

# The Polesworth School Sixth Form



@Tomlinson Hall



PROSPECTUS

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# Welcome

I am privileged to lead The Polesworth School.

Education brings with it the responsibility to prepare the young people in our care for happiness and success in their adult lives. Polesworth provides the care, support and guidance to ensure that students achieve their full potential.



We encourage students to be successful and, above all, to be ambitious. At Polesworth we take great pride in what we offer to our students. This is based on fundamental basics that include trust, respect and effective quality first teaching. As a school we recognise the importance of academic, social and personal achievement, so that students in our care thrive and flourish to become well-balanced, well-educated and aspirational individuals who are empowered to make effective contributions to their wider community.

The educational landscape changes regularly and Polesworth responds superbly to these changes through our curriculum offer, the high-quality teaching and learning that takes place every day and our innovative practice.

We very much look forward to working in partnership to guide you through the next stage of your development.

I warmly welcome you to Polesworth to see for yourself the mix of warmth, fun, strong relationships and personal and academic achievement that makes Polesworth so special.

**Maura Favell** - Headteacher



**Sixth Form  
provision is  
outstanding**

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# Why choose Polesworth?

## Teaching Excellence

The Polesworth School Sixth Form is a popular and thriving Sixth Form where students achieve very good examination results and, crucially, make very good progress. Excellent teaching is provided across a broad range of subjects.

“All the teachers are very supportive; they offer help in their free time in school and alternative ways of learning.”

“The teachers are incredibly friendly and always ready to help you if you are having difficulty with a topic.”



## Support for Health and Wellbeing

We strive to ensure that all fulfil their potential in a supportive environment where young people feel nurtured and encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning.

“The pastoral support is really helpful. If you have an issue, you can speak to them about anything. They are really kind, caring and excellent listeners.”

“The Sixth Form Team are dedicated and willing to help with any problems.”

“It is a really welcoming environment for external students where you get support from fellow students and staff. I’ve felt that I really fit in here.”

## Our Diverse and Inclusive Environment

“Sixth Form is a diverse and inclusive community who support each other.”

“The Polesworth School Sixth Form is a very inclusive and accepting environment.”



The school has a diversity and inclusivity forum, which is popular among all pupils

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“ Staff know their pupils and this enables positive relationships to thrive. ”

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## Range of Qualifications

We offer a range of A level and vocational qualifications which allow students to choose the subjects they are really interested in and that best meet their needs - as well as the chance to take up new subjects.

## Responsibility and Flexibility

Sixth Formers have responsibility for their own learning and enjoy privileges not available to the rest of the school. Students have a number of non contact periods which gives them considerable flexibility when managing their time.

## Enrichment Opportunities

The Polesworth School Sixth Form offers a wide range of enrichment opportunities with internal and external placements. These opportunities provide valuable experience and preparation for future career paths.

“I have really enjoyed my enrichment opportunity at a local primary school. I feel incredibly grateful to have been given this opportunity and I have definitely learnt a lot of skills that I can use in the future.”

“I found this enrichment opportunity really useful. It has helped me learn more about a career in the Care Industry and has given me a better idea of what I want to study at university.”

## Careers Information, Advice and Guidance

All Sixth Form students benefit from appointments from our full time Careers Advisor as well as specific personal support for UCAS and employment applications.

“Our careers and UCAS staff have been exceptionally helpful in enabling me to apply to University.”

## Facilities

Our facilities offer a range of environments to study or relax in.

### Study Centre

“A nice quiet space to work.”

### Sixth Form Bistro

“A fantastic place to buy food and drink.”

### Common Room

“A vibrant space to chat and work.”

### Group Study Areas

“We can work in groups and collaborate on our work and projects in this area.”



## What do our students say about us?



“

The teachers are really kind and passionate about their subjects.

”

“

The teachers have supported me whenever I have needed it.

”



“

The enrichment activities on offer here give great opportunities for developing team building, communication, organisation and adds to our skill set for university, an apprenticeship or employment.

”





“

Strong relationships between staff and students create a welcoming, working atmosphere.

”

“

Our Bake Sales are very popular, successful and a great way to raise money to support external charities.

”



“

The advice that I have been given to support me in my future has been invaluable and tailored just to me.

”



## What enrichment opportunities are there?

At The Polesworth School Sixth Form we are committed to developing our students in more than just their academic studies. We want them to become rounded individuals who can fit into any workplace and offer a multitude of skills alongside their academic achievements. These skills, such as leadership, independence, resilience and working effectively in a team, to name a few, are essential to employers, and will allow our students to have the greatest access to opportunities when applying for universities, apprenticeships, or jobs. Students engage in at least 2 hours a fortnight of enrichment time and choose from the many options below:

**The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** is a nationally recognised qualification where students decide on a topic to study, then either: write a dissertation, carry out an investigation, give a performance, or create an artifact.

