



Sawtry Village
Academy

Sixth Form

2024/25


Ofsted
Outstanding Post 16



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Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to Sawtry Village Academy Sixth Form.

Sawtry Village Academy has high expectations of all its students and delivers a high-quality education in the heart of our community. Our academic results over the past five years have been excellent in terms of attainment and progress. We value our students and develop them into successful, confident, responsible, and employable citizens. We expect students to work hard, develop resilience and work closely with staff to ensure the highest possible achievement and progress. If you're looking to join us, this prospectus gives a great flavour of what's on offer. We look forward to welcoming you to our sixth form.



Simon Parsons - Principal of Sawtry Village Academy

A word from the Sixth Form Leadership

At SVA Sixth Form, we pride ourselves on the level of support we give to our students and the results they go on to achieve. We encourage our students to adopt independence, develop good study habits and to become highly employable, well-rounded young people. Above all, we are guided by our passion for the pursuit of excellence and achievement for all. This is recognised in our last full Ofsted report (January 2018):

"The sixth form provides an outstanding education. Achievement overall has been significantly above average for the previous two years. Strong teaching and a very supportive pastoral system are enabling students to follow ambitious career pathways".

Come and visit us – we believe you'll like what you see.

Thomas Hill - Head of Sixth Form

Louisa Hay - Deputy Head of Sixth Form

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

We continue to be extremely proud of the results our students achieve. In recent years these have been outstanding, as our students showed immense resilience, maturity and above all a positive attitude. Our sixth form also received praise in the last full Ofsted report in 2018, which stated that:

"The leaders of the sixth form, well supported by the senior leadership of the school, have high expectations of what they provide for their students. Students are overwhelmingly positive about the support they receive from the sixth-form team and teachers. The regular feedback they receive is helping students to improve the quality of their work, both for coursework and examination questions".



Pathway programme

Our Pathway Programme is designed to provide a good range of choices for students but also to make sure all pupils study routes appropriate to them. We have used school and national data to build our programme, which focuses on three colour bands. Each band is tailored to students' GCSE performance.

Courses are run subject to sufficient numbers of students and may have their own specific requirements that must be met.

How to select your pathway

You can calculate your likely Average Point Score (APS) based on your predicted GCSE grades. Calculate the mean average of your best 8 GCSE grades by adding them up and dividing by 8. This determines which colour subject bands you can access below. Students then choose 3 subjects from the available bands.



APS 3.7+

Blue subjects require a grade 4 in Maths or English Language.

BLUE Profile

- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC Creative Digital Media Production
- BTEC Science
- BTEC ICT
- GCE Art
- GCE Textiles
- GCE Photography
- GCE 3D Design

APS 4.5+

Green subjects require a grade 4 in both Maths and English Language.

GREEN Profile

- GCE English Literature
- GCE Geography
- GCE History
- GCE PE
- GCE Business
- GCE Psychology
- GCE Sociology

Once you know your final grades you may need to change your choices in line with your score and pathway, plus any subject specific entry requirements. This process will be finalised during the first two days of term in September.

APS 5.5+

Yellow subjects require a grade 4 in Maths and English. You must have a 6 in the subject chosen to study (or 6-6 if you studied Combined Science) and also a 6 in Maths if you are studying Physics or Chemistry.

YELLOW Profile

- GCE Maths (Stats)
- GCE Physics
- GCE Chemistry
- GCE Biology



Cerys

Cerys left the sixth form in 2023 to study English at the University of Cambridge.

My time at the sixth form was incredibly happy, challenging and rewarding. The teaching staff were dedicated and encouraging, and the pastoral team couldn't have done more to support me through my A-Level journey – both were always ready to tackle every obstacle as I prepared for my next steps. There was never a day when I didn't look forward to attending to sixth form and, although excited for the future, I am sad to say goodbye to such a wonderful team and learning environment.



Why choose Sawtry Village Academy?

There are a lot of great reasons to choose our sixth form. Here are just a few:

Credentials

Our teaching staff are highly experienced and the quality of our sixth form teaching has been highlighted in our Ofsted reports. Our staff are expected to continuously develop their skills and embrace new technologies to aid learning.

Time to study

You will find that your timetable in the sixth form contains a number of private study lessons. These provide you with time for independent work on your assignments, for research or discussion of course topics with your peers.

Tutors

All students have a personal tutor to support them throughout year 12 and 13. Your tutor will help you make choices about your future career path and work with you on your applications to UCAS, apprenticeships, other courses or jobs and will write your reference.

Pastoral support

Every week students will have a registration programme built around five key themes: Motivation Mondays (teambuilding & current events), Target Tuesdays (futures support including UCAS, CVs and apprenticeships), Wellbeing Wednesdays (PSHE), Thought-provoking Thursdays (assemblies) and Fitness Fridays (physical & mental health support).

Enhancing your personal profile

The Academy gives you a wide range of enrichment opportunities including additional qualifications, vocational experiences and specialist skills so that you appeal to employers and higher education.

Building a community

Our sixth form is a friendly, supportive group and we encourage you to get involved and take on responsibilities. Students can take on leadership roles in the sixth form, representing their peers and contributing to student voice processes, or by leading lunchtime clubs and sports sessions.

Student support

We pride ourselves on the support we give our sixth formers during their time with us. This includes the pastoral support they receive from our dedicated Post-16 Advisor, Hayley. Students also receive a range of guidance regarding post-18 options such as university, apprenticeships & employment, as well as dedicated personal statement, portfolio, CV, interview & mock assessment guidance in year 13. We also benefit from access to the school's Level 6 Careers Advisor and of course Bramble, the Sixth Form Welfare Dog.

Preparing for your next step

Higher Education support

More than 70 per cent of our students move on to Higher Education and we have a programme of support for this important transition.

