year 9 and have progressed through the years and carried on into Sixth Form. I really enjoy learning here because students get treated like adults and the lessons are great. Next year I’d like to study Business with Economics at university.”
SUPPORT IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

We have a large Sixth Form team to support students throughout their time with us.

Students benefit from excellent advice, guidance and support, not only from their tutor, who they see every day, but also from members of the large specialist Sixth Form Management Team. We have a continuous open door policy so that students can talk to a member of the Sixth Form Team at any time – we do not want any student to leave at the end of the day with a problem. Help is always available.

Student View

Catherine Blacklock, Year 13 (studying Psychology, English Language and Literature & History)

“Year 13 has been a lot of work but it’s so interesting. I enjoy my lessons and although I met most of my friends last year I’m still meeting new people and having new experiences in Year 13. I’m hoping to go to university after Sixth Form to study Psychology.”
Classroom relationships are based on respect and a thirst to learn.

Ofsted 2013

Student View

Polly Neill, Year 13
(studying English Literature, French and History)
“The relationship between teachers and students in Whitley Bay High School is great. The freedom we have to study is really good too, particularly being able to choose our own topic for History. I’d like to go on to university, preferably to study English Literature and French and after being at WBHS I feel that I’ll be prepared for independent study there.”
Teaching is outstanding. There is an absolute determination amongst all staff to ensure that lessons are exciting and effective

Ofsted 2013
Student View

Charlie Milne, Year 12
(studying English Literature, Drama and History)
“I really like the level of independence in Year 12. It’s great working as an individual but you feel really well supported by your teachers. Lessons are so imaginative and clever and it makes them more memorable. There are so many creative ways on offer to help you learn.”
STUDENT FACILITIES

The Sixth Form area has undergone a £1 million development. This has provided students with a large Common Room area in which to relax and work.

Attached to this is a dedicated Sixth Form ICT Suite, allowing students to access a large number of internet linked computers. Within the Common Room there is a Sixth Form Café, serving hot and cold food and drinks from 8.30am.

Sixth Form students also make full use of our large modern Library which provides further access to ICT and is equipped with new multimedia resources and a constantly growing book stock. Important journals such as New Scientist, Economics Review and emagazine (the journal of English Language and Literature), are available here.

However, the most important resource within the Library is the Library staff, who go out of their way to support students with their work including helping students find sources and material for their studies. There is a specialised introduction to the Library for all Sixth Form students during one of the induction sessions to help students make the most of this excellent facility.

In both the Common Room and Library there is always a lovely atmosphere as students relax and carry out independent study in these informal settings.
HOW TO ENROL

If you are currently at Whitley Bay High School you will receive support from your tutor, the Pastoral Team and North Tyneside Careers Service to help you think about all your Post 16 options.

You will also have a guidance meeting with a senior member of staff. This will help you consider your future options in relation to your target GCSE grades. You may be helped to gain further advice from the people best quipped to help you – for instance with specific university advice or vocational options.

If you are joining Whitley Bay High School Sixth Form from another school the first thing to do is contact Helen Davison or Sheila Scoffham (our Sixth Form Administrators) on 0191 2008829 in order to be added to our mailing list. Once you have completed an application form, which we will post, you will receive a guidance meeting with one of the Sixth Form Team.

Sixth Form Courses Evening

All students considering joining the Sixth Form should come to our Sixth Form Courses Evening on Tuesday 9th December, from 5 – 7pm.
THE POST 16 BURSARY

Students who are entering Post 16 education at Whitley Bay High School or any institution may be eligible for the Post 16 Bursary which is funded by the government. Its purpose is to help those students who need support in meeting the costs of Post 16 education.

You will qualify for funding if you are:

- In care
- A care leaver
- A student in receipt of income support
- A student with learning difficulties or disabilities in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Allowance.

If so you will qualify for £1,400* per year from the scheme

OR

In receipt of Free School Meals.

If so you will be eligible to receive up to £700 per year from the scheme.

In addition, any funding that is left will be used as a Hardship Fund for learners experiencing severe financial hardship. If you have any questions about this Bursary please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Office.

