

Sixth form Q&A session summary

Please find below some answers to commonly asked questions about our sixth form:

Entry requirements and subjects

- If an individual does well enough in the GCSEs that they wish to take on to A level but doesn't do so well in Maths and English, are there opportunities to retake any of these subjects?
 - We will tailor a programme of support to a student's individual needs if they haven't achieved a pass in English language or maths. We will fit support around their A level timetables. For both these subjects, there is an opportunity to resit in November after they have taken their GCSE exams and again in the summer series of the following year.
- If a subject such as Psychology requires a 5 in Maths but the student hasn't a 5 at GCSE, can they start the psychology course on the basis they will be doing a maths retake?
 - We will always fill the course first with those students who have met the entry requirements. If we have space, we would then consider other students on a case-by-case basis, look at prior attainment and consult KS4 teachers to ascertain suitability for the course.
- Is there flexibility around the entry requirements of 6, 5 for science subjects?
 - No. We have found that this is the minimum required for students to be able to cope with the significant demands of the A level courses. We already have relatively low entry requirements compared with similar centres.
- What is the relationship between the maths and further maths A-level courses?
 - Students doing maths and further maths will be taught in the same group and will have 18 periods of maths per fortnight on their timetables. It is not possible to do an A Level in further maths without doing an A Level in maths. We teach the further maths course parallel to the A Level maths course but begin Year 12 with an initial focus on the maths A Level to provide students with the knowledge and skills that they need to access the further maths course
- Is there such a thing as an A-level course being oversubscribed?
 - At the point of application, we use the choices students make to optimise the blocks. We will always aim to accommodate as many choices as we can at this point as far as the timetable and staffing allows. The most likely point time for students to find courses being oversubscribed is where they are changing their choices later on in the process. At this point, we put students on a waiting list and if space becomes available, we would allow the students to join the course.
- If students take four A levels do they have to drop one of them? Roughly speaking, what proportion of pupils manage to do four A-levels?
 - For most students, dropping to three A levels is the right thing to do in order to maximise the grades they can achieve in those subjects. Students do not have to drop an A level subject. Every year, we have a number of students who continue with four subjects until the end. The most likely combination of subjects for students taking four A levels is maths, further maths, physics and chemistry, although one or

two students might be taking more disparate subjects. No more than 10% of students take 4 A levels. A number of students will have completed an EPQ, though, which is worth the same UCAS points as an AS level.

- Are there any subject combinations that aren't possible?
 - We will not allow students to do more than two practical subjects. No future plans would require students to have done more. The workload for coursework is such that more than two of this type of subject would be unmanageable. We encourage students to think carefully about taking both business studies and economics as there is considerable overlap with some content and it might not represent a 'broad and balanced curriculum'. That said, a number of students will opt for both in the first instance with a view to taking just one of those subjects forward to examination. We strongly encourage students who are opting for physics to also do maths and if this is not the case we would need to discuss the subject choices.

- Is it a good idea to do all maths and science subjects?

This combination of subjects might be suitable for students who have performed very strongly in their GCSE exams getting a combination of grades 7, 8, 9. For students who have attained at a lower level, this combination might not be in their best interests and a broader combination of subjects is advisable. It is worth highlighting that many universities class computer science, geography, PE and DT as science subjects for a lot of degree choices. Check on UCAS.com.

- What happens if you start year 12 and don't like a subject?

Every year we have a few students who change their minds about the choices they have made. In the very early days of the courses, it is often possible to change where the option blocks and capacity in classes allow.

Application process:

- What is the whole application process from the formal written application to the outcome and how this is communicated?

Thursday 12 February 2026	Deadline for applications to be submitted
February half term	Options blocks optimised; we will try and accommodate as many first choices as possible at this point
Early March 2026	Option blocks published
March/April 2026	All students will be interviewed by a member of the Sixth Form Team
Early July	Summer transition work released – work to help bridge the gap between GCSE exams and the start of A level study. Students should complete the work for the subjects they are intending to study by the first teaching day of year 12.

