



2024  
ENTRY  
THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL

6<sup>th</sup>  
FORM



2024  
ENTRY





## New School, Same Ethos and Values

As you may know, we will be relocating next year to a new site in the heart of the St James' Park development zone, just south of our current school. Construction has progressed very well and we are expecting to occupy the new buildings in time for the next academic year, September 2024.

Changing location will not alter the same strong ethos and proud traditions that make TBSHS a 'Stunning School'. We will be blessed with a wonderful new facility that will include 11 science labs, two drama studios, a large Sixth Form centre, a 480 seat performance hall, a huge six-court sports hall, a Strength & Conditioning gym, floodlit tennis/netball

courts and four football/rugby pitches. We are also fundraising for an Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP), which will be another great addition. It will be well-connected, with a new bus route, and have much greater capacity for Sixth Form parking. It promises to be a fantastic site that combines high-quality teaching spaces and excellent enrichment facilities to support our superb extra-curricular programme and we hope you will be looking forward to being part of the first cohort of Year 12 students to join us in our new home.

Dale Reeve  
**Headteacher**



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# Welcome to our Sixth Form

**“Outstanding”**. Ofsted said so in 2017 and again in May 2023 and we hope you will agree.

Our Sixth Form is unique and I am tremendously proud to lead it. We deliver a ‘truly all-round education’; a *Black and Gold* education with amazing opportunities designed to make your vision of success come true.

Your Post-16 education is an incredibly exciting time of discovery, hard work, enjoyment and building meaningful and lasting relationships. It is a time to explore your future and take ownership of the path that lies ahead. In our Sixth Form you will learn to be independent, resourceful and resilient; equipped with the intellectual agility and strength of character to adapt quickly to an ever-changing world.

To be *Black and Gold* is to be inspired and challenged every day, by dedicated and passionate staff, who are experts in their field. It means having a relentless and diligent work ethic to secure the very best academic outcomes.

**“Sixth form students regularly secure the top grades at A level”** - Ofsted 2023. Over the last two years, on average, 66% of all A-level grades were A\* - B.

To be *Black and Gold* is to receive unrivalled, individualised Post-18 support and guidance. In 2023, 32% of those that chose higher education have gone to Russell Group universities, including five veterinary or medicine places and four places at Oxford or Cambridge. Many of our pupils choose the apprenticeship pathway and this year have secured roles in banking and finance, insurance, quantity surveying and digital marketing as well as with the Police and Google.

To be *Black and Gold* is to respect the traditions of our past, whilst being progressive, innovative and dynamic. Sixth Form pupils set the standards for younger pupils and providing active leadership within the school and wider community.

**“Sixth formers are excellent role models for the younger pupils. Many run extra-curricular clubs and organise school events with governors and staff.”** Ofsted 2023.

Being *Black and Gold* means immersing yourself in the fantastic opportunities we provide; our Year 12 outdoor adventure trip; a wide variety of on-site weekly enrichment activities; recreational and representative sport, drama, music and debating (we regularly reach the finals of national schools’ football, debating and public speaking competitions); Sixth Form international trips to Austria, France, Germany, Guernsey, South Africa and Sri Lanka; performing on stage at the Royal Albert Hall or hearing directly from high profile speakers like Greg James or Claire Balding.

To join TBSHS Sixth Form is to be part of an inclusive, affirming, exciting and challenging environment. We want you to be a role model who is passionate, imaginative, creative, resilient, diligent, resourceful and kind. We want you to be *Black and Gold*.

George Munro  
**Assistant Headteacher,  
Head of Sixth Form**





## Starting Sixth Form Life at TBSHS

We are a mixed Sixth Form with an intake of approximately 200 students into Year 12. On your first day in the Sixth Form, you will quickly discover that we are a diverse and welcoming community and that we prioritise your transition into our School. In fact, on your very first day in Year 12 the whole day is dedicated to team-building and establishing new friendships. Within one month of being at TBSHS, the whole year group will go on a "community and bonding trip" where Year 12 will complete a range of team building activities such as climbing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, white-water rafting and raft building. We really value students who are willing to 'get stuck in' and we practise what we preach - you may end up rafting or kayaking with your tutors! These opportunities will help you to settle into Year 12 and enable you to become a valued member of a Year 12 tutor group. Ultimately, a happy student will always get the most out of their time inside and outside the classroom.

