

The Polesworth School  
Sixth Form



@Tomlinson Hall





“Students enjoy their learning because teachers often set tasks that are fun and exciting so that they engage students’ interest”

OFSTED 2015

# Welcome to The Polesworth School

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 care, support and guidance to ensure that your son or daughter achieves their full potential.

Polesworth takes great pride in shaping the academic, pastoral and social aspects of your child's life. This is based upon fundamental basics that include trust, respect and high quality first teaching. Students in our care thrive and flourish to become well-balanced and well-educated individuals who are empowered to make effective contributions to their wider community.

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

We very much look forward to working in partnership with you in guiding your son/daughter through the next stage of their 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



## Why choose The Polesworth School Sixth Form @ Tomlinson Hall?

Dear Prospective Students, Parents and Carers

This is an exciting time for Year 11 students who are nearing the end of their GCSE courses and considering their options Post-16.

The Polesworth School Sixth Form @ Tomlinson Hall has a long-standing reputation of delivering a wide range of A Level and Level 3 vocational qualifications and was judged Outstanding at our last Ofsted inspection. Our students achieve very good examination results which enable them to progress to university, including the top universities in the UK, courses in further education, higher level apprenticeships or the world of employment. We are always delighted to hear of their many successes and the different career paths they have chosen to pursue after leaving us.

While most of our students join us after completing their GCSEs in the main school, increasing numbers of students from other schools in the area are choosing to study with us because of the excellent teaching they receive and the care and support we provide. Our Sixth Formers are part of a wider school community but have their own separate identity. Tomlinson Hall is the designated Sixth Form centre of the school and students enjoy many privileges and Sixth Form facilities. Here they are able to form new friendships, manage their own time, take up leadership opportunities, gain wider skills and form part of our student 'voice'; we value the many contributions that they make.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

**Lynn Munn**  
Director of Post-16



# The Polesworth School Sixth Form @ Tomlinson Hall

The Polesworth School Sixth Form @ Tomlinson Hall 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 together with a strong pastoral team to guide students through their studies.

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

Strong working relationships exist between students, subject specialists and personal tutors who work together to achieve success.

## ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

Our students are encouraged to develop an awareness of contemporary issues, acquire life long skills, participate in enrichment activities and show initiative both inside and outside school. Most of our students move into Higher or Further Education and we have an excellent track record of helping students gain entry into the top universities.

## A FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Most of our students move into the Sixth Form after completing their GCSE courses with us in the main school, but we also take in students from other schools.

Students wishing to transfer from other schools are invited to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening which is always held early on in the Spring Term and we are always pleased to arrange visits or 'taster' days at other times of the year.

Newcomers appreciate the friendly atmosphere that enables them to integrate quickly, make new friends and become fully involved in the life of Tomlinson Hall.

## LIFE AS A SIXTH FORMER

Sixth Formers are treated as adults and enjoy certain privileges. Students have a number of non-contact periods which gives them considerable flexibility when managing their time. Progress is closely monitored and parents are kept informed through reports and parents' evenings.

## STUDY AT POST 16

What is most exciting about continuing academic study beyond Year 11 are the opportunities for 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.

## TIMES OF SCHOOL DAY (for Sixth form students)

8.30am	-	9.30am	Session 1
9.30am	-	10.30am	Session 2
10.30am	-	10.50am	Personal Tutor Time/Assembly
10.50am	-	11.10am	Break
11.10am	-	12.10pm	Session 3
12.10pm	-	12.40pm	Lunch
12.40pm	-	1.40pm	Session 4
1.40pm	-	2.40pm	Session 5



# Aims and Values: A Vision for The Polesworth School Sixth Form @ Tomlinson Hall

In The Polesworth School Sixth Form @ Tomlinson Hall we see students, teachers and parents as equal partners in the learning process and together our aim is that more young people achieve, irrespective of their background or circumstances. We encourage students to be successful and, above all, to be ambitious.

We value three main types of achievement for our young people and the vision for Polesworth is that our students are empowered to achieve to a consistently outstanding level.

