

## The Totteridge Academy Sixth Form – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Where do I spend study periods if I don't have any lessons?**

You have the autonomy to spend study periods either in the sixth form space or at home as long as you sign in and out at reception.

### **Is there a cut off point for choosing my subjects?**

You have to specify which subjects you want to apply for on your application however final course choices are made at enrolment. Enrolment will take place this summer at The Totteridge Academy.

### **Do you do any trips?**

We planned to do an international trip this year but the global pandemic has made it difficult! TTA has run skiing trips and a trip to America in the past so we hope to do something similar with our students once travel restrictions lift.

### **How many lessons will I have per week?**

We run a two-week timetable. You will have 6 100-minute lessons per subject across the two weeks.

### **Do you offer Level 3 courses other than A-levels?**

Not at the moment as our teacher expertise is in A-level courses: if you have any questions about what course is right for you, email us.

### **How many subjects should I choose?**

Nearly all Sixth Formers at The Totteridge Academy will take three A-levels; it is rarely advantageous to take any more than this. Some students will elect to take an EPQ alongside their three subjects; this will begin at the end of Year 12 and will be subject to an application process.

Some students will elect to take further maths as part of a four A level combination – this combination will always include maths A-level.

### **How do I know which subjects to choose?**

In line with guidance from UCAS we encourage you to:

- Look at what subjects you are likely to enjoy and be good at. If you enjoy a subject or have an ability in it already, you are more likely to do well.
- Think about which subjects you may need to apply for a particular university course or career. You can find further guidance on this here - <https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects>
- Consider 'keeping your options open' and doing a range of subjects if you're unsure which university course, apprenticeship or career you currently wish to pursue.

### **What if I change my mind about my subjects once I start?**

There will be a short window at the start of autumn term whereby a student – in consultation with their form tutor and parents/ carer – can request a subject change.

### **When will I sit exams?**

Students will sit formative assessments in all subjects over the course of Year 12, as directed by their subject teachers. All A-levels are two-year courses with final exams taken at the end of Year 13. Some subjects may include coursework tasks which contribute to a student's final grade.

**How much homework is there?**

Departments have autonomy to set homework as per the needs of their subject. The options booklet outlines typical homework for each course.

**Can I do any combination of subjects?**

Our timetable is blocked as follows -

A	B	C	D
English	Art	Biology	Drama
Maths	Economics	Physics	PE
Psychology	Chemistry	Sociology	Politics
	History		Product Design
			Further maths

**How will you help me/my child get into university?**

A TTA speciality is our Drop Down Days – this is where we spend a whole day exploring a topical issue, including workshops from expert guest speakers. Sixth Formers will have Drop Down Days on the UCAS process and Apprenticeship Applications

**What happens if I don't get my grades?**

Come and see us at enrolment (Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August). A member of staff will sit down with you and advise you on your options.

**How many teachers will I have per subject?**

Most courses are taught by one or two teachers.

**Do you have detention?**

There are no detentions – you are called in for extra support via our Report System in you are falling behind on work or if you've been late twice in a week

**What is your dress code?**

Our sixth form students wear professional dress – and look fantastic!