

# The Friary School

## An Arts and Sports College

### Sixth Form Guide 2011

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# The Friary School Sixth Form Student Guide 2011

## Letter from Mr Lister - Headteacher of The Friary School

Dear student

I am pleased to introduce our guide to the Sixth Form, outlining the opportunities available for you at The Friary School from next September.

Our intention is to provide each of you with the courses that are most appropriate to your interests, abilities and aspirations. The Sixth Form at the Friary is large enough for us to be able to offer a range of subjects, but at the same time small enough for us to focus on students as individuals. We take pride in the strength of the relationships between teachers and students. As part of an 11-18 school, our Sixth Form benefits from high quality teaching that understands how to build on students' previous knowledge and skills.

If you are a student who is not yet ready for A-Level, you will find opportunities for further study at Level 2.

There is, of course, more to The Friary and Sixth Form life. As a member of our Sixth Form you will enjoy many opportunities to take part in our high-quality extra-curricular activities - particularly in our specialisms of sport and the arts.

We look forward to welcoming you next September.

Yours sincerely



D.S Lister  
Headteacher

# Welcome to The Friary Sixth Form!

The aim of our Sixth Form is to offer high quality opportunities for students to continue with their education Post-16 and to allow students to continue to develop into young people with amazing futures ahead of them.

We are currently welcoming applications from existing Friary School students and from those studying from their GCSEs elsewhere, to start in September 2011.

Our Sixth form has 220 students. This means that we are big enough to offer a very wide range of course, but small enough that all students are treated as individuals.

The wide range of courses at Level 3 including A-levels and BTECs - 24 at the last count - offer a great deal of flexibility to students. In addition an increasing number of enrichment subjects and opportunities such as the Extended Projects Qualification, Sports Leadership and Open University Modules really help our students to stand out from the crowd when it comes to applying to University or for employment.

We also offer a one year course for those students who are looking to increase the number of Level 2 qualifications that they have. This popular course is run in conjunction with Netherstowe School

Our students are a very diverse bunch! What links them together is a commitment and desire to learn and a will to achieve. They gain excellent results and last year nearly all of our students who had applied to university went to their first choice institution. All of our students are given high quality advice and guidance to help them to make informed choices for their future and are supported through the UCAS applications process from start to finish.

We pride ourselves as a school on treating all of the students as individuals and on supporting them. All Post 16 students are members of a tutor group and take part in a full tutorial programme.

All Post 16 students at the School are encouraged to become active members of the Sixth Form. We have a Sixth Form Council and Senior Students who organise events and represent the views and wishes of the Sixth Form. Many students also take part in performances, clubs and sports teams and get involved in community service both within school and in the wider community.

If you have any questions at all please come and see us or call us at school. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Mr Forster  
Director of Sixth Form

Miss Sherry  
Assistant Director of Sixth Form

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## Why study at The Friary Sixth Form?

- A wide range of courses on offer that meet the needs of the students and match their abilities and aspirations.
- Opportunities to develop the skills of independent learning
- Teachers who know you and who are committed to their success.
- Opportunities for personal and social development
- High quality teaching and excellent support and guidance to help students complete their chosen courses successfully
- Guidance and support for the next step - either application into Higher Education or into the world of work
- Dedicated Sixth Form facilities.

## General information about joining the Sixth Form:

- Where are you now?
  - Year 11
  - 16 years old
  - Nearing the end of your compulsory education
- What will you achieved by Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011 (GCSE results day!!)?
  - Level 1 qualifications - GCSE D - G
  - Level 2 qualifications - GCSE A\* - C or BTEC PASS
- Where do you go from here?
  - Employment
  - Training
  - Further education -Friary Sixth Form or College

