



The Thomas Alleynes Academy

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SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2025 | 2026



Achieving excellence through personal growth

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



Welcome to The Thomas Alleyne Academy Sixth Form!

Welcome to the Thomas Alleyne Academy. It is my great privilege to welcome you to our friendly and successful school. Our motto, 'Achieving excellence through personal growth,' reflects our belief that every student can succeed by growing and developing their unique skills and abilities.

The Thomas Alleyne Academy has a long and proud history originally founded in 1558. Since then, we have been committed to providing a high quality education and building a strong community. Our beautiful and historic site still uses the original school buildings.

Our school is built on three important values:

- Courage: empowering our students to be brave in their learning and personal growth.
- Determination: supporting our students to work hard and never give up.
- Empathy: teaching our students to understand and care for others

As a school we pride ourselves on our strong sense of community, it is a place where students and staff feel known and valued. We are proud of the strong relationships we foster both within our school community, and across the community of Stevenage. We recognise that working in partnership, especially with the parents, carers and wider families of our students, is essential in ensuring every student realises their full potential during their time with us.

We have a committed and talented staff who provide a wide range of high quality learning opportunities as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Our students also benefit from a wide range of enrichment opportunities which enable their personal development and growth as part of the wider school community. We consider the development of our students' character to be a key part of the education we provide; ensuring our students develop the skills, qualities, confidence and resilience which will enable them to lead happy and successful adult lives.

Thank you for visiting our school and taking the time to find out more about the subjects, clubs, and wonderful opportunities that make the Thomas Alleyne Academy an exciting place for young people to develop and learn. We are confident that you will find us to be an ambitious school where students are supported to fulfill their full potential.

MELANIE COOK
Headteacher

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



Dear Student

I would like to welcome you to The Thomas Alleyne Academy Sixth Form.

We offer a broad range of humanities, social sciences, STEM A levels and vocational courses. In addition, we now offer a range of BTEC Level 3 vocational courses and an even wider selection of A levels through our partnership with local Stevenage Schools. Please take the time to carefully read through the Sixth Form offer. I hope you will gain an insight into how we plan the curriculum to ensure that all students gain the experience and qualifications needed to progress onto their chosen career choices.

Sixth Form courses are an important stepping stone to your future and we want to support and guide you through this process. As young adults in the Sixth Form, we are proud you are a part of the whole school community as well as the wider community of the partnership. We expect your support in helping younger students by setting a good example and being a positive role model. Our prefects work in a number of ways, from helping to run Student Council, helping in clubs and tutoring students. This will contribute to your development, and support your future university and job applications. We know that we can help you to achieve your best.

We appreciate that making the decision to join our Sixth Form is a big step as it affects your whole future. Choosing the right pathway to success at this stage will enable you to achieve your full potential and ambition later on.

KATE BARFOOT
Head of Sixth Form

LIFE IN SIXTH FORM

Your Guarantees

You will have access to outstanding teaching and learning. We are constantly improving and looking for new ways to develop and enhance your education. We want to instil aspiration in you, inspire your creativity and prepare you with the confidence and resilience for your future. You will be part of a community that is proud of its achievements and is passionate about its work.

Your Choices

A Levels may be studied exclusively or you may take a combination of A Levels and vocational courses alongside our study skills and enrichment programme.

The majority of your exams will be taken at the end of Year 13. Education, as a sector, is constantly evolving and improving to keep courses fresh, interesting and useful for you. If you have any questions about a particular course, please ask the Head of Sixth Form.

Study Skills and Enrichment

The Study Skills Programme is unique to the Academy, providing you with a range of enrichment activities in order to develop the skillset required to be independent and successful in the workplace. You will have a taught study skills session each week that will help you make a successful transition from GCSE and become more confident and efficient in your approach to study and learning.

In addition to your chosen subjects, you will be required to take part in a variety of enrichment activities, develop employability skills and receive guidance on progression opportunities, further education courses and careers. Through the enrichment programme, we are able to harness the talents and expertise of prominent keynote speakers in education and the local business community. We have very strong links with our Outreach Liaison Officers at the University of Bedfordshire, the University of Hertfordshire and other Higher Education providers.

