

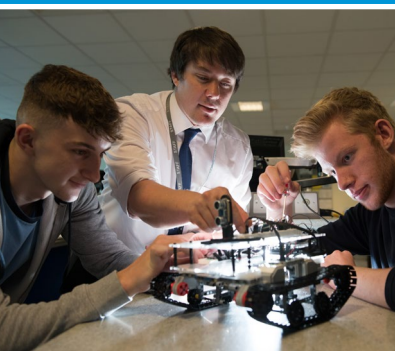


Introduction to



WORCESTER
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

2021-22



CREATE YOUR
SUCCESS STORY



www.wsfc.ac.uk

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Principal: | Edward Senior |
| Vice Principal: | Jane Jenkins |
| Vice Principal: | Luke Moseley |
| Personnel Officer: | Dee Booth |
| Chair of Governors: | Gillian Slater |
| Clerk to the Governors: | Jo Payne |
| Number on Roll: | 1600 |

Our College

The College was founded in 1984 and in 1992 was incorporated as an independent body. On 1st April 2019 the College achieved 16-19 academy status and joined the Heart of Mercia Multi-Academy Trust which comprises three sixth form colleges. The three colleges work closely together whilst maintaining operational autonomy and individual identities.

As a member of the Heart of Mercia Multi-Academy Trust our staff benefit from shared opportunities for training, development and progression within the Trust. There is also a financial resilience that comes from being part of an Academy Trust and central support and expertise that benefits each individual college.

The latest financial outturn for Worcester Sixth Form College was outstanding, resulting from careful management of funds and continued growth in students numbers.

There are six Worcester City high schools which provide over half of the College's intake each year although, the College's performance and reputation leads to many students travelling from further afield. Recruitment and local demographics are buoyant. The College has seen an increase in student numbers of over 10% in a two-year period and significant further growth is predicted in the years to come. Of our current cohort, approximately 45% are enrolled on an A Level programme, 35% on a Mixed programme, 17% on an Applied programme and 3% on Level 2 courses.

Supporting Our Students - Curriculum

The College curriculum is delivered through seventeen 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. We have a six block timetable with each block containing four lessons of 65 minutes, a total of 4 hours 20 minutes per week.

Thirty-three A Level subjects are presently offered along with Applied programmes in Business, Criminology, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Law, IT, Sport & Exercise Science, and Children's Play, Learning and Development.

Students are offered extension activities which include subject extension, Oxbridge preparation and the Ambition Programme. A significant number of students also enrol on the Extended Project Qualification in their second year. There is also specific subject extension including the Medics Academy, Maths Academy and Physics Academy.

For students with additional learning needs, the College's Learning Support department offers support to ensure that every student has the opportunity to access the courses they wish to study and to be successful in their studies. Support ranges from in-class and one-to-one support, exam access arrangements e.g. scribe, and drop in sessions.

All students are encouraged to follow the principles of the Worcester Working Week aimed at encouraging them to take responsibility for their own learning. It identifies 14 hours of independent study outside of lesson time in addition to 15 hours of timetabled lessons and 3 hours of enrichment or personal interest. In addition to their academic subjects, all students have tutorial support and either Core Maths or Independent Study added to their programme and many will also take advantage of our wide range of enrichment opportunities. These include the Professional Programmes, Performing Arts Academy, the Student Union, the College magazine, Creative Writing and many more. The College has an excellent reputation for sport and there are academies for Rugby, Football, Hockey, Athletics, Netball and Basketball.

Through our Student Services department we also provide support for our students who want to seek work experience and volunteering opportunities. Our Careers Advisors offer appointments for students to discuss their progression options and support for applications to university, apprenticeships or employers, including personal statements, is extensive.

Full details of our curriculum offer, extensive enrichment and subject extension can be found by visiting www.wsfc.ac.uk

Supporting Our Students - Pastoral Care & Safeguarding

Every student is allocated a pastoral tutor who monitors attendance, discusses their progress and career aims and any concerns they might have. Student can meet their tutor on a one-to-one basis and will have a group tutorial session each week. 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 settling in to new routines. 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. Tutors are supported in this work by the Tutorial Receptionist.

Three Heads of Year each oversee the work of the tutors. They also monitor progress, deal

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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.

One of the College's Senior Leaders is responsible for student wellbeing and is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The College has robust safeguarding processes in place and the tutorial programme covers many topics including online safety, British Values and consent. Students are encouraged to report concerns about bullying or harassment to the safeguarding team, any other member of staff or via an online reporting form. Initiatives to promote positive mental health are well supported by our students and some become Mental Health Ambassadors. The College also has a counselling service available five days a week.

The College has security arrangements to help ensure the safety of our staff and students. This includes turnstiles at the student entrance which require students to swipe in using their ID cards. We also have a Site Security Officer who is a presence throughout the College day. The Senior Leadership Team are a visible presence around College to monitor student behaviour, although in our most recent Ofsted inspection the behaviour of our students was found to be 'exemplary'.