Thurs 20 August 2026	GCSE results day are published. KLB students will receive a letter explaining their status depending on their results. Action is needed. If a student is likely to be away at this time, they must have their offer letter stipulating the entry requirements with them so that they can contact the school to confirm or discuss. Places on alternative courses will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis so prompt action is needed.
Tues 25 August 2026	Deadline for students to confirm acceptance of places –If students have met the entry requirements they must notify us that they are taking up their place by this date. Even if entry requirements are met, if we do not hear from you, we will assume you are not joining us. Students from other centres must contact us with their GCSE results information and we will confirm their admissions status.

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- What happens in the interview?
 - No formal preparation is required. Interviews are an opportunity for us to talk through a student's plans and subject combinations. We will check that they are aware of the work required for A levels and the expectations of the sixth form. We will ask students about their wider interests and give students an opportunity to ask any questions they might have about the sixth form.
- What happens if you change your mind about the subjects you want to do after you have applied?
 - Get in touch with us. If the blocking and capacity allows and you meet the entry requirements, it is usually possible to change.

Timetable:

- What does the typical fortnight look like?
 - In year 12, students will 9 periods a fortnight per subject – usually split between 2 teachers. They will also have a number of non-contact periods that are intended for independent study. A level courses are such that considerable independent work is necessary to complete them successfully. Students will also have 'enrichment' and 'life skills' on their timetables.
- How do you know what to do in free periods?
 - In the first instance, teachers will set homework that can be done in free periods. Students may also be given wider-reading lists to guide their further study of the subjects. Students will be expected to use free periods to consolidate the work taught in their lessons as well to check understanding, learn concepts and content and practise applying their knowledge.
- Are there any requirements for personal IT equipment such as laptops? Do a lot of students use their own laptops/tablets?
 - We do not require students to use IT equipment for most school work, although coursework (NEA) has to be word processed. Many students do choose to use

personal laptops/tablets in school. Students have access to the KLB BYOD wifi network. We also have fifteen desk top computers available in the study library as well as computer rooms elsewhere in the school that students can make use of when they are free.

- Are students expected to be in school for their free lessons?
 - In year 12, students are expected to be in school all day every day unless they are involved in an approved activity such as volunteering for their enrichment. The recommendation for A level study is that students should spend one independent hour of study for every one taught hour.
- How many hours of lessons are there per subject per week?
 - Our timetables run across a fortnight, so students will have 9 taught hours for each subject across a two-week period. In most cases, the teaching will be split between two teachers.

Managing work:

- Where can you work and can you stay after school?
 - The students have access to the sixth form study library from 7.30 in the morning until 5.30 in the evening (5pm on Fridays). This is a space for silent working and is often supervised by staff. Students can also access the main school library when it is not being used by other classes, the canteen and free rooms around school. Spaces other than the study library are good for group working, but provide less opportunity for focussed concentration.
- What do you do if you are struggling?
 - Talk to a teacher! A levels are very hard and everyone needs help at some point. We never see it as a sign of weakness or failure; on the contrary, the strongest students seek out help from the beginning and maintain a good dialogue with their teachers throughout.
- How do you manage an hour for an hour?
 - We advise students to use most/all their non-contact time studying. Many students make use of the study library. Other spaces for sixth form to work include the canteen and the main school library. Students generally spend an hour or two working each night after school on homework and consolidation. If they use the week wisely, the workload is manageable.

Beyond the classroom:

- What opportunities are there outside of lessons? What is enrichment?
 - Enrichment is an opportunity to build a range of experiences and activities into your school life to strengthen applications. Opportunities include science outreach to primary schools, studying for an Extended Project Qualification, charity team, CANSAT, first aid, sign language, department help, placements in care homes and primary schools, volunteering in charity shops and work experience placements. Students can also use enrichment opportunities to count towards their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Are there any trips?