*This figure was correct at time of going to print.

Student View

Ross Butcher, Year 13
(studying Geography, Economics and Maths)

“The move from Marden has worked really well for me and it was easy to make friends here. The standard of teaching is really high and I enjoy all the opportunities available to me, such as the Geography field trip. There’s a very welcoming atmosphere here.”
The way in which students work with other adults and each other to make progress is exceptional

Ofsted 2013
## SUMMARY OF A-LEVEL GRADES ACHIEVED 2014

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<tr>
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</table>

**Total:** | **723** | **53** | **113** | **212** | **207** | **100** | **36** | **2** | **378** | **721** |
Summary of Academic Entry Requirements For the Sixth Form
(These requirements may be subject to change for September 2015)

**Applied Business**
Students must achieve at least a grade C in GCSE English Language.

**Applied Health & Social Care**
Students must achieve at least a grade C in GCSE English Language.
Advantageous to also have achieved B grades in Double Award Science.

**Applied Science**
Students must achieve at least C grades in Double Award Science and a grade C in Maths.

**Art**
Students must achieve at least a grade C in Art and Design at GCSE level.
Students must also have at least a grade C in English Language.

**Biology**
Students must achieve at least B grades in GCSE Double Award Science and Mathematics.
Students studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate sciences, must achieve at least a grade B in Biology and one other science.
Students must also achieve at least a grade B in GCSE Mathematics.

**Business Studies**
Students must achieve at least a grade C in GCSE English Language.

**Chemistry**
Students must achieve at least B grades in GCSE Double Award Science and Mathematics.
Students studying Chemistry, Biology and Physics as separate sciences, must achieve a minimum of a grade B in Chemistry and one other science.
Students must also achieve a minimum grade B in GCSE Mathematics.

**Design Technology – Systems**
Students must achieve at least a grade C in GCSE English Language.

**Drama & Theatre Studies**
Students must achieve at least a grade C in GCSE English Language.

**Economics**
Students must achieve at least a grade B in GCSE Mathematics and English Language.

**English Language**
Students must achieve at least a grade B in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

**English Literature**
Students must achieve at least a grade B in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

**English Language & Literature**
Students must achieve at least a grade B and grade C in any combination in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

**Food Technology**
A GCSE in Food Technology would be advantageous to study this course.
French
Students must achieve at least a grade B in GCSE French.

Further Mathematics
Students must achieve a grade A* in GCSE Maths.

Geography
Students must achieve at least a grade C in higher level GCSE Geography.

German
Students must achieve at least a grade B in GCSE German.

History
Students must achieve at least a grade B in GCSE History. If students have not studied History then they must achieve at least grade B in English Language and English Literature.

ICT
Students must achieve at least a grade C in GCSE English Language.

Mathematics
Students must achieve at least a grade B in GCSE Mathematics.

Media Studies
Students must achieve at least a grade C in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Music
Students must have a level of understanding to at least a grade C in GCSE Music or a grade 5 in Music Theory. Students must also have a grade 4 (or be able to perform to a standard equivalent to a pass at grade 4) on a musical instrument and also have the ability to read music.

Philosophy & Ethics
Students must achieve at least a grade B in GCSE English Language.

Physical Education
Students must achieve at least C grades in Double Award Science. If students have taken PE at GCSE it would be expected that they will have achieved at least a grade C on the theory paper.

Physics
Students must achieve at least B grades in Double Award Science and Mathematics. Students studying Physics, Biology and Chemistry as separate sciences, must achieve at least a grade B in Physics and one other science. Students must also achieve at least a grade B in GCSE Mathematics.

Psychology
Students must achieve at least grade C in Maths and Double Science and a grade B in either English Language or Literature.

Textiles
Students must achieve at least grade C in GCSE English Language.

Student View

Joe Lawrence, Year 12
(studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

“I was concerned that the move from another school was going to be difficult but I soon made new friends at Whitley Bay. I’m enjoying my lessons and there’s lots of work to keep me busy but learning is good fun here. I’m looking forward to getting involved with all the extra-curricular activities that are going on.”