



SALTER
SIXTH

SUCCESS • THROUGH • ENDEAVOUR

[OAT]
Ormiston Academies Trust
AN OAT ACADEMY



WELCOME

Making decisions about your future is always difficult but is also key to future success. Salter Sixth is an established and distinctive part of George Salter Academy and is able to offer a unique experience for young people which combines the flexibility and independence of a college education with the support, range of opportunities and continuity of a school sixth form. It provides a structured, stable and focussed approach to post-16 learning.

Our Sixth Form deserves its excellent reputation and track record. The outstanding results which students have achieved with the dedicated support of exceptional staff, is testament to our motto "Success through Endeavour".

Students have a unique opportunity at Salter Sixth; they can study just A Levels, mix A Levels with BTEC/vocational qualifications. There really is a lot of variety on offer, which we believe enables students to create a programme of study that they will not only enjoy, but is unique to them.

We are able to offer students contemporary, purpose-designed accommodation with specialist classrooms. We offer outstanding teaching from a team of highly-qualified teachers with a proven track record of success, many of whom are also examiners. Our Sixth Form support team are skilled and experienced in areas such as university application through

UCAS, applications to Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, preparation for employment and training opportunities.

Universities, training institutions and employers look very favourably upon students who have taken the opportunity to challenge themselves and expand both their knowledge and experiences, and we offer a full range of opportunities to address this. Enrichment opportunities include the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and leadership qualifications as well as university-based masterclasses. Equally, we offer numerous opportunities for students to take part in our extensive electives programme which includes work experience, the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE), charity fundraising, drama and sport to name just a few.

We look forward to meeting you and discussing how Salter Sixth can help you achieve your goals.



Mrs Bellingham, Head of School

CARE, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

All students receive care, guidance and support before and during their time in the Sixth Form at Salter Sixth.

Support provided in Year 11

November – January

During Year 11, you will have the opportunity to have in-depth discussions with your teaching staff and Head of Sixth Form about the courses you intend to take at Salter Sixth. After you have submitted your application, you will have a meeting with the Head of Sixth Form or a specialised member of their team. During this meeting, course choices will be discussed which take into account your aspirations and strengths.

June – July

Once you have chosen your subjects, taster sessions will be offered, enabling you to see for yourself whether the subjects are right for you. During the taster sessions you will be treated as a Sixth Form student and given the type of work you will do as a student of Salter Sixth so that you can really assess whether the subject suits you.

Choosing your subjects

When choosing your subjects you need to take an honest look at the level that you will be working at in Sixth Form.

- Level 2 students are generally those who need to take a year to improve their GCSEs in English and Mathematics.
- Level 2.5 students are those who need to resit either GCSE English or Mathematics and would like to start taking Level 3 (A Levels or BTECs) subjects.
- Level 3 students are those who are taking only A Levels or BTECs. All students in this category are required to take three subjects, and these will be agreed (but depends on your GCSE results) at the meeting in January – March.

Where can you get advice?

- You should seek advice from your teachers in Year 11. They will know your abilities and whether you will be able to cope with the subjects you are choosing.
- You should seek advice from the Sixth Form staff at Salter Sixth. They will look at your whole programme and link this with your career aspirations to decide on the right programme of study.
- You should seek advice from family and friends. They will know you well and will know your strengths and weaknesses. They may also be able to give you advice based on their own experiences.
- You should seek advice from other Sixth Form students. They will be able to tell you what it is actually like to study the subjects you are choosing.

You should look at the subjects you are good at or enjoy as it's likely that you will succeed in these subjects. You should carry out research such as researching university websites to view entry and course requirements for degrees of interest to find out which subjects will provide a basis for your future career path.

You should take subjects which best suit your assessment style. If you enjoy coursework, and meet all your deadlines, you are likely to be advised to take Applied A Levels or BTECs. However, if you think you are better at preparing for examinations you should take A Levels in the subjects which are assessed by examinations.

Support provided whilst in Sixth Form

Your personal tutor


All students joining Salter Sixth will have a personal form tutor, who will take you through your studies and develop the skills needed at Sixth Form; including time management, study skills, revision skills and examination skills. They will also help you with your progress, as they will monitor grades given by your subject staff during the academic year.

In Year 13, students will work with their personal form tutors on their UCAS and career applications. A programme of activities is delivered to support students as they leave home, which includes personal finance and first aid. Students have a regular weekly debate about a current affairs issue and students spend time on a weekly basis reading the latest press.

Progress phases

On four occasions during the year your teachers will grade you on your progress to date. You will receive feedback on how you are doing and your teachers, personal tutor and Head of Sixth Form will discuss with you the best way of achieving your target grades. At Salter Sixth you will receive help at an early stage if you are struggling, helping you to get back on track as soon as possible.

Snapshot 1 (Progress phase 1)	October
Parents Evening – Yr 13	October
UCAS Mocks	November
Snapshot 2 (Progress Phase 2)	December
Parents Evening – Yr 12	January
Written Reports – Yr 13	February
Snapshot 3 (Progress Phase 3)	March
Written Reports – Yr 12	April
Mock Exams	June



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guidance and support before
and during their time in the Sixth
Form at Salter Sixth.**



FACILITIES, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TRANSPORT

Facilities

Salter Sixth is housed in a purpose designed block with a dedicated Sixth Form student-only entrance via Dudley Street. Students have the following facilities:

- Learning Resource Centre – uniquely designed to offer students university-style facilities to carry out independent study in a focussed environment, including individual study booths, dedicated library section and IT facilities.
- Common Room – designated for quiet group work. Includes vending machines with hot and cold drinks.
- 12 Dedicated Classrooms – specialist classrooms designed with subject specific resources; all fully equipped including 3 fully equipped computer suites.
- 2 Coaching Rooms – small group teaching rooms designed for one-to-one and small group coaching.
- Performing Arts Room – purpose built performance space, with wall length mirrors and performance lighting.
- Wi-fi in the whole block for students to access using their own iPads and laptops.
- Group Project Room – dedicated project room available for students to book and use for study sessions.

