



THE GRANGE
ACADEMY
LIBERTAS PER CULTUM

The Grange Academy

Sixth Form

Prospectus

2021 – 2022

A message from the Principal

Welcome to The Grange Academy Sixth Form prospectus. Our Sixth Form is a thriving learning community with a curriculum to match the needs of all our students. We pride ourselves on the excellent outcomes that our Sixth Form students achieve, both in terms of their exam results and their destinations, including some of the leading universities in the country. Value added at A level is among the best in the area and our most recent Ofsted report rated our Sixth Form as 'Good'. It is no surprise, then, that numbers in our Sixth Form have grown rapidly in recent years. We take pains to construct a highly personalised academic package to meet the needs of every individual student, with each Sixth Former receiving tailored guidance and pastoral support. Our Sixth Form is dedicated to shaping young lives and to ensuring that all of our students aim high to reach their full potential.

Dr Philip Hills
Principal

A message from the Head of Sixth Form

As Acting Head of Sixth Form at The Grange Academy I am delighted to welcome your interest in joining us for your Post 16 education.

The Grange Academy Sixth Form is a unique and successful environment in which students develop both academically and socially; it is an excellent place to work and learn, demonstrated by the consistent outstanding success of our Sixth Form students. We are an inclusive Sixth Form catering for the needs of all students – both academic and those who would like to pursue a more vocational pathway – and we welcome students into the Sixth Form from The Grange Academy as well as elsewhere. Our students move on from here fully equipped to study at universities near and far or take on exciting apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

We are very proud of our Sixth Form and our talented Sixth Form Students. We set high standards of work and have high expectations of our students, both as learners and as role models within our community. In return, our students can expect excellent teaching which inspires a love of learning and individual expert help and advice regarding progression routes to university, higher education and employment as well as a team of staff who care about the wellbeing of all Sixth Form students.

With the outstanding facilities in our impressive building, and our unwavering commitment to ensure all our students reach their full potential, there really is no better time to join our Sixth Form.

I look forward to receiving your application and helping you to achieve your full potential over the next two years.

Ian Sudbery
Head of Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form Mission

The heart of the academy's philosophy is that every individual counts; each Sixth Former is known, cared for, and offered regular guidance and advice.

Our Head of Sixth Form is supported by a Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Sixth Form Support Officer, creating a strong team of staff leading the development and running of our Sixth Form. Students are consistently supported by the Sixth Form team to achieve their full potential in their Post 16 studies; through monitoring the academic progress of Key Stage 5 students, removing any barriers to learning and ensuring the wellbeing of each individual, we are committed to providing the best outcomes for all of our students.

Additionally, to ensure that the needs of each individual student are met and that all aspects of the school day are catered to Sixth Form needs, students will be placed in Sixth Form tutor groups. This will provide all Sixth Formers with a designated tutor who will work closely with students over the course of their two years to support them academically, socially and with progression routes beyond academy life. Form Tutors play an active role in each student's Sixth Form journey; they will be their first port of call for any concerns and support, and will ensure that each student is achieving their best through checking attendance to monitoring academic progress. Our tutors have been carefully selected as experts in working at Post 16 and are an invaluable part of our Sixth Form Team.

There are two tutor sessions each day, as well as a weekly Sixth Form assembly; these sessions are utilised to provide information on important aspects of Post 16 life such as UCAS applications, study skills and careers guidance. Moreover, they provide opportunities for Sixth Formers to regularly meet with their form tutor to check on their progress and plan interventions to maximise student outcomes and prevent any student from falling behind in their studies. The Sixth Form team has access to a range of intervention strategies such as one-to-one support, counselling and careers guidance, and the Sixth Form Team liaise directly with subject teachers and leaders to ensure that all students are supported on their Post 16 journey.

Parental involvement in supporting their child's education is key to the progress that students make in the Sixth Form. There is a Sixth Form Information Evening held at the beginning of the academic year to prepare parents for what to expect from Sixth Form as well as to provide advice and ideas on how to best support your student at home. Furthermore we have a parent consultation evening each January, providing an opportunity for students and parents to speak directly with subject specialists and gain personalised guidance on their progress in each subject.

The Curriculum

A Level

The Sixth Form offers a wide range of A Level qualifications with the majority of students studying 3 A Levels; this allows students to continue their studies from GCSE or to choose new subjects they have never studied before. All A Level qualifications are linear courses, with students being examined at the end of the two year course in Year 13.

