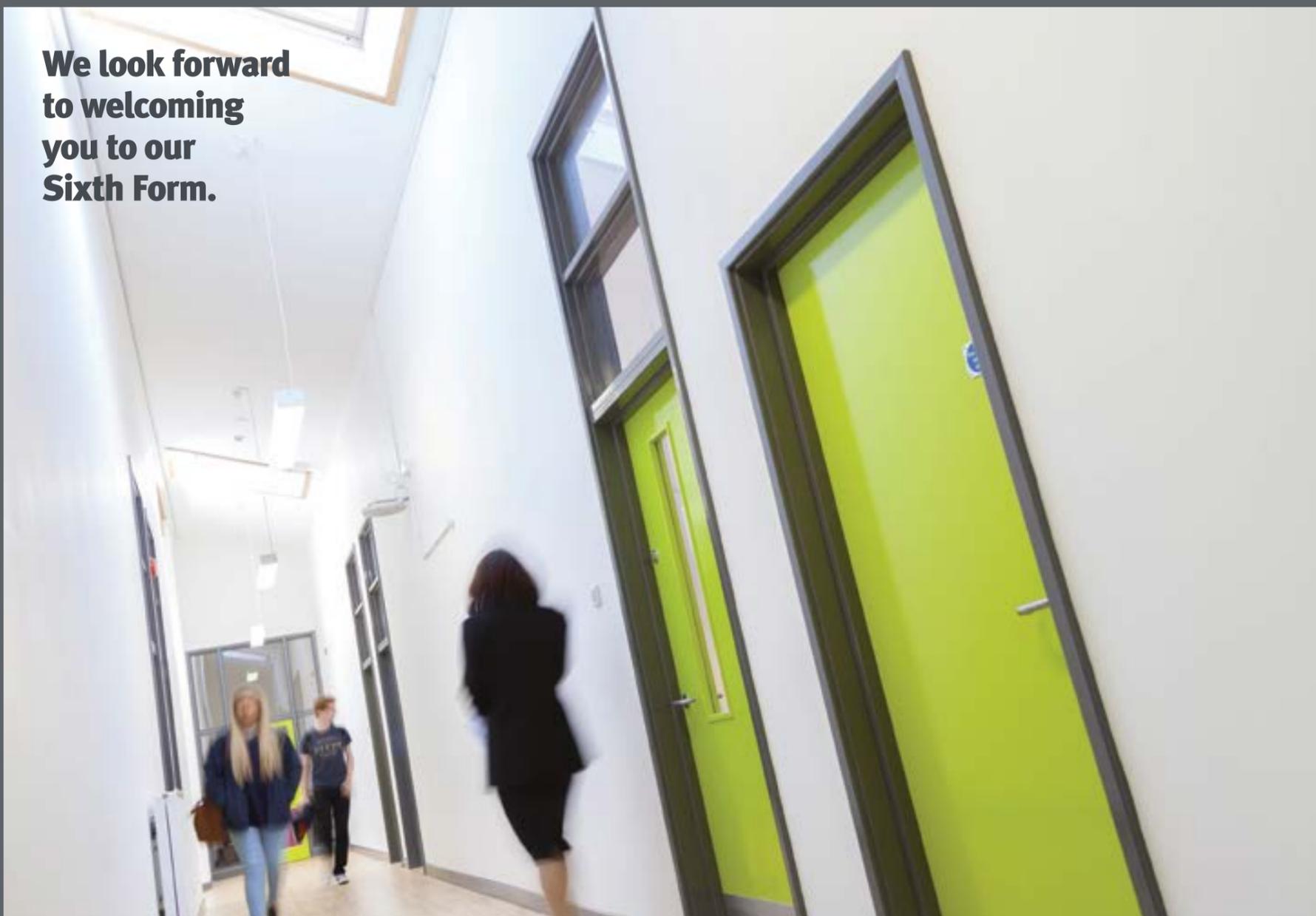


**DOWNEND +
MANGOTSFIELD
SIXTH FORM
PROSPECTUS
2017**





We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.



WELCOME TO DOWNEND + MANGOTSFIELD SIXTH FORM

We bring together the strengths and experience of two schools, offering the advantages of a familiar and supportive environment along with a wide choice of subjects to suit the skills and interests of every student.

Our combined track record gives us an excellent platform on which to achieve further success. Our students achieve exceptional qualifications and our results are rated amongst the best in the Bristol area.

Each year a large number of students from Downend and Mangotsfield continue their education at our Sixth Form, with a number of new students choosing to transfer to us from other schools.