**Achievement - Academic:** We believe all young people have the potential to achieve great things. Intelligence can be developed regardless of emotional, academic and social background, given high quality teaching and bespoke, personalised support. They should be equipped with a crucial sense of belief based on a well-developed self-awareness and an ambition for themselves and for the local and global communities in which they live and work.

**Achievement - Personal:** All young people achieve things they can be proud of every day outside our school's planned curriculum in addition to academic success. We have a vital role in ensuring individuals develop their own talents and interests and have a responsibility to instil in them a sense of pride in who they are and what they can and do achieve.

**Achievement - Social:** Excellent relationships for learning are a prerequisite for all other achievements. Relationships that engender mutual respect between young people and all other members of our school, local and global communities will ensure learning is a positive experience in a disciplined and caring environment where the highest expectations of behaviour, courtesy, manners and respect are the norm.



# Excellence in teaching and learning

Passionate teaching inspires a passion for learning. Our teaching and learning practice motivates students, enabling and encouraging them to achieve to the best of their abilities.

Effective learning takes place when students are motivated by and participate in lessons; when students interact well with both their teachers and other students; when students feel that they are learning and therefore achieving. The end result is confident, effective learners.

Our students are given every opportunity to succeed. Learning is developed through high quality planning and preparation, through enjoyment and engagement and through regular assessment with target setting and effective intervention. Regular tracking of progress and academic learning conversations provide students, parents and teachers with full information on which they can act together.

Our students learn in a variety of ways. Teachers vary their teaching and learning styles and approaches to personalise learning in order to meet the needs of all students. Excellent relationships between students and staff result in mutual respect and an exceptional working and learning environment. We prepare all our students for life beyond school. We want our students to gain a range of skills and talents, a broad knowledge base and a sense of ambition and excitement about what the future holds.

## COMMITTED TO CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At Polesworth students are privileged to be taught by a team of highly qualified teachers who are passionate about their subjects. We invest in the continuing professional development of all our staff and this has clear benefits for students who learn from exceptionally skilled and knowledgeable teachers. Our teachers see themselves as lifelong learners who constantly strive to evaluate and improve their practice.

“Teachers’ expert  
subject knowledge  
often inspires their  
students”

OFSTED 2015



# School of Character

Character education is based on supporting each and every person to achieve their potential.

Our School of Character programme aims to develop confident and compassionate students who are effective contributors to society, successful learners and responsible citizens. Character education is about helping students grasp what is ethically important in situations and to act for the right reasons, so that they become more autonomous and reflective.

Skills within character education include resilience, determination, oracy, confidence and creativity.

Evidence demonstrates that schools that are values driven have high expectations and represent academic, professional and social success.

Fundamentally, character education is founded upon belonging to and living within a community.

The Polesworth School's values and ethos are underpinned by academic success, the nurturing of individual talent and the growth of successful relationships. Character education is inextricably linked to these values and provides a framework for their effective delivery within the school.



# The Sixth Form Curriculum at The Polesworth School Sixth Form @ Tomlinson Hall

Our students stay with us for two years following a Level 3 programme of study. 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. A Levels and Level 3 vocational courses allow students to progress to higher level study at university or college or to move into employment.

## SUBJECTS AVAILABLE AT A LEVEL

Art	History
Biology	Law
Business Studies	Mathematics
Chemistry	Media Studies
Classical Civilisation	PE
Core Mathematics (AS Level only)	Physics
Drama & Theatre	Psychology
Economics	RS, Philosophy and Ethics
English Literature	Sociology
French	
Further Mathematics	
Geography	
German	
Government and Politics	

### Vocational Courses

ICDL Level 2 (Core IT)  
Digital Media  
(ICT Vocational Level 3)  
Forensic & Criminal  
Investigation  
Health & Social Care  
Music  
Travel and Tourism

### GCSE

Students may retake English and/or Mathematics at GCSE to improve their grade(s).

Full details on all courses and their entry requirements can be found on the school's website, following the link to the Sixth Form [www.thepolesworthschool.com](http://www.thepolesworthschool.com).

“students speak highly of the ongoing support they receive to ensure that they achieve their goals”  
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# Sixth Form Entry Requirements

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. Our general entry requirements are a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 5+ or their equivalent which must include:

- a grade 5 or above in either English Language or English Literature with at least a 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.
- a very good record of attendance.