**Core Maths** enrichment is intended for students who have passed GCSE Mathematics at grade 5 or more, who have not chosen to study AS or A level Mathematics. It helps students develop

their quantitative and problem-solving skills and will support students in Post 18 qualifications or employment.

**International Certification of Digital Literacy (ICDL)** is a qualification recognised by employers as the benchmark in digital and IT user skills. If you want to develop your skills in Word, PowerPoint and Excel, ready for work beyond Sixth Form, then this is a great Level 2 qualification.

**Classics** enrichment offers the chance to study and possibly take GCSE Classical Civilisations. Topics include Greek and Roman Myths, Religion, and Roman City Life. Myth and Religion cover gods, temples, festivals, heroes, foundation stories, myths about the underworld, death, and burial. Roman City Life explores Rome, Ostia, and Pompeii's literature and culture.



Teachers and sixth-form ambassadors support younger pupils with reading for pleasure  
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### Massive Open Online Courses

**(MOOCs):** These are a great way for students to develop their interests and gain an insight and understanding of different subject areas. There are many free courses in a huge number of different areas.

**Duke of Edinburgh Award:** Some students may have already started their D of E, but they have the opportunity to start it or move on to Silver or the Gold award.

**Sixth Form PE:** This is a chance for students to choose their sporting activities, play sports with others and keep fit and mentally healthy.

**Community Volunteering:** Students may want to organise their own volunteering, but we will also help them get the right placement for them. It may be working with a primary school, nursery, charity shop or with local businesses.



**In-School Volunteering:** Within our school there are several opportunities to encourage our Sixth Form students to gain experience in supporting younger students or staff and develop leadership skills. These vary from reading with younger students, mentoring, in class support, engagement with Student Voice or helping in Departments.

There are also other opportunities for students to join clubs as an extra-curricular enrichment activity such as our Sixth Form Book Club and Model United Nations Club.

🗨️ Pupils are well-rounded citizens and prepared for life in modern Britain  
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## What courses do we offer?

Our students stay with us for two years following a Level 3 programme of study which allows them to progress to Higher Education, employment or a similar opportunity. We offer a wide range of subjects, mostly traditional A Levels, covering humanities, science, social science and creative and expressive arts. The majority of our students take 3 subjects but there is an opportunity for some of our highest attainers to take 4 subjects. We allocate 10 hours of lessons for each Level 3 course and there is the opportunity for our students to retake English and/or Mathematics at GCSE to improve their grade(s) where necessary.

We are flexible and respond to the combinations of courses that our students want so that more of them are able to study their first-choice subjects. Unfortunately, we aren't always able to offer some courses or a specific combination of courses if too few students have made that choice.

Level 3 courses are challenging and demanding; it is therefore very important that students embarking on these courses have demonstrated both their commitment to study and achieved the appropriate grades at GCSE which will enable them to be successful in post-16 study.



SCAN ME

For information on  
courses and entry  
requirements



Teachers are experts in  
the subjects they teach  
and deliver lessons

with enthusiasm

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Our general entry requirements are:

- a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above or their equivalent which must include:
- a very good record of attendance;
- a grade 5 or above in either English Language or English Literature with at least grade 4 in English Language;
- a grade 4 in Mathematics;
- a grade 5 or its equivalent in any subject which has been taken at GCSE or other Level 2 qualification that is to be carried on to A Level unless otherwise specified.

Some subjects have additional entry requirements which are listed below.

Subject	Description	Additional Requirements
Art	Art is a subject that suits inquisitive, imaginative, disciplined, persistent and collaborative minds and is continuously changing and diversifying. Students can creatively express themselves in a multitude of disciplines such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, performance, textiles and new technologies including photography and video art.	GCSE Art at grade 5 or above
Biology	Learn about the wonders of genetics, neuroscience and the processes that keep us, and the world around us, alive. Alongside this, you will complete practicals so that you can see the course content in action!	GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above. Biology at grade 6 or above with a grade 5 in a second science or 5-6 or above in Combined Science
Business	Prepare yourself for both higher education and the world of work by looking at areas such as Marketing, Production Techniques, Human Resources and Finance. Students will be equipped with the ability to analyse business scenarios and make recommendations for improvement.	
Chemistry	This course covers many exciting aspects of Chemistry including Physical, inorganic and organic Chemistry. You will get the chance to do a range of different practicals to develop your laboratory skills and see the Chemistry you will be learning about in action!	GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above. Chemistry at grade 6 or above with a grade 5 in a second science or 5-6 in Combined Science
Classical Civilisation	Provides a broad, coherent and rewarding study of the literature and culture of the classical world through the study of classical literature, thought and material context.	GCSE English Literature at grade 5 or above
Core Maths	Core Mathematics focuses on essential mathematical skills and concepts relevant to everyday life and various fields of study. It includes topics like statistics, probability, financial mathematics, and algebra, providing students with practical mathematical tools for solving real-world problems.	
Design & Technology - Product Design	A qualification in creative problem solving, developing practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge. Students will explore the history of design and the socio-economic factors that influenced change, alongside the technological developments that made this possible. The course grade is based upon up of 50% project work, including a practical outcome, and 50% exam.	GCSE Maths at grade 5 or above

