



Hillcrest Sixth Form Prospectus September 2027 Entry



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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Hillcrest Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form Centre is co-educational, supportive and inclusive. We offer a number of both academic and Level 3 vocational courses, all taught by teachers who have expertise in their subjects.

Student performance at Hillcrest Sixth Form is excellent and we were pleased with our 2026 results, with 49% of A Level grades at A*-B; 87% at A*-C and maintaining our 100% pass rate for the 18th consecutive year.

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, including EPQ and the Duke of Edinburgh award. During enrichment form time and PSHE sessions, students are taken step by step through their university, apprenticeship or employment 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, Pharmacy, Law, Chemical Engineering and Nursing. We cannot wait to welcome you into our community.



MR S B ABBOTTS
HEADTEACHER



MR M JOHNSON
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)	
Science (Applied)	BTEC Certificate	4	4	55 Science	Page 10
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
Politics	A Level	6	4	6 in Geography, History or Philosophy and Ethics	Page 9
History	A Level	6	4	6 History	Page 8
Mathematics	A Level	6	7	N/A	Page 6
Physics	A Level	6	7	66 Science or 6 Physics	Page 7
Psychology	A Level	6	5	6 Psychology (if taken)	Page 9
Religious Studies	A Level	6	4	6 Philosophy and Ethics	Page 8
Sociology	A Level	6	4	N/A	Page 9

All applicants should have pass grades in English Language and Mathematics GCSE.

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

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, apprenticeship or employment route

Open evening

Thursday 1st October.
Appointments to visit the Sixth Form can be made by contacting Mr Johnson, Head of Sixth Form.

Make an application online

Use the link above.

Deadline 18th December*

Interviews and offers: January and February
Applicant Visit Day: June

Places confirmed: GCSE Results Day, August

Year 12 starts: September 2027

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

English and Mathematics A Levels



ENGLISH LITERATURE

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

Examination board: Eduqas



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.

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Science A Levels



BIOLOGY

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



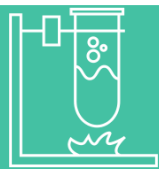
You will study: biological molecules, cells; organisms exchange substances with their environment; energy transfers between organisms; organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; and the control of gene expression.

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 in, for example, 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: Mrs Kaur rkaur@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

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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



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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.

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Social and Political Science 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; education); 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 and extended writing.

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.



POLITICS

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



You will study the governmental structures of the UK, the politics of the UK, governmental structures of the USA, politics of the USA, comparative politics, and political ideas.

You will develop skills in research, written and verbal communication, construction of argument, debate, analysis, synthesis and extended writing.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including Politics, Law, International Relations or Social Policy, or apprenticeships in, for example, public services.

Assessment:

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

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Applied Subjects

APPLIED SCIENCE

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

You will study core topics in biology, physics, and chemistry, and relevant industry skills through researching, planning, and performing a range of laboratory investigations. You will learn about the role of a research scientist and develop the skills to research; plan and risk assess your investigation.

You will develop skills in research, employability skills, confidence in applying your knowledge, practical scientific skills and independent learning.

You could go on to a wide range of degree and apprenticeship options in the scientific and medical field, including nursing, pharmacy, audiology, midwifery and biomedical science.

Assessment:
You will complete two externally assessed and three internally assessed units set by OCR.

Cambridge Advanced National in Applied Science Extended Certificate:
it is equivalent to one A Level and is accepted as such by most universities.



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.



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Looking to Add

For the upcoming Academic year Hillcrest Sixth form is delighted to announce we are looking to add three additional subjects to our offer.

Proposed A Level Subject Expansion

As part of our continued commitment to providing a broad, ambitious and future-focused Sixth Form curriculum, we are exploring the introduction of **A Level Geography, French and Fine Art**. These subjects have been selected to enhance student choice, support progression to a wider range of university courses and careers, and ensure our curriculum reflects both local and global opportunities.

A Level Geography

Geography is a highly respected and versatile subject that develops students' understanding of the world around them and the challenges facing society today. By introducing Geography, we can provide students with opportunities to develop analytical, investigative and problem-solving skills that are valued by universities and employers alike. The subject complements a wide range of existing A Level courses and offers progression into fields such as environmental science, business, planning, law, teaching and public services.