As our Sixth Form draws expertise from two schools, we are able to offer a wide range of courses to ensure that every student can study subjects which challenge and motivate them.

Our application process is carefully designed to encourage every student to choose a package of courses that allows the right level of personal challenge, whilst enabling all students to achieve excellent qualifications.

As a consequence, our students achieve considerable academic success across a range of qualifications. Every student is supported to progress to university, an apprenticeship or into employment.

In 2015, there were exceptional individual achievements at A-level at both schools, with students progressing to prestigious universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

The highest 'value-added' of any sixth form in South Gloucestershire was achieved by Downend Sixth Form.

Not only do we offer students a wide range of academic subjects to study, but we also have a rich programme of 'electives' in place to ensure students can participate in extra-curricular activities that are relevant to their future career goals.

We are proud of our success in enabling young people to achieve their goals, and we hope that the vibrant and supportive learning environment that we offer will enable every student to fulfil their ambitions.



MARK FULLER
Headteacher
Downend



DAVID SPENCE
Headteacher
Mangotsfield



KATE LONG
Head of Sixth Form
Downend



SARAH WITTS
Head of Sixth Form
Mangotsfield





INSPIRING LEARNING

All lessons will be taught by experienced, specialist teachers who have a passion for their subject.



Students' progress through the sixth form is carefully monitored promoting high aspirations.

Ofsted 2014, Downend



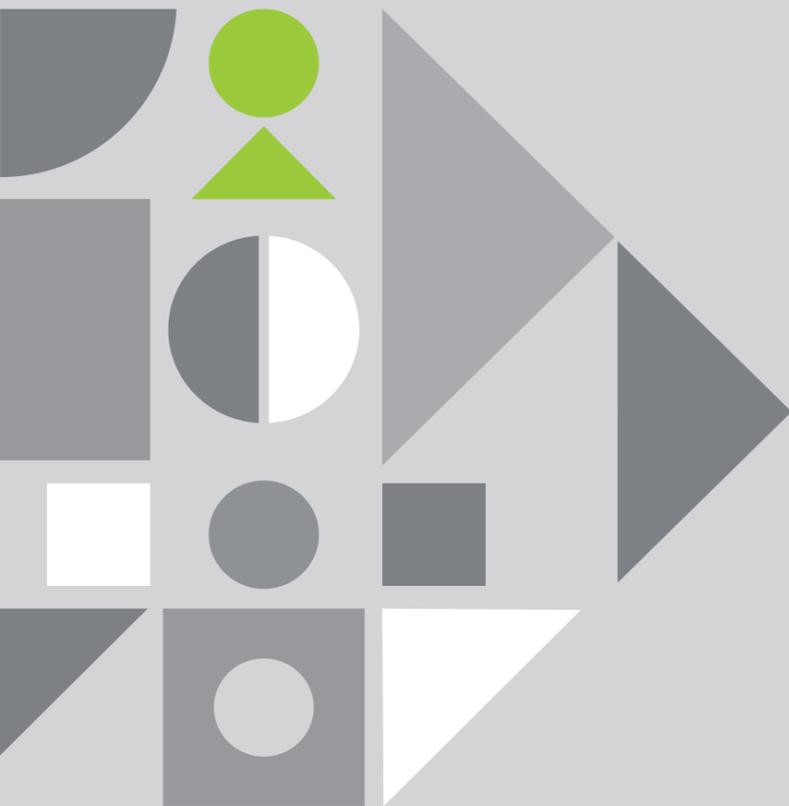
As well as ensuring that students achieve excellent qualifications, our teachers aim to foster a love of learning and a drive to succeed that will prepare students for continued success at university and in employment.

We always endeavour to deliver teaching of outstanding quality. Teachers work hard to support each student on an individual basis in each subject. One of our greatest strengths is that we offer a continuity of experience for current Year 11 students, combining smaller class sizes and strong relationships to ensure academic success.

Participation is a key feature of Sixth Form study, and with smaller classes

our teachers can ensure that every student is an active participant in every lesson. Students are encouraged to be independent thinkers, and we provide study facilities at both schools to allow students to prepare for lessons and consolidate their learning through additional activities.

Courses are usually taught in 'double' lessons of 100 minutes to allow time for analytical and reflective study. The timings of the school day are synchronised across the centres, and we provide a minibus shuttle-run between the two schools, allowing students to follow courses at both centres.



BROADENING HORIZONS

We believe that it is vitally important that students are given the opportunity not only to access a wide range of courses but also to develop their wider skills in preparation for the future.