Our students are offered the opportunity to engage in trips and activities designed to not only retain and develop skills, but to inspire a love of learning. The range of opportunities for all students is designed specifically to help you aim high and take pride in working towards your goals.

Application

You can apply to The Thomas Alleyne Academy Sixth Form by filling in the application form which can be downloaded from the Sixth Form section of our [website](#) Guidance meetings and taster sessions are available to help students make decisions regarding subject choices.

We expect all Sixth Form students to act as role models for younger pupils. For this reason, you must always demonstrate the highest standards in your appearance.

Dress Code

The Thomas Alleyne Sixth Form is a professional working environment. This means that you should wear the same clothes to school that a professional person would wear to work in an office.

Financial Support

You can apply for a bursary to help with education- related costs if you are aged 16-19 and either studying at a school or college (not university) in England, or on a training course, including unpaid apprenticeships or speak to a member of the sixth form staff for more information.

Work Experience Opportunities

All students will be given the opportunity to participate in these events. For our present Year 12 students we have organised a range of employability skills through bespoke companies and keynote speakers.

For example, our students have taken part in the following activities:

- Sutton Trust Pathways to Law
- Nuffield Research Placement
- Cambridge High Aspirations Scheme
- Medic Mentor
- Stevenage Museum Champions Programme.



OUR CURRICULUM AND SUBJECTS

We aim to provide students with a range of subjects that have been carefully chosen to meet their interests and provide them with pathways that will enable them to make secure decisions about their futures.

The subjects we offer are in option blocks that provide the most popular pathways into university study, higher apprenticeships and employment. The option blocks for subjects also enable students to make subject choices that complement each other in terms of skills and knowledge.

If you have a career goal in mind and are unsure of what subjects to choose; we can offer you expert Sixth Form careers advice. Please contact the head of Sixth Form or our Outreach Co-ordinator at barfootk@tas.herts.sch.uk or newberyg@tas.herts.sch.uk for guidance.

Applied Science
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Digital Media
English Language & Literature
History
Mathematics
Physics
Psychology
Sociology
Sport

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT SUBJECTS PLEASE VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#).



YOUR ROLE

Prefect Roles Our range of prefect roles help you to develop strong leadership skills. They are designed to give you the chance to hone your ability to work independently.

They also raise your profile in the school and help you to become a great role model for younger students. A prefect role is a prerequisite to achieving a Platinum Badge.

Roles
We have developed a wide range of roles to enable everyone to develop their employability skills. The prefect roles include:

- Senior Prefects
- Sports Prefects
- Reading Prefects
- Mental Wellbeing Prefects
- Eco Prefects
- STEM Prefects
- Marketing Prefects
- Enrichment Prefects

Enrichment Programme
Students are encouraged to continue to attend clubs and activities they enjoyed in lower school either as a helper or participant.

We also offer Sixth Form only clubs such as survival skills (how to cook on a budget), GSK leaders in STEM and Sixth Form only fitness suite sessions.

Alongside our curriculum we also offer overseas trips to New York and Paris. Closer to home students have visited SKY and BBC London, Great Ormond Street Hospital and MBDA, various university visits, year 12 and 13 have also completed many Open University online courses, Employability courses, TED Talks, online lectures and TASTER lectures.

Volunteers
We are very proud of the wide range of voluntary activities that students have been involved with; NHS Response Volunteering at Lister Hospital, Radio Addenbrookes, Stevenage Museum Champions Programme, various primary schools and working in charity shops. Every year our year 12s organise a fundraising bake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support.



YOUR ACADEMY

Sixth Form Destinations

During our form time programme students are given bespoke advice and guidance on options and pathways after completion of their programme of study. We understand university is not for all students and we have qualified staff to help students plan higher apprenticeship applications or embark on their first career move.

Students are given advice and guidance on CV writing, apprenticeship applications and mock interviews. Networking with local businesses in our community has resulted in many exciting placements and work shadowing experiences for our students.

Progressing to higher education is, for most of our students, a natural step after A levels. On average 98% of our students gain a conditional offer from their first choice of university. Professional advice, guidance and tailored support is given to all students whether they are applying to Oxbridge, Russell Group Universities or for Foundation Degrees. Advice on independent living, student finance, budgeting and postgraduate study and employment are discussed in 1-2-1 meetings with all students and are written into the study skills and character curriculum.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of grade 4 in English and maths is required with higher grades for certain subjects. Please visit: www.tas.herts.sch.uk for further information on subject requirements.

