



QUEENS' SCHOOL

Dare to be Great

Sixth Form

Welcome from the Director of Sixth Form

Visitors to Queens' Sixth Form encounter a vibrant, busy and supportive environment where ideas, opinions and academic debate are part of the culture. We believe that there are no limits to the academic progress of committed, hardworking and dedicated students and their successes over many years suggests we are right.

There are vast opportunities for students to develop at Queens', whether that is in nurturing their burgeoning leadership or sports skills or finding time to explore the mysteries of the universe in our well stocked library, which boasts a truly superb collection of books, magazines and journals and is the "hub" of Sixth Form intellectual life. Sixth Formers also continue to enjoy the acres of space, the superb sport and coaching facilities offered at Queens' as well as a designated Sixth Form block with separate café facilities, a large study centre and priority access to the library.

I unashamedly want the very best for each and every Sixth Former at Queens', whether that takes the form of examination success, sporting achievement, intellectual endeavour, personal integrity or community service. The interests, aims and goals of our Sixth Formers are diverse, aspirational and exciting and it is our desire to support them to pursue whichever pathway helps them to be their very best and to be inspirational role models to younger students.

Queens' values of Scholarship, Tenacity, Respect and Altruism are embodied by our Sixth Formers, who lead the school in living out these values daily as role models. An enjoyment of the pursuit of academic excellence, a willingness to make the most of opportunities and of mistakes and a strong feeling of community pervade Queens' Sixth Form and our students leave well-prepared for the next exciting phase of their lives, with many progressing on to some of the finest universities and apprenticeship programmes in the country.



History

Queens' School was formed in 1969 as a result of the amalgamation of Alexandra School, founded in 1901 and Bushey Grammar School, founded in 1950. Bushey Grammar school, originally called Watford Central School, was established in 1912. Both schools vacated sites in Watford, Judge Street and Derby Road respectively. In 1985, Grange Park School became part of Queens'.

The original Bushey Grammar School occupied the northwest side of the Aldenham Road and Alexandra School occupied the southeast side. A pedestrian underpass connected the two schools.

Queens' derives its name from three Queens. Bushey Grammar School had a strong connection with The Queen's College, Oxford. Alexandra School was named after Queen Alexandra, the consort of King Edward VII. Queen Elizabeth II was on the throne at the time of the amalgamation.

A house-based pastoral system was inherited from Bushey Grammar School, with Auden and Sutherland located on the South Side and Newton and Drake, on the North Side. In 2018, the school moved to a year based pastoral system. The Houses remain important and students wear their House colours with pride. In 2019, to mark our 50th Birthday, the Houses were renamed by students to be more representative of our school community. The new Houses are Attenborough, Franklin, Seacole and Turing.

Our school was successfully awarded grant-maintained status in 1993 and became a foundation school in 1999. In 2003, Queens' became a Specialist Sports College and in 2007 recognised as a High Performing School. In 2008, Queens' achieved Science College status. Desiring greater freedom and autonomy, Queens' converted to an academy in 2011.



Our Vision and Values

Queens' provides a safe, caring and challenging environment for learning, committed to the development of every student as an individual. We understand that while students have different gifts and talents we have a strong belief that everyone can be Great.

"Daring to be Great by pursuing our values of Scholarship, Tenacity, Altruism and Respect"

We aim to offer the best academic, cultural and sporting opportunities and instil a sense of moral and social responsibility in our students to live their lives as respectful, caring and responsible citizens.

Scholarship 'Ambitious pursuit of knowledge'

Tenacity 'Determination and Perseverance'

Altruism 'Working collaboratively and selflessly'

Respect 'Having due regard for self, community and environment'



Curriculum

The Sixth Form courses present an opportunity to study a balanced range of subjects, and students are encouraged to secure breadth and balance in their choices.

All students choose three options from an extensive range of academic subjects, with 25 A-Level courses available and 2 BTECs.

PE, Life Long Learning and Face the Future form part of the curriculum experience.

Physical Education is very important at Queens'. There are a wide variety of clubs, teams, practices and activities available to Sixth Form students.

Face the Future is a bespoke programme unique to Queens', which scaffolds and extends all that goes on in the classroom and the wider world.

Life Long Learning helps to prepare students for life beyond Queens' promoting good mental health and wellbeing.

Alongside their A-Levels, students have the opportunity to choose an enrichment option. This includes Level 3 qualifications (the Extended Project Qualification and Core Maths), and non-qualifications: a technology rotation and 'Culture and Society'.

Trips and visits continue throughout the Year 12 and 13. Students have had the opportunity to take trips into London and further afield to places like Iceland, Berlin, Amsterdam, Italy and Malaysia.



