

# THREE CAMPUSES ONE SIXTH FORM



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership  
The Sixth Form



Learning more about the subjects I most enjoy, as well as finding real friends.

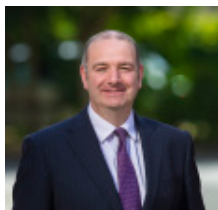
*Sixth Form Student*



Midsomer Norton Sixth Form provides a broad curriculum that meets students' needs well.

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# WELCOME TO THE SIXTH FORM



## **Statement from CEO**

The Midsomer Norton Partnership Sixth Form provides challenges, progression, support and opportunity for students as they transition into the final stage of school. It is made up of four campuses each with its own unique identity. Students are encouraged to work hard towards exceptional outcomes for themselves and to have high expectations of what they are able to achieve. The sixth form provides a balance between independence and freedom on the one hand and responsibility and diligence on the other. In these uncertain and rapidly changing times it is essential that we prepare students for a dynamic jobs market, by equipping them with resilience, stamina and academic success as well as a flexible skills set. We are proud of the legacy of success that sixth form students have achieved and hope to welcome you to become part of this.

*Mr Alun Williams, CEO and Executive Headteacher*



## **Statement from Director of Sixth Form**

Our aim is to provide the guidance and support necessary to ensure that you succeed on your chosen post 16 courses. We also offer a wide range of experiences designed to allow you to develop into confident individuals equipped with the skills and independence to lead fulfilling lives.

We take great pride in your success and want to ensure that, no matter what your ability or background, you enjoy your time here and succeed in realising your potential.

*Mrs Karen Ward, Director of Sixth Form*

## **Our Sixth Form**

The MNSP Sixth Form in the Norton Radstock area offers you three different campuses with different characteristics and options. These campuses are all high-performing, ranging from a smaller community feel in the Writhlington campus, and Vocational courses in a supportive school setting at Somerset Studio School, to a large vibrant scampus with an extensive range of courses at MSN Sixth; all campuses offer an impressive selection of opportunities.

## **Wide range of courses**

The greatest attraction of The Sixth Form is the quality of courses on offer. You can choose from over 40 subjects including T Level, A Level and BTEC courses.

With so much choice, you may need some advice on the combination of courses that will best fit your interests, abilities and ambitions. To do this, firstly, find out about the courses that interest you, then discuss the opportunities at home, and check the advice in this prospectus.

# THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

## **A Level**

These are two year courses. Study begins at the start of Year 12 and continues into your second year in the Sixth Form. Each A Level course contains two or three modules. All exams are at the end of Year 13. The final A Level grade can be used to enter Higher Education.

## **BTEC Nationals**

BTEC – Level 3 are the “real world” equivalents of A Levels. These qualifications are the most popular vocational qualification in UK further education, recognised and respected world-wide and valued by universities as well as employers. They also enable you to go on to study for an Honours degree. The ‘single’ is equivalent to one A Level. Further Information on entry requirements can be found in the Course Outline Booklet or Pathway Guidance Booklet on our website.

## **English Language and Maths GCSE Retakes**

We provide exceptional support for those who need to retake English Language and/or Maths. There is also additional maths support for those who choose to take the Engineering qualifications.





### Extended Project

You can choose this course as part of your curriculum in Year 13. You can complete a project in any area that interests you.

Students have completed projects on a wide variety of topics, from 'What Position should Sharia Law have in the UK?' to 'Medical Negligence and its Impact on Society'. This is equivalent to an AS Level, and is highly regarded by universities as it allows you to demonstrate your passion for a subject you may want to study and will also enable you to develop your ability to research and work independently.

### T Levels

We are delighted to have been chosen as a provider of this qualification. T Levels are courses developed in collaboration, so that content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, and is based on the same employer-led standards as Apprenticeships.

T Levels include a mixture of classroom learning (80%), 'on-the-job' experience (20%), and industry placement of a minimum of 45 days.

We are the only school based sixth form offering these courses in the Bristol and Bath area. We are offering T Levels at both the Writhlington Sixth and Somerset Studio School Campus.

**Each campus offers a different combination of courses.**

**There is further information on this in our Pathway Guidance booklet.**



An extremely positive climate for learning where students want to succeed and do well.

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Students are prepared well for their next steps and for life in modern Britain; attaining places in (often prestigious) higher education institutions.

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# WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE...

