

THE PARK ACADEMIES TRUST

SIXTH FORM INDUCTION STUDENT & PARENT BOOKLET

THE PARK ACADEMIES TRUST **SIXTH FORM**

*Don't be anonymous...
...be remarkable*

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**SIXTH
FORM**
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WELCOME TO THE PARK ACADEMIES TRUST SIXTH FORM

We are delighted that you are considering joining our sixth form, where ambition, independence and academic excellence are at the heart of everything we do. Our induction programme has been carefully designed to support you in making a successful transition to post-16 study, while giving you a genuine insight into the opportunities, challenges and rewards of sixth form life.

As you begin this journey, it is crucial that you choose subjects which not only align with your future aspirations, but also inspire curiosity, commitment and a passion for learning. Sixth form study offers you the opportunity to take ownership of your education – to think more deeply, work more independently, and challenge yourself to achieve your very best.

Throughout the induction process, you will engage with subject-specific tasks that are designed to stretch your thinking and develop the skills required for success at A Level and Level 3. You will receive either an induction activity and/ or a PiXL Post-16 Gateway Subject Progression booklet for each of your chosen subjects. These tasks must be completed ahead of your first lesson in September and will demonstrate your readiness to meet the high expectations of sixth form study. They will also form part of your first formal assessment, setting the standard for your academic journey with us.

All resources can be accessed via The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form website.

In addition to your subject preparation, you will benefit from our wider post-16 support programmes, including PiXL Post-16 Gateway and PiXL Post-16 Unlock. These are designed not only to consolidate your prior knowledge, but to equip you with the confidence, resilience and academic skills needed to thrive in Year 12 and beyond.

We hope that you approach this induction programme with enthusiasm and determination, embracing the opportunity to grow both academically and personally. We very much look forward to welcoming you into our sixth form community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Mrs Barrett or Mrs Rossouw.

Kind regards,

Mr O Russell

Assistant Principal/Head of Sixth Form

INDUCTION PROGRAMME 2026

W/C Monday 29th June

Subject Induction Activities/ PiXL Post-16 Gateway Subject Progression booklet

Sixth form course leaders will contact you via email to introduce themselves and welcome you onto your chosen A Level and/ or vocational courses. They will also provide you with subject specific progression booklets and induction activities to best prepare you for your chosen Level 3 courses. This work must be completed by the first lesson back in September and will demonstrate that you are ready to start sixth form with the appropriate work ethic. The activities will also be assessed and included as part of the first review point assessment.

PiXL6 Gateway Lessons (to be completed by your first lesson in September)

A series of eight lessons to create a seamless transition between KS4 and KS5 and ensure you progress onto their chosen pathway equipped with the skill set to succeed.

Post 16 Skills: Getting Started

A series of suggested activities aimed at developing post 16 skills from taking Cornell notes to how to write a bibliography.

Project Futures (Preparing for A Levels and Post 18 Study)

Faculty resources to help you prepare for A levels and post 18 study. Suggested activities include articles, MOOCs, podcasts and TED Talks aimed at developing your knowledge beyond the classroom and your LORIC character traits.

PiXL Post 16 Unlock

For each subject PiXL have identified the vocabulary required to learn effectively. Please use your free time to upskill yourself by reading the keywords and definitions for your chosen A level subjects and testing your retention of this knowledge in preparation for your post 16 pathway.

All induction resources will can be located on the TPAT Sixth Form website under the [Admissions 2026 menu](#).

THE PARK ACADEMIES TRUST SIXTH FORM

As The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form, we aim to be a centre of educational excellence that inspires all students to turn their potential into performance. The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form is the place for academic rigour. We are dedicated in providing the very best opportunities for our students with a particular focus on developing confident learners who achieve high A Level and vocational grades thus opening the door to the best Higher Education available to them.

Our pastoral support provision aims to ensure that our students' time during sixth form is a happy and successful one where they can achieve their full potential in a setting in which everyone's individual qualities are celebrated – *don't be anonymous, be remarkable*.

We provide an ambitious and knowledge rich curriculum, delivered by subject specialist teachers, offering opportunities which broaden the experience of our students. Our curriculum focusses on the 3Cs – Character, Culture and Currency (attainment) and is designed to meet the needs of our students in today's society, fully preparing them in progressing onto high quality, aspirational post-18 destinations.

We have strong links with a number of 'top' universities, including, the University of Bath, University of Bristol, University of Oxford and University of Reading. These links, along with our affiliation with industry partners and a bespoke careers programme ensures the provision at The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form is amongst the very best on offer.

We believe in:

- Academic Rigour – students strive for excellence and are challenged to make outstanding academic progress
- Aspiration – students have high aspirations whilst at sixth form and for their futures beyond
- Social Responsibility – acting for the benefit of others

The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form is built on the values we aspire to:

- Ambition – this is the way we flourish
- Courage – this is the way we lead
- Integrity – this is the way we behave
- Respect – this is how we care

The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form is the pinnacle of a family of schools working together within the communities they serve, delivering inspirational education through professional staff who turn our student's potential into performance.

STAFFING – ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr Russell: Assistant Principal – Head of Sixth Form, Head of Year 13 & Careers

RussellO@tpatsixthform.org.uk

Responsibility for the management of Key Stage 5.