Students are very positive about their experience of life in the sixth form. They have a range of opportunities to show leadership and to assist with helping younger students with their work and to act as role models.

Ofsted 2015, Mangotsfield



Our Sixth Form has a successful electives programme on offer to all Year 12 students, providing the opportunity for students to broaden their range of talents and interests.

Universities and employers are increasingly looking for evidence of broader skills and a commitment to personal development beyond the curriculum. Students have the opportunity to participate in electives such as:

- Extended Project Qualification
- Sports Leadership Award
- Volunteering and School Placements
- Access to Bristol
- Junior Leadership Team
- Public Speaking Competitions

We expect students to work hard on their studies, but we also understand that being a Sixth Form student should be fun!

We have a vibrant Junior Leadership Team at both schools, who ensure that we have regular opportunities to let off steam throughout the year. They arrange a variety of activities such as:

- Charity Events
- Sixth Form Prom
- Film Club
- Debate Club
- Study Groups

We also offer a number of residential visits, which this year have included Washington, Paris and London.



PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY + EMPLOYMENT

As a result of our core programme, students are well equipped for the future whether progressing to university, an apprenticeship or employment.



Students enjoy voluntary work, such as supporting younger students ... feel proud to give something back to the school.

Ofsted 2014, Downend



We are committed to providing high quality information, advice and guidance about higher education and career options and we work closely with a range of local education providers and employers to ensure that we provide relevant and impartial careers advice.

Throughout the year both Year 12 and 13 hear from a range of guest speakers to develop their understanding of the range of opportunities available to them.

In Year 13 students who are choosing to apply to university will work closely with a dedicated team of staff to

complete their UCAS applications and prepare for the university application process.

Students will have the opportunity to take part in mock interview programmes for a range of courses, including preparation for application to Oxbridge and medical courses. We are a recognised Heading Higher School working in collaboration with UWE to support student applications.

Students who choose to apply for apprenticeship programmes or employment complete an apprenticeship self development plan and receive advice and guidance from Sixth Form staff.



INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

We have a very experienced team of Sixth Form tutors who are passionate about Post-16 education.



Students have regular contact with their tutors, who are not only responsible for helping students develop effective independent learning skills, but oversee termly 1:1 academic tutorials to ensure that students are making progress across all their subjects.

We also have a very strong pastoral support system to help with academic and personal issues when more detailed guidance is required.

Students who transfer to our Sixth Form from other schools are very effectively supported in their transition by the Sixth Form team and settle quickly in to Sixth Form life.

The sixth form is good. All leavers are either in education, employment or training.

Ofsted 2014, Downend



CHOOSING COURSES

When choosing your Sixth Form courses it is important to think about your eventual career aspirations. If you don't yet have a career in mind, we suggest you choose a balance of subjects that play to your strengths.



Students' progress through the sixth form is carefully monitored promoting high aspirations.

Ofsted 2014, Downend



If you are already thinking about university, check out the entrance requirements for the courses you are interested in at ucas.com to make sure you are choosing appropriate A-Levels.

Some universities recommend that you choose at least two 'facilitating' subjects: Mathematics/Further Mathematics, English Literature, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, Languages.

Above all, you need to ensure that you are on track to achieve the GCSE grades that you will need to join the Sixth Form and then access university courses.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to gain a place you will need to achieve five A*-C at GCSE, including either English or Maths. Each course has its own specific entry requirements which are explained in the course details booklet accompanying this prospectus.

As well as traditional A-level courses, we offer a range of specialist Level 3 courses. These cater for students who are already thinking about a particular career path and want to develop their skills through coursework and applied study in that area.

It is now a national requirement for students who have not yet achieved grade C in English or Maths to continue their GCSE course, and we provide small booster classes to enable students to do so where necessary.

1

APPLICATION

The deadline for applying is **28h November 2016**. Applications will still be considered after this date but some courses may be full.

2

INTERVIEW

All applicants will be invited to interview in **January 2017**.

3

OFFER

Applicants will receive a conditional offer following the interview based on achieving specific GCSE grades in the summer.

4

INDUCTION

All applicants will be invited to an Induction Day before the summer holiday to meet their teachers and tutors and begin preparing for Sixth Form.

5

ACCEPTANCE

Once students receive their GCSE results on **24 August 2017** places will be confirmed.

6

SIXTH FORM

Students will begin their Sixth Form courses in **September 2017**.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

DOWNEND + MANGOTSFIELD SIXTH FORM

