

# Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form



# the right choice...

...the **ONLY** choice!

## Welcome

**Welcome to Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form. We are pleased to have the opportunity to write this introduction to you about our school. This prospectus, and the extra booklets available, will give you an overview of what we offer to post-16 students and will show you why we are proud of our Sixth Form.**

Some of the reasons why we would like you to give serious consideration to applying to Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form are:

- Our range of academic and vocational courses
- Our examination record
- Opportunities in student apprenticeships and work placements
- The extra-curricular opportunities available to you
- Our pastoral care and support procedures
- Our UCAS preparation programme

Reading this prospectus may well be your first step in making a decision about your future beyond Year 11. You can gain further information on Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form by attending our Open Evening when you will be able to meet teachers and students and will have the chance to discuss what we can offer you. It will also be possible to visit at other times. An appointment can be made with a member of the Sixth Form team.

If you decide to apply to Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form be sure that we will do our utmost to ensure your success. All we will ask of you is that you do the same.

We wish you well over the course of your Year 11 studies and look forward to you being part of the ongoing success of our Sixth Form.

**I C Clayton**  
Principal

# About Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form

We are a well-established and successful Sixth Form of approximately 370 students, with our own accommodation within Thorpe St Andrew School.

We are large enough to have a wide range of courses available, both academic and vocational, but are small enough to be aware of, and respond to, the needs of each individual student.

Academically we are consistently strong, with results regularly amongst the best in Norfolk. Our Sixth Form teachers offer high quality teaching in a caring, supportive and friendly environment. Our teaching groups are small enough to allow personal support in lessons and we encourage students to seek the assistance of their teachers outside lesson time where necessary.

Our Sixth Form tutors monitor progress regularly, provide advice and guidance and are a point of contact with home. We regularly help over seventy students per year apply to university through our detailed UCAS preparation programme. Looking ahead to the world of work, we have strong links with local employers and training providers helping us provide student apprenticeships and work placement opportunities.

Beyond the classroom we offer an extensive variety of extra-curricular activities. This means our reputation in this area is one to be proud of. The fact that we are a specialist school with Sports and Technology College status has brought numerous benefits to Thorpe St Andrew School, in which the Sixth Form is able to share.



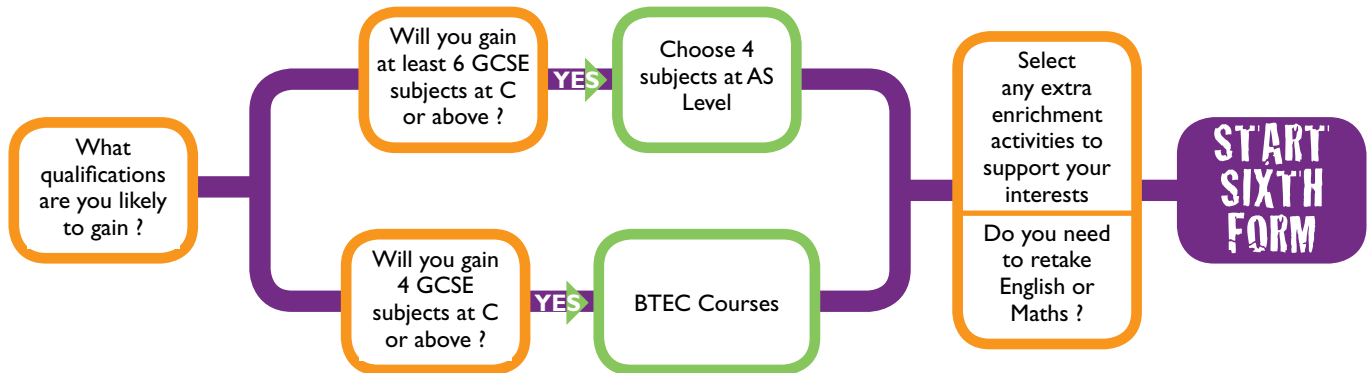
# How to Choose your Courses

Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form is open to all. The level of course you select will depend upon your likely GCSE performance. However, there are a number of other factors to consider.

Are you lucky enough to know what you want to do when you leave school, either in terms of a career or with regard to a particular university course you want to take? If so, have you researched the qualification necessary for entry? Are there A Level courses which are essential or preferred qualifications ?

If, like most people of your age, you don't yet know what your preferred career path is, do not worry. You will be encouraged to consider the breadth of your subject choices. Choose a mix of subjects that keeps doors open for you and doesn't lead to early specialisation, which may restrict the range of opportunities available to you at a later date. Choose subjects you think you could do well in. Ask your current teachers about your prospects.

In order to be accepted onto a course of four A Level subjects in Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form, you should be expecting at least six GCSE grades at C or above. A Level courses are two-year courses with AS Level in Year 12 being converted into full A Level in Year 13 (with normally only three subjects being carried forward from the four taken at Year 12). If you are studying at GCSE a subject you expect to take at AS Level, then you should be expecting to gain at least Grade B in that subject. For further information, read the subject details in the Course Handbook.