Subject	Description	Additional Requirements
Design & Technology - Fashion and Textiles	Explore the history of fashion design and the evolution of style in this creative course. The course will also incorporate a wide range of technical skills to understand how fibres become fabrics, and fabrics become the garments we see in the stores today. The course grade is based upon 50% project work, including a practical outcome, and 50% exam.	GCSE Maths at grade 5 or above
Digital Media	Digital Media is an IT and Media Studies hybrid course that develops the knowledge and practical skills required in the digital media industry with coursework projects and external exams. Students gain hands-on experience of the production process, developing their ideas from planning, through editing and post-production, to final presentation.	GCSE Maths at grade 5 or above with a grade 5/Merit in this subject
Drama	This qualification is designed to inspire students to become independent theatre makers with the skills they need to go onto higher education or employment in the industry. Students are introduced to a wide variety of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically and create their own performances.	GCSE English Language and Literature at grade 5 or above
Economics	Students consider the economic environment here in the domestic market and how actions globally can impact the UK market. Students will be equipped with the ability to assess current issues facing government decision making and assess recommendations for improvement.	GCSE Maths at Level 5 or above
English Literature	This course offers plenty of scope for students to develop their reading interests, as well as enabling them to develop as informed, independent readers and confident critics of literary texts.	GCSE English Language and Literature at grade 5 or above
Forensic & Criminal Investigations	The BTEC Forensics and criminology course covers a whole range of practical techniques and scenarios that exist within the Forensics investigation world. You will get to suit up and collect evidence from different crime scenes and use it to figure out what happened!	Two grade 5s or above in Science and GCSE Maths at grade 5 or above
French	If you have enjoyed learning French at GCSE level, why not continue with A Level to develop your linguistic skills further. Being able to understand and communicate in another language is an incredible skill that will enable you to discover new cultures and be favoured highly by employers in today's increasingly globalized world.	GCSE French at grade 6 or above
Further Maths	A-level Further Mathematics delves deeper into advanced mathematical topics, including complex numbers, differential equations, linear algebra, and advanced calculus. It is typically chosen by students with a strong interest in Mathematics or those pursuing math-intensive fields like Physics, Engineering, or Mathematics itself.	GCSE Maths at grade 8 or above
Geography	Geography is a very versatile and current A-level. You will learn about the complex world we live in and the issues facing the world around us, while providing students with relevant and transferable skills that employers want.	GCSE Geography at grade 5 or above and GCSE Maths at grade 5 or above
German	If you have enjoyed learning German at GCSE level, why not continue with A Level to develop your linguistic skills further. Being able to understand and communicate in another language is an incredible skill that will enable you to discover new cultures and be favoured highly by employers in today's increasingly globalized world.	GCSE German at grade 6 or above
Government & Politics	Government & Politics focuses on the tumultuous political developments in the UK and US. Students will gain an understanding of the nature and effectiveness of democracy, the impact of media and electoral systems and the unpredictable leadership of Prime Ministers and Presidents.	

