



Sixth Form Admissions Policy 2021

The Sixth Form at Ysgol Harry Tudur / Henry Tudor School

Ysgol Harri Tudur's Sixth Form has an excellent track record of success and for providing extensive opportunities for its students, academically, pastorally and experientially. The Sixth Form is an equal opportunities recruiter and welcomes students with varied interests and abilities, illustrated by a wide ranging options choice which allows students to work to their strengths, choosing either traditional subject combinations or a more individual and eclectic mix which suit and enhance students' interests and abilities.

Entry Requirements and Enrolment Threshold Statement

The entry requirements for the Sixth Form at Ysgol Harri Tudur are in line with those found across other post-16 options in the local authority. Grade targets of 5 x A*-C at GCSE or equivalent are usually required for entry, however the school is willing to negotiate a pathway with learners who may not possess this number but whose particular subject skills make them a worthwhile candidate. Subject candidates typically should achieve a C grade in most GCSE subjects which they hope to continue at Level 3, however Mathematics and Pure Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) require B grades due to the high mathematical / scientific ability needed to pursue these subjects at Advanced Level.

The typical Year 12 intake from in-house Year 11 progression and from outside the school is between 80 and 100 students annually. These students access a subject offer that includes traditional A Levels, alongside more vocational offers in BTEC Level 3 and Cambridge Level 3 courses. The Sixth Form does not currently offer Level 2 qualifications other than GCSE Mathematics and English re-sit, however there are plans to do so with a wider vocational suite in 2022. Our typical 80-100 student intake ensures that we have viable subject offers across the curriculum, whilst simultaneously providing students greater space and wider opportunity for individual support, to enable them to achieve their potential in all subjects. There is no upper application threshold as the school has the flexibility to accommodate additional learners in subject areas where multiple classes are required, this is evident in additional classes offered in subjects such as English and IT, whilst our very successful Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced offer features in all four option blocks. Should a capacity issue arise then learners will be treated fairly, with academic potential and suitability a principal consideration. In brief, our inclusive philosophy means that if a learner has the ability and the ambition to return to the Sixth Form then we will accommodate them wherever possible.

The Application Process and Post-Application Support / Communication

The Sixth Form Options process is managed by the Leader of Key Stage 5 and traditionally includes multiple options assemblies and 1:2:1 talks with Year 11 pupils followed by an on-site Sixth Form Options Evening in early February each year. In 2020 and 2021 the on-site event was replaced with a virtual options experience which includes a digital prospectus and subject information for the whole Sixth Form curriculum offer, guidance from the Leader of Key Stage 5 and videos covering all aspects of our academic and pastoral offer. Students and their parents engage live on this site with subject teachers who offer Q&A sessions on subject content and suitability. Students then notionally have two weeks to submit their options form virtually via the site. The initial submission deadline in 2021 was Monday 1st March.

Once students have submitted their options form their choices are recorded formally by a letter of acknowledgement, stating the choices and with the caveat that their place is provisionally accepted but is subject to pupils achieving their entry requirement. The Leader of Key Stage 4 and 5 meet to discuss any individual learner choices that appear to be at odds with their strengths and subsequent meetings between pastoral staff and learners take place to ensure clarity and consistency. Thus may result in learners changing some of their offers from a more informed position. Names are then shared with Key Stage 5 subject teachers who may choose to discuss and further assist students with their Key Stage 5 preparation.

Sixth Form Transition Events

In 2020 Year 11 students who had applied to the Sixth Form were invited to join Google Classrooms managed by teachers who set introductory tasks, in 2021 this is being replaced with a two week Sixth Form transition event in school in mid-June. Students will be invited into school to attend Key Stage 5 'taster' lessons in order to confirm their choices and enable them to plan ahead with regards pre-reading and research.

Upon enrolling in the Sixth Form on the first day of the Autumn Term, all students are assigned a Tutor and undergo a series of tasks and activities to help them settle into the Sixth Form; this may include a team building educational visit depending on Covid protocols at the time. Students can change their options if they feel they are not suited to them within the first two weeks of term, subject to GCSE grade requirements. All subjects operate an introductory four-week curriculum, at the end of which is a Competence Task in every subject. Students who pass the Competence Tasks automatically progress with their studies, students who struggle with their Competence Tasks are offered additional support with subject teachers.

Application Rejections & Appeals

In the rare instance that a learner is refused access to the Sixth Form, whether that is due to a wholly inappropriate GCSE profile or other significant concern, the decision to decline an application rests with the Headteacher, Mrs F.E. Kite and the Leader of Key Stage 5, Mr J. Jones. Notification of the declined application will be made to the learner and their parent(s) in writing, outlining the reasons and with an invitation to discuss the decision if further clarification is needed. Any letter of decline would also include guidance for further steps with regards careers or further training and would include the contact details of Mr Owain Rhys, Careers Wales Advisor. Learners and parents are entitled to make an appeal against a declined application and would be required to state the nature of the appeal in writing and submit to the school for consideration within 14 days of them being informed of the declined place. Where necessary, any appeal would be considered by the Headteacher, Leader of Key Stage 5 and Chair of Governors.

Sixth Form Point of Contact

For all Sixth Form applicants, the first point of contact should be Mr J. Jones, Assistant Headteacher & Leader of Key Stage 5 at the school's address. Direct dial 01646 623317 email sixthform@yht.wales. These details appear on all correspondence with applicants.