To help you deal with the challenge of A-Level study, Year 12 students are assigned dedicated Sixth Form study areas to ensure they make the most of our challenging curriculum. Our Tutorial Programme and Summer Bridging Units will further support your smooth transition from Year 11, and help you meet our high academic standards. Your tutor will meet with you regularly on a formal one-to-one basis to check on your progress and provide guidance in a non-judgmental environment for you to critically assess your own learning and development. Your Year 12 Tutors and the Sixth Form Management Team will also provide support in making any necessary improvements.

Our busiest students are often our most successful. Therefore, all students are also encouraged to get involved in Sixth Form life whether it is in the classroom, as part of our Curriculum Enhancement programme, or developing your extra-curricular skills on our Enrichment programme.

You will be given the chance to get a flavour of all that is on offer during our Induction period in the summer.









# High Performance Netball - New for 2024

This brand-new programme is aimed at talented netball players aged 16 and over who are already playing at a good standard and are committed to improving their netball skills and abilities, while gaining academic qualifications on an A-Level or BTEC pathway.

The programme enables players to combine netball coaching sessions with their academic studies. The programme is player focused and encourages student athletes to improve as individuals and as

team players, to develop their game knowledge and understanding and equally importantly, complete an appropriate academic course of study. There will also be the opportunity to complete umpiring and coaching awards.

Players featuring at school, local league, County Satellite, Regional Academy, Regional Performance Academy, Netball Performance, Vitality Netball Superleague, National Academy & England Futures are all encouraged to apply.

EXPECTED PROGRAMME	
Day	Focus
Monday	Team Strength & Conditioning
Tuesday	Training (Technical & Tactical)
Wednesday	Training and Matches 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Thursday	Team Strength & Conditioning
Friday	Training (Technical & Tactical)

Academic entrance criteria & expectations	In line with school policy
Kit	Dress, T-Shirt, Hoodie, Shorts, Leggings, Bag
Playing expectations	Selected via a trial process in April/May. Full attendance to on-court training and strength & conditioning sessions. Representing the school in all fixtures including the County, Regional and National tournaments that are held on weekends.



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"Post 18, I am considering studying natural sciences, medicine or law. I thoroughly enjoy my four subjects and know that TBSHS will be able to support me over the course of my A-Level studies."

**Rahul**

A-Level Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths and Physics



"I chose to study my A-Levels as I have always had a passion for history and enjoyed studying it at GCSE. I also know that I want to pursue a future career in business."

**George**

A-Level History, PE and Business Studies

## What Should I Study in The Sixth Form?

We offer a great range of subjects and we would encourage you to choose the subjects which you enjoy the most and to play to your strengths, whilst also bearing in mind any career aspirations that you may already have. For example, if you wish to become a doctor you would need to study Chemistry and at least one other science, often Biology. If you wish to become an engineer, studying Maths will be essential. However, if you are not sure what career path you wish to follow, select subjects that you enjoy or find interesting as we believe that our happiest students are our best performing and most motivated. Our own students are more than happy to share their reasons for selecting their subject combinations – so feel free to speak to them during our open evenings, guidance meetings and induction days.

When we come to create our timetable, we do our utmost to ensure that as many subject combinations as possible can be accommodated. To further enhance your curriculum, you will choose an Enhancement Option that is designed to prepare you for undergraduate study, leadership or employment. You can find more information about all our courses – and the GCSE grades that they require – in our Options and Subjects booklet.

Our most recent Ofsted report praised our exceptionally high quality guidance and, if you would like any advice on which subjects to choose, then you can contact the school and we would be very happy to talk through your options.



"I knew I wanted to continue with Drama as it's my passion and I have chosen to study two new subjects. The TBSHS open evening really sparked an interest in politics for me and I am really enjoying business studies."

**Miriam**

A-Level Politics, Theatre Studies and Business Studies



"I chose to do A-Level Psychology as it became a great interest of mine after the Sixth Form Open Evening. I also chose to do BTEC Sport as sport is a big part of my life and I would love to have a career in the sports industry."