In addition there are specific subject requirements as listed below.

**Art:** General entry requirements; students must also have taken an Art based subject at GCSE and achieved at least a grade 5.

**Biology:** Students must have a grade 5 or above in Mathematics and a grade 6 or above in Biology and a grade 5 in a second science, or grades 5 and 6 in Combined Science.

**Business Studies:** There is no need to have studied GCSE Business Studies to take this course at A level but as good numeracy skills are required, applicants must have, in addition to the general entry requirements, at least a grade 4 in Mathematics.

**Chemistry:** Students must have a grade 5 or above in Mathematics and grade 6 or above in Chemistry and a grade 5 in a second science, or grades 5 and 6 in Combined Science.

**Classical Civilisation:** There is no need to have studied either History or Classical Civilisation at GCSE, although an interest in History is crucial, but we do expect students to have a grade 5 or above in English Literature as this is an essay and

literature based subject. If this subject has been taken at GCSE then students should have achieved at least a grade 5.

**Core Mathematics:** Students should have a grade 5 or higher in Mathematics.

**Digital Media (ICT):** Students must have either a Merit in OCR National iMedia or a Merit/Grade 5 in an equivalent qualification as well as Mathematics GCSE grade 5 or above. If ICT has not been taken as a formal qualification at school, then students will need to demonstrate their ability to take this subject on to advanced level study.

**Drama and Theatre:** Although Drama GCSE is not essential, students should have a grade 5 or above in both English Language and English Literature.

**Economics:** There is no need to have studied Economics at GCSE to take this course at A level but given the demanding mathematical nature of the subject, Mathematics at grade 5 or above is essential.

**English Literature:** In addition to English Language GCSE at grade 5 or above, students must also have studied English Literature as a separate qualification and achieved at least a grade 5.

**Forensic and Criminal Investigation:** Students must have a minimum of two grade 5s in Science and a grade 5 in Mathematics.

**French:** Students must have taken French at GCSE and achieved at least a grade 6.

**Further Mathematics:** This course is for talented mathematicians who have achieved either a grade 8 or a grade 9 in Mathematics at GCSE and is taken as a fourth subject.

**Geography:** Students must have taken Geography at GCSE and achieved at least a grade 5; Mathematics at grade 5 or above is also required for this subject.

**German:** Students must have taken German at GCSE and achieved at least a grade 6.

**Government & Politics:** General entry requirements; there is no need to have taken this subject at GCSE.

**Health & Social Care:** There is no need to have taken this subject at GCSE but students should have achieved two standard Pass grades in Science.

**History:** It is preferable, but not a requirement, that students should have studied History at GCSE and achieved at least a grade 5. However, if History has not been taken in Year 11 then a grade 5 or above in English Literature is required as this is an essay based subject.

**ICDL (International Certification of Digital Literacy) Level 2 (Core IT):** General entry requirements; there is no need to have taken this subject at GCSE.

**Law:** There is no need to have taken this subject at GCSE. However, if Law has not been taken at GCSE then students should achieve grade 5s in both an essay based subject such as English Literature or History and in a factual based subject such as Science.

**Mathematics:** Students must have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

**Media Studies:** General entry requirements; there is no need to have taken this subject at GCSE.

**Music:** This is a very specialised course and in addition to the general entry requirements for Sixth Form, students must also have taken a GCSE or other equivalent Level 2 qualification in this subject, achieving a grade 5 or above, play a musical instrument or sing and take instrumental lessons arranged either internally through school or externally. Students may be invited to audition prior to the commencement of the course if singing only is offered. Please state on the application form in the personal statement section your musical experience to date.

**PE:** It is preferable that students have studied this subject at GCSE or other equivalent Level 2 qualification and achieved at least a grade 5 or a Pass. Mathematics at grade 5 and ideally 2 Science GCSEs at grade 5 or above are also required for this subject; students must play a competitive sport for a team (which should be made clear on the personal statement section of the application form), or play badminton or take part in sport in school.

**Physics:** Students must have a grade 6 or above in Mathematics and a grade 6 or above in Physics

and a grade 5 in a second science, or grades 5 and 6 in Combined Science.