Primary focus will be the monitoring of the academic progress/ attainment of year 13 students and providing support and guidance for transition to high quality, aspirational post-18 destinations.

Mrs R Barrett: Head of Year 12, Extended Project Qualification & PSHE

BarrettR@tpatsixthform.org.uk

Primary focus will be the monitoring of the academic progress/ attainment of year 12 students and providing support and guidance for retention rates from year 12 to year 13.

Responsibility for the delivery and quality assurance of the Extended Project Qualification.

Mrs A Rossouw: Sixth Form Student Advisor

RossouwA@tpatsixthform.org.uk

Sixth Form Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Responsibility for monitoring attendance and punctuality (tutor time, lessons and supervised study) and sixth form student bursary. To actively supervise the Sixth Form Study Centre, ensuring that quiet study takes place at all times. To work alongside Mrs Barrett and Mr Russell and parents/ carers in supporting students throughout their time in the sixth form.

Mr Russell, Mrs Barrett, Mrs Rossouw and the year 11 pastoral team will oversee the transition from year 11 into the sixth form for both internal and external applicants.

Mr Godley: Sixth Form Outreach, Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) Lead & Student Services Programme Co-Ordinator

Mr Jones: University Widening Participation Programmes Co-Ordinator

Mr Williams: High Performance Academy/ Oxbridge Co-Ordinator

Mr Winchcombe: Student Wellbeing

SIXTH FORM TUTORING

The excellent level of pastoral care provided in years 7-11 is continued into the sixth form. Students will be allocated a personal tutor who will:

- Provide daily support, both academically and emotionally
- Monitor tutee attendance
- Rigorously track academic performance and implement intervention if needed
- Support tutees in their post-18 destination application
- Deliver a high quality personalised PSHE programme

Tutor Groups

Tutor Group	Tutor	House	Room	Email Contact
6MF	Mr M. Foley	Berners-Lee	D2.1	FoleyM@tpatsixthform.org.uk
6PF	Mr P. Ford	Moore	M2.2	FordP@tpatsixthform.org.uk
6MK	Mr M. Godley	Moore	SCR	GodleyM@tpatsixthform.org.uk
6KH	Ms C. Keith-Hall	Berners-Lee	B2.9	Keith-Hall@tpatsixthform.org.uk
6JM	Miss J. Marriott	Pascal	Mob 1	MarriottJ@tpatsixthform.org.uk
6ST	Miss M. Salter	Berners-Lee	Mob 2	SalterM@tpatsixthform.org.uk
6TW	Mr T. Winchcombe Ms A. McMahon	Holmes	B2.5	WinchcombeT@tpatsixthform.org.uk McMahonA@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
6GW	Mr G. Williams	Pascal	ILC	WilliamsG@tpatsixthform.org.uk
6YW	Miss Y. Wozencraft	Holmes	D1.9	WozencraftY@tpatsixthform.org.uk

SIXTH FORM DRESS CODE

Following consultation with the Sixth Form Student Union a dress code has been set out and must be adhered to at all times whilst on the school site:

- Students are not required to wear a formal uniform
- Students should wear appropriate clothing that would be considered suitable for a school environment
- Students studying practical subjects need to be aware of further health and safety requirements applicable to that subject, for example, suitable footwear for a science lab

The following is not permitted:

- Clothing with slogans which may be regarded as offensive, aggressive or out of place in a school context
- Clothing that is revealing such as low cut or crop tops, very short skirts or shorts,
- Flip flops
- Extreme hair colours
- Facial piercings

If, in the judgement of the sixth form staff, your clothing is inappropriate you will be asked to make appropriate changes.

Please consider that this is a place for work in which you will be meeting students and people at all levels and with a variety of attitudes, as a sixth former you will also be representing our sixth form in the community.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY – YOUR ROLE AS A PARENT

Please find information below regarding sixth form absence and attendance procedures further information can be found [here](#).

All sixth form students are required to sign in/ out electronically at the school's main reception.

Unforeseen Absence: parents are to inform the Sixth Form Student Advisor of their son/daughter's absence on 01793 874224 or via email: RossouwA@tpatsixthform.org.uk before 8:30am.

Foreseen Absence: students must inform the Sixth Form Student Advisor of their absence 48 hours in advance on 01793 874224 or via email: RossouwA@tpatsixthform.org.uk

Morning Registration

Each morning all students are expected to attend registration at 8.40am, during this time students will be registered by their form tutor, given notices and information and follow the sixth form tutor time programme.

Lesson Attendance

Attendance will be monitored closely and students who are causing concern will be invited to attend a meeting at which you will also be expected to discuss any intervention that may be necessary with the Head of Year. Unacceptable attendance (below 90%) may result in students being asked to leave the sixth form or not continue into year 13. In the case of lessons being cancelled work will be left by the subject teacher. The sixth form study area is available for quiet study.

Each student must attend all timetabled lessons and if there is any legitimate and unavoidable reason why a student knows in advance that they are going to miss a lesson, it is their responsibility to speak to the sixth form team to gain permission. Students must also see the relevant subject teachers to collect missed work and complete this in time for the next lesson attended. Students must arrive to every lesson on time with all relevant equipment. Students arriving late to lessons have an impact on the learning of themselves and others and may be asked to leave and report to the Head of Year.