**Scarlett**

BTEC Level 3 Sport and Psychology



## Teaching and Learning

You will be joining the Sixth Form in order to maximise your academic potential and we are passionate about helping you make this happen. The Sixth Form has three dedicated study areas, which all contain ICT facilities. Two of these areas are supervised silent study areas with the third area being a venue where quiet discussion can take place. Independent Study is a skill that we will help you to develop, as it will enable you to find success at Sixth Form and Higher Education.

You will find that your teachers will all be dedicated experts in their respective fields, sharing their knowledge with you through innovative and inspiring lessons. You will be encouraged to discover things

for yourself and ask questions to deepen your learning. Subject teachers will stretch and challenge you and you are expected to work hard in return.

Our teaching staff will go that extra mile to support you outside of your lessons, meeting with you in study periods, at lunchtimes and after school to reinforce your learning.

On top of your A-Levels and BTEC studies, you will be given a choice of a curriculum enhancement option to broaden your CV and your independent study skills. You will be able to choose from:



- **Core Maths** – is an AS Level equivalent award, which enables students to increase their confidence in using mathematics to be better equipped for the mathematical demands of other courses, higher education and employment.
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (Gold Award)** – is an internationally recognised award, which will give you skills, confidence and an edge over others when you apply for college, university or a job. You do not need to have done the Bronze Award to this option in Sixth Form.
- **Extended Project Qualification** – is an AS Level equivalent award, which will help you to develop a range of extra study skills. It is highly valued by higher education institutions as it demonstrates your dedication to independent learning and is often included in offers made by institutions to applicants.
- **Fundamentals of Finance Qualification** – allows students to develop essential knowledge of the financial services sector and commonly used financial products, such as shares, bonds and insurance and it will provide you with an understanding of financial terminology.
- **Sports Leaders Qualification** – which will enhance your leadership and coaching skills. In this qualification, you will be given the opportunity to coach younger students within the school and in surrounding primary schools. It is a great qualification to demonstrate that you have used your 'soft skills' to great effect.





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**"Sixth-form students are well supported by teachers who know their subject well. Students enjoy exploring their teachers' theses from their doctorate degrees. Teachers do not shy away from giving students complex material that undergraduates would study." Ofsted 2023**





**"Leaders and teachers  
continue to deliver  
high-quality education."  
Ofsted 2023**

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Sixth Form  
Management Team



## WHAT DOES A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR HENRY?

Time	Session	Henry's Comments
0830	Morning registration	My form tutor Mr Blake excels at opening the day with a friendly demeanour and some sage advice for us to carry forward.
0840 – Period 1	A-Level Computer Science	In computer science, I'm able to throw myself into my work, tackling problems and practising critical thinking, knowing I have the backing of some excellent programmers to support me, I always leave knowing I have made progress.
0940 – Period 2	A-Level German	German A-Level has allowed me to truly immerse myself in culture other than my own, and being able to speak another language with my peers has been a surprising privilege.
1040	Break	There are many places I can go at break, whether it be to the on-site café, the library, or the Sixth Form centre, break provides a welcome opportunity for me to unwind and prepare for the rest of the day.
1100 – Period 3	Extended Project Qualification	My extended project qualification (EPQ) is different, it's almost totally self-lead, allowing me to work on what interests me while developing key skills, it's a nice complement to my A-Level studies.
1200 – Period 4	A-Level Maths	Maths is essential to my future career, and with the support of the maths department, I'm able to steadily develop my skills. This is another of my passions.
1300	Lunch	Lunch again provides an opportunity for me to socialise and relax, I can go off site or attend clubs according to how I feel, breaking up the day.
1400	Study Period	Study periods allow me the chance to catch up on work or do some further revision in a quiet environment and are, surprisingly, quite productive and useful.
1500	Afternoon Registration	Afternoon form provides a closing bracket to end the day and gives us a chance to have one-to-one meetings with our form tutors to discuss how we're doing.
1530 – 1700	Extracurricular Activities	After school is equally as busy, I myself have been taking part in many different things ranging from rugby to music to debating, meaning I have been able to develop not only as a student, but as a person.



## Our Community and the 'Black & Gold' Ethos

Community is one of our core values and we are proud of the fact that our students are part of a warm, diverse and welcoming community. As Sixth Form students and leaders of the school, you will set the standard for younger pupils. You will lead by example, behaving and dressing professionally, readying you for your progression to Higher Education and employment. You will run your own Senior Prefect Team, Sixth Form Council and Sixth Form Committee and provide valuable guidance to younger students through our paired reading, peer mentoring, literacy, sports coaching and other subject-specific initiatives.