Subject	Description	Additional Requirements
Health & Social Care	This qualification will provide students with the opportunity, through applied learning, to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the health and social care sector. Units studied will include equality, communication, public health, safety, physiology, sexual health and early years which will be either examined or explored through coursework.	GCSE Science at grade 5 or above
History	History is the study of how we have reached where we are. Students will consider the everchanging power struggles of key historical periods from the medieval world to modern superpower relations. Analysis of contemporary sources and evaluation of historical views will be used to explore this fascinating content and even allow students to explore their own area of study.	GCSE History at grade 5 or above or GCSE English Literature at grade 5 or above if no History
Law	Law is the study of the English legal system and its application to crime, civil disputes and human rights issues.	GCSE English Literature or GCSE History at grade 5 or above
Mathematics	A Level Mathematics covers advanced topics in algebra, calculus, statistics, and geometry. It provides students with a strong foundation in mathematical concepts and problem-solving skills to prepare them for more specialised fields of study or careers in Science, Engineering, and Economics.	GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above
Media Studies	This is the course for anyone interested in films, television, advertising or newspaper or magazine journalism. Media is an exciting opportunity to study texts, audience, production and institutions.	
Music	This vocational course is designed for students who want to further their musical development or continue on to further education or employment in the music industry. The course consists of a variety of units looking at performance (solo and ensemble), music production, composition and music appreciation. During the course, students will have various opportunities to perform in ensembles and explore music through the decades.	
Physical Education	Enhance your understanding of sports science and its application to sports whilst fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills, preparing you for the next stage in your education or career. With A Level PE, you'll embark on a rewarding journey to excel both academically and athletically, setting the foundation for a successful and fulfilling future.	GCSE Maths at grade 5 or above. Two GCSEs in Science at grade 5 or above
Physics	Delve into the world of waves, Nuclear Physics, Mechanics and much, much more! You will get the chance to do exciting practicals so that you can see what you are learning in action to further your understanding and improve upon your laboratory skills.	GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above. Physics at grade 6 or above with a grade 5 in a second science or 5-6 or above in Combined Science
Psychology	Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and thought processes.	GCSE Maths at grade 5 or above. Two GCSEs in Science at grade 5 or above
RS, Philosophy & Ethics	RS offers an academic insight into Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics. Students develop their skills to debate, analyse and evaluate scholarly ideas.	GCSE RS at grade 5 or above or GCSE English Literature or History at grade 5 or above if no RS
Sociology	Sociology is the study of human behaviour. We consider the way in which society shapes us as individuals.	GCSE Sociology at grade 5 or above or GCSE English Literature or History at grade 5 or above if no Sociology
Travel & Tourism	Travel & Tourism is the fourth largest industry in the UK. The course combines Business Studies, Geography, Marketing and life skills. The learning journey looks at UK and global organisations and destinations, the impact of external factors and how creative interrelationships satisfy stakeholder and financial needs.	

## What support is available for students?

At The Polesworth School Sixth Form, we prioritise student well-being and provide excellent care and guidance throughout their time with us. Our aim is to ensure a smooth transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5, offering onsite support and advice.

Student well-being is central to our approach; we recognise the challenges of Level 3 study. Each student has a Personal Tutor, with daily 20-minute tutor sessions. Personal Tutors provide support through A Levels and cover aspects of the PSHE curriculum, fostering confident, compassionate, and responsible students. Our dedicated Sixth Form team offers additional one-to-one or group support for any issues, both within and outside of school, including attendance, well-being, and progress. School counsellors offer support for all year groups and Mental Health support is provided by our Senior Student Support Manager. The Inclusion Department ensures specialised support for students with specific learning needs, medical conditions, or disabilities, to help overcome any learning barriers.

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students. Staff are vigilant in reporting concerns regarding student welfare and safety. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) holds overall responsibility, while the Senior Student Support Manager is the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns in Post 16.



There is a respectful  
and caring culture  
across the school.

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## Meet the Sixth Form Team



**Mr Sean Cairns** teaches Maths and is the Head of Year for Sixth Form, with responsibility for the pastoral welfare and monitoring of the academic progress of the students in his year group during their Level 3 study.



**Mrs Sally Harris** teaches English and is Head of Year for Sixth Form, with responsibility for the pastoral welfare and monitoring of the academic progress of the students in her year group during their Level 3 study.



**Mr Paddy Barber** teaches Psychology and is our Sixth Form Academic Mentor with a specific responsibility for Post-18 progression. He is also our whole school Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Co-ordinator.



**Mrs Becky Knight** is our Senior Student Support Manager. Her role includes safeguarding, offering support services to students, liaising with external agencies, administering the 16-19 Bursary Fund and monitoring attendance.



**Ms Anne Picken** is our Sixth Form administrative assistant and supervises our main Sixth Form Study Centre so that there is a quiet place for students to work during their non-contact time.



**Mr Chris Davis** is the school's Careers Co-ordinator. He works closely with Post-16 students throughout their two years of study, supporting and advising them as they make decisions about, and prepare for, their future careers.



**Mr Paul Rosten-Smart** is the SENDCO. We work closely with him to support Post-16 students with particular needs.

## Frequently asked questions...

### **How many courses can I study?**

The vast majority of students take three Level 3 qualifications. In some cases, students will take four, but this should be discussed with the Sixth Form team at interview stage.