## **Aspirational Destinations**

Students from the Sixth Form consistently leave with clear and purposeful destinations. The Sixth Form encourages students to be ambitious for their future with a high proportion of students progressing onto higher education and higher and degree level apprenticeships. Students consistently progress to top flight universities across the country including the highly regarded universities, such as Imperial College, London, and all the campuses also have growing success in placing students at both Oxford and Cambridge. Students have also progressed to prestigious apprenticeship with employers such as the BBC, Airbus and Dyson.

## **Russell Group university support**

In 2022, 30% of students applying to university progressed onto Russell Group/ the top third most selective universities; a real achievement when compared to the 14% national average. The focus here is not just on students who want to progress onto further study; students are exceptionally well supported to apply for degree and level 3 apprenticeships and are successful in achieving them. The exceptional support provided ensures that consistently 100% of students have achieved a secure destination in the past three years.

## **Harvard UK**

The Sixth Form is also a link school for Harvard UK with trained counsellors to support student applications. Four students from the MSN Sixth campus in recent years have successfully progressed onto US universities obtaining the highly sought after full scholarships.



**UK LINK**  
**SIXTH FORM**  
FOR THE SOUTH WEST



# DIRECT TO WORK

In response to the changing economic climate and students' desire to go straight into the workplace we have work experience tailored to meet your individual career goals and aspirations paired with strong connections with employers.

This considered approach to students' futures has meant that we have achieved a much envied 100% success rate, with all our students leaving the Sixth Form with clear destinations.

Opportunities include:

- Sutton Trust Summer Schools in the USA and UK
- Access to Bristol – university experience course
- Apprenticeship experience day with Wainwrights
- Summer School at Oxford University amongst others
- Airbus apprenticeship experiences



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I love being more independent and being treated more like an adult, and having the freedom to study what I want.

Sixth Form Student









# **THREE CAMPUSES ONE SIXTH FORM**

As a student at the MNSP Sixth Form, you will benefit from a huge range of rigorous subjects with expert subject teaching being pooled from across the three campuses.

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I like that there is a better dynamic with teachers than at secondary level and the greater sense of freedom that comes with life in the Sixth Form.

Phoebe, Politics





## Sixth Form Centre

Welcomes Martin

Welcome



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An extremely positive climate for learning where students want to succeed and do well.

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# MSN SIXTH FORM CAMPUS

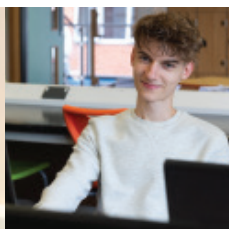
**Midsomer Norton Sixth Form is the largest sixth form campus in the Norton Radstock area with approximately 400 students spread over two sites.**

We are based at Norton Hill and Somervale Schools, both of which are high performing. We have a vibrant and lively learning environment where students have a vast array of opportunities available to them. Students have the benefits of being able to use two sites both with bespoke Sixth Form centres, libraries and IT facilities.

Students are able to choose from over thirty different courses including A Level and BTEC options. Outcomes are consistently above national average in terms of attainment and over the past three years students have made progress above the national average.

The size of this campus, and the culture of high achievement means we can offer a wide variety of courses and a wide programme of extracurricular opportunities. These include a successful outdoor education programme encompassing both the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and Ten Tors. There will also normally be opportunities to take part in a wide variety of trips, such as the History trip to Rome and the Geography field trip to Devon. There are a great variety of Drama and Music groups and opportunities allowing you to get involved in performances, even if you don't take these subjects. Students will benefit from the newly refurbished theatre.

This is a high performing sixth form with a reputation for supporting our students and enabling them to achieve their ambitions.





## Evelyn

**Subjects studied:** English Literature, History and Sociology

**Post Sixth Form:** To go to university to study History and Politics.

What I like about sixth form: I enjoy the higher levels of independence that you have in both your studies, as well the ability to choose how you spend your days. In the sixth form, there's lots more room for debate during lessons, thanks to the smaller class sizes and the eagerness of the teaching staff to allow students to develop an opinion and voice!

# MSN

## STUDENT PROFILES

### Tom

**Subjects studied:** Biology, Chemistry, Maths

**Post Sixth Form:** To go to university to study Medicine.

Sixth form gives you the flexibility to work towards your A levels whilst carrying out wider study and other aspects of day to day life.



### Tasha

**Subjects studied:** Sociology, Applied Law and Criminology

**Post Sixth Form:** I would like to go to Leeds University and study Law.

I like that I have the independence to be in control of my own learning.



