




SIXTH FORM POLICY

Adopted by Netherhall School Governing Body

on: August 2023

Signed:  (Neil Watt, Chair of Governors)

Anticipated review date: July 2024

Equality Act 2010

Our school is committed to equality both as an employer and a service provider. We welcome our general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. In addition, we recognise our specific duties to publish information every year about our school population; explain how we have due regard for equality; publish equality objectives which show how we plan to tackle particular inequalities and reduce or remove them.

We recognise our duty to ensure no-one experiences harassment, less favourable treatment or discrimination because of their age, any disability they may have, their ethnicity, colour or national origin, their gender identity or reassignment, their marital or civil partnership status, being pregnant or having recently had a baby, their religion or belief, their sexual identity and orientation.

We also welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion and British values.

We are proud of our sixth form. It is a welcoming, friendly, vibrant and happy place to learn, where staff and students are treated with care and respect. We believe that the values and ethos of Netherhall School Sixth Form are indicative of the Cumbrian spirit and represent the very best of Maryport and West Cumbria.

Students in the sixth form have a track record of producing outstanding results. Achievement and success are built on positive relationships. Teachers have supportive, constructive relationships with their students and have the very highest expectations of them. The result is happy, confident learners, who are inspired to work hard and surpass their expectations.

The aim of Netherhall School Sixth Form is to support the development of healthy, confident, capable and happy young people, who are supportive and tolerant of each other. A sixth form that builds understanding, recognises individuality and embraces collective responsibility to fellow students, the school and the wider community.

The sixth form's aims are to provide relevant and meaningful experiences which nurture individual aspirations, whether it is an Oxbridge education, public service, artistic endeavour, industrial excellence, cultural or sporting experiences. A sixth form that actively encourages involvement and participation, with the intention of preparing its young people for the challenges of the 21st Century.

The five principles that guide Netherhall School Sixth Form are:

Students First: every decision is founded on the best interests of the students.

Aspiration: to be fiercely ambitious for all students.

Quality: to provide the highest quality education.

Opportunity: to provide enjoyable and relevant opportunities that enable students to fulfil their considerable potential.

Community: to be an active part of the local community.

Curriculum

We offer a broad and inclusive curriculum which supports the aspirations and achievement of all students. It is a bespoke curriculum offer that enables students to select from a wide choice of academic and vocational subjects. All students in the sixth form study a maximum of three subjects, including at least one academic course.

In addition to this, students in the sixth form have the opportunity to study for additional nationally recognised qualifications. These include the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), core maths and the sports leaders award, all of which are delivered by a specialist tutor.

The curriculum offer is reviewed annually. More detailed information is contained in the most recent Sixth Form Options Booklet.

Admissions and entry requirements

Students considering an application to the sixth form are supported by a comprehensive programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG). This programme includes:

- 1-on-1 tutorials in the Autumn Term of Year 11
- a Year 12 open evening in January 2024
- course information presentations from course leaders
- ongoing, individualised support from the Head of Sixth Form and Sixth Form Tutors throughout the recruitment process.

Applications for the sixth form should be made by the applications deadline on 9/2/2024.

Entry requirements for each subject are set in agreement with Heads of Department. These requirements are published in the Sixth Form Options Booklet.

We welcome applications for external students. Personalised tours are available throughout the year for students considering joining Netherhall School for their sixth form studies. External students can make their application to join the sixth form by completing the form on our website.

Recruitment

Netherhall School is proud of its sixth form and seeks to provide all local students with the information they need to make an informed decision about their choice of establishment for sixth form. We visit local events and careers fairs to provide information about Netherhall School's Sixth Form. The sixth form open day takes place on 25 January 2024.

Before students join the sixth form, they have the opportunity to take part in a series of taster activities as part of an induction day which take place during the summer term.

Attendance and punctuality

Expectations for the attendance and punctuality of sixth form students are the same as for all students at Netherhall School. Sixth formers should understand that attendance is the biggest indicator of academic success, and that in their punctuality they are a role model for younger students.

The school day begins at 08:30 and ends at 15:05. Students are expected to remain on site throughout lesson times during the school day. Students may leave the school site at lunchtime but must sign out when leaving the site and back in on their return.

Parents should report any absence from school to Eileen Telford, Attendance Officer.

Absence from school, in order to attend university open days for example, may be authorised in advance in agreement with the Head of Sixth Form.

Attendance is monitored closely. Students will be provided with up-to-date attendance information by their form tutors on a weekly basis.

Form tutors and the Head of Sixth Form will work alongside students to ensure good attendance to school. When students' attendance meets certain thresholds, the following actions will be taken:

95%	Form tutor – discuss concerns with student
93%	Form tutor – contact home to discuss concerns with parent
90%	Head of Sixth Form – contact home to discuss concerns with parent, letter home
85%	Head of Sixth Form and form tutor – meeting with student and parent
80%	Head of Sixth Form – serious concern about progression in sixth form – withdrawal from study programmes

Equipment

Students are expected to arrive at school well-equipped. The equipment needed for different courses can differ, so students will be guided by their subject teachers as to what they need to bring and how best to organise their work.