Alternatively, you could be looking to follow a BTEC course which is more vocational in style. BTEC National Extended Diplomas are equal to three A Levels, whilst BTEC National Subsidiary Diplomas (equal to one A Level) can be taken in combination with other BTEC or A Level choices. You will need to gain four GCSEs at Grade C or higher to gain entry to these BTEC programmes.

Whatever your future career, the importance of English and Mathematics cannot be ignored. If you don't achieve a Grade C in these subjects at GCSE, you will be encouraged to take these courses in the Sixth Form.

Please refer to the simple guide to help you in your thinking. It is not rigid but sets out the main routes to consider. The details of the subjects available, the levels offered and a full list of enrichment courses are given in the Course Handbook for the Sixth Form.

## Life in the Sixth Form

As a member of Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form you will be given more responsibility for your own learning. During 'taught' lessons you will be helped and encouraged to develop your learning style. There will be times during the school day when you do not have a timetabled lesson. You will be able to undertake private study in one of the Sixth Form Study Centres, the Sixth Form ICT rooms or the Learning Resource Centre. You will also need to study in your own time, out of school. In total, you should expect to spend as much time on each subject out of lessons as you do in lessons.

Your subject teachers will report on your progress to your Personal Development tutor every half term and will give you target grades at Christmas and Easter. Your Personal Development tutor will interview you every half term to discuss your progress and set new targets.

In addition to your academic study and the availability of extra-curricular activities referred to in the introduction, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the school as a whole by undertaking Academic Coaching. Examples of Academic Coaching are:

- Helping departments in the classroom
- Giving technical support to teachers in ICT lessons
- Assisting PE teachers with lessons, teams or clubs
- Helping technicians in the laboratories
- Working in the Learning Resource Centre
- Sharing responsibility for Sixth Form areas

You will be encouraged to take advantage of such opportunities to enhance your leadership and teamwork skills. Becoming involved this way makes you more attractive to universities or future employers. We also have students working towards the Community Sports Leader Award, which is an innovation we have become involved in since becoming a Sports College.

Team 6, Sixth Form Council, in which you can participate, is undertaking an ever increasing role within the school including the running of the Sixth Form rooms and organising Sixth Form social events.

Many Sixth Formers take on part-time work. We understand the benefits, both financial and otherwise, of taking on the responsibility of a job but you should not underestimate the commitment necessary for success in the Sixth Form.

## **Beyond Sixth Form**

For many students it will be a natural step to continue education at a higher level. Some will want to enter university straight away, others may wish to follow the increasingly popular route of taking a 'Gap Year' first.

Entry requirements vary substantially according to the course studied and the reputation of the university chosen. In general you should expect to need three grades at A Level. However, some courses will require a grade in your fourth AS subject.

Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form runs a comprehensive UCAS preparation programme, offering advice on all aspects of the application process, including:

- Choosing courses/universities
- Writing your personal statement
- Filling in the application form
- The financial implications of going into higher education

You can be sure you will have all the help you need to guide you through the application process. Students considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge and those applying for Medicine or Veterinary Science have a different application route to follow, and an additional advice programme is available for such students, including preparation for interviews.

If Higher Education is not for you, you will be able to draw on the advice from the experienced Sixth Form team regarding routes to employment or further training after Sixth Form.

# So what does all this mean?

Join the Sixth Form at Thorpe St Andrew and you will be:

- Treated as an individual
- Taught well
- Mentored in your development
- Given opportunities to develop beyond the classroom
- Prepared not just for the next step but with the skills for the future



# It's your choice!

**Thorpe St Andrew  
Sixth Form**



# How to Apply to Thorpe St Andrew Sixth Form

Simply complete an application form available from the school. Applications can be made any time after the Sixth Form Open Evening in November. There is no deadline. Applications will be considered right up to the start of courses in September, depending on the availability of course places.

However, students are advised to apply by the end of the Autumn term in Year 11. Over the Christmas holiday the timetable blocks for the following year will be finalised, based on the range of courses chosen by applicants up to that time. To put it simply, if you want the best chance of getting the subjects you need, apply early!

All applications will be considered and applicants offered advice on course choices. Applicants will be notified by letter as to whether or not they have been offered a place.

In July we run Sixth Form Induction Days which are a compulsory element of the process.

In August, when GCSE results are released, and for several days afterwards, members of the Sixth Form team will be in school. If you need to talk about the impact your results have on your prospects for Sixth Form, someone will be available.

## Application Timetable

**November** Sixth Form Open Evening

**November/December** Complete application form and hand in to school

**January onwards** All applications considered and offers of places made

**July** Sixth Form Induction Days

**August** GCSE Results. Sixth Form team available to discuss changes to applications

For further information contact

The Sixth Form Team on 01603 497767

sixthform@thorpe-st-andrew.norfolk.sch.uk

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