**Psychology:** There is no need to have studied Psychology at GCSE. However, as this is a science based subject students should have at least a grade 5 in Mathematics and 2 sciences at grade 5 or above.

**RS, Philosophy & Ethics:** It is preferable that students have achieved at least a grade 5 at GCSE in RS. However, if this has not been taken as a qualification at GCSE, then a grade 5 or above in an essay based subject such as History or English Literature is required.

**Sociology:** There is no need to have taken this subject at GCSE. However, if Sociology has not been taken at GCSE then a grade 5 in an essay based subject such as History or English Literature is essential.

**Travel & Tourism:** Students should meet the general entry requirements and have at least a Pass in this subject if taken at Level 2; however, there is no need to have taken this subject in year 11.

**\* Please be aware that it is unfortunately sometimes necessary to withdraw a subject if there is insufficient student take up. In such an event we will inform students and parents/carers of that decision as soon as possible.**



“The quality of teaching is outstanding”

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## APPLYING TO THE SIXTH FORM

If you wish to join The Polesworth School Sixth Form @ Tomlinson Hall, then please read through all our course information and entry requirements very carefully. Attend our Sixth Form Open Evening, which this year is being held on Thursday 20th January 2022 from 6.00pm, or contact the Head of Sixth Form or Key Stage 5 Student Support Manager to discuss your application. You should also discuss your course choices with your teachers, your parents/carers and careers staff at your school.

To apply, you should use our online application form accessible on our website [www.thepolesworthschool.com](http://www.thepolesworthschool.com) (About Us - Sixth Form). 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 (this should be a photo of you, facing forwards; there should be no hats, sunglasses, face masks etc. covering your face and no filters should be used).

Please give as much information in your personal statement as you can about yourself, your strengths, interests and career aspirations to help us assess your suitability for your chosen courses. Your predicted grades at GCSE are also very important.

All students who apply to us are interviewed and interviews take place during the Spring Term. This gives us the chance to discuss your application with you, talk about your proposed programme of study and gives you the opportunity to ask questions. Some students change their minds about their subject choices after they have applied and this is not usually a problem – just contact us to discuss your programme of study. Following your interview you will usually be given an offer of a place for September on condition that you meet the course entry requirements and this will be confirmed to you in writing.

We will ask you to accept or decline your offer of a place in the Summer Term. If you decide to take up our offer of a place and achieve our entry requirements, then we formally register students for their courses on GCSE results day in August or on the first day of term in September.

If you do not meet our entry requirements, then we may be able to consider alternative courses.

## YOUR PROGRAMME OF STUDY

The majority of our students take 3 subjects at Level 3 although some may be able to take 4. On the application form we ask you to select up to 6 subjects for study in order of preference. We do not have any set option blocks but devise them once applications are in based on the subjects students want to study.

## APPLICATIONS DEADLINE

Students should apply by Friday 4th March 2022 although early applications are advisable to ensure your subject choices. We continue to accept applications after this deadline; however, there may be some restrictions on subject choices.

## SIXTH FORM INDUCTION DAY

We will be holding an Induction Day on Tuesday 12th July 2022 and all applicants are expected to attend. On this day students attend 'taster' lessons and summer holiday assignments are set in order to prepare for the new term in September.



# Meet the Sixth Form Team



**Mrs Lynn Munn** is the Director of Post-16 and has overall responsibility for the leadership and management of The Polesworth School Sixth Form @ Tomlinson Hall. She teaches English Literature and Classical Civilisations at A Level.

**Mrs Sally Harris** is one of our two Sixth Form Heads of Year and teaches English. Currently responsible for Year 13, she will be the Head of Year 12 from September 2022, overseeing the pastoral welfare and monitoring the academic progress of our Year 12 students.



**Mr Sean Cairns** is our other Head of Year and teaches Maths. He will take over as the Head of Year 13 in September with responsibility for the pastoral welfare and monitoring the academic progress of students in their final year of A Level study.

**Mr Paddy Barber** teaches Psychology and is our Sixth Form academic mentor, supporting students in their studies and with a specific responsibility for Post-18 progression, including university applications, employment and apprenticeships.