## What do you need to have already achieved to access Sixth Form study at The Friary School?

Level of qualification	Courses available	Access requirements
<p><b>Level 3</b></p> <p><b>Route 1</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 AS subjects or equivalents in Year 12</li> <li>• All students will study at least one an enrichment subject.</li> <li>• Students without a C grade in English Language or Maths will re-sit the subjects</li> </ul> <p>In year 13 all students will continue with <u>a minimum</u> of 3 of their subjects to A2 level <b>and</b> will continue with an enrichment subject.</p>	<p>A minimum of 5 GCSE grade Cs or equivalents in 5 different subjects including at least 3 at B grade or equivalent.</p> <p>Please note - in the rare case where an student gains a U grade at AS, they cannot carry on the subject at A2.</p>
<p><b>Level 3</b></p> <p><b>Route 2</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 AS subjects or equivalents in Year 12</li> <li>• Students will also opt for an enrichment subject</li> <li>• They will also either follow an additional Level 2 course (e.g. GCSE Leisure and Tourism - completed in one year) or do community service/work experience for ½ day per week.</li> </ul> <p>In year 13 all students will continue with their three AS subjects to A2 level. They will also continue with an enrichment subject and do community service/work experience for ½ day per week.</p>	<p>A minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C or equivalent in 5 different subjects.</p>
<p><b>Level 2</b></p> <p><b>One Year course</b></p>	<p>Students follow a one year programme of Level 2 study. This involves taking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L2 BTEC Business (at Netherstowe School)</li> <li>• Media Studies GCSE</li> <li>• Leisure and Tourism GCSE</li> <li>• Re-sit English Language and Maths GCSE if needed or a Level 2 Functional Skills course.</li> <li>• ½ day per week of community service or work experience</li> </ul> <p>At the end of the course students can, dependent on meeting entry requirement, apply to do level three courses at the Friary school.</p>	<p>A minimum of 4 grade Ds in 4 separate subjects (English and Maths desirable)</p>

Please note: For all students - entry to The Friary Sixth Form is dependent on having a proven track record of good attendance, effort and attitude at school

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## ONE or TWO years in the Sixth Form?

The courses students will follow depend on whether a student wishes to stay in the Sixth Form for one or two years and on the level of ability indicated by performance during Year 11 and in external examinations.

The two year courses are undertaken if students want to stay on to take Advanced Subsidiary (AS) levels and A (A2) levels.

AS students must resit GCSE English and Maths if they have not achieved a grade C.

## How to choose what subjects to study in the Sixth Form?

Option blocks are devised and revised according to the combination of subjects that students tell us they will want. If we are unable to provide a student's preferred combination of subjects there will be further consultation on an individual basis. However, courses which attract little interest may be withdrawn.

If you are going to be happy and successful, you will need to choose a study programme which can take you forward - but which you can cope with.

## When making your choices, some points to consider:

- After GCSE results you will have the opportunity to discuss your individual study programme with a member of Staff.
- Students who have at least 5 GCSEs at grade C and above including at least 3 at Grade B will be expected at A/S to study 4 separate subjects. This will usually lead to 3 separate subjects at A2 in Year 13. They will also study an enrichment option.
- Students who have at least 5 Grade Cs at GCSE level, but who do not have at least 3 grade Bs, will study 3 subjects at A/S level and enrichment subjects. In addition they will opt for a Level 2 Course (GCSE equivalent) or community service.
- Students who have at least 4 grade Ds at GCSE level (or equivalent) will opt for the One Year course
- All students will also take part in a full tutorial programme.

- For Level 3 (Advanced level) course you must have already reached level 2 in the same subject (or a closely related one) - to cope with the increased challenge. Individual subject entry requirements are detailed in the separate course guide.
- **Please take advantage of all induction opportunities to ensure that you are aware of the study skills involved in each subject.**
- Be aware that you should be spending as much time per week on homework and background research as you spend in the classroom - on average 9 hours per fortnight per subject.
- Consider which subjects you are good at. Look at reports and assessments; talk to your teachers to help you evaluate whether you are likely to be successful in a particular subject.
- A small number of courses at University are now asking for a B grade at GCSE in English and Maths. Therefore even if you already have a Grade C at GCSE, if you are already set on a particular course or subject then you will need to check with the university on their entry requirements and a re-sit might be needed.

### **Subject Specific Advice:**

Consider which subjects you may need for a future career. If you intend to go into Higher Education, check that you have made the most appropriate subject combinations for entry.

Certain subjects such as Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Psychology and Veterinary Science require specific subjects at A level.

It is also worth noting that the most competitive courses at the top Universities do look at GCSE results too - so it is important to get top GCSE grades too.

It is vital that you do your research NOW if you are focussed on a particular career or subject. If you are at the Friary School now then please see Mr Keen the Connexions advisor. He is very experienced at helping people to get onto the courses that they want. He has the knowledge - so why not use it!

