



Hillcrest Sixth Form Prospectus

September 2024 Entry



Contents

Welcome message	Page 3
Subjects overview and entrance requirements	Page 4
Application process	Page 5
Subject content, skills and assessment	Pages 6-10
Enrichment	Page 11



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Hillcrest Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form Centre is co-educational and inclusive. We offer a number of academic and Level 3 vocational courses with a range of pathways, which are taught by teachers who have expertise in their subjects.

Student performance at Hillcrest Sixth Form is excellent, and we were delighted with our 2023 results, with 60% of A Level grades at A*-B; and continuing to maintain our 100% pass rate. In 2023, performance on our Level 3 BTEC courses was also very strong, with 50% of entries being graded at D* and more than 75% at Distinction or above.

We offer a supportive and caring environment and provide high-quality teaching and learning. A system is in place to ensure that pastoral advice and guidance is always at hand to support students throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

Students are provided with the opportunity to gain additional qualifications through the Enrichment programme. The EPQ is available for students in both Year 12 and Year 13 to complete over one or two years. During enrichment, students are taken step by step through their university application and receive advice and guidance from a range of visiting speakers from higher education, apprenticeships, employers and training providers.

The excellent results that our students achieve have allowed recent Year 13 leavers to gain places at a range of universities, including Russell Group, on a wide range of degree programmes, including Medicine, Law and International Relations.



MS J-A DAVIES
HEADTEACHER



Mr L Provis
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Subjects and entrance requirements overview

Subject and qualification:		GCSE entrance criteria			More info, including subject content and assessment:
		English Language	Maths	Other subject(s)	
Biology	A Level	6	6	66 Science or 6 Biology	Page 7
Chemistry	A Level	6	6	66 Science or 6 Chemistry	Page 7
Criminology	Diploma	4	4	N/A	Page 10
English Literature	A Level	6	4	6 English Literature	Page 6
History	A Level	6	4	6 History	Page 8
Mathematics	A Level	6	7	N/A	Page 6
Philosophy and Ethics	A Level	6	4	6 Philosophy and Ethics	Page 8
Physics	A Level	6	7	66 Science or 6 Physics	Page 7
Psychology	A Level	6	5	6 Psychology (if taken)	Page 9
Sociology	A Level	6	4	N/A	Page 9

All applicants should have pass grades in English Language and Mathematics GCSE. Depending on subject choices, it may be possible for you to resit one but not both of these. For A Level courses, all applicants should achieve at least four GCSEs at grade 6+. Please be aware that occasionally courses do not run because we fall below expected numbers at enrolment.

The application process

[www.hillcrest.bham.sch.uk/
sixth-form-applications](http://www.hillcrest.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form-applications)



Make your choices

Read the prospectus
Discuss with family, subject teachers and/or careers advisor
Check that your subject choices will allow you to apply for your chosen university course or apprenticeship

Open evening

Thursday 21st September

Make an application online

Use the link above.

Deadline 4th December*

Interviews and offers: January and February

Places confirmed: GCSE Results Day, August

Year 12 starts: September 2024

If you miss the application deadline, it may still be possible to apply. Get in touch to ask about this or any other questions: Lprovis@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

English and Mathematics A Levels



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Key contact: Mrs Drury rdrury@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk



You will study: poetry from a range of different times with more advanced analysis and evaluation; the changing traditions of drama over time; analysis of unseen prose and poetry texts and a coursework essay comparing two texts, one pre-2000 and one post-2000.

You will develop skills in communication, reflection and emotional intelligence; extended formal essay-writing; critical analysis and research skills; working with others.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including English language and/or literature, sociology, politics, law or journalism.

Assessment:

Three examinations of two hours each at the end of Year 13, plus a coursework essay (20% of the qualification).



MATHEMATICS

Key contact: Mr Gaff jgaff@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Examination board: Edexcel



You will study: pure mathematics (e.g. proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry) and applied mathematics (statistics – sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability – and mechanics – quantities and units, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws).

You will develop skills in problem-solving, logic and analysing situations.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including Mathematics, Engineering, Medicine, Business, and Sciences, or apprenticeships in, for example, engineering.

Assessment:

You will be assessed in three examinations at the end of Year 13, each lasting two hours.

Science A Levels



BIOLOGY

Key contact: Mrs Kaur rkaur@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk



You will study: biological molecules, cells; organisms exchange substances with their environment; energy transfers between organisms; organisms responding to changes in their internal and external environments; genetics, populations, evolutions and ecosystems; and the control of gene expression.

You will develop skills in communication, problem solving, data collection and evaluation, independent research and practical science skills.

You could go on to study a range of degrees, including biology, medicine, biochemistry or pharmacology, or apprenticeships in various scientific and medical fields.

Assessment:

Paper 1 – 2 hours – 35% of A Level
Paper 2 – 2 hours – 35% of A Level
Paper 3 – 2 hours – 30% of A Level



CHEMISTRY

Key contact: Mrs Kaur rkaur@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk



You will study: physical chemistry (e.g. atomic structure, bonding, kinetics), inorganic chemistry (e.g. periodicity, halogens, transition metals) and organic chemistry (e.g. amines, polymers, amino acids and chromatography).

