Sixth Form Prospectus

Intelligent engagement with the wider world

William Perkin
C of E
High School

Introducing the Sixth Form

Since its launch in 2018, William Perkin has established a lively and purposeful sixth form, offering the same excellent standards as have become the reputation of the school in Years 7–11. I am very proud of the successes which members of the school community achieve every year in earning places at Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College, top-ranked medical schools and a range of Russell Group universities. These successes are typical of the very distinctive culture of the school which is hard-working and outward looking. It has been gratifying to witness community service in action as older students take formal leadership responsibility for younger members of the community and good to see sixth formers making maximum use of the facilities and the extension activities which are provided. Students with a strong work ethic will certainly find the William Perkin sixth form a supportive and highly positive place to be.

Dame Alice Hudson
CEO
Twyford CofE Academies Trust

The Next Step in the Journey

The Twyford CofE Academies Trust embarked on the William Perkin journey with the full support of parents who believed that we could deliver on their ambitions for a local school with the highest academic aspiration and a focus on science - and we certainly have delivered!

Since that point the school has built a record of outstanding outcomes at both GCSE and A-Level as well as forging relationships with Higher Education institutions particularly those specialising in STEM pathways. We have strong links with prestigious organisations including the Royal Society and the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS) who support a wide range of elite science programmes. Students have led research projects and presented alongside post-graduates at the Imperial Science Festival, worked with internationally renowned researchers, such as Professor Monica Grady CBE, as well as enjoying Science enrichment days with recognised authorities such as Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

Our sixth form offers a centre of excellence in post-16 teaching. Whilst our specialism is STEM and social sciences, we maintain a broad base of subjects for students to choose from including Humanities and Languages, in which delivery and outcomes are equally as strong.

Throughout the William Perkin journey it has always been our mission to challenge ourselves to "intelligently engage with the wider world". As such we have planned a uniquely tailored offer with particular focus on the development of a wider learning programme that will enrich their lives both inside and outside school. This ambitious programme, designed to promote super-curricular knowledge as well as personal and spiritual development, sits neatly alongside our curriculum offer, nurturing young adults with the capacity to be outstanding 21st century citizens.

Our sixth form is the jewel in the crown, the final piece of the educational vision that we have built. We look forward to welcoming students looking for a post-16 environment in which they can thrive academically and personally.

Amy Newman
Headteacher

Academic Stretch

From the outset, the bar has been set very high in terms of academic aspiration. William Perkin's sixth form has achieved exceptional outcomes at A-level, with a very high percentage of students going on to top-tier universities.

William Perkin students are accustomed to working hard and teachers have planned programmes of study which allow them to continue an impressive level of progress.

Most of the courses offered are conventional academic subjects, as we are clear that these facilitating subjects open the most doors for students in terms of future higher education and career prospects.

From 2027 we will also offer V levels which sit alongside two A level subjects to support students in developing transferable professional skills for work readiness. For 2027 entry we are launching a V level in Education.

Students will need to achieve very strong GCSE grades to attend the William Perkin sixth form as success at A-level depends on having established secure foundations.

The subject choices at time of publication are as follows (please see our website for the most up-to-date version of the subject choices and blocks):

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Chemistry	Biology	Biology	Biology
Computer Science	Business Studies	Business Studies	Further Maths
English Language	Chemistry	Chemistry	Mathematics
Economics	Economics	French	Physics
History	English Literature	Mathematics	Psychology
Mathematics	Geography	Mathematics for Further Maths students	Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
Physical Education	Physics	Psychology	V Level Education
Psychology	Politics	Sociology	

Scholar Programme

The William Perkin Advanced Programme

Students at William Perkin are encouraged to "know themselves", in line with our 10:10 ethic and to become self-reflective individuals who are capable of identifying their strengths and weaknesses, as well as looking ahead towards their future pathways.

For able and passionate students who have a clear sense of direction for their post-18 pathway, we offer the William Perkin TAP (Trust Advanced Programme) designed to support students with applications for the most competitive university places. The Advanced Programme provides additional, bespoke stretch and support for students intending to apply for Oxbridge and/or Russell Group universities.

The William Perkin Advanced Programme also caters for students intending to pursue a higher education path in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, engineering, law, politics and maths, through our scholars and stretch programmes (please see the table below).

For each of these there is a recommended programme of study (see below) as well as regular academic mentoring sessions with a tutor who specialises in the relevant field.

These programmes will require students to take part in additional enrichment activities relating to their chosen pathway as well as relevant work experience; students will be offered the opportunity to complete an extended project qualification.

William Perkin Advanced Programme: Scholars Programmes	Recommended programme of study
Medicine	Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology
Engineering	Mathematics, Physics and one other (Chemistry or Computer Science)
Law and Politics	At least one of English Literature, History, Geography, RPE, Politics, Sociology
William Perkin Advanced Programme: Stretch Provision	**Recommended programme of study**
Maths Stretch	Maths, Further Maths
Humanities Stretch	At least one of History, Geography, RPE, Politics, Sociology

"Across a range of subjects, pupils achieve exceptionally well. Sixth form lessons are rigorous and consistent with the school's chosen teaching strategies. Students receive excellent support and have high expectations of themselves. Teachers use their specialist subject knowlege skilfully."

OFSTED, May 2025

C.A.S.E. Programme

The importance of developing into a well-rounded, engaged, global citizen has always been afforded just as much value as academic success at William Perkin. Therefore, we commit a significant amount of time to our exceptional wider learning offer in the sixth-form.

