



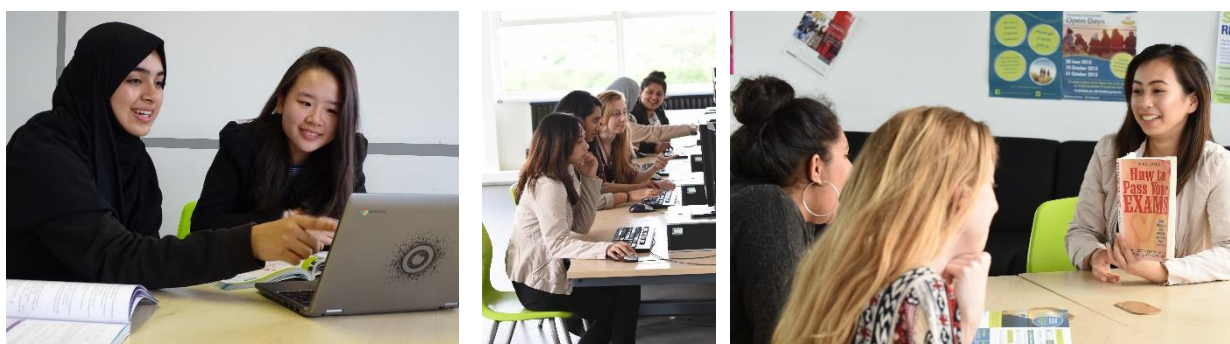
Hillcrest Sixth Form Prospectus

September 2022 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 2021 results. We are currently ranked in the top three in Birmingham for student progress in sixth form. In 2021, 78% of all grades were A* to B. For the tenth consecutive year our students achieved a 100% pass rate at A Level.

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, 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 the University of Oxford, a range of Russell Group and many other universities, with students studying a range of courses from law to biology.



**MS J-A DAVIES
HEADTEACHER**



**MISS A. MUNCEY
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
Drama and Theatre	A Level	5	4	6 Drama (if taken)*	Page 10
English Literature	A Level	6	4	6 English Literature	Page 6
French	A Level	6	4	6 French	Page 6
Geography	A Level	6	5	6 Geography	Page 8
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
Science (Applied)	BTEC Extended Diploma	4	4	55 Science	Page 10
Sociology	A Level	6	4	N/A	Page 9

*Drama and Theatre: if you did not take GCSE Drama, you will need to speak to Mrs Kirby to discuss whether you have the prior knowledge and skills to start the A Level course.

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

Watch the video on the school website – use the link above.

Follow the link above to book onto the virtual open evening on 10th November

Make an application online

Use the link above.

Deadline 17th December*

Interviews and offers: January and February

Places confirmed: GCSE Results Day, August

Year 12 starts: September 2022

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

English, Mathematics and Languages 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: Ms Kanona kanona@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.



FRENCH

Key contact: Ms Cooper acooper@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Examination board: Edexcel



You will study social issues and trends, diversity and difference (including migration and integration, cultural identity and marginalisation, cultural enrichment, discrimination and diversity), and political, intellectual and artistic culture (contemporary youth culture, France 1940-1950, literature and film, and a personal research topic).

You will develop skills in critical and analytical thinking, effective and articulate communication, presentation and research skills, an understanding of a range of cultural influences, autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity and independence.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including Languages, Law, Business, Journalism, Education or Humanities, or apprenticeships in, for example, events management.

Assessment:

You will undertake a speaking assessment (21-23 minutes), plus two examinations at the end of Year 13 – listening, reading and translation (2h30m) and critical and analytical response in writing (2h).

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, 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: Miss Guyver aguyver@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



GEOGRAPHY

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

Examination board: Edexcel



You will study tectonics, diverse places, globalisation, water, the carbon cycle and energy security, superpowers, and health, human rights and intervention.

You will develop skills in communication, organisation, statistical analysis, problem solving, independent investigation and essay-writing.

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including geography, geology, business, sociology, or biology, and apprenticeships in, for example, conservation.

Assessment:

Three examinations at the end of Year 13, each of 2 hours 15 minutes, plus a coursework module.

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; 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.

Applied and creative subjects



APPLIED SCIENCE BTEC

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



You will study: Principles and Applications of Science, Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques, Science Investigation Skills, Investigation Procedures in Practice, Contemporary Issues in Science and an extended diploma.

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: A mixture of assignments, set and marked by your teachers using the pass-merit-distinction criteria, and exams, set and marked externally by Pearson

BTEC Applied Science Extended Diploma is equivalent to three A Levels. Almost all students who study this subject study it as their only subject and many universities accept it as the only qualification



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.



DRAMA AND THEATRE A LEVEL

Key contact: Mrs Taylor-Stupple ltaylorstupple@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk
Examination board: AQA



You will study: Drama and Theatre, Creating Original Drama and Making Theatre. You will be able to gain skills in performance, analysis and grow in confidence and maturity.

You will develop skills in collaboration, analytical thinking, research, performance, evaluation, confidence, and appreciation of cultural and social contexts.

You could go on to a wide range of degrees including Theatre, Broadcasting, Drama Therapy or Law, or an apprenticeship in, for example, community arts administration or recording engineering.

Assessment: Drama and Theatre (40%): written examination at the end of Y13; Creating Original Drama (30%): devised performance and working notebook; Making Theatre (30%): performance and reflective report.

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 and Arts
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



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