You will develop skills in communication, problem solving, data analysis and mathematical manipulations, and scientific practical skills.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including chemistry, medicine or pharmacy, or apprenticeships, for example in chemical engineering.

Assessment:

Paper 1 – 2 hours – 35% of A Level
Paper 2 – 2 hours – 35% of A Level
Paper 3 – 2 hours – 30% of A Level



PHYSICS

Key contact: Mr Squires tsquires@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk



You will study: measurements, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and materials, electricity, further mechanics and thermal physics, fields and their consequences and nuclear physics.

You will develop skills in analysis, manipulating mathematical operations, communication, practical scientific skills.

You could go on to study a range of degrees, including physics, engineering and mathematics, or apprenticeships in, for example, engineering.

Assessment:

Paper 1 – 2 hours – 34% of A Level
Paper 2 – 2 hours – 34% of A Level
Paper 3 – 2 hours – 32% of A Level

Humanities A Levels



HISTORY

Key contact: Mrs Buncey abuncey@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Examination board: AQA



You will study: Tsarist and Communist Russia (1855-1964), The Making of Modern Britain (1951-2007) and a Historical Investigation, which will be a free choice about any area of pre-1800 history you are interested in.

You will develop skills in critical analysis, research, judgement of primary sources and interpretations, extended writing and verbal communication.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including politics, history and law, or apprenticeships in, for example, law or HR.

Assessment:

You will be assessed in two examinations of two and a half hours each at the end of Year 13, plus an extended coursework essay – 20% of your grade



PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

Key contact: Mrs Abbotts jabbotts@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Examination board: Eduqas



You will study the philosophy of religion (arguments for the existence of God, challenges to religious belief, religious experience and religious language); Islam (religious figures, texts, concepts, life, practices and identity, and significant social and historical developments in religious thought); religion and ethics (ethical thought, deontological ethics, teleological ethics, free will and determinism).

You will develop skills in communication, problem solving, working collaboratively, ICT and reflection.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including Theology, Law, English, Journalism or Philosophy, or apprenticeships in, for example, coaching.

Assessment:

You will be assessed in three examinations of two hours each at the end of Year 13.

Social Sciences A Levels



SOCIOLOGY

Key contact: Mrs Hubble ahubble@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Examination board: Eduqas



You will study: Socialisation and culture (cultural transmission; families and households; media); Methods of sociological enquiry (designing, justifying and evaluating a piece of sociological research); power and stratification (crime and deviance).

You will develop skills in critical and reflective thinking, an awareness of social structure, analysis,

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including Sociology, Politics, Social Policy, Media Studies or Journalism, or apprenticeships in, for example, business administration.

Assessment:

You will be assessed in three examinations, one for each component, at the end of Year 13.



PSYCHOLOGY

Key contact: Mrs Hubble ahubble@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Examination board: Eduqas



You will study: psychology past and present (five psychological approaches, therapies and classic pieces of research); investigating behaviour (principles of research, personal investigations and the application of research methods); and implications in the real world (applications and controversies).

You will develop skills in critical thinking, evaluation, practical research skills, communication, group working, problem solving, interpreting information and designing research.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including Psychology, Business or Criminology, or apprenticeships in for example chartered management.

Assessment:

You will be assessed in three examinations at the end of Year 13.

Diploma subjects



CRIMINOLOGY DIPLOMA

Key contact: Mrs Hubble ahubble@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Examination board: WJEC



You will study: changing awareness of crime, why certain crimes are not reported, criminological theories, the process of criminal investigations and prosecutions, theories of crime and punishment.

You will develop skills in communication, problem solving, data analysis and mathematical manipulations, and scientific practical skills.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including law, criminology and sociology, or to work in a wide range of criminal justice careers.

Assessment:

You will take two controlled assessments, one in Y12 and one in Y13, and sit a one-and-a-half hour examination at the end of each year.

Criminology is a Level 3 Diploma: it is equivalent to one A Level and is accepted as such by most universities; if you choose Criminology, it should be alongside two A Levels subjects.

Enrichment

In addition to the academic curriculum, all students are encouraged to get involved in enrichment opportunities. As universities demand more from students, it is increasingly important to show a wide range of skills and experiences.

Extended Project
Qualification

Duke of
Edinburgh Silver
Award

The Brilliant Club

University
Masterclasses

Subject Trips and
Visits

Visiting Speakers

Careers Fairs and
HE Open Events

Mentoring
Programme

Sports Clubs

Life skills, e.g.
personal finance

Apprenticeship
Fair

Individual
Guidance

Competitions, e.g.
debating

University Access Programmes, e.g.
Warwick Pathways to Law, Banking and
Engineering; Doug Ellis Pathway to Healthcare



Hillcrest School

Stonehouse Lane, Bartley Green, B32 3AE
0121 464 3172