Driving lessons and non-emergency medical or dental appointments should be made outside of school hours.

Holidays must be taken in school holiday time, any such absence within term time will be marked as unauthorised.

(Separate agreement on MS Forms to sign and return)

SUPERVISED STUDY

All sixth form students are required to attend four hours of supervised study per week. Supervised study sessions will be timetabled. These sessions are supervised by a member of staff, a register is taken and any missed sessions will need to be caught up on at a time arranged by Mrs Rossouw. Supervised study is a quiet study area and students will be expected to bring work to complete. The supervised study area has desks and computer access, as well as wireless network for any students who may choose to work on their own devices. Sixth form students should regularly engage in wider reading and this area will be resourced with journals, periodicals, magazines and subject specific text books to aid learning. Any other 'non-contact' sessions should be used wisely; the demands of A Level courses will require a significant amount of additional study time.

Although we are dealing with young adults, the sixth form needs your full co-operation to monitor your son/ daughter's work and effort. For a programme of study consisting of three A levels it is not unreasonable in our opinion, to expect up to 15 hours private study/ homework per week. This may be assignments, reading, extra note taking, consolidation etc. As our average student gets four hours private study per week written into their timetable this should not work out as an onerous amount to do at home. Good time management and organisation are essential for effective study in the sixth form.

If you are concerned about the amount of work your son/ daughter is doing at home, please discuss with him/ her and also contact the school – the form tutor, subject tutor, Mrs Rossouw, Mrs Barrett or Mr Russell.

NON-CONTACT TIME

Non-teaching (private study) time may be spent out of sixth form. If a student needs to leave the sixth form site at any point during the sixth form day, they need to sign out electronically at the school's main reception and sign back in on their return. Private study facilities are provided in sixth form and students are encouraged to take advantage of them.

BE PREPARED TO LEARN

In the majority of subjects, the expectation will be that students provide their own resources to take notes. This will usually be in the form of an A4 folder, with ruled paper, however some subjects may also use an exercise book or booklet which will be provided. In subjects such as Art: Fine, Art: Photography and Art: Textiles where specific resources may be required, subject teachers will provide further detailed information.

Text books will be provided for use by the Park Academies Trust, however it is suggested that students could obtain their own second hand copies of these books on sites such as Ebay or Amazon for their own use at home and for revision/ note taking.

GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START

It is imperative that students arrive in September with a positive mind-set and all induction activities completed to a high standard. Sixth form staff will have high expectations of students and the jump from GCSE courses to A levels is significant. The sixth form staff will be there to support students fully with this transition. The initial four weeks of the courses will inform staff of a student's ability to cope with the demands of the subject.

SCHOOL COUNCIL & HOUSE SYSTEM (SIXTH FORM STUDENT UNION)

Student leadership is an integral part of The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form. Our Student Union offers students the opportunity to experience one of a number of leadership roles. Leadership enables our students to be proactive and independent, whilst empowering them with key skills for their future.

At TPAT Sixth Form, the Student Union represents an integral link between the student, teaching and governing bodies and the wider community. Representing all student members, the Student Union aims to, have a whole school impact through the leadership of student council meetings and instilling the house ethos. Working alongside Faculty Leads the Student Union endeavour to have a positive impact on the arts and sport and continue to have an impact on the wider community through the House charities.

The Student Union also expands upon normal school life by running regular social and cultural events throughout the school calendar right the way from freshers to the year 13 leavers' evening.

The Student Union meets on a fortnightly basis and is run by the Pupil Principals.

THE PARK ACADEMIES TRUST SIXTH FORM: EXPECTATIONS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

YEAR 12 LEARNING AGREEMENT

You have made an important decision to study in the sixth form at The Park Academies Trust. You will find aspects of both teaching and learning in the sixth form to be different from the ways your learning was organised throughout KS4. The expectations the sixth form has of its students, and the systems that are in place to support your learning, will also be different to those you have experienced before.

This document outlines our expectations of Teaching and Learning in post-16 and this document focuses on what students can expect in terms of teaching from the sixth form. It outlines the academic expectations the sixth form has of its students and explains the intervention and support that has been put in place for students who experience difficulty in fully meeting these standards. Poor attendance, punctuality and students failing to complete set work on time are the main causes of under-achievement in our sixth form and we have put in place a range of systems to support you as you make the transition to post-16 study.

EXPECTATIONS OF TEACHING

Key Stage 5 subject leaders and subject teachers will organise and deliver courses which will fully prepare you for the external examinations and assessment requirements of the programmes of study you have chosen to follow.

You will be set academic targets (MEGs) and your progress will be regularly reviewed against these. Your teachers will maintain records of your attainment and progress which will be shared with you and your parents/ carers so that you are fully aware of what you need to do to progress.

Your subject teachers will provide you with meaningful and challenging learning experiences which will fully prepare you for the internal and external assessments required by your individual programmes of study.

You will be set work on a regular basis and the assessment of this work will indicate ways in which you can improve.

In the event of a known teacher absence you will be set work to complete in order to minimise the impact on your learning.

The school will report on your progress to your parents/ carers and ensure that there are ample opportunities for you and your parents/ carers to discuss your progress.

Your form tutors, subject teachers and members of the sixth form team will provide opportunities to keep you fully informed about your future career pathway whether this is in employment, training or on a further or higher education course.