**Mrs Becky Knight** is our KS5 Student Support Manager and a full-time, non-teaching member of staff. She has a broad remit which includes safeguarding, administering the 16-19 Bursary Fund, monitoring attendance and offering general support services to students and, at times, their families. She has a wealth of experience and liaises with external agencies as appropriate.

**Ms Anne Picken** is our administrative assistant and supervises our main Sixth Form study area 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. A full-time, non-teaching member of staff, 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 Head of Inclusion, we work closely with him to support Post-16 students with particular needs.



# Student Services

At The Polesworth School Sixth Form we value all of our students and are passionate about providing excellent care and guidance throughout their time in the Sixth Form. Our goal is to ensure that all students experience a smooth transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5 and can access onsite support and advice from key members of the school's pastoral team.

## PASTORAL STRUCTURE

Our pastoral structure takes a student-centric approach with the student being at the centre of what we do. Level 3 study is a challenging time and it is crucial that students feel they have access to support if necessary.

All students have a Personal Tutor and attend tutor time for 20 minutes every day. The role of the Personal Tutor is to support students in their journey through A Levels and deliver the School of Character programme which aims to develop confident and compassionate students who are effective contributors to society, successful learners and responsible citizens.

There is plenty of support for students from the dedicated Sixth Form team including the Director of Post-16, the Heads of Years 12 and 13, KS5 Student Support Manager, Sixth Form Academic Mentor and the Careers Education Coordinator. Members of the Sixth Form team support students on a one-to-one basis and are here to help with issues in or outside of school or worries affecting attendance, wellbeing or progress. The Inclusion Department can offer specialised support to students with specific learning needs, medical conditions or disabilities to overcome any barriers to learning.

## CHILD PROTECTION

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students. Staff are required to report concerns regarding a student's welfare and this includes Sixth Form students. There are a number of key Designated Safeguarding Leads on site and the KS5 Student Support Manager holds this responsibility for Sixth Form students.

## CAREERS INFORMATION ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR THE SIXTH FORM

Careers information, advice and guidance is delivered by Mr Davis, the School's Careers Education Co-ordinator, and students in Year 12 and 13 can book appointments any time of the year with him. There is targeted support in Year 13 when every student receives a one to one guidance interview to discuss their post 18 options. In Year 12 guidance interviews are available on a self-referral basis. Mr Davis supports students making university and career choices and offers help in completing applications and personal statements. He offers advice on employment and apprenticeship opportunities, international study and GAP year options as well as volunteering and work experience placements. Mr Davis also delivers subject themed degree information sessions for Year 12s, organises visits to HE Fairs and Apprenticeship and Employment Fairs and arranges for universities and employers to come into school to talk to students.



# Enrichment at Tomlinson Hall Sixth Form

At The Polesworth School 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 team, to name a few, are essential to employers, and will allow our students to have the greatest opportunities when applying for universities, apprenticeships, or jobs.

This year we are introducing our exciting new enrichment programme which aims to give students a great variety of opportunities in a vast number of fields. Some of these will offer further qualifications and others, great work experience that will put our students in good position for their futures, just after Sixth Form, and in their future careers.

Students will 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 which is usually related to their personal interests and plans for life beyond school. They then either: write a dissertation, carry out an investigation, give a performance, or create an artifact. It is a fantastic chance to develop independent learning, research skills and critical thinking ready for life beyond Sixth Form!

**Massive Open Online Courses** are a great way for students to develop their interests and gain another qualification while doing it. There are a many free courses in a huge number of different areas such as 'The Science of Happiness' to 'Sustainable Packaging in a Circular Economy'!

Alongside these more academic enrichment possibilities, we will be offering a host of other activities to develop the softer skills in our students and enable them to lead healthy, happy, balanced, successful lives. These activities include:

**Duke of Edinburgh Award:** some students may have already started their D of E, but they will have the opportunity to start it or move on to Silver or the Gold award. This is a great experience and one to build up confidence, resilience and to work as a team.

**Sixth Form PE:** this will be a chance for students to choose their sporting activities, play sports with others and keep fit and mentally healthy. We are also hoping to put on some more specific activities to support our students' mental health.