Sixth Form students also have access to specialist labs and classrooms in the Academy. In addition to boasting fantastic facilities for our students we ensure they are available for students on an unrestricted basis; students have access during the following hours:

- Monday to Friday, 8.15am to 4.00pm





Financial assistance and transport

Trips and residentials

Trips and residentials are important parts of learning in the Sixth Form, but we realise that the cost is often an issue.

A fund is available which subsidises all trips. The Academy works with individual students and their families to ensure every trip or residential is financially accessible.

Student bursary

Each year, the Academy receives an allocation of money from the government, based on the number of students who receive free school meals, to spend on students with the greatest need.

Salter Sixth allocates this fund according to need, attendance and work-related targets, and against set means-tested criteria. Students make applications and if eligible, receive payments on a half termly basis.

Transport

A number of students travel to study at Salter Sixth.

Students living more than three miles from Salter Sixth can apply for a travel subsidy to contribute towards travel costs through the student bursary.



STUDY SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES AT SIXTH FORM

Salter Sixth offers a first-class study support package for all students that attend the Sixth Form, and has built a reputation for providing an unprecedented level of study support. We believe in an all year round approach, not just during the run-up to examination periods, and this approach is integral to our students' successful results. In fact, on many occasions our staff respond directly to student requests to put on additional study support sessions, such is the commitment for them to achieve their maximum potential.

Study support is not only about additional, teacher led activities. Salter Sixth offers all students the opportunity to study independently in a quiet environment during and after school. We appreciate that it is often difficult to study effectively with distractions at home so our facilities provide students with access to environments that are more conducive to independent study.

VESPA

At Salter Sixth, our pastoral programme includes systematic teaching of VESPA skills. The VESPA acronym stands for: Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice and Attitude. The creators of the scheme conducted extensive research into the study skills needed to help support students in being successful at Level 3 study. They found that students who are weak in one of the VESPA strands could under perform in their A Levels by at least one grade. Therefore, we work hard with tutors to ensure that all Salter Sixth students are upskilled in these areas from the start of Year 12.



FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN SIXTH FORM

As part of the more mature approach to Sixth Form study and as a taster for university life, Salter Sixth offers a vibrant programme either during a specified morning or afternoon. Students have the opportunity to either participate in the programmes on offer or seek voluntary placements at organisations that will help support UCAS or job applications. The Academy offers a range of work experience placements through the support of a dedicated Careers Officer.

As part of this programme students can opt into activities such as Duke of Edinburgh (DofE), supporting classes in lower school, a whole range of sports activities (the Academy sports facilities are made exclusively available for Sixth Form students) and health and fitness related activities. However, if students wish to use this time to support their academic studies there is also a range of catch-up sessions on offer.



EXTENDED CURRICULUM

Alongside their A Levels and BTEC subjects, students are given the opportunity of studying additional subjects for the following reasons:

- To prove a passion for the subjects they study or plan to study at university.
- To provide the skills that they would not get by just doing their taught subjects.
- To demonstrate a knowledge and awareness of the world around them that would not be evident through their taught subjects.
- To provide a link between the subjects being studied and a vocational experience.
- To offer accreditation for language skills in a student's first language.

Extended Project (AS)

Students are able to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), through individual tutorials and support, in any topic of their choice. A written project of 5000 words, or a practical artefact or film together with a 1000 word report are submitted. Students are taught the skills of independent research, which provide them with a firm foundation for future extended writing or dissertations. Students who produce an extended project are able to prove a passion for a subject which may be linked to their career or higher education choice, or to explore an interest in a topic outside of their area of study. The skills of independent research, planning, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation are all highly valued by universities.

Core Maths

Core Maths is a Level 3 qualification that can be taken alongside A-levels or vocational qualifications and is equivalent in size to an AS level. It is aimed at students who are not studying A-level Mathematics but require mathematical and statistical skills to aid understanding of their other A-level/BTEC courses such as the Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, PE, Geography and other subjects which contain quantitative elements. The curriculum combines familiar topics from GCSE Mathematics with new concepts, focusing on practical applications. Students engage in real-life problem-solving related to finance, statistics, and estimation, while also developing their critical analytical skills. Core Maths serves as a valuable preparation for university courses that involve Mathematics. Additionally, it equips students with practical and analytical skills applicable in various workplace settings.

Leadership Opportunities in Salter Sixth

There are a plethora of opportunities to be involved in student leadership within Salter Sixth.

The Year 13 Student Union consists of 2 student presidents and 4 vice presidents each responsible for a specific strand (welfare, activities, community and charity, education and careers).

Year 12 student union form the sub-teams in these specific areas and work on targeted projects with a focus on an aspect which has been raised through student voice.

The student union represents the leadership both within Post-16 and the whole school, actively participating in weekly e-briefings, student led meetings, charity events and wider school initiatives. The student union organise and lead events which involve other students across the academy and furthermore some more targeted initiatives within post-16. Projects include recycling, mental health, careers advice and fundraising for various charities.

"The student union is the face of the student body, our aim is to bridge the gap between staff and students, while serving as a voice to challenge conventions in order to provide the best experience for the students in post-16 and throughout the whole of the academy."





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One world in one school

Davey Road, West Bromwich
West Midlands, B70 9UW

Tel: 0121 553 4665 ext. 5233
Email: post16@georgesalter.com
www.georgesalter.com/sixth-form