We have very high standards and an expectation that all of our students want to challenge themselves to live up to the "Black and Gold" ethos. You will also act as representatives of TBSHS forging close links with organisations such as the Mitre Fund, Grove Cottage and the Rotarians to raise money and to do direct outreach work to help vulnerable people. You will represent the Sixth Form at TBSHS in all that you do.

Our Sixth Form will also broaden your understanding; you will have access to academic enrichment events and opportunities such as our Mock Bar Trial, language exchanges, and student-run clubs like our MedSoc, Law, Maths and Physics Societies and History Discussion Group. We also invite internationally recognised speakers to share their experiences with you. In recent years we have welcomed Alastair Campbell, Emily Maitlis, Michael Heseltine, Shami Chakrabarti, Michael Holding, Jason Bell, Clare Balding, the Jacksonville Jaguars (NFL) and former TBSHS Deputy Head Boy Greg James, now of Radio 1 fame.

Furthermore, our Sixth Form will also broaden your horizons with a range of excellent trips. You can bring your subjects to life through visits to France, Germany, and Switzerland. We have listed some of them overleaf:





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**"Pupils are ambitious for their futures. They receive helpful careers information, education, advice and guidance. They participate in a wide range of employer engagement activities, including work experience." Ofsted 2023**









**“Having exposure early on to a wide set of experiences, including trips and competitions, means that pupils bond quickly and join in with the school’s community spirit. ” Ofsted 2023**

## 2023/2024 A SELECTION OF OUR TRIPS

TRIP NAME	SUBJECT AREAS	TIME IN THE CALENDAR
Geography Trips (London)	Geography	September
Marxism Walking Tour	History, Politics, Sociology	September
Community Cohesion Trip at Herts Young Mariners	All of Year 12	October
Netball Tour to Guernsey	All of Year 12	October
Wicked: The Musical	Music	October
Russia in Revolution Study Day	History	November
Trip to the Houses of Parliament	Politics	December
Harry Potter Studio Tour	Media Studies	December
French Exchange	French	January
Ski Trip to Austria	Available to any member of Year 12 and 13	February
CERN Trip to Switzerland	Physics	February
Post-18 Convention	All of Year 12	March
British Empire Walking Tour	History	March
Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Lake District	Duke of Edinburgh	July
Rugby Tour to South Africa	Senior Rugby Team	July



## Extra-curricular Life

At TBSHS we pride ourselves in offering an active and vibrant extra-curricular programme as a crucial part of your holistic Sixth Form education. Our wide range of opportunities will further your personal development and increase your future options and wellbeing as well as making a valuable - and valued - contribution to the highly varied life of TBSHS. For many students, the highlight of their Sixth Form experience is the 'buzz' generated from the vast number of extra-curricular activities on offer. Research shows that the most fulfilled, happy, successful and interesting people balance a busy, challenging work life with a variety of other interests. Many of the activities on offer involve participation and achievement at a regional or national standard and all will enhance the very best of CVs.

You can choose from over 60 different clubs, societies and leadership opportunities to enrich your Sixth Form life beyond the classroom and we always welcome new ideas and suggestions to further develop the experiences available. There are numerous and various sporting opportunities

here at the Sixth Form. You could be playing high level Rugby, Football, Cricket or Netball as part of our prestigious and competitive fixture card. Alternatively, you could focus on achieving your own personal goals in our Running, Fitness or Weight-Training clubs. There are plenty of sporting avenues you can explore to boost your overall development. There are also fantastic extra-curricular opportunities in Art, Drama and Music where students can join a whole host of Art and Drama enrichment clubs, or take part in a dozen different music groups. Furthermore, there are plenty of leadership opportunities in activities such as Debating and our ever-popular fundraising and charities group, Interact. Many of our students enjoy fundraising in the pursuit of experiences abroad. You could experience different cultures on our sports tours and trips that have ventured to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Austria.