**Making the right choices - a crucial and often difficult decision.**  
**Consider the following checklist:**

	Yes	No
Have you checked exactly what courses are available to you at the Friary School?		
Have you considered all the possibilities that are open to you?		
Have you sought out advice on what level of study you are aiming for?		
Have you considered what subjects you like and what are the entry requirements that you need to get onto those courses?		
Have you thought about how the courses that you are interested in combine together?		
Have you considered what the workload will be for your choices of courses?		
Do you know if you need to specialise in particular subjects to get into the career that you want?		
Do you know what particular courses can lead to in the future?		
Have you talked to the right people and asked for advice (this could include older students doing the courses themselves)		

**The Stamford Test:**

Even at this early stage it is worth considering what career you might be most suited to and most interested in. All of our Year 12 students are advised do the Stamford Test on the UCAS website. Why not do it now? It might help you to decide on your future subject choices!

<http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/choosingcourses/choosingcourse/stamfordtest>

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## When should choices be made?

Provisional option blocks are published in this booklet. There will be opportunities to complete returns based on this block structure during Year 11. Such initial returns will help us to assess demand and to make adjustments where possible. Please note that it may not be possible to meet every student's request. If a particular combination of subjects cannot be offered, it may be possible to study a course at another school in the Lichfield district.

After GCSE results on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August there will be an opportunity to discuss and finalise individual study programmes with Mr Forster, Miss Sherry and Mr Hackfath.

Please note that although many staff do come in on GCSE results day, not all subject staff will be available to give advice. If you want advice about what a particular subject is like at Post 16 level then please seek out their advice before the summer holidays.

## Some frequently asked questions about the Sixth Form

**Is it possible to combine Level 2 and Level 3 courses?**

*Students who gained a D grade or lower in GCSE English or Maths have to re-sit them.*

*It is possible for some students to combine level 2 and level 3 courses. Please see Mr Forster, Miss Sherry or Mr Hackfath for individual advice.*

**Why does my BTEC give me 4 grade C equivalents or above yet only counts as 1 when entering the Sixth Form?**

*You need to demonstrate a breadth of successful study at GCSE/BTEC. Success at a wide range of subjects is the best indicator of future academic achievement at Post 16 level.*

**Can I study at AS level subjects in which I have achieved less than a grade C at GCSE?**

*Unfortunately it is not possible to do this.*

**Can I study at AS level subjects which I have not studied at GCSE/BTEC?**

*In a number of subjects it is possible to opt for them at AS level without having studied them at GCSE level. However in most cases proven success in a related subject is required. Please refer to the separate course guide.*

## Some frequently asked questions about the Sixth Form - continued

### **What happens if I want to do work experience?**

*Work experience is a great thing to do. All Year 12 students do a week of work experience in the summer term. It might be possible to do work experience at other times as long as it does not interfere with your studies. You would need to see Mr Forster or Miss Sherry to discuss it.*

*Students in Year 12 doing the one year course or who are taking 3 A-levels will also have the opportunity to opt to do work experience on a weekly basis*

### **Why do students take enrichment subjects?**

*The majority of students countrywide will apply to University with 3 A levels. Enrichment subjects allow our students to 'stand out from the crowd', in a very competitive world. Many enrichment subjects also offer additional UCAS points.*

*They also allow excellent opportunities for students to develop their independent enquiry skills and to follow interests outside of their main subjects.*

### **Do I have to come into school when I don't have lessons?**

In Year 12 you must be in school for the whole school week including your study periods. Year 13 students who have demonstrated a good level of commitment to their studies can apply to have home study.

### **What is the dress code in Sixth Form?**

At the Friary we do not expect young adults to wear a school uniform, but we do expect them to set a good example to younger students. The dress code is smart/casual. We try to take a sensible approach and inform students to 'retire' any clothing that is not suitable to their weekend wardrobe!

For Boys:

A collared shirt or polo shirt; No jeans; Smart footwear; No football tops or similar; No shorts.

For Girls:

Smart footwear; No jeans or shorts; Skirts must be at least knee length; Smart tops that are not low cut.

Most importantly all students should wear clothing that is 'appropriate' to a school environment.

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## How you are assessed at Post 16 level?