Your form tutors and subject teachers will actively encourage and support you as you develop the skills of supported self-study and independent learning.

Your form tutors will help with organisation and put in interventions if you are falling behind with the programme of work set by subject teachers or if you are struggling to adjust to the more independent approach to learning in the sixth form.

The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form is fully committed to providing you with opportunities for individual guidance on academic and pastoral issues through your form tutors, subject teachers, Key Stage 5 subject leaders and the sixth form leadership team.

EXPECTATION OF LEARNING

It is expected that you will attend school on all term days, other than when absence is unavoidable. You must schedule holidays so that they do not occur in term-time or disrupt your learning. You should notify the school by telephone on the first day when you are absent through illness and explain any absence from school to your form tutor and subject teachers on your return.

It is expected that you attend all assemblies, registration and enrichment sessions as directed by your form tutor. You must attend and be punctual to all classes and activities which make up your programme of study.

Failure to attend and meet expectations will result in targeted intervention. Persistent absence could lead to a student being asked to leave.

You must register your attendance daily. This will be done using the electronic sign in system located in the school main reception and during a morning registration period 8.40am-8.55am for all students. Your parents/ carers will be notified as a matter of urgency of your absence if you are not present.

You must complete all work by the deadline set by your subject teacher and complete this to the best of your ability. In addition, you must undertake the independent support work and background reading which is appropriate to your courses. You must arrange with your subject teachers to make up any work you have missed through absence.

If you miss a deadline for any piece of work your subject teacher will intervene to support you and refer this information to your form tutor who will organise support and intervention to help ensure that you get back up to date. Your tutor will review your progress on a daily basis during morning registration sessions in order to support your learning and to ensure progress.

You will discuss with your form tutor and subject teachers at the earliest opportunity any personal and academic difficulties that are affecting your school work. It is your responsibility to ask for help if you are struggling with any aspect of your post-16 experience.

Where learning expectations are not being met, payment of the 16-19 Bursary may be withheld until agreed learning targets are achieved.

During non-contact periods where there is no timetabled lesson or supervised study session, students will be allowed off site in order to study independently or in an appropriate place. By signing this learning agreement parents/ carers are giving their permission for students to leave the supervision of our school site at these times.

WHAT SUPPORT AND INTERVANTION IS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS NOT MEETING THE EXPECTATIONS OF LEARNING?

In the sixth form an Academic Achievement & Academic Concerns system has been designed to promote consistently outstanding punctuality, attendance and academic performance. Academic Achievements and Academic Concerns are recorded on the school's Arbor system and shared with both students and parents/carers.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Staff take every opportunity to praise progress, achievement, effort and being a sixth form ambassador within The Park Academies Trust and wider community. Academic Achievement categories include:

- Consistently meeting assignment deadlines (2 points)
- Excellent contribution in class (1 point)
- Outstanding academic progress – positive progress score in PPEs (15 points)
- 100% attendance per term (5 points)
- Outstanding contribution to Student Services (10 points)
- Outstanding work ethic/ independent study in Supervised Study (2 points)
- 100% attendance overall (20 points)
- Student ambassador (5 points)
- Contribution to Sixth Form Student Union (5 points)

REWARDS

For every Academic Achievement point awarded students receive a token to place in the voting box of the local good cause they would most like to support. At the end of the academic year, the number of tokens are counted and the achievement budget is distributed between three local good causes/ charities.

The local good courses are selected by the sixth form students at the start of each academic year.

ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If a student's academic attainment and/ or progress becomes a concern sixth form staff will provide immediate and personalised guidance and intervention to support students who are not meeting the expectations for learning. Academic Concerns include:

- Failure to attend intervention clinic when requested
- Failure to demonstrate revision for PPE
- Failure to meet deadlines (h/w or c/w)
- Failure to wear ID badge
- Inadequate work ethic or attitude
- Inadequate work ethic or attitude (Supervised Study)
- Inappropriate behaviour towards a peer or member of staff
- Plagiarism
- Poor punctuality to tutor time/ lessons
- Truancy (absence from school without notification from parent)

Each Academic Concern totals -1 academic point.

Each Academic Concern recorded will result in the student attending a compulsory academic twilight session (Tuesday or Thursday 3:30pm – 5:00pm).

Through each stage the school recognises that you may at times need individual support and intervention for the more independent demands of post-16 learning. You may require different forms of individually tailored support which is why the post-16 team sets out clear expectations for all aspects of sixth form life.

Stage 1 – Form Tutor Conversation and Guidance (1 Academic Concern Point)

When your form tutor receives a concern from the subject teacher, they will offer guidance during morning registration sessions which will support your learning. You will discuss a support programme which will include personal action points/targets in place and progress towards agreed targets will be reviewed by your tutor. These targets will be overseen by the tutor each morning.

Stage 2 – Learning Conversation and Guidance (5 Academic Concern Points)

Students who are struggling to meet the learning expectations of their subject teachers will be offered support by teachers/ leaders who will contact home and offer appropriate intervention. Your subject teacher will be the main point of contact/ support at this stage.