Parents may seek further support about progression into Sixth Form by contacting Mrs Barfoot – barfootk@tas.herts.sch.uk.

Please call Mrs Barfoot, Head of Sixth Form or Mrs Newbery, Outreach Coordinator on 01438 344341. (Sixth Form Direct Line Number) for a consultation meeting.

Curriculum Offer

As a Sixth Form student, you will be required to complete a Study Skills Programme alongside your subject choices; which is designed to equip you with the skills needed for independent study and progression. All students will have the opportunity to engage in work experience in Year 12. and all subjects provide enrichment opportunities.

Dates for your diary 2024/25

October 2025
15th October - Parents attend open event
Applications open
December 2025
18th December - Application Deadline
December and January 2026
Sixth Form interviews
February 2026
Conditional offer letters sent
June 2026
22nd - 24 th June - Induction Event

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND WELLBEING

Becoming Independent

Sixth Form is a time for you to prepare for success. You will need to take responsibility and focus on your achievement. You will be given targets for your courses and you must apply yourself and work hard to achieve or exceed these targets.

To be successful as a Sixth Form student at The Thomas Alleyne Academy, you will have to focus on the following areas:

Attendance

You should attend all of your lessons, meetings and other school activities. Try to ensure that all medical and other appointments are made outside of teaching hours. You must be punctual and arrive to all lessons on time.

Organisation

Be organised and have the right materials and equipment for your lessons.

Planning

Keep on top of your workload and deadlines. Plan carefully to give yourself enough time to complete your work to a standard that you are proud of. Use your Google calendar to help you understand your timetable and homework schedules.

Preparation

Understand the requirement for your course, in particular the type of examinations and coursework you will need to complete. Try to revise topics regularly, attend extra sessions and workshops, and read around your subject so that you achieve your potential.

Communication Follow the feedback that your teachers give you in order to improve. If you are unsure of something, you must be proactive and speak to your teachers for help.

Look after yourself

Get enough sleep on a regular basis, eat a healthy diet and keep hydrated with water rather than sugary drinks. All of these factors play a vital part in ensuring that your brain is working effectively

Student Wellbeing Student wellbeing is at the heart of our core values and an important part of ensuring progress.

Every sixth form student has a dedicated specialist sixth form tutor to support wellbeing and learning. Extending your knowledge and skills by working independently is an integral part of your study programme in sixth form which is supported by our dedicated team in the sixth form study centre.

100% OF STUDENTS APPLYING TO
UNIVERSITY GAINED THEIR SUBJECT
OF CHOICE

SENIOR STUDENTS AND ENRICHMENT

Working independently and as part of a team

Sixth Form lessons are designed to engender a work-ready ethos. Lessons will focus on activities that prepare you for the real world of work or for university seminars.

You can expect to work collaboratively with other students to achieve lesson outcomes and there will be plenty of opportunities for you to develop all the skills that are necessary for the work place such as communication, teamwork and presentation and research techniques.

Enrichment and Clubs

At The Thomas Alleyne Academy, we believe that academic life needs be about more than just your timetabled lessons. We live in a continually evolving world and through our enrichment offer, we are able to offer a broad spectrum and extensive range of experiences that enrich and underpin our curriculum. Lessons are designed to ensure that you feel motivated and inspired. We continually strive to raise your aspirations and awareness, and encourage you to maintain a professional attitude for every task you face.

We provide varied and bespoke activities which enable you to reflect on and build your independence and confidence. Some of the subject matter covered includes

independent living skills, financial awareness and budgeting, health and safety, coping in emergencies and raising funds for charities in the local community. Outside speakers are invited to give presentations to all our sixth form students on a variety of topics and experiences that you can get involved with.

Visiting Careers and University Fairs gives students a chance to meet professionals and enhance their 'soft' skills.

Networking with businesses in our local community has resulted in many exciting work experience placements.

Students attend the University and Apprenticeship Fair. The day gives all our students an insight of post graduate employment and apprenticeships available at post 18.

Our students participate in a complimentary curriculum programme where they attend undergraduate shadowing schemes, and keynote speakers visit our Academy to discuss industry and future careers.





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