Super Curriculum

Many subjects arrange for students to attend enrichment activities outside school, such as lectures, visits, study days and field trips.

The school takes part in regional and national competitions and initiatives, such as the Science Olympiads, Maths Challenges, Young Enterprise and a variety of subject based essay competitions.

Our thriving Music Department enjoys an excellent reputation and offers a wealth of activities popular with the Sixth Form.

Year 12 achieve the STAR Award at either Bronze, Silver or Gold level and Year 13 students have the opportunity to take on a vast array of different leadership opportunities as they move into Year 13. These include the roles of Head Student, House, Subject and Pastoral Captains, Prefects, and Peer Mentors.

Students are the key leaders of the student body through their leadership of Student Voice, Eco Council, the House System and a large number of clubs and enrichment activities that are provided for students in the younger year groups.

Queens' offers the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh Award, a once in a lifetime opportunity to 'do something different.'

Our Combined Cadet Force is regularly praised for providing our cadets with a wide range of challenging activities which test students' practical skills, promoting resilience, responsibility and leadership.



Pastoral Care and Student Welfare

We care deeply for the wellbeing of all our students, physically and emotionally and place that at the centre of all that we do: students who are happy and well, are the students most likely to achieve.

Every student is allocated a form tutor and a tutor group at the beginning of Year 12 and has prime responsibility for their guidance and welfare. Time spent with the form tutor allows students to regularly evaluate their progress and set academic targets but is also when they can socialise with other students to make new friends and discuss important issues of the day, ensuring that they are well-rounded and fully functioning members of society.

There is a strong network to support any student who might be experiencing difficulty with their wellbeing with a team of specialist staff, including two Student Support Managers, a Mental Health Lead, Medical Officer (Matron) and the School Counsellor.

Our Bursary Policy provides financial assistance for students while they are studying with us, especially if they have qualified for free school meals or pupil premium funding in the past.



Sports Academy

Queens' Sports Academy gives talented students the chance to pursue their sporting ambition while also completing a full-time academic curriculum.

We aim to give students the balance they need to achieve success across the board. Training and competing will be scheduled so it doesn't clash with your formal studies.

The Academy is committed to providing elite training, support, guidance, coaching and competitions.

Students benefit from impressive facilities including a large sports hall with two indoor basketball courts, and fully-equipped gym.

There are also 12 all-weather football pitches as well as extensive grounds. A 3G pitch is also planned.

There are currently two Sports Academy programmes which include Girls Football in conjunction with Watford Ladies Football Club, and Boys Basketball in conjunction with Hemel Storm and Warriors Basketball Club. Both have excellent reputations in the South of England and nationally.



Sixth Form Entry Requirements

Admission to the Sixth Form will be for any student who meets the minimum academic standards.

Students must have a minimum 35 points from their best 8 GCSEs and at least a grade 5 in English (Language or Literature) and 4 in maths, or a grade 5 in maths and 4 in English.

We have taken considerable care to ensure that we have an academic pathway for the majority of students after their GCSE results. The pathways are listed below, and each one is named after one of the 3 Queens who give our school its name.

All students are expected to choose the equivalent of 3 A-Levels or equivalent, however those with a Best 8 score falling between 35 and 41 will be expected to take at least one BTEC.

Students who have a minimum of 58 points can choose to study 4 A-Levels if they wish. For those taking Further Mathematics, we advise that this is done as part of 4 A-Levels.



Philippa Pathway	Elizabeth Pathway	Alexandra Pathway
Best 8: 58 or above	Best 8: 42 - 57	Best 8: 35 -41
Up to 4 A Levels	3 A Levels	1 or 2 A Levels 1 or 2 BTECS

Courses on offer

Art (Fine)	Computer Science	Geography	Physical Education
Biology	Drama & Theatre	Government and Politics	Product Design
BTEC Sport & Exercise Science	Economics	History	Psychology
BTEC Business	English Language & Literature	Mathematics	Philosophy, Religion & Ethics
Business Studies	English Literature	Music	Sociology
Chemistry	French	Photography	Spanish
Classical Civilisations	Further Mathematics	Physics	

Every attempt is made to run the qualifications listed above, however, they are subject to demand and if the numbers are significantly low then we reserve the right to cancel that qualification. Any students affected by a cancelled course will be notified, and in good time wherever possible, however this can be after the GCSE results day in August.

Whilst course options chosen on the Sixth Form application form are not final, we will only be able to change a student's course choice(s) where numbers make it viable to do so. First choice will always be given to students who have originally applied for a course; students wishing to change their first choices will need to be patient after results day, whilst we manage the process and determine if the change is feasible.