Excellent Results

The College was the highest performing sixth form college (and one of the highest institutions overall) for achievement rates in the most recent externally validated set of results in 2019. Our achievement rate of 93.4% is significantly higher than the national average (84.7%) and the sixth form college average (84.2%). In 2019, 98.5% of A Level students achieved passes and although the absence of validated data means that interpreting results for 2020 and 2021 is problematic, achievement and retention remain high.

Staffing & Wellbeing

Currently the College has 164 staff of whom 85 are teaching and 79 support staff. The College's organisation chart is included at the end of this booklet. Our teachers are specialists in their subject and experts in teaching our students' age group. Staff who join us will undoubtedly benefit from their experience and support. Academic departments are supported by committed, skilled and highly qualified support staff in a range of areas across the College.

Whilst staff turnover is consistently low, our recent growth in student numbers has enabled the College to recruit new staff in teaching and support areas this academic year. The College is excited to welcome new colleagues and we feel that we can benefit from their enthusiasm, energy and new ideas. In return, we are determined to provide excellent support and career development for all staff new to College. We also have an extensive programme of support for Early Career Teachers and for those completing teaching qualifications.

The College has recently invested significantly in attempting to mitigate teaching staff workload through reduced caseloads via the allocation of time for timetabled enrichment and support. In

addition, the wellbeing of all our staff is a high priority and aim to promote this through a number of initiatives such as the Employee Assistance Programme a weekly staff breakfast and 'Fruity Friday'. Colleagues also have opportunity to participate in Pilates, Badminton and Football and to take advantage of discounted theatre and cinema tickets. We regularly invite feedback from staff through staff surveys, focus groups and timetabled meetings and aims to respond positively to any suggestions or concerns.

Parental Engagement & Support

The College greatly values the support provided by parents which we firmly believe is a key factor in the success of our students. We routinely invite feedback from parents and, whilst they are overwhelmingly positive, constructive criticism is welcomed and the College will always respond to suggestions or areas requiring improvement.

Parents have been particularly positive about the support that the College has provided during the pandemic.

One commented: "I just wanted to say a big thank you to you and your team for the amazing education you provide to the students at your college. We have been so impressed with the communication and the quality of the teaching. You have all worked so hard and I am so glad our son made the decision to study with you. I will not hesitate to recommend Worcester Sixth Form College to any of my friends."

92% of parents agreed and 8% strongly agreed that communication with parents was good and that they had been kept informed about the College's COVID safety measures. 97.9% (77.7% strongly) felt satisfied that they College had done everything it could to make the return of all students as safe as possible.

The sense of community that was instilled during the pandemic was acknowledged with the College being announced as a winner in the 'COVID and Beyond' category of the Sixth Form College Associations Annual Awards 2021.

Buildings and Facilities

The College has an excellent site on the edge of the city bounded by ancient woodland, the County Hall water gardens and an 11-16 partner school. The building is spread over four floors and is fully accessible.

Regular development and maintenance of the site has ensured an attractive, welcoming and secure environment for staff and students. In addition to modern classrooms and ICT facilities, the College has a vibrant Learning Resources Centre along with other student study spaces and social areas, such as the Cafeteria with its mezzanine floor and extensive outdoor space. In September 2014, work was completed on a Science Centre, which houses industry standard science labs and ILT and study spaces. We are exploring a means of completing phase two of

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the Science Centre which would provide four more labs and enable renovation of older labs into general purpose teaching rooms to support growth in other subject areas.

Onsite facilities for sports and physical education at College are excellent and include a gymnasium, dance studio, sports hall, tennis courts, netball courts, squash court, extensive playing fields, an astro-turf playing surface for ball games and an eight lane tartan athletics track with full facilities.

The College Portal and email enable communication between teachers and students, individually or in groups, at home or at College. Moodle and Microsoft Teams are extensively used to support learning and the College has a Digital Learning Co-ordinator to provide support and training to both staff and students. We have made significant ongoing investment in our IT network and infrastructure to ensure systems are robust and resilient and to support teaching and learning, for example, through the purchase of cameras, visualisers and mobile technology.

Living and Working in Worcester

Worcester is a beautiful Cathedral and University City with a fascinating history, 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. The surrounding towns and villages of Worcestershire provide something for everyone.

Worcester is a city of over 100,000 people which is growing rapidly. There have been extensive residential developments within the city itself and in surrounding areas with the South Worcestershire Development Plan identifying the need for a total of 42,000 houses. Historically Worcester has both the rural industries associated with a county town and a place within the West Midlands engineering tradition. Worcester is home to leading manufacturing and engineering companies such as Worcester Bosch and Mazak with jobs also flourishing in the service industries. Whilst there are many job opportunities available locally, Worcester's excellent transport links make commuting easy. Worcester benefits from access to three train stations and the M5 via junctions 6 and 7.