### George

**Subjects studied:** Applied Law, Criminology, English Language and Literature

**Post Sixth Form:** University.

I enjoy wearing my own clothes and being treated like an adult by the teachers. They allow me to have more independence.



# SOMERSET STUDIO SCHOOL (SSS) SIXTH FORM CAMPUS

**SSS Sixth Form is a small campus with around 50 students in the Sixth Form. We offer a range of vocational qualifications within a supportive nurturing environment. Students achieve consistently strong outcomes each year.**

SSS Sixth Form is all about freeing the talents within every young person – identifying your talents, nurturing them and teaching you how to apply them.

We believe in first class care, a personalised curriculum and providing opportunities for our students to design and build their own futures.

To help us to achieve these goals, you will benefit from a range of employment and Higher Education links – employers work with students every week. The facilities are industry standard and we offer a broad experience so that you will have the edge over your peers when you take your next steps, regardless of whether you choose to enter into Higher Education, Apprenticeships or Employment.

Every student truly does matter and we will work closely with you, your parents/ carers and your teachers to support and challenge you to be the best you can be.

SSS Sixth Form will help to prepare you for the next step, whether that is into University, Apprenticeships or Employment – this is at the heart of our mission.

We offer:

- Well recognised qualifications for STEM subjects
- Course related Work Experience
- Employers regularly working with students during the school day
- A tutor-coach pastoral programme so that students develop their social skills, resilience and role-modelling
- A small school where students benefit from a caring student-centred team focusing on each individual's needs.



Outcomes for  
pupils are good.

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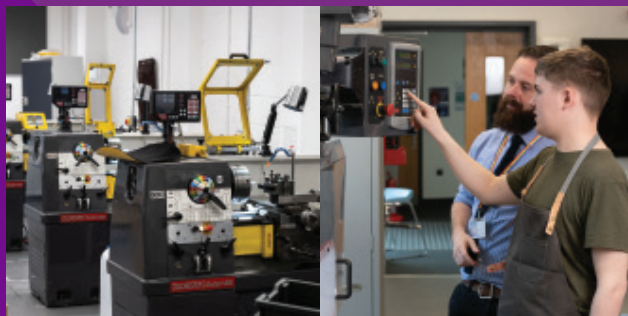




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They are enthusiastic in their ambition to use industry links to provide realistic learning experiences for pupils. Pupils' problem solving and team working skills improve as a result.

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**I like the freedom that we have within the centre. It is also a lot smaller than other sixth forms meaning there is a lot more focus on students and one-to-one support.**

*Josh, BTEC Engineering*

### Programme of study

In addition to their taught lessons for their subjects students will also be expected to spend time working on independent study. This is guided by teachers and tutors and encourages students to be reflective and to develop good time management skills. Students are able to use the Hub in the Studio School which provides a strong supportive environment for students to work in. Research and Development programme Students will also attend a weekly research and development session. Our Research and Development programme is designed to challenge students by approaching topics using an enquiry based approach to learning. This approach often sets problems and projects which

students explore, research and develop on their own with the coaching and support of the tutors and fellow students. This allows students to develop key skills desired by educational establishments and employers. Students complete research and development projects which are designed to enhance the knowledge and skills students acquire in their lessons and will help prepare them for the world of work. There is a range of activities that take place in R&D that involve our link with industry partners, including, Universities of Kent, Cambridge, Bath and Bristol, as well as the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew and the Eden Project. Current activities also include VEX robotics, Reptile Group, and Lego robots.

## STUDENT PROFILES



**Brandon**

**Subjects studied:** Engineering

**Post Sixth Form:** Join the Royal Navy Engineers.

It's more free than other types of schools. It also leads into the career options I want to do after school.

**Meg**

**Subjects studied:** BTEC Forensic Science, A Level Product Design

**Post Sixth Form:** To go into the Police Force.

I like it because I can choose subjects to do with my career. I like sixth form because it's more free and more career based than lower school.



**Brandyn**

**Subjects studied:** BTEC Engineering

**Post Sixth Form:** Apprenticeship.

It's fun and inclusive. It also allows you to grow and expand into the real world.





**Josh**

**Options:** Engineering

**Post Sixth Form:** Apprenticeship in engineering.

I like the freedom that we have within the centre. It is also a lot smaller than other sixth forms meaning there is a lot more focus on students and 1 to 1 support.