Stage 3 – Student Impact Report (10 Academic Concern Points)

Should you be unable to meet the targets agreed with your form tutor you will be referred to your Head of Year. We will interview you and put in place a series of Personal Learning Checklist academic targets (PLCs) addressing your learning needs – these will be set by your subject teachers. Progress will be supported and monitored by your Head of Year and they will inform your parents/ carers by letter of any concerns. You will be issued with a Student Impact Report to support your progress.

Stage 4 – Head of Sixth Form Intervention (15 Academic Concern Points)

If you are unable to meet the revised targets that have been set a meeting will be arranged with you, your parents/ carers and the Head of Sixth Form in which your current programme of study and examination entries will be reviewed. At this meeting your Student Impact Report will be reviewed and new PLCs will be set by the Head of Sixth Form. The Head of Sixth Form will also issue you with a letter and a copy of this will be sent to your parents/ carers summarising the agreed PLCs and consequences of not meeting them.

Stage 5 – Progression Meeting (20 Academic Concern Points)

Should you remain unable to meet the expectations agreed with the Head of Sixth Form a further meeting with the Head of Sixth Form and your parents/ carer will be held. Alternative learning pathways better suited to your needs will be considered and learning expectations agreed. Details will be issued to you and sent to your parents/ carers, giving information about this meeting.

If you are unable or unwilling to make agreed improvements, a meeting will then be convened with the Senior Leadership Team at which you may have your place at the sixth form withdrawn. Your parents/ carers will have the right to appeal against any decision made by The Park Academies Trust at this stage

(Separate agreement on MS Forms to sign and return)

KEY STAGE 5 SUBJECT LEADERS

Subject	Subject Leader	Email Contact
Art: Fine	Miss S. Chinnock	ChinnockS@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Art: Photography	Miss S. Fegan	FeganS@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Art: Textiles	Mrs C. Hoing	HoingC@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Biology	Mrs L. Williams	WilliamsL@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Business	Mr R. Jones	JonesR@tpatsixthform.org.uk
Chemistry	Mr M. Foley	FoleyM@tpatsixthform.org.uk
Computer Science	Mr A. Fraser	FraserA@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Economics	Mr M. Godley	GodleyM@tpatsixthform.org.uk
English Literature	Ms A. McMahon	McMahonA@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
English Literature & Language	Ms A. McMahon	McMahonA@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Extended Project Qualification	Mrs R. Barrett	BarrettR@tpatsixthform.org.uk
Geography	Mrs K. Togher	TogherK@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
History	Mrs E. Ball	BallE@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Mathematics	Mr P. Ford	FordP@tpatsixthform.org.uk
Mathematics: Core	Ms A. Ford	FordA@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Mathematics: Further	Mr P. Ford	FordP@tpatsixthform.org.uk
Media Studies	Mrs A. Lancaster	LancasterA@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Physical Education	Mr C. Dobbs	DobbsC@tpatsixthform.org.uk
Physics	Mr T. Gordon	GordonT@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Psychology	Miss M. Salter	SalterM@tpatsixthform.org.uk
Religious Studies	Mrs M. Greenwood	GreenwoodM@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
Sociology	Mr T. Winchcombe	Winchcombe@tpatsixthform.org.uk
BTEC Diploma in Sport	Mrs G. Bryce	BryceG@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
CTEC Business	Mr R. Jones	DaviesI@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
CTEC Digital Media	Mr H. Batty	BattyH@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
CTEC IT	Miss H. Plumb	PlumbH@tpatsixthform.org.uk

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

From architecture to addiction, comic strips to criminology and gaming to gothic stories – with an EPQ, you choose what you study!

At The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form we offer year 12 students the opportunity to complete an EPQ. This is a stand-alone qualification which is equivalent to 60 % of an A level (more UCAS points than an AS level). The qualification is highly regarded by universities as it involves many of the skills students require at degree level: independent enquiry, research methods, referencing and presentation skills to name but a few. The EPQ is unique in that students have the freedom to choose a topic of their choice and write their own title – it could be an extension of a curricular topic or something that isn't covered by the curriculum at all. The final product may be a written report or students may choose to produce an artefact instead. At The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form, sixth former students start the EPQ in term 2 of year 12 and complete the qualification by the summer of year 12. The lessons take place on Wednesday session 5, students are paired with a member of staff who works with them one-to-one as their supervisor and we run a research trip to the University of Southampton.

For further information, please contact Mrs Barrett (BarrettR@tpatsixthform.org.uk).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do I do if ...

I am struggling to cope with my studies or meeting deadlines...

Speak to your tutor or Mrs Barrett. It may be that we can organise additional supervised study sessions for you or arrange a 1:1 meeting with a subject teacher to provide additional support and guidance. We may also arrange an informal meeting with Mr Russell to discuss your courses and the demands being placed upon you.

I am having a tough time and it is affecting me and my work...

Speak to your tutor, Mrs Rossouw or Mrs Barrett as soon as you can. They will be able to assist you and provide appropriate support and advice to you.

I would like to change or drop a subject...

Arrange a meeting with Mrs Barrett or Mr Russell to discuss the options available to you and the implications of your course changes. After the initial four-week period, it will be extremely unusual for a student to change courses due to the amount of work that will already have been completed by this stage. If the decision is made that you are going to discontinue a subject, all involved parties (student, subject teacher, parents, Head of Sixth Form) would need to agree that this was the most appropriate course of action for you.

I am struggling with the demands of a piece of work...