We offer university visits throughout year 12. Outside speakers from the HE sector are invited in to give advice on the application process, student finance and personal statements.

Careers support

Students are supported with regular visits from speakers representing a range of industries, e.g. the NHS, banking & finance, the Armed Forces.

Work experience

All year 12 students are encouraged to participate in work experience in July, and have the opportunity for work shadowing throughout the year.

We support our students in their ambitions, but give honest views on the suitability of their course choices. As deadlines approach, each personal statement is reviewed by an experienced member of staff and submissions are co-ordinated with input from across the sixth form team.

"Students benefit from high-quality and impartial careers advice for both higher education and employment pathways. There is a range of activities provided, such as university and industry visits as well as visiting speakers. The sixth-form team supports students in gaining work experience, which has included placements with local and national employers. Students stated that they feel strongly supported in all their choices".

Ofsted report January 2018



David

Sixth form is a very different experience to lower school. It has allowed me to engage with new opportunities and overcome challenges. In year 12, I was granted access to take part in various activities like a first aid course and online courses in neuroscience and musculoskeletal system. Along with teachers being very supporting and treating us like young adults, sixth form has allowed me to find what I'm passionate about academically while preparing me for my future.



Kiran

Before studying at Sawtry sixth form I was enrolled at a different school. Straight after my transition days, I knew the school was for me. The staff were excited to take me on and I was helped in every aspect of the process. Teachers here are passionate about their subjects, and always go above & beyond to help everyone understand. Sawtry sixth form has enabled me to excel in my subjects, both in and out of the classroom, and to be the best I can be.

Enriching your studies

Our Enrichment programme is all about making you more appealing to universities and employers, by developing you as an individual. Taking place during the week throughout year 12 and 13, there are a wide variety of options on offer. These include:

Community voluntary work: highly rewarding and great for an application form, you could undertake to work with charities supporting the aged, disabled, disadvantaged or homeless.

Core Maths: supports the mathematical requirements of other A level and BTEC courses. Leading universities have endorsed the qualification as it equips students with the mathematics skills required for many degree courses from humanities to health sciences. Post 16 study of mathematics is favoured by employers. It is worth the same number of UCAS points as an AS level.

MOOCs: students in need of academic enrichment, especially for university, are able to engage in additional online courses to enhance their knowledge & skills.

Science laboratory technician: work alongside the Science Technician team to prepare materials for lessons. Ideal for someone interested in a career that involves lab work.

Professional work shadowing: get valuable experience of a career you're interested in by taking a regular placement every week.

Enrichment Clubs: students can lead or participate in a range of clubs in lunchtimes or after school to improve their leadership skills or sporting abilities. Examples of this year's clubs include the debate club,

Henna club, the LGBTQ+ club, cards club, football, rugby & netball.

Duke of Edinburgh Award: Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award; an adventure involving volunteering, physical skills, expedition activities and a residential course. Great for building confidence, skills and life experiences.

Core English: a course designed to support the English and academic writing skills required for A level study; this is highly advised for any students pursuing a humanities A level or the EPQ.

Extended Project Qualification: a course that stretches high performing A level students by demonstrating their independent learning skills. EPQ students plan, deliver and present a project that extends their studies, with a 5,000 word report or film/ portfolio/model with commentary.

Mentoring younger learners: all sixth formers are able to mentor and guide learners in the main school who may need academic or pastoral support.

Class & Student Support: all students have the opportunity to support younger learners in a teaching assistant role or during session 6, which is a great experience for someone who may be interested in a career in education.

Your learning environment

Our students enjoy a Sixth Form Centre in a recently redeveloped area of the Academy, close to the coffee shop. It has a range of breakout areas to give students a comfortable environment for their studies

We continue to invest to give students the environment they need to succeed. The IT suite now has 40 computers with printing facilities.

Students can also use Academy wifi if they choose to bring in their own laptops, tablets and mobile phones. Lockers have been installed so that students can safely store tablets and laptops when they're not in use.

Sixth formers can also use the school's new coffee shop for study or socialising. It accepts payment by card and even your finger, with a pre-payment system.

The sixth form centre is accessible throughout the day and students have the freedom to leave school over the lunch break.





Eleanor

At sixth form I am studying Biology, Geography and Business. I have done these subjects previously, but the leap from GCSE to A level is still substantial. Fortunately from day one the sixth form staff and teachers did as much as they could to ease the transition and provide me with lots of support for the upcoming year. A levels are an exciting change which shift the focus from being teacher-led to placing more emphasis on independent study. Despite this, I never feel like I am alone with my studies because everyone is so supportive and interested in my work. This has made the potentially daunting prospect of sixth form a very welcoming environment.

Success stories

We are immensely proud of our students' achievements after leaving Sawtry Village Academy.

The sheer breadth of career paths shows that we encourage each student to play to their individual strengths and interests.

The majority of our leavers head to university to continue their education, to study subjects as diverse as fashion, journalism, media production, physics, midwifery & marine biology.

Some, however, prefer to enter the world of work. For example, we have supported students in securing roles in accountancy practices including PWC and Deloitte. Our leavers in recent years have moved onto a similarly broad set of destinations. Some students have entered full time employment, gap years and apprenticeships in ICT, Business and other fields. Other students

have gone onto universities including Cambridge, Bristol, York and Reading to study subjects including English Literature, International Finance, Film, TV & Digital Media Production, Physics and Law.

"Students are confident learners and demonstrate high levels of personal, social and employability skills as a result of the personalised programme of activities available during their studies. These activities include the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Extended Project Qualification, charity work, art and music projects and the young technician course. There are also leadership opportunities, for example refereeing sports fixtures, chairing the sixth-form council and being a subject ambassador".

Ofsted report January 2018







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