Level 3 Vocational Qualifications

We also offer a number of level 3 vocational qualifications, enabling students to choose alternative options to A Levels or to pursue a combined course of A Level and vocational subjects. All our vocational qualifications run over a two year period, with students completing modules, taking exams and working to deadlines throughout this time. All of our vocational qualifications can lead students directly onto university, apprenticeships or employment as they wish.

Academic Pathways

We construct a highly personalised academic package for our students and invest considerable time to ensure each individual's options are the best match for their ability and future aspirations. To ensure this happens we hold a Sixth Form Open Evening each year and after applications are made every student has an Individual Course Guidance Meeting with the Sixth Form team to discuss their application, with a confirmation meeting following on GCSE Results Day in August. Parents and carers are invited to attend these meetings and our experience shows that this is an invaluable way of ensuring that students are on the right courses, and feel happy and fulfilled during their time in the Sixth Form. As a result of the tailored guidance, students are offered one of the Red, Blue or Purple pathways to best meet their needs. The following information is an overview of our pathways and their suggested progression routes:

Sixth Form Academic and Vocational Pathways

	Red Pathway		Blue Pathway		Purple Pathway	
Subjects Offered	All A Level and vocational courses		Selected A Level and all vocational courses		All vocational courses and a selection of A Levels	
Entry Requirements	APS*	5.5+	APS*	4+	APS*	3.5+
	EM	6 in English and Maths**	EM	5 in English and Maths**	EM	4 in English and Maths**
	Other	Subject Specific Criteria	Other	Subject Specific Criteria	Other	Subject Specific Criteria

*This is the average GCSE grade over all subjects studied.

**Students who do not achieve a grade 4 in English and Maths at GCSE will be required to resit.

Progression Routes

	Red Pathway	Blue Pathway	Purple Pathway
Post-16 recommended pathway	Progression to Russell Group Universities. Progression to University or higher education providers (e.g. drama schools).	Progression to University or higher education providers (e.g. drama schools).	Progression to University. Apprenticeships with further education included at level 4* and above.
Other possible pathways	Apprenticeships which include a progression to Level 6** study.	Apprenticeships which include a progression to Level 6** study.	Apprenticeships which include a progression a higher level of study. Employment in relevant sector.
Opportunities in Sixth Form to Guide and Support	Careers Fair Apprenticeships Fair UCAS Fair Support with UCAS Process Individual course guidance meetings Full induction programme University Student shadowing Work Experience Block Brilliant Club Scholars Programme Online learning such as FutureLearn Overseas university opportunities Oxbridge Opportunities University of Hertfordshire Guidance University Residential Programs Nuffield and Sutton Trust Placements	Careers Fair Apprenticeships Fair UCAS Fair Support with UCAS Process Individual course guidance meetings Full induction programme University Student shadowing Work Experience Block Brilliant Club Scholars Programme Online learning such as FutureLearn Overseas university opportunities University of Hertfordshire Guidance University Residential Programs	Careers Fair Apprenticeships Fair UCAS Fair Support with UCAS Process Individual course guidance meetings Full induction programme University Student shadowing Work Experience Block Online learning such as FutureLearn Overseas university opportunities University of Hertfordshire Guidance University Residential Programs Work-based skills workshops Job application workshops

*Level 4 study is the level above A Level (which is level 3).

**Level 6 is an Honours Degree level of study.

High Expectations for Securing Success

Independent Learning

The transition from GCSE to Sixth Form is significant. While the academy provides guidance and support, it is essential that students take responsibility for their own progress and achievement and are both organised and determined to succeed from the very start. It is an expectation that students undertake wider reading and independent research around their subjects and will need to demonstrate the learning they have acquired within their lessons. In addition to timetabled lessons, students are expected to complete at least six hours of independent study per subject per week, as well as completing all homework tasks set by teachers.

Academic Standards

Academic standards are rigorously maintained in the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form team maintains a tracking and intervention programme to help identify students at risk of underachievement. If a student is found to be underachieving in their academic courses, they will have an Academic Intervention Meeting where support and guidance will be provided. These interventions will be tracked by the Sixth Form team and regularly reviewed until the appropriate standards are achieved. This is designed to help students achieve their full academic potential.