A Level French

The introduction of French would strengthen our modern languages provision and help students develop valuable communication and cultural awareness skills in an increasingly interconnected world. Language qualifications are highly regarded by universities and employers, demonstrating resilience, independence and the ability to think critically across different cultures. Offering French would also support students considering careers in international business, diplomacy, travel, education, translation and many other global industries.

A Level Fine Art

Fine Art would provide a creative and expressive pathway for students wishing to develop their artistic talents beyond GCSE. The subject encourages innovation, independent thinking and visual communication while supporting personal growth and confidence. Introducing Fine Art would broaden our creative curriculum and provide routes into higher education and careers in areas such as design, architecture, media, illustration, advertising, fashion and the wider creative industries.

Looking Ahead

The addition of these subjects would further strengthen our Sixth Form offer by providing greater choice, supporting a diverse range of aspirations and ensuring students have access to both academic and creative pathways. Through Geography, French and Fine Art, we aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to thrive in higher education, employment and modern society.

Looking to add for the academic year commencing Sept 2027

Geography

Key contact: Mr Gregory Igregory@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Exam board: AQA

You will study water and carbon cycles, coastal landscapes and systems, hazards, global systems and global governance, changing places, population and the environment, and geographical fieldwork investigation skills.

You will develop skills in using qualitative and quantitative data, use of cartography (maps), graphs, statistics, ICT and fieldwork investigation.

You could go on to study a range of degrees such as geography, geology, oceanography and economics, and work in varied careers such as environmental science, engineering, travel and tourism, and resource management.

Assessment:

You will complete two assessments at the end of Y13, covering physical geography and human geography. You will also complete an individual geographical fieldwork investigation..

French

Key Contact Mr Harrison Webster

bharrisonwebster@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Exam Board: Edexcel

You will study: changes in French society, French-speaking political and artistic culture (music and media), cultural celebrations and festivals, immigration and multiculturalism in France, the Far Right in France as well as the French Occupation and the Resistance. In addition, you will read one book, 'Un sac de billes' and study one film 'La haine

You will develop skills in communication, problem solving, analysis and evaluation and independent research skills.

You could go on to study a range of degrees, including languages, law, travel and tourism, translation, teaching and politics.

Assessment:

Paper 1 (Listening, reading and translation) – 2 hours – 40% of A Level
Paper 2 (Written response to works and translation)– 2 hours 40 minutes – 30% of A Level
Paper 3 (Speaking) – 21-23 minutes – 30% of A Level

Looking to add for the academic year commencing Sept 2027

Fine Art

Key contact: Mr Featon afeaton@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Exam board:: OCR

You will explore, research and acquire techniques and develop your skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of Fine Art media. We will work together to develop your skills, and you will then choose one of more areas of study to focus upon. These include; portraiture, landscape, still life, human form, abstraction, experimental imagery, narrative, installation, and working in a genre.

You will develop skills in creativity, critical thinking, independence, as well as practical, technical and analytical skills.

You could go on to study a broad range of subjects at university, such as Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Fashion, Illustration, Animation & Film Making. The course also develops transferable skills like creativity, innovation, and critical thinking, benefitting careers in fields from marketing to engineering.

Assessment:

Component 1: Personal Investigation, a portfolio of practical work produced in response to a brief. This includes a related written study of at least 1000 words. Weighting 60%.

Component 2: Externally set task, a project produced in response to one of a number of themes set by OCR. This concludes with a 15 hour controlled time to produce a final piece. Weighting 40%.

Enrichment & Further opportunities

In addition to the academic curriculum, all students are encouraged to get involved in a vast array of 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 Award

The Brilliant Club

University
Masterclasses

Subject Trips and
Visits

Visiting Speakers

Careers Fairs and
HE Open Events

Mentoring
Programme

Sports and Arts
Clubs

PSHE, e.g. personal
finance

Apprenticeship
Fair

Individual
Guidance

Competitions, e.g.
debating

University Access Programmes, e.g.
Warwick Pathways to Law, Banking and
Engineering; Pathways to Birmingham.

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Hillcrest School & Sixth Form

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