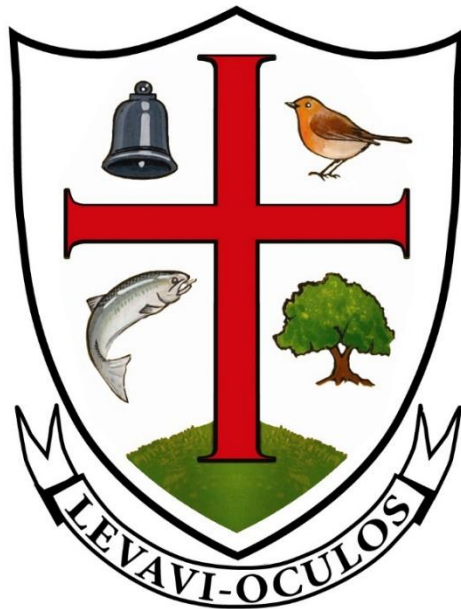


KESWICK SCHOOL

Sixth Form Guide



2023
Admissions

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THE SIXTH FORM AT KESWICK SCHOOL

Keswick School's Sixth Form offers courses that will take you on to the next stage of education post 16. Our Sixth Form students take A Level or equivalent Level 3 vocational courses, and most of our Year 13 leavers go to university, though increasing numbers are taking up degree level apprenticeships. Students join Keswick School Sixth Form from our own Year 11 and from other academies, schools and colleges.

Why should you choose the Sixth Form?

There are many ways of developing your education post-16. If you have the ability to further your education, then undoubtedly you should take the opportunity. More young adults are continuing at school or college and then going on to higher education or degree level apprentice training. Estimates suggest that an increasing number of jobs available in the future will require the thinking skills, adaptability and flexibility that can only be gained through higher education.

The ethos of Keswick School Sixth Form

To enter the Sixth Form, you must be able to fulfil the entry requirements for the particular courses you wish to take, and be prepared to commit yourself to the ethos of the school. Our expectations of you, and what you can expect from us, are clearly set out in our Home-School Agreement pack. At Keswick School you will continue to be part of or join an 11-18 all-ability school, and it is expected that you will be a role model for the younger pupils.

Our standard offer for advanced level study

All A Levels are linear: this means that assessment will take place at the end of the two years in final examinations. Although some A Levels, and equivalent level 3 vocational qualifications, may retain a coursework element, this will usually form only a minor part of the overall assessment and the major weighting will be on the final examinations. Many subjects rely entirely on final examinations.

Following the recent qualification reform, universities have made statements setting out their positions. After a review of these, and analysis of the demands of linear subject specifications, our usual offer for a student's programme of study in our Sixth Form will be:

3 advanced level courses¹ and an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), or 3 advanced level courses and core maths.

All universities will make their conditional offers based on 3 A Levels or equivalent, and we see the EPQ as a way of giving our students an extra edge in their applications (see the section on EPQ). A very small number of students may take 4 advanced level courses: this will be allowed only after discussion with the Head of Sixth Form, and you will need to achieve grade 7 or higher at GCSE level in the 4 subjects to be studied. Universities have advised that undertaking 4 subjects does not necessarily offer any discernible advantage for students. Instead, they encourage students to undertake 'super-curricular' activities, such as work experience, the EPQ and shorter online courses, all of which help to enrich a student's experience of their advanced level study.

¹ In this prospectus, "advanced level courses" is used to refer both to A Levels and to two-year level 3 vocational courses.



SIXTH FORM COURSES

Advanced Level Courses

These subjects are two-year courses, being completed at the end of Year 13. Please also see the subject entry requirements grid.

Art, craft and design	Geography
Biology	German
Business	History
Chemistry	Mathematics
Computer science	Media studies
Design & technology: fashion and textiles	Physical education
Design & technology: product design	Physics
English language	Politics
English literature	Psychology
French	Religion, philosophy and ethics
Further mathematics	Sociology

Vocational Level 3 subjects

Digital media Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate
 RSL music practitioners Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary Diploma (performance or music technology)
 Performing arts Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate
 Vocational business Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

Enrichment Level 3 (equivalent to Advanced Subsidiary Level)

AQA Level 3 mathematical studies (core maths): one-year course

Of course, not all combinations of subjects can be made available. The decision as to whether a course will run is dependent on the number of students who opt for it. Option columns will be issued following a first survey of choices which will take place shortly after the information evening in January.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is a qualification equivalent to half a full A Level. During Year 12, students are required to study a one period a week course in EPQ preparation. Students then submit a proposal for a project of their own which might well be informed by their subjects or be a complementary study. Guided self-study leads to a project and a presentation in a format agreed by the student and the supervisor. This qualification will be completed during Year 12.