# WRITHLINGTON SIXTH FORM CAMPUS

**The Writhlington Sixth Form campus has a real community feel with around 200 students having access to a bespoke Sixth Form building. Students here consistently achieve academic success in both A Level and BTEC courses. The campus also offers T Levels in both Media, Broadcast & Production and Digital Production.**

This success is underpinned by high quality teaching and a varied curriculum designed to support a wide range of aspirations and abilities. There is a strong emphasis on supporting the whole student and giving them a wide range of opportunities both in and out of school, to become mature and responsible individuals.

Students are encouraged to help and support the school community, and Head Students and the Senior Prefect Team contribute to all aspects of Sixth Form and school life, as well as coordinating a vast programme of charity work both in the school and the local community.

The facilities at Writhlington campus are second to none. The campus offers a dedicated IT room, along with study and social spaces for the Sixth Form students.

Students have the opportunity to be part of a Sixth Form whilst also being able to contribute to the wider school community through mentoring programmes with lower school students.

Students benefit from a high level of support at this small community-focused Sixth Form campus.

The Writhlington campus prides itself on being a community focused Sixth Form and we offer some amazing extra-curricular opportunities, such as:

- Foreign trips to New York, Iceland, Italy or skiing in Austria
- Outdoor education, including Ten Tors, Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Combined Cadet Force with Army and Navy sections
- Numerous sporting opportunities and teams in our sports centre
- Art shows, biannual Musical and Post 16 production, senior band, rock bands and many other creative arts opportunities.

Throughout the year our amazing team of student elected prefects work to raise money for a range of local charities by organising events such as the annual talent show, regular cake sales, car washes, sponsored walks and many more. The creativity and passion the team have drives this onwards each year and we continue to aim to raise more year on year.







Students are overwhelmingly positive about their experience and their attitudes to learning are good.

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# WRITHLINGTON

## STUDENT PROFILES



**Lewis**

**Subjects studied:** Biology, Chemistry and Geography

**Post Sixth Form:** University.

The freedom of being able to work where, how and who with, in a calm and friendly atmosphere; as well as being supported by my tutor, teachers and other staff.

**Taylor**

**Subjects studied:** Psychology, Business and English Literature

**Post Sixth Form:** To go to University to study Psychology.

I like the independence we are given from all the teachers, yet they are always there to help whenever we ask.



**Alfie**

**Subjects studied:** Criminology, Business, IT

**Post Sixth Form:** I am hoping to complete an apprenticeship with the Police Force.

Sixth form has helped me plan for my future, teachers offer lots of support.







**Phoebe**

**Subjects studied:** Chemistry,  
Biology, Politics

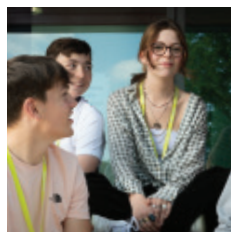
**Post Sixth Form:** Medicine.

There is a more dynamic atmosphere with teachers. I like the greater sense of freedom that comes with life in Sixth Form.

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The move from GCSE to Post-16 study can be a daunting prospect, however, in The Sixth Form we support students to adapt to their new academic environment through our tailored Tutor Programme and Academic Mentoring. Students have regular one to one meetings with their tutors to assist with the challenges of both time management and organisation; these are crucial skills for students to utilise if they are to get the most out of their courses. Transition support is also offered at subject level with course leaders tailoring their teaching to support students in developing the skills they need.

The Tutor Programme is also designed to support students' well-being and looks at mindfulness techniques and study skills, such as note-taking and effective revision. We have a programme of external speakers who visit school to speak to the students about their experiences and cover topics such as 'How to Develop Resilience'. We also recognise that some students need extra support with transition and so at The Sixth Form we offer students an opportunity to access counselling services on site.





“

I enjoyed how the teachers got to know each individual student, instead of just treating us like another class on their timetable. The best part of Sixth form was meeting new people, learning new things, having responsibility; the whole experience was fantastic.

*Sixth Form Student*

“

Students are provided with good information, advice and guidance.

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Sixth form is a place where students begin to mature and find out who they really are – I am now achieving more than I have before. I am developing academically whilst learning important life skills.