Subject Entry Requirements

Fine Art	Grade 6 in GCSE Fine Art.
Biology	Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or grades 7/6 in Combined Science and grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
Single BTEC (Business)	Only available to students on the Alexandra pathway. Grade 5 in GCSE Business Studies or, if not studied, grade 5 and grade 4 in GCSE English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics (either subject can be the grade 5). Cannot be taken in combination with A-Level Business Studies or Economics.
Single BTEC (Sport & Exercise Science)	Only available to students on the Alexandra or Elizabeth pathway. Grade 5 in GCSE PE or, if not studied, grade 5 and grade 4 in GCSE English (Language or Literature) and Mathematics (either subject can be the grade 5) and have an interest in a sport. Cannot be taken in combination with A-Level PE.
Business Studies	Grade 6 in GCSE Business Studies or, if not studied, grade 6 in either GCSE History, Geography or Sociology. Cannot be taken in combination with BTEC Business Studies or A-Level Economics.
Chemistry	Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or grades 7/6 in Combined Science and grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
Classical Civilisation	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.
Computer Science	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science, or if not studied, grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.
Drama & Theatre	Grade 6 in GCSE Drama or, if not studied, grade 6 in GCSE English (Language or Literature) and a successful audition with the Head of Department.
Economics	Grade 6 in GCSE English (Language or Literature) and GCSE Mathematics or, grade 7 in either GCSE Business Studies, History or Geography. Cannot be taken in combination with BTEC Business or A-Level Business Studies.
English Language & Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. Cannot be taken in combination with A-Level English Literature.
English Literature	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and grade 5 in GCSE English Language. Cannot be taken in combination with A-Level English Language & Literature.
French	Grade 6 in GCSE French.
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics and successful completion of the induction test at the start of Year 12.
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography or, if not studied, grade 6 in GCSE Biology or 6/6 in Combined Science and a grade 6 in GCSE English (Language or Literature).
Government & Politics	Grade 6 in GCSE English (Language or Literature) and grade 6 in either GCSE History, Geography or Religious Studies.
History	Grade 6 in GCSE History or, if not studied, grade 6 in GCSE English (Language or Literature) and in either GCSE Geography or Religious Studies.
Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and successful completion of the induction test at the start of Year 12.
Music	Grade 6 in GCSE Music or, if not studied, grade 5 in theory and practical.
Photography	Grade 5 in GCSE Art or a Design & Technology subject, or if not studied, grade 5 in GCSE English (Language or Literature) and the successful completion of a photo shoot task judged by the Head of Department.

Physics	Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or 76 in Combined Science and grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.
Physical Education	Grade 6 in GCSE PE or, if not studied, grade 6 in GCSE Biology or a 65 in Combined Science and play a sport at least at club level. Cannot be taken in combination with BTEC Sport.
Product Design	Grade 6 in a Design & Technology GCSE subject and grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.
Psychology	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics and grade 6 in GCSE Biology or 65 in Combined Science.
Philosophy, Religion & Ethics	Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies or, if not studied, grade 6 in either GCSE History or Geography.
Sociology	Grade 5 in GCSE Sociology or, if not studied, grade 5 in either GCSE History, Geography, Religious Studies or Business Studies.
Spanish	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.
Extended Project Qualification * (Enrichment option)	This subject can be selected by a student only once they begin Year 12 in September. Be on either the Higher (Elizabeth) or Advanced (Philippa) Pathway
Level 3 Core Maths* (Enrichment option)	This subject can be selected by a student only once they begin Year 12 in September. A grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

What do our Students say?

"I am so pleased I decided to come to Queens' School for my Sixth Form even though I was an external student. It not only offers excellent academic resources but wider opportunities for every student. Being a keen sportsman, I have experienced this first hand, as I have been pushed to develop athletically as well as benefitting from the dedication from teachers encouraging me to reach my full potential academically. The welcoming nature of the whole school community made this a lot easier as I was able to settle in quickly and make lots of new friends. The school has also been extremely supportive throughout the university application process, especially as I have been guided through not only the UCAS requirements, but helped with my options I have explored for studying abroad. This demonstrates how each individual student's needs are accommodated for at Queens'."

"Completing my A Levels at Queens' was a natural next step after my GCSEs. Making the jump was as difficult as I'd been warned, but it was made infinitely easier by my teachers who were always on hand to ease my panic and support me through my studies, giving up hours of their own time to help me. Queens' offered me the opportunity to thrive intellectually and creatively, as I was pushed to constantly read and explore ideas, inside and out of the classroom. Likewise, attending debates also inspired me to question the world and has helped me to become a well-rounded and inquisitive student, setting me up perfectly for my further studies. All in all, I cannot imagine a more nurturing and caring environment than Queens', and the past two years have been the most enjoyable of my school life."



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