### **Is there a dress code?**

There is not a uniform, students wear their own clothes, but there is a dress code. Further information can be found on the Sixth Form website.

### **How many hours will I be taught per subject?**

Each subject has 10 hours of taught time with specialist teachers.

### **How many hours of enrichment will I take part in?**

Each week you will be expected to complete 1 hour of enrichment, but some activities do lend themselves to a little more time than this.

### **How should I make my decision about which subjects to take?**

You should think about which subjects you enjoy and are passionate about. Make sure that if you know what you want to do in the future, the subjects you choose are those that will lead you to your chosen university course, apprenticeship or employment.

### **What support is available for me?**

If you need academic support you can speak to your teachers, Heads of Department or Head of Year. For pastoral support you should speak to your tutor, our Senior Student Support Manager or your Head of Year.

### **Where do I get my Unique Pupil Number (UPN) from?**

This is needed for your application form. You can get this information from your school.

### **Do I have to stay onsite during my study periods?**

Students are encouraged to stay on site and to see study periods as a time to study!



## What do our students do after studying with us?



Around 75% of our students progress from A Level to degree level study and take their degrees at a wide range of establishments including Russell Group universities such as Oxford, Cambridge and Durham. A full time course at university is not however for all, and many of our students are also now looking at degree apprenticeships where they work for an employer who links with a university so that students can work and gain a degree at the same time.

In the last year, students have left us to study Law, Business, Maths, Creative Arts, Nursing, Midwifery, Events Management and English Literature to name a few and in past years students have gone on to become dentists, finance directors, physicists, engineers and work in many other industries.

Whichever route our students decide to pursue, we offer substantial careers support and guidance to ensure that they progress to positive destinations when they leave The Polesworth School Sixth Form.

“ Best bits – lots of subjects offered and taught at a high level. Teachers help in free time if you need it ”

## How can you apply?

Apply online using the application form accessible on our website. Make sure you attend our **Open Evening**. If you would like to arrange a visit to the school or discuss your application, please email; **sixthformadmissions@thepolesworthschool.com**. You should also discuss your course choices with your teachers, your parents/carers and careers staff at your school.

Please ensure that you have your UPN number to hand (this can be obtained from your school). Please also ensure that you have an electronic passport style photo of your head and shoulders. Make sure you give as much information in your personal statement as you can about yourself, your strengths, interests, and career aspirations. The majority of students study 3 subjects, however, if you would like to study 4 subjects, we will discuss this with you.

All students are interviewed to discuss their application and give them the opportunity to ask questions. Following the interview, you will usually be given an offer of a place on condition that you meet the course entry requirements.

**There is a deadline for applications.** We continue to accept applications after this deadline; however, there may be some restrictions on subject choices.

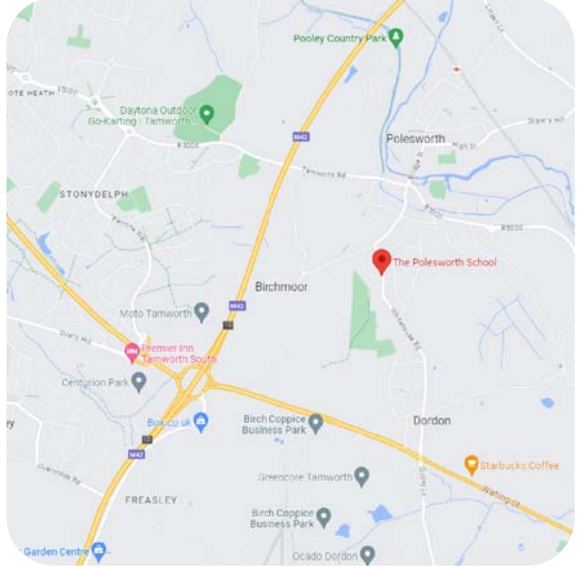
We hold an **Induction Day in July**. On this day students attend 'taster' lessons and summer holiday assignments are set to prepare for the new term in September.



Year 12 students are formally registered for their courses on GCSE results day in August or on the first day of term in September.

**Please see our website and follow us on social media for further information on key dates.**

## Where can you find us?



### Travelling by bus:

Atherstone 25 minutes

Tamworth 30 minutes

Nuneaton 55 minutes



### The Polesworth School

Dordon Road, Dordon,  
Tamworth, Staffs B78 1QT

Tel: 01827 702205

Email: [admin@thepolesworthschool.com](mailto:admin@thepolesworthschool.com)

[www.thepolesworthschool.com](http://www.thepolesworthschool.com)