Sixth Form Student

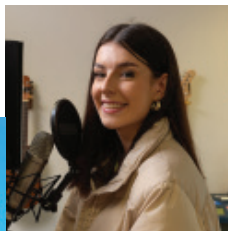
# WIDENING YOUR EXPERIENCE

**Important as academic achievement is, you will find there is much more to life in the Sixth Form.**

As well as participating in a wide range of sporting activities, a large number of students are involved in the most challenging Ten Tors expeditions and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Next year students will again have the opportunity to take part in this. The creative arts, sports and community programmes offer opportunities which are open to all. You will have the chance to visit theatres, concerts and art galleries throughout the year, as well as the chance to perform in the campus's musical and drama productions. In the past, Sixth Formers have visited France, Spain, Italy, Poland and Germany. You may wish to get involved with the Sixth Form Council and help arrange Sixth Form events, work with younger students, or to be involved in voluntary activities and events within the wider school community. There are a wide variety of first class facilities for Sixth Form students across all campuses.

These include:

- Dedicated Sixth Form independent study areas.
- ICT Suites
- Sports Hall and Astro Turfs
- Extensive specialist facilities in Science and Technology, including 3D printer
- Sixth Form libraries
- Specialist Drama performance areas
- Music performance rooms and Music Tech areas
- Specialist Media Suites





# YOUR TUTOR AND OTHER SUPPORT

## The Tutor

Your tutor is central to your progress in the Sixth Form. Your tutor will be a member of staff who understands your needs and aspirations well and who is best placed to guide, inform and support your academic progress. Your tutor:

- Is the first point of contact between teachers, you and your parents
- Ensures that you make progress and succeed
- Helps you to overcome any difficulties or problems
- Organises tutor sessions, writes your references and administers University and College Admission Service (UCAS) procedures.

## Career Guidance

In the Sixth Form you will be offered a full programme of Career and Higher Education guidance including:

- A range of activities in tutor periods to help with your career choice
- Opportunities for work experience
- Visits to universities and colleges
- A specifically designed preparation programme if you are planning to go directly into work after the Sixth Form
- A preparation programme to assist those planning to apply for Oxbridge, Medicine or other competitive courses at university, such as the Russell Group
- A preparation programme to help you to complete your university application process
- Information evenings for your parents to help them in supporting you
- A chance to take part in a wide range of HE opportunities such as Access to Bristol, Pathways to Law Course, Maths lectures at Bristol University and visits to Cambridge and Oxford Universities
- An opportunity to talk to medics about their experiences.



Teachers use their strong subject knowledge and effective questioning to support students to build up the body of knowledge required to be successful learners at this level.

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I also felt more involved with my studies as I got more support from my teachers and studied subjects I cared about.

*Sixth Form Student*

“

I come to sixth form happy and ready to learn because I am supported, encouraged and challenged by all the staff here.

*Sixth Form Student*

# RESULTS & DESTINATIONS

**We are exceptionally proud that we can ensure you will have both a fantastic time in the Sixth Form, and also a clear plan and destination at the end of your time here.**

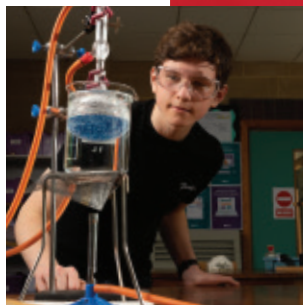
100% of all Year 13 students went on to their first choice destination, whether that was an apprenticeship, a job or a place at university or college.

## **Destinations**

Manchester University – *Chemistry*  
Birmingham University – *Psychology*  
University of Sheffield – *Law with Spanish Law*  
University of Kent – *Biomedical Science*  
University of Bristol – *Medicine*  
University of Oxford – *Maths & Computer Science*  
Plymouth Marjon University – *Sport Coaching*  
University of Bath – *Mathematics*  
University of Exeter – *Politics, Philosophy and Economics*  
University of Nottingham – *Archaeology and Geography*  
University of Southampton – *Education and Psychology*  
Swansea University – *Biochemistry*  
University of East Anglia – *Chemical Physics*  
University of Exeter – *Engineering*  
City University of London – *Investment and Financial Risk Management*  
Cardiff University – *Law*  
University of Portsmouth – *Film Production*  
Plymouth University – *Geography*  
University of Bristol – *Veterinary Science*  
Bournemouth University – *International Hospitality Management*  
University of Oxford – *Economics*  
University of Oxford – *Chemistry*

# 100% PASS RATE, WITH OVER 84% OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING A\*–C

**(National Average 75%)**





“

The ability to have direction and support for study as well as the freedom for self study has allowed me to get great grades, also being treated like an adult!

*Sixth Form Student*

“

Leaders have worked with success to increase the proportion of students who attain higher education places, including at Russell Group Universities.

