


Sixth Form Prospectus

Intelligent engagement with the wider world



William Perkin
C of E
High School



Introducing the Sixth Form

In the short period since its launch in 2018, William Perkin has established a lively and positive sixth form, offering the same excellent standards as have become the reputation of the school in Years 7–11. I am very proud of the successes which members of the school community have already achieved in winning places at Cambridge and Imperial college as well as at the top-ranked medical schools. These successes are typical of the very distinctive culture of the school which is hard-working and outward looking. It has been gratifying to witness community service in action as older students take formal leadership responsibility for younger members of the community and good to see sixth formers making maximum use of the facilities and the extension activities which are provided. Students with a strong work ethic will certainly find the William Perkin sixth form a supportive and positive place to be.

Dame Alice Hudson
Executive Headteacher
Twyford CofE Academies Trust





The Next Step in the Journey

The Twyford CofE Academies Trust embarked on the William Perkin journey with the full support of parents who believed that we could deliver on their ambitions for a local school with the highest academic aspiration and a focus on science.

Since that point the school has built relationships with Higher Education institutions such as Imperial College. We have strong links with prestigious organisations including the Royal Society and the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS) who support a wide range of elite science programmes. Students have led research projects and presented alongside post-graduates at the Imperial Science Festival, have worked with internationally renowned researchers, such as Professor Monica Grady CBE, on

astronomy and what we can learn from meteors, as well as enjoyed Science enrichment days with recognised authorities such as Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

Our sixth form capitalises on the opportunity to make the most of these networks, offering a centre of excellence in post-16 teaching – particularly in the sciences – but also maintaining a broad base of subjects ranging from Maths and Computing to Arts, Humanities and Languages.

Throughout the William Perkin journey it has always been our mission to challenge ourselves to “intelligently engage with the wider world”. As such we have planned a uniquely tailored offer for our students with a particular focus on the development of a wider learning

programme that will enrich their lives both inside and outside of school. This ambitious programme, designed to promote super-curricular knowledge as well as personal and spiritual development, sits neatly alongside our grammar school curriculum offer, nurturing young adults with the capacity to be outstanding 21st century citizens.

Our sixth form is the jewel in the crown, the final piece of the educational vision that we have built. We look forward to welcoming other students to join us.

Amy Newman
Associate
Headteacher





Academic Stretch

From the outset, the bar has been set very high in terms of academic aspiration. William Perkin's sixth form has achieved exceptional outcomes at A level, with a very high percentage of students going on to top universities.

William Perkin students are accustomed to working hard and teachers have planned programmes of study which allow them to continue an impressive level of progress.

Most of the courses offered are conventional academic subjects, as we are clear that these facilitating subjects open the most doors for students in terms of future higher education and career prospects.

In a number of subjects (most notably Maths and Science) students will continue to be set by

ability which will allow the school to support students to achieve to the highest grades and therefore move on to the most sought-after university places.

Students will have to achieve very strong GCSE grades to attend the William Perkin sixth form as success at A-level depends on having established secure foundations.

The subject choices are as follows:

| Block A | Block B | Block C | Block D |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Art | Business Studies | Biology | Biology |
| Computer Science | Chemistry | Business Studies | English Literature |
| English Language | Economics | Chemistry | Maths |
| History | English Literature | French | Physics |
| Maths | Geography | History | Physical Education |
| Psychology | German | Maths | Psychology |
| | Physics | | Religion, Philosophy and Ethics |
| | Sociology | | Spanish |



The William Perkin Scholar Programme

Throughout KS3 and KS4, students at William Perkin are encouraged to “know themselves”, to become self-reflective individuals who are capable of identifying their strengths and weaknesses, as well as looking ahead towards their future pathways.

For able and passionate students, who have a clear idea about where they see themselves post-18, we offer a small number of places on one of our William Perkin Scholar Programmes. These programmes have been designed to support students with applications for the most competitive university places.

There will be five Scholar Programmes in the next academic year: Medicine, Engineering, Humanities (including Law and Politics), Linguistics and Oxbridge.

For each of these there is a recommended programme of study (see below) as well as regular academic mentoring sessions with a tutor who specialises in the relevant field.

These programmes will require students to take part in additional enrichment activities relating to

the university pathway as well as relevant work experience and the opportunity to complete an extended project qualification.

As there are limited places available on each of the scholarship programmes, there is likely to be a high level of competition for places.

| William Perkin Scholar Programme | Recommended programme of study |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Medicine | Maths, Chemistry and Biology |
| Engineering | Maths, Physics and one other (Chemistry or Computer Science) |
| Humanities | At least one of English Literature, History, Geography, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics or Sociology |
| Linguistics | At least one modern foreign language |
| Oxbridge | Any subjects with targets A/A* |

“The curriculum is innovative and exciting. Students are appropriately stretched academically and socially. Ample opportunities are available to develop students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. As a result, their personal development is outstanding”

OFSTED, June 2015



The importance of developing into a well-rounded, global citizen has always been of equal importance to academic success at William Perkin.

Therefore, we commit a significant amount of curriculum time to our exceptional wider learning offer.