- We run a number of sixth form trips to support future plans including to the UCAS Exhibition and an open day at Birmingham University. Departments also run trips to support the curriculum including residential trips with art, history and a physics trip to CERN. Biology and geography run field trips that are a compulsory element of the curriculum. English and drama students often go to see productions to support their study. Many departments provide opportunities for lectures, study days and other course-related opportunities such as STEM events at Bristol University or a day in the Crown Court with sociology.
- Can you do sport in the sixth form?
 - Enrichment offers an opportunity to do games every week. Sixth formers have access to a range of lunch time and after school clubs and also play on our U18 teams in a range of sports including rugby, football, hockey and netball.
- Do you have a work experience week?
 - Activities week for year 12 provides an opportunity to do work experience as well as students being able to do a regular placement as part of their enrichment programme.
- What is an EPQ?
 - EPQ stands for Extended Project Qualification. Students research and write a report on a topic of their choice. The students are assessed for both the quality of their project outcome and the process of conducting their research. A number of universities will make adjusted offers where students get a high EPQ grade.
- Do you recommend paid employment alongside A levels?
 - Many students have a job that they do alongside their studies. Students need to be aware that too much paid employment will have a negative impact on their A level attainment so we recommend no more than one night in the school week and no more than one day at the weekend.
- Are there social activities in the sixth form?
 - The sixth form leadership team aim to put on regular recreational events after school. Recently, we have enjoyed film nights and a pizza and quiz evening. In the summer, we have enjoyed sports afternoon and bbqs. At the end of year 13, most students attend prom.
- What are the “additional life skills” that students get every fortnight?
 - Some of these sessions are the KS5 version of what is called PSHE in the lower school. We also do a range of sessions focussed on future plans – be they university, employment or apprenticeships, and sessions on study skills at critical times such as during the run up to exams.
- Can students have driving lessons during school time if they coincide with private study?
 - Students in year 12 are not allowed to be off site during the school day except at lunch time and if they are attending an agreed placement. In year 13, students have the privilege of ‘home study’ and they can also designate a regular slot for driving lessons.
- What is a TIC buddy?
 - Our ‘Talking in Confidence’ buddies offer support to younger students. They are often trained in Mental Health First Aid Awareness and all are trained in active listening skills. They provide crucial support to younger students who are struggling with things in their lives – whether it is transition to secondary school, friendship

issues or just needing someone to talk to. The TIC buddies report to a member of our wellbeing team.

Transport options post-16

○ Buses

Transport for sixth form students

Stagecoach No. 60:

Public bus service between Thornbury and Dursley via Charfield.

Picks up and drops off in KLB School bus car park at the beginning and end of the school day.

Link to the timetable is below

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcqlclefindmkaj/https://tison-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/West/2024/Stroud/60_031124.pdf

The Big Lemon:

Y8 circular service starting and ending in Yate:

<https://thebiglemon.com/y8/>

Applegates Coaches:

- S8 – From Yate/ Chipping Sodbury area.
- X6 – From Berkeley area via A38.
- X11A – From Berkeley area via Dursley/North Nibley

For prices and timetables visit the **Applegates** website: www.applegates.co.uk

Seats sell out quickly.

Westlink:

- Operates as an 'Uber' bus service. Not very good for regular/daily use.

See website below

<https://travelwest.info/westlink/>

Spare Seat Scheme:

- spare seat scheme on school buses.
- apply via the relevant website.
- no guarantee of a spare seat being available.
- do not generally offer seats until schools have returned in September and they know exactly which students have returned to school.

South Glos Spare Seat Scheme -

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/spareseat>

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<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/spare-seat-scheme/>

- Are students (17+) allowed to drive themselves to school?
 - Year 12s are not allowed to drive to school in cars until the year 13s have left; we have very limited parking on site. Students driving mopeds may be able to park on site during year 12.