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# CHOOSING YOUR COURSES

## Course Guidelines

If you are aiming to study at A Level, it's usually expected that you would achieve at least a 5 or 6 at GCSE. To study a BTEC course, you will need a 4 or 5 in the subjects you are hoping to study.

Students normally choose three courses, unless they are choosing a T Level. The T Level is equivalent to three A Levels. If students are taking three separate options then they can also opt to take a fourth course, for example Core or Further Maths.

Detailed course specific requirements can be found in the Sixth Form Course Outline Booklet.

Your programme will be made up of a combination of the courses you have chosen, together with private study periods. The tutorial programme is part of the Core Activities that all students participate in.

This comprises:

- Tutor time
- Assembly
- Academic coaching



The support I received was brilliant and I am so grateful that I have been able to get into Uni to study the course I am so passionate about. Thank you for all your help and advice through these past two years.

Sixth Form Student



## The Process

### Stage One

We recommend that you read this prospectus and the Course Information Booklet carefully, then visit our virtual Open Event. Take the opportunity to find out about subjects and find out what interests you and are appropriate to your needs.

### Stage Two

Talk with as many people as possible. You may want to approach:

- Your parents
- Your tutor
- Your subject teachers
- Sixth Form students
- Careers Support
- Director of Sixth Form (Mrs Ward)
- Sixth Form Pastoral Staff:
  - MSN Sixth (NH & SV) – Ms Oxley-Hughes/Ms Barker-Starling;
  - Writhlington – Mrs Sage;
  - SSS – Mrs Baber

### Stage Three

Select your course(s). Fill in your application form online and submit by the December deadline. The deadline for external candidates is also December. All external students will be interviewed. Further information for External Applicants can be found on page 13. If you are based at one of the schools linked to the Sixth Form, you will be seen by one of our Sixth Form Transition Team to ensure your choices are suitable for your career aspirations.

### Stage Four

After the results of your GCSE examinations you will be able to discuss any concerns or changes you might wish to make with either Mrs Ward, Director of Sixth Form or another member of the Sixth Form team.

### Contact us

If you would like to visit any of the campuses and meet staff and students, or if you have any questions relating to the information in this prospectus, please contact the Sixth Form on 01761 402280 or [sixthformadmin@msnsixth.com](mailto:sixthformadmin@msnsixth.com)



# THE SIXTH FORM TEAM



**Director of Sixth Form**  
Mrs K Ward



**MSN**  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form  
Ms Oxley-Hughes



**SSS**  
Head Teacher  
Mr Hain  
**Sixth Form Lead**  
Mrs Baber



**Writhlington**  
Deputy Director of Sixth Form  
Mrs Sage



**T Level Coordinator**  
Mrs Jackson  
Based at MSN



**Sixth Form Pastoral Administrator**  
Mrs Malone  
Based at Writhlington



**Deputy Director of Sixth Form**  
Mrs Barker-Starling

# APPLICANTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

## The Process

**Unlike other Sixth Forms, our curriculum is built around the students' requests and allows maximum choice.**

We will send you an acknowledgement as soon as we receive your application form. You will be invited for an interview early in the Spring.

After the interview, we will contact you as soon as possible to let you know the result and we hope to offer you a place in the Sixth Form. If you are an external applicant, you will be invited to the Sixth Form Taster Day in July to meet your teachers and to sample some lessons.

When the GCSE exam results are issued we will send a letter with details of the start of term arrangements. The deadline for applications from other schools is the end of the Autumn term. Applications after this date will be considered, but you may find your choices are restricted if you apply late.

### Visiting the Sixth Form

If you would like to visit the Sixth Form and meet staff and students, or if you have any questions relating to the information in this prospectus, please contact the Sixth Form Administrator on 01761 402280.

### Sixth Form Bursary

The 16–19 Bursary Fund helps young people facing financial hardship stay on in full-time education after Year 11. The scheme comprises two parts:

- A full bursary (£1,200 per academic year) for those most in need of support e.g. young people in care.
- An Educational Support Grant available for those in need of finance to help enable them stay in education.



# MSN SIXTH FORM



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership  
The Sixth Form

*Administration based at*  
**Norton Hill School**  
**Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton**  
**Somerset BA3 4AD**

**T: 01761 402280**  
**E: [sixthformadmin@msnsixth.com](mailto:sixthformadmin@msnsixth.com)**

**[www.msnsixth.com](http://www.msnsixth.com)**

Midsomer Norton Sixth Form is part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