Speak to the subject teacher as soon as possible and ask for additional guidance. Staff will be happy to help you and may suggest a short session with them, or some additional reading/materials that could help you.

I need some careers advice or guidance...

Speak to your tutor and make an appointment to meet with them and discuss it. You can also speak to Mr Godley who will be able to guide you or provide the most appropriate contacts.

I want to leave Sixth Form...

You will need to make an immediate appointment with Mr Russell. If you do leave you will receive support and guidance from your tutor, Mrs Barrett or Mr Russell who will be able to assist you in your transition to an alternative post-16 provider.

APPLYING FOR THE 16–19 BURSARY FUND

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education. The bursary fund is intended to help students with their actual costs of participating, and bursary decisions are based on students' individual circumstances and their actual financial need.

Funding is provided by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and administered by TPAT Sixth Form. TPAT Sixth Form carries out a financial assessment of each applicant and administers bursaries in line with the ESFA's Bursary Fund Guide 2026/27 [here](#) and as set out in this policy.

Students can learn more about these bursaries [here](#).

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- bursaries for students in one of the defined vulnerable groups of up to £1,200 a year; and
- discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual need, using policies they set in line with the ESFA's funding rules

Defined vulnerable groups bursaries are awarded to students who have a financial need and who are:

- in care
- care leavers
- receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner
- receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right

TPAT Sixth Form conducts a financial needs assessment to confirm actual financial need and the amount of support required. Students do not automatically receive £1,200.

Discretionary bursaries are awarded by TPAT Sixth Form to help students with costs such as travel, essential books, equipment or specialist clothing (such as protective overalls, for example).

As with defined vulnerable groups bursaries, a financial needs assessment is conducted and TPAT Sixth Form bases decisions about which students receive a discretionary bursary and how much they receive on each student's individual circumstances and their actual financial need.

Students applying for a discretionary bursary should indicate on their application forms what they would like to use the bursary funding for. TPAT Sixth Form will consider requests for help with transport, books and equipment, field trips and other course-related costs, as well as the costs of attending industry placements, university interviews and open days.

DESTINATIONS

The Park Academies Trust offers every student an opportunity to gain the necessary skills to support future career and university aspirations.

Our post 18 strategy ensures full alignment with the Gatsby Benchmarks.

The TPAT Careers and Futures programme is designed to support our students with a variety of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) which we strive to deliver in an impartial and unbiased way.

In support of this we work very closely with the online careers platform www.unifrog.org.

Careerpilot allows an opportunity for students, parents, and teachers to utilise a variety of online tools thus supporting knowledge, awareness of up to the minute labour market information (LMI).

To help with student development, there are a range of activities that are specifically aimed at developing their employability/ LORIC skills. (*Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication*).

Work-related activities are embedded within our curriculum and are specifically developed to enable all students to take part in a range of exciting and work relevant opportunities. A way in which we help to develop our students is through work place experiences and dedicated work experience weeks. This allows our students to gain a greater understanding of careers on offer within industry and commerce.

By completing the TPAT Sixth Form Journal students are given the opportunity to evidence, evaluate and reflect upon the essential transferable skills that employers look for. By this, we refer to the LORIC/ soft skills that are applicable to any career pathway such as team work, communication, using initiative and problem solving. Such evidence will allow our students to have confidence when applying for employment, apprenticeships or university pathways.

We offer further opportunities including an enrichment programme (Student Services). Our programme has been designed to encourage our sixth form cohort to help and support younger students in a variety of subject areas across the curriculum.

A full list of activities to support our **Careers and Futures Programme** can be found below:

Destination Programme

- Access to www.unifrog.org
- An introduction to employability/ LORIC skills (PSHE programme)
- Business support from Arval, Catalent, EBP, Procurri, Logiq Consulting, TLT Legal, Bower Bailey (Legal)
- Employer assembly programme
- Enrichment programme (Student Services)
- EPQ University Research Trip (University of Southampton)
- Level 6 Qualified Careers Advisor – offering 1:1 post-18 guidance
- Mentoring Programme
- Post-18 Destinations Week
- The Park Academies Trust Careers and Futures Fair
- University and Careers Fair (Ashton Gate, Bristol)
- University guest speakers
- University Widening Participation Programmes (University of Bath, University of Bristol, University of Reading, University of Gloucester, Oxford Brookes and University of the West of England)
- Work experience programme

University Open Days are extremely valuable in gaining all of the relevant information and the LPA Sixth Form actively encourages students to attend these events.

Employment: all non EPQ students will undertake a one-week work experience placement in year 12 (term 4) followed by a second placement during the first week of year 13 for all year 13 students. These placements are aimed at ensuring all students experience valuable training and, have the opportunity to demonstrate and develop employability skills, which they can evidence when completing university, apprenticeship and employment applications.

Student Services: all Y12 students will undertake a one-hour student services activity per week. Activities can range from Literacy Mentors for students in Y7–Y11, Academic Mentors for student in Y7–Y11, support in the delivery of Y7–Y11 lessons, organise/ support session 6 activities, play an active role in the Sixth Form Student Union or work in the wider community.

The Student Services programme is aimed at providing our student with the opportunity to develop their character skills beyond the classroom and contribute to the culture of the whole school and wider community. The impact of participating in the Student Services programme will be reviewed and measured regularly during tutor time through the Employability Skills student booklet leading to high quality Post-18 applications.