- A levels are made up of the AS level and the A2. Each part makes up 50 per cent of the overall A level grade.
- You are normally assessed on a mixture of written exams and controlled assessments. There is assessment of practical skills in some subjects like Science or Art.
- All A levels must also include some 'synoptic assessment' as part of the A2. This means testing your understanding of the whole subject, and will normally contribute 20 per cent to the full A level.
- Applied A levels have a different assessment criteria, please refer to individual course guides.
- BTECs generally have more coursework and project work.

## Where they can Post 16 study lead?

- A and AS levels and Level 3 BTECs are one of the main routes into employment or higher education.

## UCAS points

- If you are applying to university or college, they earn the following points in the 'UCAS Tariff':

<b>A2 Grade</b>	<b>UCAS Tariff</b>	<b>AS Grade</b>	<b>UCAS Tariff</b>
<b>A*</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>20</b>

## A levels: AS plus A2

### AS level

- The AS level can be either a free standing qualification, or be valued as the first half of the full A level.
- At the end of the AS year, you have two options (depending on the preference of your school or college):

- take the AS level qualification only

or:

- continue to the second year and go for the full A level. School policy states that a student will not be allowed to continue to A2 level unless they have achieved an overall pass at AS level

### Year two: the A2

- In year two of a full A level, you take the A2 - this is not a separate qualification, but rather the second half of the A level. The A2 is designed to deepen the knowledge you gained during the AS level.

## What is Level 2 provision?

In addition to Level 3 BTEC or AS/A2 levels, it is possible to study towards Level 2 (GCSE or BTEC Diploma) level qualifications in the Sixth Form. Next year, the following courses are available:

- GCSE Media - to be taught at The Friary
- GCSE Leisure and Tourism - to be taught at The Friary
- BTEC Diploma Business - to be taught at Netherstowe

In addition, any student who has not achieved GCSE English or Mathematics at Grade C will be given an opportunity to re-sit these during Year 12.

### How do these courses fit into the Options Blocks?

These courses are spread over the Options Blocks, and so may be taken all together, as a complete Level 2 programme. Also, they may be selected from the options blocks by students who wish to study a combination of Level 2 and Level 3 courses. As these Level 2 courses are one year long, they can successfully be combined with AS courses from different option blocks.

## Who will be studying these courses?

As there will only be a relatively small number of students studying these courses, they will either take place at other schools in the Lichfield district, or will take place at the Friary and will be open to students from other district Sixth Forms to study.

The Level 2 courses are designed exclusively for Sixth Form students, so there will be no mixing with other students who are following Level 2 courses from the main school.

## Where do these courses lead to next?

On completion of these courses, students could:

- Continue at the Friary in the Sixth Form studying at Level 3
- Apply to a nearby college to undertake one of their courses
- Enter the world of employment.

## What courses are on offer?

*SERIOUS ADVICE Take some time to study this draft options table. We expect to make some changes according to the feedback we get from students before we ask you to make choices.*

### NOTES:

- If demand is not strong, the course may be withdrawn or restricted to AS level.
- Some may be shared with other students in the Lichfield Collegiate - taught either at The Friary School or another school in the Lichfield district.
- 'AS/A' means that, if demand is strong, the full GCE A level course is likely to be available over 2 years.
- You can only take 1 course at A level from a particular block
- We intend to run courses in the same block at the same time. So, do remember that you cannot be in 2 classrooms at once!
- Students may express a wish to study subjects not appearing in a block. There will be an opportunity on the option form to indicate such a subject. The availability of such subjects cannot be guaranteed.
- The composition of the option blocks may change in response to demand.
- You must also opt for at least one enrichment subject



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## Finding out more

- Attend the Information Evening on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November
- Discuss ideas with your Connexions Advisor (Mr Keen) in school
- Visit the Connexions Office in Lichfield
- Visit our Careers Library, use the computer program 'Fast Tomato'
- Discuss with Sixth Form pastoral staff
- Talk to teachers and present Sixth Form students
- Use the Internet - useful web-sites are given below

These web sites may prove to be a very valuable source of information:

[www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk) (Department for Children, Schools and Families)

[www.qca.org.uk](http://www.qca.org.uk) (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority)

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk) (Exam Board- Awarding Body)

[www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk) (Exam Board - Awarding Body)

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) (Exam Board- Awarding Body)

[www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk): (Exam Board - Awarding Body)

[www.fastomato.com](http://www.fastomato.com) (Interactive Careers Education and Guidance)

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## Life in the Sixth Form: The monitoring of academic progress:

How will you know if you are doing well?

