

Frequently Asked Questions

Sixth Form Entry Requirements

What are the entry requirements to the Arnold Hill Sixth Form?

- A place in the Sixth Form is subject to the entry requirements of five GCSE Grades 9 - 5 including Maths and English Language at Grade 5 or higher.
- Level 3 BTEC courses require Merit grades or higher. Students with 5 Grade 4s or higher including English and Maths will have met the entry criteria for Level 3 Vocational courses.
- Entry requirements for each subject are listed in the Sixth Form Prospectus which can be found on the school website.

What GCSE grade do I need to study A Level Maths?

- A Level Maths requires a minimum GCSE Grade 6 or higher and A Level Further Maths requires a Grade 7 or higher.

What GCSE grade do I need to take a Science at A Level?

- Some individual subjects that you may wish to study require a minimum GCSE Grade 6 or higher including the separate Sciences.

What if I get a Grade 4 in English Language – can I study A Level Psychology?

- Afraid not. To study A Level Psychology, we do ask for a Grade 5 in a Humanities subject and a grade 5 in English Language.

What if I get a Grade 7 on my Physics paper but only a Grade 4 in GCSE Maths, can I still study A Level Physics?

- Afraid not. To study A Level Physics, you will need a Grade 6 or higher on your GCSE Physics paper as well as a Grade 6 or higher in your GCSE Maths.

Can I re-sit GCSE Maths or English in the Sixth Form?

- Yes. Students can re-sit one of these but not both.

What if I get a Grade 3 in Maths and English? Can I stay in the Sixth Form?

- Afraid not. A student achieving a Grade 3 in both English and Maths GCSE would not meet the entry criteria for the Sixth Form.

Can I stay on in the Sixth Form if I get Grade 4s in Maths and English?

- We would consider Grade 4s in some circumstances (dependent on your overall results) but not Grade 3s.

What should I do if I am unlikely to achieve the entry requirements for the Sixth Form.

- Mrs Macshane the Careers Advisor in school can provide support with a Careers interview.

- Alternatively, you may want to consider an apprenticeship so have a look at websites like Unifrog and see if there are any suitable apprenticeships for you.

What if I think I will achieve the entry requirements for some of the subjects I want to study but not others. What shall I do now?

- Speak to one of the Sixth Form team and we will look at the other options available to you.
- Don't be put off studying a BTEC Level 3 course – these are the equivalent to A Levels and earn you the same UCAS points which will allow you to go to University if you wish.
- If you want to arrange a meeting with one of the Sixth Form team please make an appointment with Mrs Spencer and we will be happy to meet with you.

The Application Process

When do I need to apply by?

- The deadline for applications is Friday 12th December 2025 for 2026 entry

How do I apply?

- All applications are submitted via an online form on the website.

How many A levels should I choose?

- Students will take 3 A Levels which is what is required by Universities. High ability Students taking Maths and Further Maths may take 4 A Levels.
- EPQ is equivalent to a third of an A Level so students taking this course will also follow 3 A Levels plus EPQ.
- Some students may choose to start with 4 A Levels and then reduce to 3 A levels after 4-5 weeks.

What about BTEC Courses?

- BTEC Sport is equivalent to 2 A Levels so if you picked this course you would only choose one other option.
- BTEC Health is equivalent to 1 A Level so you would then choose 2 other courses.

What happens after I apply?

- All applications will be acknowledged by Mrs Spencer the Sixth Form Administrator. Applicants will then be interviewed in February 2025.
- Students will receive an offer of a place and must confirm to accept or otherwise.
- The Transition Day is in June 2025 with Bridging Projects to support students to be A Level ready.

Can I apply to both a college and the Sixth Form?

- Yes. However, once a place has been offered to you then you must accept or decline the offer. You should not accept an offer from both school and a college.

What if I want to change my options later on? Can I do this?

- Yes of course. As long as we can get the timetable to work with the options you have chosen, and you have met the entry requirements, we are happy to make changes to your options for you.

When does my place become Guaranteed?

- All offers made to students are conditional on meeting the entry criteria. Your place is fully guaranteed after your GCSE results confirm you have met the criteria for the courses you wish to study.

What happens on GCSE results day, when can I register for the Sixth Form?

- After students collect their GCSE results they register on the same day for the Sixth Form. There is a second registration day in early September for those on holiday on results day.
- Students receive their timetable and new tutor group the first week in September.

University and Career Choices

I would like to go to Oxford or Cambridge

- You will need Grades 8 and 9 at GCSE and A*A grades at A Level. You will also need to demonstrate many outstanding academic and personal qualities.

I would like to be a Doctor

- You will need 8-9 grades at GCSE. You will need to study A Level Chemistry as well as one other Science like Biology or Physics and you will need Grade As at A Level.

I would like to study Economics at Warwick University

- This University favours Science and Maths subjects so therefore you will need to study A Level Maths, A Level Economics and a science subject such as Physics.

I would like to be a Nurse

- Depending on your GCSE results you could study any of the A Level Science subjects (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) or BTEC Health & Social Care.

I would like to be a Primary Teacher

- You will need to gain good GCSE Grades and probably a Grade 5/6 in GCSE English, Maths and Science. You will also need to study at least one A Level subject that is a National Curriculum Subject (English, Maths, Humanities etc).

I would like to be an Engineer

- Maths and/or Physics is usually essential. A Level engineering is not.

I would like to be a Lawyer, a Solicitor or a Barrister

- There are usually no preferred combinations but most universities want essay-based subjects like Humanities subjects or English Literature.
- It is not necessary to have studied A Level Law.

I would like to be a Dentist

- Biology and Chemistry are usually essential for most courses.

I would like to be an Optometrist

- Two Science subjects are usually essential.

I would like to study Drama

- An Arts or Humanities subject is usually essential.

I would like to be a Sports Scientist or a PE teacher

- You should probably select PE A Level or BTEC Sport and possibly Biology.

I want to do a Psychology degree

- You should choose one Humanities subject and probably one Science.

University and Career Choices

What websites provide information on guided choices

- The following sites are worth looking at to gain useful information around guided choices
<https://www.ucas.com/> <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>
<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>

I know I want to do an apprenticeship after the Sixth Form. What are my options?

- A Levels are Level 3 qualifications so can be a platform for higher level and degree apprenticeships.
- Many leading local and National companies offer apprenticeship schemes with good pay and prospects.
- Many of the best apprenticeships are highly sought after and entry is very competitive with a large number of applications.

<https://www.unifrog.org/blog/choosing-an-apprenticeship-what-should-you-consider>