HIGH PERFORMANCE ACADEMY (HPA)

Dare to Excel –Designed for Ambition

At The Park Academies Trust, we are committed to helping every student achieve their first-choice post-18 destination – whether that's a top university, a competitive apprenticeship or a high-impact career pathway. Our High Performance Academy (HPA) is a specialist programme for students with outstanding academic records and high aspirations. It provides tailored support, challenge and guidance to help students reach the most selective destinations, including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

Proven Success

We are proud of the exceptional outcomes our HPA students continue to achieve:

- Since its launch, the HPA has supported numerous successful Oxbridge applications
- In September 2024, 50% of HPA students progressed to Russell Group universities
- Students consistently demonstrate outstanding progress from GCSE to A Level, reflecting their drive and the quality of support they receive

Our High Performance Academy (HPA) is more than a programme – it's a launchpad for students with exceptional academic potential and high aspirations. We provide a rich, structured pathway to help you stand out in competitive university and career applications.

Specialist Higher Achievers Tutor Group: led by a member of the HPA team, this group provides tailored mentoring and academic stretch.

Dedicated Oxbridge Lead: expert guidance on every stage of the Oxbridge application process, from course selection to interview preparation.

University Access & Insight: additional university visits in year 12, opportunities to meet and speak with university representatives and access to our TPAT Alumni Network – former students now studying at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

Critical Thinking & Academic Enrichment: activities designed to sharpen analytical and evaluative skills, introduction to academic journals, referencing and research methods, preparation for aptitude tests and interview techniques and opportunities to undertake the EPQ, including a visit to the University of Southampton with full access to their reference library.

Widening Participation & Outreach: participation in university-led programmes from University of Bath, University of Bristol and University of Reading, access to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) accredited by universities worldwide and involvement in the

Villiers Park Project – supporting students from disadvantaged postcodes with subject-specific workshops and long-term mentoring.

ENROLMENT

Student enrolment will take place on:

Thursday 20th August (GCSE Results Day) 8:00am – 10:00am

at

Abbey Park School and Lydiard Park Academy

There will also be an options clinic available for any students who may have changed their sixth form options or who may need to discuss alternative post-16 provision if The Park Academies Trust Sixth Form entry requirements are not met. We would encourage students to discuss all of the options available to them as there may be an alternative course offer for them at the sixth form.

If a student is unable to attend on the above date to enrol, please ensure that a confirmation email is sent to Mrs Rossouw, including confirmed subject choices by Friday 21st August.

RossouwA@tpatsixthform.org.uk

We hope that you enjoy today and look forward to welcoming you as sixth formers on Thursday 3rd September at 8.40am.

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT LIST

1. Ring binder for daily school use, with labelled dividers for different subjects and teachers.
2. At home, one ring binder or leaver arch file per subject, to put notes into once you have completed a topic.
3. Specification for each A level subject, printed and placed in folders.
4. Dividers for folders.
5. Plastic wallets to keep work and resources in a good condition.
6. Pens, pencils, rulers, rubbers, glue sticks, scissors and highlighter pens.
7. Calculator (Mathematics, Science, Geography, Psychology, Economics with Business).
8. Any subject specific equipment (set texts for English Literature and Mathematics equipment if required).
9. Second hand copy of text books (Ebay/ Amazon).
10. Diary (mobile device or paper copy)

KEY DATES (PROVISIONAL)**Term 1**

Date	Lower School	Year 12	Year 13
1 st & 2 nd September 2026		Staff INSET Days	
1 st & 2 nd September 2026			PPE Retakes (Y12-Y13 Progression)
1 st – 4 th September 2026			Work Experience
2 nd September 2026		Sixth Form Information Evening (Parents)	
3 rd September 2026		Start of Term (8.40am)	
7 th September 2026			Start of Term (8:40am)
9 th & 10 th September 2026	LPA Open Evening	Sixth Form Student Union	
14 th September 2026		Pupil Perceptions (Tutor Time)	
14 th September 2026		SWIFT Testing (PSHE)	
21 st September 2026			UCAS – Personal Statement Deadline (2nd Draft)/ Final draft for those with the 15th October 2026 deadline
w/c 21 st September 2026 Deadline 25 th September 2026		Assessment Week (in class) -Summer Induction Activity/ PiXL Post 16 Gateway Subject Progression Booklets -Folder Check -Key Definitions Assessment -Two Week Content Test/ Exam Question	
w/c 28 th September 2026 Deadline 2 nd October 2026		Review Point 1 -Summer Induction Activity/ PiXL Post 16 Gateway Subject Progression Booklets	

		-Folder Check -Key Definitions Assessment - Two Week Content Test/ Exam Question -Emerging Fine Grade -Continue/ Concern -Concern Comment	
30 th September 2026	Y10 Intro to GCSE Evening	Sixth Form Student Union	
5 th & 6 th October 2026		Student Academic Progress Meetings (Head of Year 12)	
6 th & 7 th October 2026	Open Morning	Sixth Form Student Union	
8 th October 2026		Sixth Form Census Day	
12th & 13th October 2026			UCAS Application Submission (Early Entry)
15th October 2026 (18:00)			UCAS – Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford & Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine/ science
15 th October 2026	Careers Fair		
16 th October 2026		Sixth Form Student Union Fright Night, Thorpe Park	
21 st October 2026		Geography Fieldwork Trip London	
22 nd October 2026	Sixth Form Open Evening	Sixth Form Student Union	
23 rd October 2026		End of Term	