*Your progress will be monitored throughout your time in the Sixth Form. A system of student commendations will operate (see below)*

What will happen if things go wrong?

*The student referral procedures will come into operation (see below); students will be advised as to the feasibility of continuing with the study of certain subjects - this, in turn, could have an impact on a student being allowed to continue a course of study at The Friary School.*

## Life in the Sixth Form: ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSESSING AND REPORTING PROGRESS IN THE SIXTH FORM

<b>YEAR 12</b>	Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting of Minimum Target Grades</li> <li>• Informal Parents' Evening with Head of Year</li> <li>• Subject Profiles</li> <li>• Parents' Evening with Subject Staff</li> <li>• Review Day with Mentors + a full subject report</li> </ul>
	Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject Profiles</li> <li>• Full subject report</li> <li>• Additional Parents' Evening for targeted students</li> </ul>
	Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject Profiles</li> <li>• Individual Review with Pastoral Staff</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 13</b>	Autumn Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target Grades reassessed</li> <li>• Subject Profiles</li> <li>• Parents' Evening with Subject Staff</li> </ul>
	Spring Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Check (Module Results)</li> <li>• Subject Profiles</li> <li>• Additional Parents' Evening for targeted students</li> </ul>
	Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Subject Report</li> <li>• Final Examinations</li> </ul>

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## **Life in the Sixth Form: What are the Sixth Form facilities like?**

The Sixth Form have their own common room which has recently had new furniture and carpeting. They can use this room for working in during study periods (we expect students to have a strong work ethic!) and for relaxing in at break and lunch.

There is also a group work room specifically for the Sixth Form that they can book.

They can also access the library during their study periods which has computer facilities.

## **Life in the Sixth Form: What do you do alongside your main subjects?**

All students will opt for at least one enrichment subject. The aims of enrichment subjects are:

1. To enhance your independent study skills.
2. To widen your experiences - so for example a scientist might study politics and a historian might study astronomy.
3. To make you 'stand out from the crowd' in your UCAS applications
4. To gain you additional UCAS points.

## **Life in the Sixth Form: Tutor groups and the tutorial programme**

There are 10 tutor groups in the Sixth Form. Each group has a mixture of Year 12 and 13 students. You will see them every day for registration.

Your tutors are your first point of contact if you have any concerns. They are also the first point of contact if your teachers have any concerns about you!! Your tutors will also support you through the UCAS application process and will write your references.

Tutors also deliver a full tutorial programme that deals with issues that are specific to Sixth form students and where advice and support is given for UCAS applications and for job applications.

## **Life in the Sixth Form: Senior Students and Sixth Form Council**

An elected Sixth Form Council made up of both Year 13 and Year 12 representatives meets regularly with the Director of Sixth Form. Any issue you wish to raise will form part of the agenda. The aim of the Council is to help to widen the role of the Sixth Form in the school and the local community as well as develop the social activities of both year groups and to represent ALL students.

We also have a number of Senior Students. Year 12 students apply for these roles once they return in June after their AS exams. The team of senior students is the driving force behind organising activities and events for the sixth form and are the led representatives for the Sixth Form.

### **Life in the Sixth Form: Communication**

Each Sixth Form student has a personal email school account. Students will be expected to check this on a daily basis as most correspondences between school and pupils will be made here. In particular, staff who are absent from Sixth Form lessons will use the system to set work.

### **Life in the Sixth Form: Study periods**

Most students in Sixth Year 12 will have approximately 5-7 study periods a week depending on their options. Students are expected to use them to complete research tasks and homework.

Year 12 students have to stay in school for all study periods (you are allowed off site at lunch!). Year 13 students can apply for home study.

## **So how do you join the sixth form?**

- Complete the application form which will be available with this booklet and return by xxxxxx.
- Students will attend an interview during which they will demonstrate their suitability for their chosen courses.
- Complete the final options form available in February to be returned by xxxxxx 2011
- Attend the induction course in the summer on xxxxxxx. At the Induction Course in June you will receive further careers advice, experience sample lessons and receive final details on how to proceed.
- GCSE results will be out on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011. You will need to return a confirmation form at that time. Staff will be available for consultations.
- All students report on the first day of the new term in September.