Preparing for the Future

The academy invests considerable time to ensure that all students receive detailed personal support in deciding their pathways after Sixth Form. In an ever changing landscape we want all our students to be able to make fully informed decisions, ensuring that their choices once they leave us are best suited to their abilities and skills. Whether it is moving onto higher education, obtaining an apprenticeship or pursuing employment opportunities, all our students have their next steps in place, ready for when they finish their Post 16 studies.

Higher Education – University and UCAS

The majority of our students progress on to university, obtaining places at a variety of institutions across the country and covering a wide range of subjects. All students follow a UCAS programme in which they will prepare an application for university. Students are provided with personalised support through every step of the application process, with subject specific personal statement mentors ensuring their applications are tailored to their courses. Once students apply we continue to ensure they are prepared for the process of obtaining a university place, providing mock interview practice or submitting work to universities as required. Our students who apply to university are highly successful, with the majority of students going on to study at their first choice.

We work closely with local institutions such as Hertfordshire University, as well as Russell Group institutions such as Oxford University, to provide Sixth Form students with opportunities to experience life at higher education and to begin developing the academic skills that they need for further study during their time in Sixth Form. The Sixth Form Team actively seek opportunities each year that are suited to each cohort and their interests. These have included:

- The Brilliant Club Scholars Programme
- Student Shadowing at Hertfordshire University
- Guided sessions with an Oxbridge expert
- Nuffield Foundation Placements
- Sutton Trust Programmes

- University of Bedfordshire UCAS Fair
- University Summer Residential Programs

Employment and Apprenticeships

While most students progress to Higher Education, the academy also provides detailed advice and support in relation to progressing into employment or apprenticeships, as well as gap year advice. All students attend both a Careers and Apprenticeship fair to ensure they have all possible options open to them at the end of Year 13. We work closely with a range of local and national employment providers from a range of careers, providing direct links to employment opportunities. As with applying to university, the Sixth Form team work closely with students to support them throughout any application process they need to undertake and ensure their next steps are prepared for.

Work Experience

We encourage all students to undertake work experience during their time in Sixth Form and have had students working in local primary schools and with local charities on a regular basis as part of their weekly timetable. In addition, we also work with a number of organisations that provide work experience opportunities to Sixth Form students and encourage students to apply for these placements, which are often highly sought after. We have had students undertake work experience with Deloitte of London, Saatchi and Random House Publishing recently and look forward to supporting many more of our students in gaining these places.

Proud to Belong

Sixth Form Leadership Team

A pivotal part of our Sixth Form is our Sixth Form Leadership Team. This comprises of a group of individuals who interview for and are voted into the roles of Head Students. They are invaluable in supporting the school community in multiple ways, from organising and running fundraising events to representing the school on public occasions. Being a part of our Sixth Form Leadership Team allows students to develop a huge range of skills and sets them apart in applying for universities of jobs.

Giving Back Programme

We value our Sixth Formers, their knowledge and skills highly, and we expect them to give something back to our school during their time here. As such, all students undertake voluntary roles within the academy, ensuring that they lend their abilities to the overall benefit of our school community. These roles include a variety of the following:

- Learning Support: working in lessons with a member of staff to support the learning of younger students
- Paired Reading: working with targeted Year 7 and 8 students who require support to develop their skills and confidence in reading
- Extra-Curricular Clubs: supporting staff members across the academy in running extra-curricular activities for students, including some Sixth Formers setting up and leading their own clubs
- Prefects: our prefects are interviewed and chosen by our Head Students, who then direct them in supporting their work throughout the academy year
- Mentoring: some Sixth Formers are trained to work with key individuals in younger years who might need help with personal or academic needs

- Helping in whole school events such as house music and sports day, motivating and supporting younger students in the competitions and assisting staff in running the events

Our Giving Back Programme creates invaluable relationships between our students, and allows the Sixth Form students to develop their leadership, communication and organisational skills in undertaking these challenging roles.