**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, local business, or organisation – whichever placement, it is a great chance to meet others, work as a team and give back your skills, to support your community.

**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, becoming a Sixth Form Ambassador, engagement with Student Voice and helping in departments.

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

Taking 3 A 'Levels/Vocational qualifications is a lot of work and cannot be underestimated by students, but if they work hard, there is time for these enrichment opportunities which will give them valuable skills, support their university and apprenticeship applications and ultimately make them a more rounded individual for their lives ahead.

# Facilities

The Polesworth School is pleasantly situated amongst trees and gardens in around ten acres of grounds. Our extensive playing fields offer panoramic views of the surrounding Warwickshire and Staffordshire countryside.

At the entrance to our large site stands the original 140-year-old Victorian school building which is now the dedicated home of our Sixth Form students. Tomlinson Hall, named after one of the first Headteachers, is a space full of history and character where students engage in lessons and private study.

The school is equipped with some excellent facilities including:

**Sports hall:** featuring squash courts and a fitness suite.

**Gym:** furnished for both gymnastics and dance.

**Playing fields:** football, rugby, tennis courts (seasonal), grass athletics track and space for extensive training grids - also used extensively in the holidays for students' multi sports activities.

**Drama studio:** featuring excellent audio and visual equipment and space for drama, used by students in all years. The school organises regular theatre and musical productions.

**ICT:** a large multi media study resource centre for research and independent learning. Most classrooms also house the latest ICT teacher toolkits, PCs and laptops.

**Art:** a superb purpose-built block, where students produce and display work and projects in contemporary surroundings.

**Sixth Form:** students have their own designated areas of the school in Tomlinson Hall which include teaching rooms, a new supervised study centre with IT access and common room facilities.



“Students value the exciting variety of enrichment activities and trips that are provided”

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# The Polesworth School 2021 Examination Results

## A LEVEL RESULTS 2021

Number of students	144
Percentage achieving AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating Subjects	22
Average Points Score per Entry	39.57
Average Grade	B
Points for a student's best 3 A Levels	40.96

## A LEVEL RESULTS 2021 (%)

Entries Subject	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
23 Biology	4	5	2	7	3	2	0
15 Chemistry	4	3	3	2	1	2	0
12 Physics	3	2	1	2	4	0	0
27 Mathematics	3	5	7	7	4	1	0
6 Mathematics (Further)	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
28 Business Studies	2	4	12	5	3	2	0
5 Fine Art	1	1	2	1	0	0	0
18 Geography	5	3	3	4	3	0	0
26 History	5	4	8	9	0	0	0
10 Classical Civilisation	1	5	2	2	0	0	0
15 Economics	3	2	2	6	1	0	1
15 Religious Studies	2	3	2	6	1	1	0
12 Politics	3	3	3	2	1	0	0
41 Psychology	2	8	17	9	3	2	0
25 Sociology	5	4	5	4	6	1	0
16 Law	0	2	4	6	2	2	0
25 English Literature	5	2	9	7	2	0	0
15 Drama	4	5	3	3	0	0	0
16 Media Film & TV Studies	0	6	7	3	0	0	0
4 German	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
17 Sport/PE Studies	1	2	7	7	0	0	0

## BTEC & Cambridge Technical Results 2021

	D*	D	M	P	U
25 Forensics - Foundation Diploma	11	8	6	0	0
20 Travel & Tourism - Subsidiary Diploma	10	3	5	2	0
15 Health & Social - Extended Certificate	5	10	0	0	0

# Making informed choices at A level with University in mind

## Looking ahead long-term

Around 75% of our students apply for university. You may have already decided that your own career plans involve progression to Higher Education or you may as yet be unsure. However, you should be aware that your choices of A Level subjects may be critical in determining the university courses open to you.

Therefore, if you are thinking of going to university and have a particular area of study or career path in mind, as well as doing some research into individual A Level subjects, you should also be finding out about what the degree courses you may be interested in expect of potential applicants.

## UCAS

This is the organisation which handles university admissions and the UCAS website is excellent! Go to: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and use the course search facility. Here you will find details of all the subjects you may be interested in studying and information about what different universities require or what different courses stipulate as their entry criteria.