Due to the unique timetable at William Perkin, sixth form students will complete all their academic studies before lunch. This allows students to spend each afternoon working on their C.A.S.E portfolio. This portfolio will encourage students to develop a wide variety of communication and employment 'soft skills' that will ensure students are not only ready to apply for top university courses, but also prepared for the increasingly competitive post-graduate job market. The C.A.S.E Programme will enables students to develop key skills in four core areas: Creativity, Action, Service and Employability.

Creativity - Intelligent Engagement

Universities and employers are looking for more than just excellent academic results; they are looking for passionate students who have demonstrated an inquiring mind and a curiosity about subject areas outside their own academic field. As a result, we actively encourage students to explore a range of interests and, hopefully, to develop new passions and talents in doing so.

During C.A.S.E afternoons, students attend a series of university-style lectures delivered by both internal, external subject specialists and guest speakers from industry. These lectures will not only provide students with experience of university-style learning, but also allow them to acquire a broader perspective on a range of subjects beyond the confines of the three subjects they chose for study. Lectures will also include study of moral & ethical issues and current affairs.

Students who are on the William Perkin Advanced Programme, and others targeted A-level grades B or above, will be able to use the C.A.S.E afternoons to complete an Extended Project Qualification, which is the sixth form equivalent of a PhD thesis. Students will identify their own chosen area for research and be supported towards completing their project by a personal tutor. Examples of previous topics include:

- *Are the BCG vaccination and antibiotic treatments against tuberculosis a good idea or are they just creating superbugs?*
- *How can the progression of artificial intelligence and game theory be applied to gaming?*
- *To what extent can a parallel be drawn between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Orwell's totalitarian dystopia in his novel '1984'?*
- *Was the English Civil War a 'War of Religion'?*
- *To what extent is the settlement and development of the caulerpa taxifolia having an impact on other wildlife in the Mediterranean Sea?*

A wide range of trips and stretch opportunities will also be available including university lecture visits, field trips, theatre and gallery visits and residential trips.

"There is an exceptional programme for wider personal development. This is underpinned by the school values and weaved through the tutor sessions, assemblies and workshops.

The school is actively involved in research and adapts staff training in response to identified needs. Leaders continually seek to further improve on the exceptional offer that is already provided"

OFSTED, May 2025

Action - Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Students' mental and physical wellbeing is paramount at William Perkin. Students are encouraged to centre themselves using mindfulness techniques to help alleviate stress.

In conjunction with this, students will need to continue to partake in physical activity at least once a week, to ensure they are healthy in body, as well as in mind.

Students will have the opportunity to join school sports clubs or, should they have specific interests outside school, use the C.A.S.E afternoons to attend sports clubs in the local community.

"Pupils have high levels of respect for each other.

Relationships between pupils and staff are rooted in mutual respect. Pupils have extensive opportunities for leadership."

OFSTED, May 2025

Service - A Mature Approach

In choosing to join the sixth form at William Perkin, students will take the role of senior student leaders within the school community. Sixth form students will, like staff, have a professional dress code and will undertake a range of responsibilities alongside the teaching staff. These leadership roles have been designed to allow sixth formers to develop their employability skills and they will be expected to write formal applications for the role which best suits their gifts.

Some students will provide support in subject areas, others will be mentors, or support students in lower school lessons. Training programmes will be available for students who wish to become sports coaches or assistant instrumental tutors.

It is very important to the school that sixth formers are looked-up to as mature role models and sixth form behaviour expectations are aligned accordingly. Students will be expected to record their community service as part of their C.A.S.E. portfolio and their university references will reflect the contribution that they have made.

Within the sixth form, students must also make good use of private study time and will be able to use the sixth form café, LRC and sixth form study centre during the school day when they are not in lessons, as well as being permitted to leave the school site.

Sixth formers begin each day at 8:30am with an assembly or tutor time session, covering a range of topics related to personal development, CIAG and SMSC to ensure they are set up for success both in school and beyond.

Employability - Wider World

All students are encouraged to pursue Employability activities that reflect their individual passions and interests and can therefore use the flexible lesson timetable to take part in activities that run outside of the school building.

For example, students can use the C.A.S.E afternoons to undertake work experience projects. These may last for a half term, a term, or an entire year, as some students may wish to find regular weekly work placements.

All sixth formers will be expected to undertake meaningful work experience at the end of Year 12. This will be particularly important for students on the Medics scholar programme, in order to discern which branch or aspect of medical science they want to apply for after sixth form. Some students may also choose to undertake regular community service in the local community – for example volunteering at a local residential home or being a young leader in a local organisation such as scouts or guides, or a local sports club.

"Pupils benefit from a comprehensive careers programme. They are thoroughly prepared for future study and their next steps."

OFSTED, May 2025

Progression Pathways to University and Beyond

It is anticipated that the majority of William Perkin students who return to or join the sixth form will aspire to move on to courses at university or degree apprenticeships.

Students will have regular 1:1 pastoral sessions with a tutor who will support them to reflect on career ambitions and pathways towards individual goals.

Students will be encouraged to engage with taster courses and online lectures to help them make good choices about future pathways as well as gaining guidance on apprenticeships and alternative training routes.

We take great pride in ensuring all students are supported to make good life choices, maximising their own gifts and making a positive contribution to society.

This approach is strongly aligned to the principles of the 10:10 ethic which captures the values on which the school is based.

Our 10:10 ethic

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Twyford
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