

Sixth Form

Mark Rutherford School

Motivated • Respectful • Successful

Welcome to the Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School

Thank you for your interest in the academic, high achieving and very successful Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School. The Sixth Form is an important part of our school and many of our Year 11 students choose to stay on to study post-16.

We also welcome external applications and are joined by a number of new students every year.

Our aim is to provide you with a high-quality learning and teaching environment, while also equipping you with the most valuable qualifications for your chosen career path. To ensure you are prepared for your future, we aim to inspire every student to aspire and achieve, so you are ready and able to respond to the challenges and opportunities that present themselves in the future.

Collaboration is an important feature of what we do. From our highly qualified and dedicated teaching staff to our team of tutors, open and honest communication is fundamental to ensuring you achieve to the best of your abilities. We have high expectations of every student. However, we maintain these in a supportive environment where we all aim for success.

Moving into the Sixth Form is an exciting time and we hope that this prospectus provides you with all the information you need. If you would like additional information, or a tour of our facilities, then please do not hesitate to make contact. Please also speak to our existing students or our expert staff to ensure you are equipped with all the information you need to make the right choices.

We look forward to receiving your application and welcoming you into the Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School.

The Sixth Form Team



Mrs K Foster
Headteacher



Ms Vallance
Assistant Headteacher



Mr Nicholls
Head of Year 13



Ms Sutton
Assistant Head of House


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STUDENT

Why our Sixth Form?

We will provide you with the care, guidance, information and support required for this level of study whilst still recognising that every student is unique. We provide a supportive learning environment where information, advice and guidance is personalised to recognise and cater for the needs and talents of each student.



We understand and know how important it is to support you as you continue to grow academically and personally to become an increasingly independent learner. Sixth Form teachers and tutors work hard to enable you to develop the skills you require, whether this is for Higher Education, Further Education, an apprenticeship, training or employment.

We are proud of the stimulating learning environment we provide alongside the care and support of a dedicated team of staff. Academic challenge is important and this will take place in a happy, safe and supportive environment. You will be encouraged to take increasing responsibility for your learning and progress. We also expect you to develop your independent learning skills; a requirement for this level of study and a skill that will stand you in good stead in the future.

Life in our Sixth Form offers students increased responsibility and the freedom to manage their time effectively. There are fantastic opportunities to develop leadership skills, through our programme of co-curricular activities.

"Sixth Form life is challenging but rewarding. The Sixth Form Team and teachers support me so I have settled in well and am thoroughly enjoying my time here."

Sixth Form Student

We have an active Sixth Form Council which enables students to develop their character and confidence in leading on important aspects of the Sixth Form to ensure we continue to meet your needs. We expect students to take part in a Personal Development Activity (PDA) such as helping our younger students with their reading, supporting lessons or coaching a sporting team.

Students have access to dedicated facilities including the 'Village' and Study Room; in addition students in the Sixth Form are offered the privilege of working independently in our 'open all hours' canteen, in the quiet M Block foyer and in the Space 4 Learning. Laptop and computer access is plentiful, and the Common Room offers a space for interactive work, as well as being a recreational area for social times.

"The Sixth Form is a strength of the school. Sixth Form students are excellent role models."

Ofsted



Support for Success

Tutoring in the Sixth Form

You will be part of a Sixth Form tutor group that will be made up of Year 12 and Year 13 students to develop a sense of community and to help form positive and supportive relationships. You will see your tutor daily to ensure you have the support and guidance to be both happy and successful.





Support in the Sixth Form

There is a good network of support for you in the Sixth Form. We also know that the link between home and school is fundamental to your success. We are keen to develop strong and positive links with parents/carers.

Wider partnerships include external agencies, local businesses, Higher Education institutions, charities and Business Mentors; these are well established and prove to be important in helping our students manage their studies.

PDA and Leadership

Students in the Sixth Form are encouraged to develop confidence and interpersonal skills, by taking part in activities with younger students (for example, paired reading, STEM events, sports team coaching) and with peers, on programmes such as Ready2Lead.

“Many thanks to the wonderful Sixth Form Team and teachers for all the support you have provided.”

Parent







How do you apply via Applicaa?

Please complete our online application form; a link for Applicaa is available on the Sixth Form area of our website.

The form will ask you some details so that we can contact you quickly about your application, and you will be asked to select the subjects that you wish to study in the Sixth Form, along with a 'reserve' subject choice. For 2025 applications to the Sixth Form, there are no option blocks; we aim to satisfy as many students' subject combination choices as possible and options will be confirmed in the Spring term of Year 11.

For external students who would be new to Mark Rutherford School, a short reference from a member of staff at your current school is required as part of your application.

Once we have received your completed application, an offer will be made to you for a place in the Sixth Form, via the Applicaa platform.

Offers

Once your application is complete and submitted, the Sixth Form team will be able to offer you a place in Year 12, based on you achieving the published entry criteria for your chosen subjects. We request that you confirm the acceptance of your offer via the Applicaa platform.

"In the Sixth Form, students achieve very well. They benefit from well-planned lessons that are interesting and engaging.

Teachers have a high level of expertise in the subjects they teach."

Ofsted



Interview

All applicants will be informally interviewed by a senior member of teaching staff – the interviews take place during the Spring term of Year 11. This is a key part of the application process as it is an opportunity to discuss your subject choices and future plans. It is important that we ensure you have made the right choices for you.



