

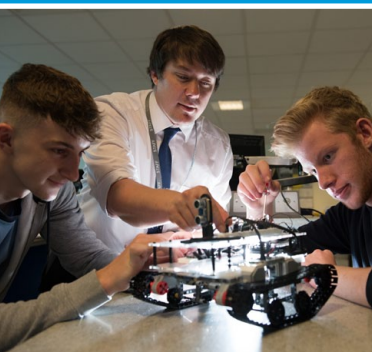


Introduction to



WORCESTER
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

2020-21



CREATE YOUR
SUCCESS STORY



www.wsfc.ac.uk

Founded:	1984
Academised:	2019
Principal:	Edward Senior
Deputy Principal:	Ruth Scotson
Personnel Officer:	Dee Booth
Chair of Governors:	Gillian Slater
Clerk to the Governors:	Jo Payne
Number on Roll (1st October):	1467

Academy Status

The College converted to 16-19 academy status on 1st April 2019 and joined the Heart of Mercia Multi-Academy Trust. The Trust owns the College's land and buildings and employs the staff directly.

The College is funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

The City of Worcester

Worcester is a beautiful Cathedral and University City with a fascinating history of industry, a wealth of interesting architecture, top class sports teams and venues and wide selection of high street names and independent shops. It offers a range of historic buildings, lovely riverside parks and walks and the towns and villages of Worcestershire provide something for everyone from the charming village of Broadway to breath taking walks over the Malvern hills. The major city of Birmingham with its vibrant, diverse culture is easily accessible by road and rail, as is Birmingham Airport.

Worcester has three train stations which makes travelling or commuting by train really easy. Foregate Street and Shrub Hill stations in the city centre and the new Parkway station. Worcester is also easily accessible via junctions 6 and 7 of the M5.

Students

Worcester is a city of 100,000 people and has grown rapidly in recent times. There have been extensive residential developments on the southern and eastern edges of the city though many of the residents travel to work beyond it. Worcester has both the rural industries associated with a county town and a place firmly within the West Midlands engineering tradition. Post-16 education is also provided by two independent schools, two 11-18 secondary schools and an FE College.

The City of Worcester and the rural area of Martley to the North-West of Worcester are served by six

schools. These and a small number of other 11-16 schools constitute the College's designated partner schools.

The designated partner schools have provided over half of the College's intake in recent years though large numbers of students are attracted to the College from independent schools or County High Schools with sixth forms of their own. The performance and reputation of the College are, therefore, of great importance in determining the number and strength of student admissions.

The admissions details and overall student course choice for 2020-21 are shown below:

Partner Schools	482
Bishop Perowne CE High School	61
Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College	113
Christopher Whitehead Language College	37
Tudor Grange Academy	49
The Chantry High School	48
Nunnery Wood High School	174
Local Independent	41
Secondary School in Area	201
Other Schools and Colleges	120
Total	844

Number of Students on Full Time Courses	
Level 2 GCSE 1 Year	15
Level 2 Applied 1 Year	45
A Level Year 1	372
Level 3 Applied Year 1	158
Level 3 Mixed Year 1	258
A Level Year 2	326
Level 3 Applied Year 2	141
Level 3 Mixed Year 2	176
Daytime Adult	3
Total	1494

Curriculum

The College curriculum is delivered through sixteen academic departments which are the key means for organising and developing courses, discussing ideas, consulting with staff and assessing needs for training and resource allocation. The daily timetable begins at 8.50 am and ends at 4.10 pm. A full option block contains four lessons of 65 minutes, a total of 4 hours 20 minutes.

Nearly forty A level subjects are presently offered in the six option blocks along with Applied programmes in Business, Criminology, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Music Technology, Law, IT, Sport, Uniformed Protective Services and Children's Play, Learning and Development.

Students are offered extension studies if their GCSE results suggest this would be beneficial. This can include subject extension, Oxbridge preparation and the Ambition Programme. All departments prepare differentiated lessons and learning materials and seek to stretch able students. Similarly, learning support is available to all students who need it whether for physical disabilities or learning difficulties. Help is provided individually and in classrooms and covers literacy, numeracy, work organisation and other needs.

In addition to their examination courses, all students have supported study, tutorial support and enrichment opportunities. The Ambition Programme, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Young Enterprise, Extended Project Qualification and Professional Programmes all prove popular.

There is an extensive and popular range of activities, often regarded as extra-curricular, available to students. Many choose work experience and work shadowing placements. Many sports teams take to the field each week and Wednesday afternoons are used for team fixtures yielding a large number of collective and individual representative honours. The College has a widespread reputation for sport and there are academies for Rugby, Football, Hockey, Athletics, Netball and Basketball. Participation in community service projects and voluntary work is important to many students as is raising funds for charitable purposes. Clubs and societies meet each week and are funded by the Student Union which also organises social activities for the student body. The College has academies for Performing Arts, Science and Engineering, Maths in addition to the Sports academies.