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WHICH EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPTIONS WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Athletics	Dodgeball	Leadership of the School Council	Rock Bands	Swimming (off-site)
Art	Drama	MedSoc	Rugby	Swing Band
Badminton	Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions	Mock Bar Trial	Running Club	Table Tennis
Basketball	Engineering Society	Music	Senior Prefect Team	TBSHS Music Festival
Board Games	Fitness	Netball	Showcase - Our Student Variety Show	Tennis (off-site)
Chess	Football	Paired Mentoring	Sixth Form Council	Volunteering
Climbing (off-site)	Golf (off-site)	Paired Reading Scheme	Sixth Form Dinner and Dance Committee	Weightlifting
Competitive Public Speaking	History Discussion Group	Pilates	Ski Trips	Whole School Production
Concert Band	Horse Riding (off-site)	Primary School Debating	Sports Tours	Yearbook Committee
Cricket	Interact	Primary School Sports Competitions	Squash (off-site)	Year 13 Varsity Matches
Dance Choreography	Karting (off-site)	Quiz Teams	Student Welfare Groups	
Debating	Languages Support			







“The teachers at TBSHS were so supportive in giving post-18 guidance right from the start of year 12, especially my English teachers Mr Williams and Ms Matharu who were so supportive when it came to applying for an English Literature degree, and Mrs Price who is so knowledgeable and helpful about all things UCAS!”

**Emilia Anniss**  
TBSHS 2021-2023  
English Literature and  
American Studies



“I am extremely appreciative for the immense help and post-18 support I received at TBSHS. I found my teachers were always willing to go the extra mile and help me. Ms Price did an amazing job informing us of opportunities, contacts, interview workshops and MedSoc events, which ensured I was in the best position when applying.”

**Rohan Rana**  
TBSHS 2016-2023  
Medicine Gonville & Caius  
College, Cambridge

## Life Beyond TBSHS

Whether you choose to continue to study at university, enter the field of work or develop during a gap year, our experienced and dedicated Sixth Form team will provide you with comprehensive support to help you make the best post-18 choices. Our broad programme of advice and guidance includes visits, independent advisors and external speakers from all walks of life, complementing our strong academic and extra-curricular provision so that you develop your skills, interests and talents against a backdrop of study and career path knowledge. This means you can assess and review your potential and priorities throughout Sixth Form to maximise your chances of success on leaving TBSHS. The vast majority of our Sixth Formers

continue to degree study each year with a large proportion gaining places at the prestigious Russell Group universities. We provide specialised support to our candidates for elite universities and highly competitive subjects such as medicine, veterinary science and dentistry. Some have chosen to complete Foundation Arts courses or proactive gap years prior to further study, while others have commenced employment directly with companies such as GSK, EY, Deloitte, BAE, Dyson, Jaguar Land Rover, PwC and the Civil Service. Each one of you will be given the tailored support and help you need to aspire and reach your personal goals as you progress into adult life.



“When I joined TBSHS I had my heart set on going to Uni and had no interest in applying for apprenticeships at all. However, the more post-18 sessions I attended, I began to realise how many opportunities are out there in the world of apprenticeships. My form tutor was rooting for me which really helped me end up in the apprenticeship I am in now.”

**Isla Burrows**  
TBSHS 2021-2023  
Global Marine Insurance  
Practitioner,  
Willis Tower Watson



“Applying to USA universities isn’t an easy job. It requires a lot of time and effort put into a completely different academic system. However, this process was made much simpler and enjoyable with the support I had from TBSHS staff. I was able to focus on my studies and my extracurricular activities just the same, and still complete the applications effectively. I am extremely grateful for the effort that the staff at TBSHS put into my future.”

**Regan Lawrence**  
TBSHS 2015-2022  
Michigan State University,  
USA





**“The very strong programme of careers information, advice and guidance is highly effective in raising aspirations and promoting the range of progression opportunities beyond school, including apprenticeship routes. A high proportion of students go on to study at universities, including in some of the highestperforming higher education providers nationally.” Ofsted 2017**



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**“Pupils achieve highly at this stunning school.”  
Ofsted 2023**



**The Bishop's Stortford High School**

Chairman of Governors: Mr A Fordham

London Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3LU

T. 01279 869531 F. 01279 868687 E. [sixthform@tbshs.org](mailto:sixthform@tbshs.org) W. [www.tbshs.org](http://www.tbshs.org)