Due to the unique timetable at William Perkin, sixth form students will complete all their academic studies before lunch. This allows students to spend each afternoon working on their C.A.S.E portfolio. This portfolio will encourage students to develop a wide variety of communication and employment 'soft skills' that will ensure students are not only ready to apply for top university courses, but also prepared for the increasingly competitive post-graduate job market.

The C.A.S.E Programme will ensure students spend time developing key skills in four core areas: Creativity, Action, Service and Employability.

Creativity - Intelligent Engagement

Universities and employers are looking for more than just excellent academic results; they are looking for passionate students who have shown an interest in subject areas outside their own academic field. As a result, we actively encourage students to show an interest in subjects outside those they are studying at A-Level.

During the C.A.S.E afternoons, students attend a series of university-style lectures delivered by both internal and external subject specialists. These lectures will not only provide students with experience of university-style learning, but also allow them to acquire a broader perspective on a range of subjects beyond the confines of the three subjects they chose for study. Lectures will also include study of moral and ethical issues, current affairs and guest speakers from industry.

Students who are on the William Perkin Scholar Programme, and others targeted A-level grades B or above, will be able to use the C.A.S.E afternoons to complete an Extended Project Qualification, which is the sixth form equivalent of a PhD thesis. Students will identify their own chosen area for research and be supported towards completing their project by a personal tutor.

Examples of topics include:

- *Are the BCG vaccination and antibiotic treatments against tuberculosis a good idea or are they just creating superbugs?*
- *How can the progression of artificial intelligence and game theory be applied to gaming?*
- *To what extent can a parallel be drawn between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Orwell's totalitarian dystopia in his novel '1984'?*
- *Was the English Civil War a 'War of Religion'?*
- *To what extent is the settlement and development of the *Caulerpa taxifolia* having an impact on other wildlife in the Mediterranean Sea?*



A wide range of trips and stretch opportunities will also be available including university lecture visits, field trips, theatre and gallery visits and language residential trips.

Action - Physical and Mental Wellbeing



Students' mental and physical wellbeing is paramount at William Perkin. Students are encouraged to centre themselves using mindfulness techniques to help alleviate stress.

In conjunction with this, students will need to continue to partake in physical activity at least once a week, to ensure they are healthy in body, as well as in mind.

Students will also have the opportunity to join school sports clubs or, should they have specific interests outside school, use the C.A.S.E afternoons to join sports clubs in the local community.

Service - A Mature Approach

In choosing to join the sixth form at William Perkin, students will take the role of senior student leaders within the school community. Sixth form students will, like staff, have a professional dress code – and will undertake a range of responsibilities alongside the teaching staff. These leadership roles have been designed to allow sixth-formers to develop their employability skills and they will be expected to write formal job applications for the role which best suits their gifts.

Some students will provide support in subject areas, others will be mentors, or support students in lower school lessons. Training programmes will be available for students who wish to become sports coaches or assistant instrumental tutors.

It is very important to the school that sixth-formers are looked-up to as mature role models and sixth form behaviour expectations are aligned accordingly. Students will be expected to write up their community service as part of their sixth form CV and their university references will reflect the contribution that they have made.

Within the sixth form, students also have the opportunity to make good use of private study time and will be able to use the sixth form café, LRC and study bases during the school day when they are not in lessons, as well as being permitted to leave the school site.

Sixth-formers begin the week with an assembly at 8:00am on a Monday. They benefit from a later start (08:15) on Tuesday – Friday, each starting with a briefing from their form tutor.





Employability - Wider World

Students can use the C.A.S.E afternoons to undertake work experience projects. These may last for a half term, a term, or an entire year, as some students may wish to find regular weekly work placements. All sixth formers will be expected to undertake work experience between Y12 and Y13.

This will be particularly important for students on the Medicine scholar programme (or just Medicine pathway) in order to discern which branch or aspect of medical science they should apply for after sixth form.

Some students may also choose to undertake regular community service in the local community – for example volunteering at a local residential home or being a young leader in a local organisation such as scouts or guides, or a local sports club.

All students are encouraged to pursue C.A.S.E. activities that reflect each individual's passions and interests and can therefore use the flexible lesson timetable to take part in activities that run outside of the school building.



“The academic achievement of students is exceptionally high. The high level of challenge drives the most-able students to excel...The school ensures that no child is left behind.”

OFSTED, June 2015



Progression Pathways to University and Beyond

It is anticipated that the majority of William Perkin students who return to or join the sixth form will aspire to move on to courses at university or college.

Students will have one pastoral session per week with a specialist tutor who will support them to reflect on career ambitions and pathways towards individual goals.

Students will be encouraged to engage with taster courses and online lectures to help them make good choices about future pathways as well as gaining guidance on apprenticeships and training routes.

We take great pride in ensuring all students are supported to make

good life choices, maximising their own gifts and making a positive contribution to society.

This approach is strongly aligned to the principles of the 10:10 ethic which captures the values on which the school is based.



Our 10:10 ethic





Twyford
CofE
Academies Trust

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