Uniform

High standards of appearance are essential in the sixth form. The uniform for sixth form students is as follows:

- Grey jumper or cardigan embroidered with the Netherhall School logo.
- Black blazer with the Netherhall School logo.
- White shirt.
- Netherhall School tie.
- Black trousers for boys / black trousers or skirt for girls. Trousers must be loose fitting (denim/leggings/combat-type trousers or any other variation are not acceptable).
- Completely black shoes or trainers.

Supervised study

When not in timetabled lessons, students undertake supervised study in the sixth form study area. They must work silently and should use this time to complete independent work.

Behaviour

We have the highest expectations of behaviour and conduct for all students at Netherhall School. Sixth form students are role models for all pupils in the school. They are always

expected to exercise this responsibility by demonstrating the very best of behaviour and conduct. Sixth form students are also encouraged to develop the kind of professionalism and maturity that will prepare them well for adult life.

Careers advice and guidance

Individual careers advice and guidance is provided by expert tutors and the Head of Sixth Form. Throughout their time in the sixth form, students will also hear from a range of specialist visiting speakers who will provide information about a variety of opportunities in employment, apprenticeships and higher education.

Netherhall School has links with local training providers, including React Engineering, Jacobs, Gen2, Innovia and Sellafield, who support our careers advice and guidance programme with careers talks, work experience placements and by providing mock interviews involving Sellafield's management team.

The school is also a member of the University of Northumbria's NU-ALLSTARS programme. Thanks to this, students can take part in additional university visits and receive additional masterclasses and taster sessions for higher education courses.

Work experience

In order to support their career plans and provide practical experience, all students in the sixth form undertake a one-week work experience placement in the March of year 12. Planning for work experience begins in the Autumn term of year 12 and is supported by the school's careers lead. Ongoing work experience placements throughout the school year involving the release of students from supervised study can also be arranged in agreement with the Head of Sixth Form. This includes a comprehensive offer of virtual work experience via Speakers for Schools.

University and college applications

A well-run applications process is fundamental to students successfully securing their best destination for higher education or training. The UCAS process is launched in the July of year 12, and students receive ongoing support and advice from their UCAS mentor throughout the Autumn term of year 13 ahead of the school's applications deadline at the end of the Autumn term. The aim is for students to be supported at every step of the process; in identifying courses and institutions that match students' talents, interests and aspirations; preparing a high-quality application and personal statement; and ensuring students are well-prepared to begin their chosen next steps.

Enrichment

Participation in extra-curricular activities is fundamental to developing confidence, personal skills and good character. All students in the sixth form are expected to take part in some enrichment activities as a means of personal development and a way of contributing to their school community. Enrichment opportunities include the following:

- Sports prefects and sports leadership qualifications.
- School sports teams.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award, with direct entry to the Gold Award for sixth form students.
- Young Enterprise schemes.
- Work experience placements.
- Primary school placements.
- Literacy and numeracy support for younger students.
- Fundraising and charity work.
- Sixth Form Council leadership opportunities.
- Head Boy and Head Girl positions.
- National Citizenship Service.
- University open days and summer schools.
- First aid and TEFL courses.

School trips to:

- London – politics, philosophy and the arts.
- Edinburgh – the arts.
- Manchester – sports.
- Newcastle – the arts.
- University of Cumbria careers fair.
- France – languages.
- Ski trip.

Financial support

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is available to support sixth form students. The bursary provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education. Further information can be found on the school website or by contacting Dale Stephenson, Business Manager.

Assessment and progress data

Current progress data is produced every term and guides students, parents and teachers in determining steps that allow students to make the very best progress. Up-to-date progress information is shared with parents/carers and students through a report every term.

Following the production of progress data, the Head of Sixth Form produces a report for governors, liaises with individual students, parents and teachers, and develops an action plan in order to support students to make the best progress and realise their potential.

In addition to formal termly progress data, class teachers regularly share ongoing assessment information with students and with the Head of Sixth Form.

There are two mock exam windows for year 12 students. They run from 29/01/24 and 17/06/24.

There are also two sets of mock exams for year 13 students, running from 02/02/24 and 25/03/24.

Reports

In addition to regular progress reports, a full written report is provided annually to parents and students. Year 13 students receive their report during the spring term: year 12 students during the summer term. Face-to-face parents' evenings also take place every year.

Tutorials

Regular 1-to-1 tutorial sessions take place with form tutors during registration. In support of this process, bespoke intervention is led by the Head of Sixth Form, depending on the needs of individual students.

Liaison with Heads of Department

The Head of Sixth Form works closely with departmental leaders along with students and parents in order to ensure the very best progress for all students.