Universities have been very favourable in their responses to this qualification, with many Russell Group institutions making lower offers to students who have an EPQ, and others recognising the EPQ as contributing to UCAS tariff points when making offers of places.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The entry requirement for advanced level study is:

- grade 4 and 5 across English and mathematics*
- At least three additional GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above.

*This means that if you achieve a grade 4 in English you need to achieve a grade 5 in mathematics; if you achieve a grade 4 in mathematics you need to achieve a grade 5 in English. While you will be able to enter the Sixth Form with a grade 5 in either English, please be aware that many universities and degree level apprenticeships ask for grade 5 in English language only.

This is a baseline entry requirement and many subjects **require** higher grades if you wish to take their subject at advanced level: see the subject requirements table overleaf and subject descriptions.

Students who do not achieve the minimum entry requirements for Sixth Form study will not be able to join Keswick School Sixth Form. Students will not be able to start on courses if they have not met the specific entry requirements for individual subjects. There is no opportunity for GCSE re-sits.

For all applicants, clear evidence of **a good attitude to learning** is required: for Keswick School applicants, an ATL average of 3.5 minimum at the data capture from subjects closest in date to the student's Sixth Form Application Discussion; for external applicants, at least "**good**" in each attitudinal category in the reference from their current academy, school or college.

In 2023, the published admission number for Year 12 entry at Keswick School is 160 students. Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the oversubscription criteria can be found on the school website at www.keswick.cumbria.sch.uk

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TABLE

Year 12 A level subject requirements: 2023 entry

The Sixth Form **minimum entry requirement** is grade 5 and 4 across English (literature or language) and mathematics, plus three other GCSEs or equivalent at grade 4. Please check the specific entry requirements for individual subjects, shown below. **Entry requirements are not subject to negotiation.**

For all applicants, clear evidence of strong attitude to learning is required: for Keswick School applicants an ATL average of 3.5 minimum; for external applicants at least "good" in each attitudinal category on the reference from their current school or college.

Subject	Specific requirement
Art, craft and design	Grade 5 or above in art, which must have been studied at GCSE.
Biology	Grade 6 or above in biology (separate science) or 6-6 or above in combined science: trilogy, plus grade 5 or above in both maths and English.
Business	Grade 4 or above in business if studied at GCSE.
Chemistry	Grade 6 or above in chemistry (separate science) or 6-6 or above in combined science: trilogy, and grade 6 or above in maths.
Computer science	Grade 5 or above in GCSE computer science, or grade 5 or above in maths if GCSE computer science has not been studied.
Core maths	General entry requirements: grade 5 and 4 across English and mathematics, plus three other GCSEs or equivalent at grade 4.
D & T: fashion and textiles	Grade 5 or above at GCSE in DT or art. If neither have been studied at GCSE, then a substantial portfolio that demonstrates skill in drawing and painting.
D & T: product design	Grade 5 or above in a DT GCSE subject, or grade 5 or above in maths if DT not studied at GCSE.
Digital media	General entry requirements: grade 5 and 4 across English and mathematics, plus three other GCSEs or equivalent at grade 4.
English language	Grade 6 or above at GCSE in English language and grade 5 or above in English literature.
English literature	Grade 6 or above at GCSE in English literature and grade 5 or above in English language.
French	Grade 6 or above at GCSE in French.
Further mathematics	Grade 7 or above at GCSE in maths.
Geography	Grade 5 or above in geography at GCSE; if not studied at GCSE, grade 5 or above in English plus grade 5 or above in a science.
German	Grade 6 or above at GCSE in German.
History	Grade 5 or above in history if studied at GCSE, or grade 5 or above in English if history not studied at GCSE.
Mathematics	Grade 6 or above at GCSE in maths.
Media studies	Grade 5 or above at GCSE in English language.
Music practitioners RSL	Grade 4 or above in music if studied at GCSE.
Performing arts	General entry requirements: grade 5 and 4 across English and mathematics, plus three other GCSEs or equivalent at grade 4.
Physical education	Grade 5 or above in PE if studied at GCSE, plus grade 5 in GCSE biology. If GCSE PE has not been studied then two grade 5 in science must have been achieved.
Physics	Grade 6 or above in physics (separate science) or 6-6 or above in combined science: trilogy, and grade 6 or above in maths.
Politics	General entry requirements: grade 5 and 4 across English and mathematics, plus three other GCSEs or equivalent at grade 4.
Psychology	General entry requirements: grade 5 and 4 across English and mathematics, plus three other GCSEs or equivalent at grade 4.
Religion, philosophy & ethics	Grade 5 or above in RPE if studied at GCSE, or grade 5 or above at GCSE in English if RPE not studied.
Sociology	General entry requirements: grade 5 and 4 across English and mathematics, plus three other GCSEs or equivalent at grade 4.
Vocational business	Grade 4 or above in business if studied at GCSE, or a level 2 pass for a vocational course.