Induction

All students who are offered a place are expected to attend Sixth Form Induction in the Summer term. It is important that you experience taster lessons in your chosen subjects to ensure you have made the right decisions and also understand the expectations of a Sixth Form student at Mark Rutherford School.

Enrolment

This will take place once GCSE and vocational subject results have been published.

For most students the transition into the Sixth Form is an easy one.

All students complete enrolment via Applicaa in order to be signed onto their chosen courses.

More specific details about Sixth Form enrolment are issued by letter closer to the time. However, if you have any enquiries about admissions or subjects then please contact the Sixth Form team using the email address given below:

sixth.form@mrus.co.uk

"Learners here receive good guidance and make well-informed choices about their courses."

Ofsted

Choices

We have designed our curriculum to meet the needs of all students. We are proud that we offer a wide range of both A Level and BTEC/AAQ courses. We review our curriculum each year to ensure it meets your needs and that it will also prepare you for your future.

It is important that you attend our Sixth Form information evening so you can get full details about the Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School and also meet with our students and teachers to discuss the courses we offer. Specific information about courses will be available at the event and also on the Sixth Form area of the school website. If you would like to discuss any of our courses further then please email the Sixth Form team at:

sixth.form@mrus.co.uk





Transition

Your daily routine in the Sixth Form will be very different to what you have been used to. The Sixth Form team, including your tutor and subject teachers, are here to help and support you throughout your time in the Sixth Form. You will be part of a tutor group and will be required to meet our expectations in relation to attendance, punctuality and commitment to your chosen courses. As a Sixth Form student you will have increased independence and a greater responsibility for your own learning and progress.

You will also have opportunities to develop your leadership skills and also take part in a range of extra-curricular activities. You will need to commit to achieving to the best of your abilities, working with our dedicated staff who are here to support you.

We look forward to receiving your application and seeing you thrive in our Sixth Form.

"Thank you so much for all the support from the Sixth Form teachers; it has been greatly appreciated."

Sixth Form student

Sixth Form Entry Criteria

Our **preferred** entry criteria for the Sixth Form are **5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above**, which must include English **or** Maths. Individual Sixth Form subjects have additional entry criteria as shown below*:

SUBJECT (A Level unless specified)	COURSE ENTRY CRITERIA (5 x grade 4 and above including...)
Applied Science (AAQ)	Two Grade 4s in Science.
Art and Design	Grade 5 in Art.
Biology	Grade 6 in Biology + Grade 6 in Chemistry or Physics, or 66 in Science. Grade 5 in Maths.
Business Studies	Standard entry criteria.
Chemistry	Grade 6 or Chemistry + Grade 6 in Biology or Physics, or 66 in Science. Grade 6 in Maths.
Computer Science	Grade 5 in Maths. Grade 5 in a Science subject.
Core Maths (AS Level)	Grade 4 in Maths
Criminology (WJEC Applied Diploma)	Standard entry criteria with Grade 4 in English.
Dance	Grade 5 in Dance.
Design and Technology (Product Design)	Grade 5 in a Design and Technology subject.
Drama and Theatre Studies	Grade 5 in Drama.
English Language	Grade 5 in English Language and English Literature.
English Literature	Grade 5 in English Language and English Literature.
Food and Nutrition (AAQ)	Standard entry criteria
French	Grade 5 in French.
Geography	Grade 5 in Geography.
Health and Social Care (AAQ)	Pass in Health and Social Care Level 2 (if taken in Year 11).
History	Grade 5 in History. Grade 5 in English Language and English Literature.

SUBJECT (A Level unless specified)	COURSE ENTRY CRITERIA (5 x grade 4 and above including...)
Digital System and Data (V Level)	Standard entry criteria
Law	Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.
Maths	Strong Grade 6 in Maths (within 10 marks of a grade 7)
Maths (Further)	Strong Grade 7 in Maths (within 10 marks of a grade 8)
Maths (Core) (1 year course)	Grade 5 in Maths.
Media Studies	Standard entry criteria with Grade 4 in English.
Music	Grade 5 in Music.
Music – Performing (BTEC)	Grade 5 in Music or a music performance exam (ABRSM or similar)
Performing Arts (BTEC): Triple	Grade 4 in one of the following: Drama, Dance or Music.
Photography	Standard entry criteria.
Physical Education	Grade 5 in PE. Grade 5 in a Science subject.
Physics	Grade 6 in Physics + Grade 6 in Biology or Chemistry, or 66 in Science. Grade 6 in Maths.
Psychology	Grade 5 in English or Maths.
Sociology	Standard entry criteria with a Grade 4 in English.
Spanish	Grade 5 in Spanish.
Sport and Exercise Sciences (CTEC): Single, Double or Triple	Grade 4 in PE or a Pass in a CNAT Level 2 Sport course.

Please note the following:

1. *Some of the subjects offered may be subject to change based on the number of students applying from the applications received.*
2. **Where a student has not taken a subject at GCSE level (eg Art, Dance, Geography etc) the individual subject criteria are a guideline only; students can be accepted onto courses based on their overall suite of results.*
3. *Applied Science, Health and Social Care courses follow the BTEC AAQ specifications, which replace the previous BTEC courses. Each AAQ is equivalent to one A Level.*
4. *Digital Systems and Data V Level Further information on AAQswill be released by the government in January 2025; information is correct at the time of publication and students and parents/carers will be updated accordingly.*
5. *Please refer to subject information pages for further information about courses and entry requirements.*

www.markrutherford.beds.sch.uk

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