Term 2

Date	Lower School	Year 12	Year 13
2 nd November 2026		Start of Term (8.40am)	
w/c 2 nd November 2026 Deadline 6 th November 2026			PPE Week 1 (Study Leave)
w/c 9 th November 2026 Deadline 13 th November 2026			Review Point 1 -Revision -PPE Result Fine Grade -PLCs -UCAS Professional Prediction Fine Grade -UCAS Reference Comment
10th November 2026			UCAS – Personal Statement Deadline (Final Draft)
11 th – 17 th November 2026		Sixth Form USA Trip	
16 th & 17 st November 2026		Staff INSET Days	
w/c 16th November 2026 Deadline 27th November 2026			UCAS Reference Writing
18 th November 2026	Consultation Day	Reading Day	
20 th November 2026 Deadline 24 th November 2026			RSL/ KS5 Leaders Meetings
25 th November 2026			PPE 1 Results Assembly & Subject Consultation Evening
26 th & 27 th November 2026			Student Academic Progress Meetings (Head of Sixth Form)
2nd – 4th December 2026			UCAS Application Submission
9 th December 2026	Sixth Form Student Union Quiz Night		
18 th December 2026		End of Term	

Term 3

Date	Lower School	Year 12	Year 13
4 th January 2027		Start of Term (8.40am)	
w/c 4 th January 2027 Deadline 8 th January 2027		PPE Week 1 (Study Leave)	
w/c 11 th January 2027 Deadline 15 th January 2027		Review Point 2 -Revision -PPE Result Fine Grade -Professional Prediction Fine Grade -PLCs	
13th January 2027 (18:00)			UCAS Application Deadline
21 st January 2027		PPE 1 Results Assembly	
22 nd January 2027	Sixth Form Application Deadline		
26 th January 2027		PPE 1 Subject Consultation Evening	
27 th – 29 th January 2027		RSL/ KS5 Leaders Meetings	
w/c 1 st February 2027 Deadline 5 th February 2027		Student Academic Progress Meetings (Head of Year 12)	
w/c 1 st February 2027 Deadline 11 th February 2027	Sixth Form Interviews		
11 th February 2027		End of Term	
12 th February 2027		Staff INSET Day	

Term 4

Date	Lower School	Year 12	Year 13
22 nd February 2027		Start of Term (8.40am)	
w/c 22 nd February 2027 Deadline 26 th February 2027		EPQ Week & Work Experience Week	PPE Week 2 (Study Leave)
w/c 1 st March 2027 Deadline 5 th March 2027			Review Point 2 -Revision -PPE Result Fine Grade -A Level Predicted Grade Fine Grade -PLCs
10 th March 2027			PPE 2 Results Assembly
w/c 15 th March 2027 Deadline 17 th March 2027			RSL/ KS5 Leaders Meetings
18 th & 19 th March 2027			Student Academic Progress Meetings (Head of Sixth Form)
23 rd March 2027	Consultation Day	Peter Rawlings – Getting into Your Top Choices seminars	Reading Day (No in school lessons)
25 th March 2027		EPQ Market Place Event (sessions 5 & 6)	
25 th March 2027		End of Term	

Term 5

Date	Lower School	Year 12	Year 13
12 th April 2027		Start of Term (8.40am)	
12 th – 14 th April 2027			A Level Art: Fine Examination
w/c 19 th April 2027 Deadline 23 rd April 2027			Assessment Week (in class)
w/c 26 th April 2027 Deadline 30 th April 2027			Review Point 3 -Revision -Assessment Result Fine Grade -A Level Predicted Grade Fine Grade -PLCs
29 th April 2027 – 4 th May 2027			A Level Art: Photography & Textiles Examination
3 rd May 2027		Bank Holiday	
14 th May 2027			Leavers Assembly
28 th May 2027		End of Term	

Term 6

Date	Lower School	Year 12	Year 13
7 th June 2027		Staff INSET Day	
8 th June 2027		Start of Term (8.40am)	
w/c 28 th June 2027 Deadline 2 nd July 2027		PPE Week 2 (Study Leave)	
1 st July June 2027	Y10 HPA Sixth Form Experience Day (LPA)	Sixth Form Student Union	
2 nd – 4 th July 2027		Science Fieldwork Trip	
5 th – 7 th July 2027		Geography Fieldwork Trip	
5 th – 7 th July 2027		Destinations Week	
w/c 5 th July 2027 Deadline 8 th July 2027		Review Point 3 -Revision -PPE Result Fine Grade -Professional Prediction Fine Grade -PLCs	
7 th July 2027		Post 18 Information Evening (Parents)	
8 th July 2027	Y10 HPA Sixth Form Experience Day (APS)		
9 th July 2027	Y10 HPA Sixth Form Experience Day (DEA & HWS)		
12 th July 2027		PPE 2 Results Assembly	
12 th & 14 th July 2027		Y12-Y13 Progression Meetings	
20 th July 2027		End of Term	