Remember that universities operate their own courses and set their own individual entry policies; no two universities will be exactly the same. All universities have online prospectuses giving more detail about the degree programmes they offer and these are also excellent sources of information.

If you have any doubts at all, as well as asking your teachers, our Careers Co-ordinator, Chris Davis, or Sixth Form specialist staff, you can always contact a university directly for advice – admissions staff are usually more than happy to talk about the entry policy of their particular institution.

## GETTING READY FOR UNIVERSITY

Most universities expect students to take a minimum of 3 subjects at full A Level. You should also realise that universities may ask for a certain number of GCSEs and that they often specify minimum grades at GCSE in certain subjects.

In addition most universities expect students to achieve both English (usually Language) and Mathematics GCSE at grade 4 or above and some courses demand a minimum grade 5 in these subjects. When applying to competitive universities for popular courses, the higher you have achieved at GCSE, the better your chances are of being accepted. Applicants to Oxford or Cambridge generally achieve all 8s and 9s at GCSE as do applicants for Medicine or Veterinary Science. Indeed, some medical courses require a minimum of 7 top grades at GCSE.

## A LEVELS AND DEGREE PROGRAMMES

For many universities and courses, the subjects you take at A Level are not crucial: it is the fact that you have taken A Level qualifications that counts. It is also possible to take many subjects at degree level without having studied them at A Level and Law is a very good example of this. There are almost endless possibilities of new subjects you can take at university without prior experience – but obviously, when you apply you have to be very clear about why you want to take up a new subject and why you know it is the subject for you.

However, for certain degree courses, particular subject choices at A Level are often required or preferred. Such courses include more obvious areas of study such as science based courses, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy or Engineering. However, courses such as ICT, primary teaching, Art, Music, Drama or Psychology often demand a particular combination of A Level subjects and for subjects such as History, English or Law, then certain A Levels are often preferred.

It is also very important to consider which subjects you think you will achieve high grades in as low grades can be just as much a barrier to university entry as choosing the wrong subjects.

## ACCESSING THE RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITIES

The Russell Group universities, a group representing 24 of the UK's leading universities, including Cambridge, Oxford and Durham, has developed a website to help students and parents find out more about how subjects taken in Sixth Form can affect students' options at university and later on. This is an excellent source of information about the different qualifications available at Level 3 and offers advice about which subjects may be important or of particular relevance to a wide range of degree courses. There are also links to the Russell Group universities' websites.

Parents and students can find out more at [www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk). Please consult the Russell group guide and individual university entry profiles.



# What do our students do after A Levels?

The majority of our Sixth Form students progress from A Level to degree level study.

Our students have gone on to study at universities up and down the UK, including Oxford and Cambridge and the most prestigious Russell Group universities, and pursue an amazingly diverse range of subjects.

In the last year we have supported students in their applications for law, business and social science courses, the humanities, science, maths, and finance degrees as well as degrees in the creative and expressive arts. Other students are pursuing engineering and computer science or film and digital media-based courses at university while we have also sent students to train as nurses, doctors, midwives, paramedics, occupational therapists, pharmacists, vets, journalists and teachers. Students have taken degrees in the liberal arts, policing and investigation and events management while others have entered the exciting world of degrees in motorsport engineering, fashion, interior design and TV and Theatre productions.

We are always thrilled to hear from our alumni and can list among our former students doctors, nurses, vets, dentists, solicitors, accountants, senior finance directors, business managers, an auctioneer, physicists, research scientists, forensic scientists, pharmacists, engineers and people who work in fashion and design, to name but a few. Many of our students have gone on to be teachers and some have returned to teach at this school. Others lecture at university. We know of former students who have successful careers in the performing and expressive arts and of one who is now a High Court Judge based in Cardiff.

However, university is not for all and increasing numbers of our students are entering employment or taking up exciting apprenticeships. Recent students have secured apprenticeships in a wide range of fields including software engineering, accountancy, banking, legal services, health and safety, the leisure industry and dental care.

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





The Polesworth School, Dordon Road,  
Dordon, Tamworth, Staffs B78 1QT

Tel: 01827 702205

Fax: 01827 702206

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

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

