



Introduction to



WORCESTER
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

2023-24



CREATE YOUR
SUCCESS STORY



www.wsfc.ac.uk

Principal:	Edward Senior
Vice Principal:	Jane Jenkins
HR Officer:	Dee Booth
Chair of Governors:	Sean Devlin
Clerk to the Governors:	Jo Payne
Number on Roll:	1740

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 currently comprises three sixth form colleges and two high schools (one with sixth form).

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 a surplus position, 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 29% in a five-year period. Of our current cohort, approximately 46% are enrolled on an A Level programme, 35% on a Mixed programme, 13% on an Applied programme, 1% on a T Level and 5% on Level 2 courses.

Supporting Our Students - Curriculum

The College curriculum is delivered through nineteen 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 three lessons of 70 minutes and one of 75 minutes - a total of 4 hours 45 minutes per week.

Thirty-four A Level subjects are presently offered along with Applied programmes in Business,

Criminology, Engineering, Health and Social Care, IT, Performing Arts and Sport & Exercise Science. We have introduced the T Level in Education and Early Years this academic year with plans to deliver the T Level in Health from September 2024.

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.

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.

Enrichment options include academic extension and support (e.g. the Medics Academy) with other activities aimed at supporting specific career progression (e.g. Professional Programmes) or providing opportunities for participation (e.g. Student Union). The College has an excellent reputation for sport and there are academies for Rugby, Football, Hockey, Athletics, Netball and Basketball. There are also opportunities for recreational sport. Full details of our enrichment offering can be found [here](#).

Through our Student Services department we 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.

Four Heads of Year each oversee the work of the tutors. 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.

We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead who oversees the wider safeguarding team with the support of the Safeguarding Officer and a Mental Health & Wellbeing Mentor to support our students. 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 are 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

In 2023, 97.7% of A Level students achieved passes, above the national average (97.3%) for the nineteenth consecutive year. A Level performance in value added terms was the best in the Trust and students make expected progress. Applied outcomes were strong and the performance of English and Maths GCSE resits was outstanding.

Staffing & Wellbeing

Currently the College has 173 staff of whom 89 are teachers and 84 support staff. The College's management chart can be found 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 typically low, our recent growth in student numbers has enabled the College to recruit new staff in teaching and support areas. 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 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 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.

The College has also committed to signing the DfE Wellbeing Charter.

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 were particularly positive about the support that the College 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."

96.3% of parents agreed (55% strongly) that they were kept up to date with College news and updates. 96.6% would recommend the College to others.

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. In September 2024 phase two of the Science Centre was completed providing four more labs, prep rooms and a classroom. This has also enabled us to refurbish old lab into a Media room and a Clinical Skills room to support the implementation of the Health T Level next year.

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.

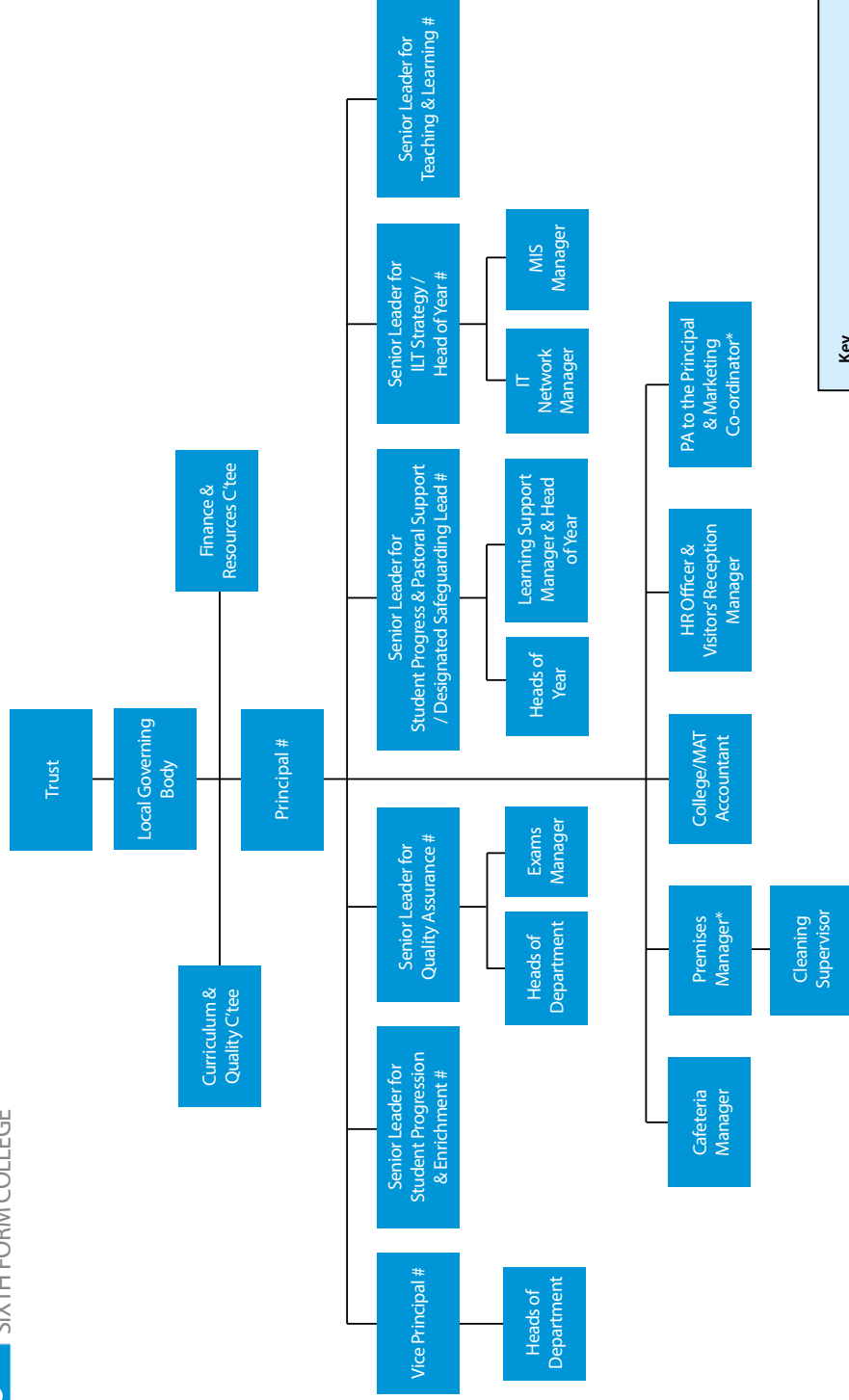
The College Portal and email enable communication between teachers and students, individually or in groups, at home or at College. Microsoft Teams is extensively used to support learning and our IT team provides support and training to both staff and students. We have made significant ongoing investment 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 laptops for teachers and support staff and improved Wi-Fi.

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.





Key

Member of the Senior Leadership Team

* Co-opted member of the Senior Leadership Team