Results

The College achieves good examination results across all courses. In the most recent externally validated set of results (2019), 98.5% of A level students achieved passes.

Buildings and Facilities

The College has an excellent site on the SE edge of the city bounded by ancient woodland, the County Hall water gardens and an 11-16 partner school. The building, originally designed for 1,000 girls in the old grammar school and opened in 1962, is of modern construction on four floors and has been adapted to provide access for students with physical disability. A number of building projects both major and minor have been completed since 1984 and high quality specialist facilities are now available to students and staff in all departments.

Significant work has taken place since 2009 such as window replacement, over-cladding, significantly improving the look and feel of the entrances and ground floor corridors, creating new classroom and ICT facilities, creating student study spaces, refurbishing the Learning Resources Centre and installing a mezzanine in the Cafeteria.

In September 2014, work was completed on a state of the art Science Centre, which houses new science labs and ILT and study spaces. This has allowed some of the existing science labs to be converted into teaching classrooms and has facilitated removal of two of the temporary classrooms from the site. The Science facilities enable the training needs of local science-based businesses to be more fully met.

A Sports Hall complex, operated by Freedom Leisure, is on site and use of this is available to the Sixth Form College giving students access to sports hall, squash courts and weight training room. Facilities for sports and physical education in the College are now excellent and include gymnasium, dance studio, hard tennis courts, extensive playing fields and an all-weather astro-

turf playing surface for ball games and an eight lane tartan athletics track with full facilities (shared with the adjacent High School and available to the community in non-College time).

The College is generally well-equipped and now has many rooms with networked PCs. Departments have their own IT facilities and Wi-Fi has been installed throughout the College. The College Portal and email enable communication between teachers and students, individually or in groups, at home or at College and Moodle Virtual Learning Environment software was introduced to enhance this.

Almost all rooms have data projectors and some have interactive whiteboards. Cameras and visualisers were also purchased in response to COVID and the potential need to support blended or remote learning. An integrated audio-video-computer language centre is available to the Modern Languages department and there are rooms for Media Studies with video-edit facility and computerised sound recording system, a recording studio and practice rooms for Music subjects. All Science and Technology departments enjoy a good standard of practical and experimental equipment.

Tutorial Work

Each student who joins Worcester Sixth Form College becomes a member of a tutor group, consisting of students in the same year but otherwise mixed in terms of males and females, those following various courses and students who previously attended many different schools. Students following foundation courses have their own tutor groups. The tutor group meets each week to deal with College administration, tutorial business and to explore topics in the tutorial programme. In addition to the whole weekly tutor group meeting, tutors are expected to hold individual consultation sessions with students and review their progress and problems. The role of the tutor is critical to the success of the pastoral system within the College and especially in the first few days and weeks when students are expected to deal with many new challenges. Tutors not only deal with day-to-day pastoral issues but agree students' programmes of study and any changes to it, contact parents when necessary, process UCAS applications and produce references.

Tutorials are held throughout the weekly timetable in the Tutorial Suite which comprises three dedicated specialist tutorial rooms and the Tutorial Hub.

Three Heads of Year each oversee a number of tutor groups. They also monitor progress, deal with matters of serious concern and remain a main point of contact between the College and parents. Links between subject teachers and a student's tutor and Head of Year are important in the performance and monitoring of all work. A system of electronic registration used by subject teachers and tutors ensures full recording of student attendance. Tutors are supported in this work by the Tutorial Receptionist.

An internal electronic system enables teachers and tutors to communicate with each other and

provides tutors with an electronic 'notebook' for recording key-information about their contact with individual students.

Governance and Staffing

The College's Local Governing Body of the Corporation has shown considerable stability and commitment. Their work is very supportive of the College and the Principal and/or senior staff attend all meetings. They work in two sub-committees – Curriculum & Quality and Finance & Resources.

The College has a clear management structure with most of its affairs overseen by the Principal or Deputy Principal.

There is a cycle of meetings. The groups that meet are:

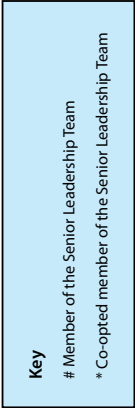
- Full staff
- Senior Leadership Team
- Heads of Departments
- Tutors
- Health, Safety & Wellbeing Committee
- Teaching & Learning Group
- Applied
- TU Representatives
- Support Staff Line Managers
- Staff Satisfaction Focus Group

The administration of the College is supported by a variety of administrative teams all of which are well-equipped and have staff committed to the support of teaching staff and the aims of the College. Administrative staff meet in various teams on a regular basis.

Currently the College has approximately 156 staff of whom about 48% are full-time and proportionate teachers, 52% support staff. 40% of all staff are full-time.

The College's organisation chart is included at the end of this booklet.







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