

The Totteridge Academy Sixth Form – Frequently Asked Questions

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

The vast majority of Sixth Form students have earned the privilege to have the autonomy to spend study periods either in the Sixth Form study room, the library (if it is available) or at home. This earned privilege is based on regular four-week reviews of their attitudes to learning in and out of lessons by teachers. If a student has not earned this privilege due to inadequate attitude, they spend their non-timetabled lessons in our study room, supervised by a member of staff, to ensure they have the structure and support needed to help them improve during the next four-week window.

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 on GCSE results day.

Do you do any trips?

Subjects run a wide variety of trips and excursions to enrich your experience. For example, we take all students to visit Queen Mary University each year, students have attended lectures at LSE, talks and theatre productions at Harrow School, and TTA has also run skiing trips and a trip to America in the past.

How many lessons will I have per week?

We run a two-week timetable. You will have six 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 a strong 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> or here <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/which-degree>
- If you're unsure which university course, apprenticeship or career you currently wish to pursue then consider 'keeping your options open' and doing a range of subjects.

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, before a set of end of internal year 12 exams. 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 but this is typically 6 hours per week per subject. The options booklet outlines typical homework for each course.

Can I do any combination of subjects?

We try to ensure as many students as possible can do the combination of subjects they want to do. We design our timetable based on student demand, and in a small minority of cases it is not always possible to offer a student the exact combination they wish to study. We will be able to advise you through this process on Enrolment Day.

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 (GCSE results day, or the day after if you cannot make it then). 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 detentions?

We have clear behaviour expectations for all of our students but, on the rare occasion a student falls short of these, an after school detention may be set. In terms of academic interventions, you will be called to attend 'catch up' for extra support in you are falling behind on work.

What is your dress code?

Our sixth form students wear professional dress – and look fantastic! Our dress code is available on the Sixth Form website.