THE NEXT STEP

If you want any more information about the courses described in this prospectus, please contact the teachers named in the subject pages, usually the Head of Department. If you have any questions about the Sixth Form in general then contact the Head of Sixth Form, Miss French, or the Head of Year, Mr Stanton (Head of Year 12 2023-24). You are also encouraged to consider talking to Sixth Formers themselves.

All Year 11 students and their parents are strongly encouraged to view the Sixth Form Pages, available on the following links <https://www.keswick.cumbria.sch.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-overview> and <https://keswicksixthform.weebly.com/>

2023 Information Evening: Thursday, 19th January

The day after the Information Evening, Keswick School Year 11 students will be surveyed: they will be asked to choose their three subjects and their order of preference. From this information we shall compose option columns which we then publish on the Application Form for 2023 entry.

Then we will ask you to apply formally to the Sixth Form, filling in the Application Form for 2023 entry and telling us which subjects you intend to study from the columns provided. We will also ask you to set out why you want to study in the Sixth Form at Keswick School in the form of a personal statement.

Instructions on how to apply will become available from the [Keswick School Weebly website and on the main website](#) no later than Friday, 3rd February.

You should submit your application as soon as you are ready, but you must submit it by **Friday, 10th February**.

We will invite applicants and their parent/guardian(s) to discuss the process and implications of joining the Sixth Form. Offers of places will be made in May, no later than the week before the half term break.

We cannot guarantee that all combinations of subjects will be available. Also remember that a subject in this prospectus will only run if enough students choose it. You must make sure that you have completed the application form accurately.

The Sixth Form Induction Day will run on **Tuesday, 4th July**. It is mostly subject-based and your A Level teachers will set you tasks, which we call 'bridging units', to complete prior to the start of Year 12. These bridging units are intended to smooth the transition between GCSE and advanced level study.

At the time of writing, the GCSE results are due on **Thursday, 24th August 2023**. When your results are known you may want to discuss the implications with the school.

We will expect you at school at 8.45am on the first day of term when you can enrol on your courses, and your Form Heads and teachers will be available to help you with any decisions you have to make.



IMPORTANT DATES IN 2023

Thursday 19th January 2023	Sixth Form Information Evening
No later than Friday 3rd February 2023	Application forms including option columns published.
Friday 10th February 2023	Deadline for applications to the Sixth Form.
Early March – early May 2023	Sixth Form Application Discussions (SFADs) take place between staff and Year 11 students applying to Sixth Form, together with parents.
No later than the last week of May 2023	Offers of Sixth Form places sent out.
Tuesday, 4th July 2023	Induction Day, 8.45am - 3.30pm.
Thursday 24th August 2023	GCSE Results Day.
Wednesday 6th September 2023	8.45am - 3.15pm: start of new term for Year 12.
Thursday 7th September 2022	Timetabled lessons begin.



IN CONCLUSION

We hope to offer as many of the courses described as possible, but this will depend upon the take up of individual courses. The Headteacher therefore reserves the right to review the courses offered if it is necessary due to financial or staffing restrictions.

We do hope that this prospectus has been useful. If you have any comments or further questions please telephone or email the school.

Sophie French
Head of Sixth Form

Contacts

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Dr Tony Foody: Head of Year 13 2023-24
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Mr Mark Stanton: Head of Year 12 2023-24
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