Enrichment: Creating Global Citizens

We believe that education is more about grades and part of our role as educators is to prepare students to be critical thinkers, social motivators and moral leaders. We strive to ensure our students are ready for all aspects of life and have developed an enrichment program that provides opportunities for students to explore new ideas, visit new destinations and undertake new experiences.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

In addition to their academic learning all students follow a Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) curriculum. These weekly sessions address key issues and tackle difficult topics, providing a safe environment for our Sixth Formers to learn and develop their understanding, as well as supporting students in the transition to becoming independent adults. Topics include:

- road safety
- sexual health
- drug and alcohol awareness
- healthy relationships
- e-safety
- social media
- tolerance of different faiths and cultures
- current affairs
- democracy
- financial management and budgeting
- cooking
- life skills

The Elective Block

Higher education institutions and employers are increasingly interested in the achievements of young people beyond their academic learning and we want to help our students gain the most from their time in Sixth Form. As such we offer elective opportunities to our students, enabling them to develop skills and undertake experiences that ensure they will stand out from the crowd. Alongside their three chosen subjects of study, students are encouraged to take up one elective subject in Year 12; current options include the Extended Project Qualification, Core Maths and Sports Leaders L3. These electives allow students to enhance their applications for their Post 18 options, while continuing to ensure that our students are well rounded and skilled young people.

In addition to their chosen elective course all Year 12 students participate in a weekly PE activities session, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. Students are given the opportunity to take part in external trips to golf or swimming, as well as use of the equipment in school to play games, develop team work and develop their physical wellbeing.

External Interactions

Additionally, we make extensive use of external opportunities throughout the year, understanding the importance for students to experience the world beyond our walls. We have had visits from the National Citizens Service, who provide young people across the country with the chance to experience an adventure program and take part in a local community project to raise money and awareness, and all Sixth Form Students participate in annual activities including Learn2Live's Road Safety workshop.

Sixth Form Dress Code

Sixth Formers do not wear uniform but are expected to wear a professional standard of dress. Students are required to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Students should be in smart, business attire including a shirt or blouse with a blazer and smart trousers or a skirt of an appropriate length.
- Male students must wear a tie.
- Shoes must be suitable for a professional working environment. Trainers, plimsolls, light weight fabric shoes or shoes with a heel higher than 1" are not acceptable.
- Outdoor coats must be smart and must not be worn in the academy buildings. Denim jackets, tracksuit tops or hoodies are not acceptable.
- Hair, make up and jewellery should be discrete and should not detract from the professional image of the academy.
- Student ID cards must be visible at all times during the academy day.

If there are any requests on religious or cultural grounds to vary the dress code for an individual student, then these must be made in writing by the individual's parents or carers to the Head of Sixth Form.

The Principal is the ultimate judge of acceptability on any of these matters, and the academy reserves the right to issue further guidance and clarification about the dress code if it proves necessary to do so.

SIXTH FORM 16-19 BURSARY FUNDING

Financial support is available at The Grange Academy to Post-16 students through the 16-19 Bursary Fund. There are a number of factors that may indicate if a student is eligible for bursary support and at the academy we have two tiers of support available:

1. Vulnerable Student Bursary Eligibility

Students fall into one of the following categories:

- in or have recently left local authority care
- receive Income Support or Universal Credit because you're financially supporting yourself
- receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in your name and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

2. Discretionary Student Bursary Eligibility

Students fall into one of the following categories:

- are in receipt of free school meals or have been within the preceding 5 years of them joining the Sixth Form
- students live in a household with an income of less than £16 190 per annum
- students live in a household with an income of less than £25 000 per annum*

**this is applicable only where bursary funds are still available*

Students will need to apply for 16-19 Bursary Funding once they join the Sixth Form and all applications will be reviewed by the Head of Sixth Form. If students are to be provided with financial support they will need their own bank account and will receive regular payments to help them continue with their education.

Payments will be subject to the student meeting the required attendance, punctuality and behaviour targets as outlined on the application form and bursary agreement the student will sign. The Head of Sixth Form will have the final say on payments.

Access Fund

The Access Fund is a small pot of money that is available for all Post 16 students struggling to buy essential school related items or pay for school related activities/resources. Applications to access this should be made in writing to the head of sixth form. Items will be purchased directly for the student and no financial transaction will take place between the school and the applicant.

Essential details

School Information

Address The Grange Academy
 London Road
 Bushey
 Hertfordshire
 WD23 3AA

Telephone 020 8950 9502

Email admin@thegrange.futureacademies.org

Website www.thegrange.futureacademies.org

Principal	Dr Hills
Chair of Governing Body	Paul Smith

The Sixth Form Team

Head of Sixth Form	Trish O'Connor
Deputy Head of Sixth Form	Suzanne McNeill
Sixth Form Support Officer	Chrissie Dundon

Sixth Form Email c.dundon@thegrange.futureacademies.org

The Grange Academy is an all-ability, non-selective school.