



Hillcrest Sixth Form Prospectus September 2026 Entry



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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Hillcrest Sixth Form.

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

Student performance at Hillcrest Sixth Form is excellent, and we were pleased with our 2024 results, with 65% of A Level grades at A*-B and 80% at A*-C. We offer a supportive and caring environment that provides high-quality teaching and learning. A system is in place to ensure that pastoral advice and guidance are readily available to support students throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

Students are given the opportunity to gain additional qualifications through the Enrichment Programme, including the EPQ and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. During enrichment, students are guided step by step through their university, apprenticeship, or employment application, receiving advice and guidance from a range of visiting speakers from higher education, apprenticeship providers, employers, and training providers.

The excellent results achieved by our students have enabled recent Year 13 leavers to secure places at a range of universities, including Russell Group institutions, on various degree programmes, such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Law, Chemical Engineering, and Nursing.

We look forward to welcoming 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)	Advanced National in Applied Science	4	4	55 Science	Page 11
Art	A level	4	4	6 Art	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 11
English Literature	A Level	6	4	6 English Literature	Page 6
French	A level	4	4	6 French	Page 10
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 / RE	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 2nd 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 19th December*

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

Places Confirmed: GCSE Results Day, August

Year 12 Starts: September 2026

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

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 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.

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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Arts and Languages A Levels



Fine Art

Key contact: Mr Featon - afeaton@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk
Examination 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 or more areas of study to focus upon. These include portraiture, landscape, still life, the human form, abstraction, experimental imagery, narrative, installation, and working within 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, such as creativity, innovation, and critical thinking, which benefit careers in fields ranging 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 several themes set by OCR. This concludes with a 15-hour controlled time to create a final piece. Weighting 40%.



French

Key contact: Mr Harrison-Webster BHarrisonWebster@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk
Examination 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, evaluation, and independent research.

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

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, as well as 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, confidence in applying your knowledge, practical scientific skills, and independent learning.

You can go on to a wide range of degree and apprenticeship options in the scientific and medical fields, 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, and theories of crime and punishment.

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

You could go on to study a range of courses at university, including law, criminology, and sociology, or pursue 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.



Enrichment & Further opportunities

In addition to the academic curriculum, all students are encouraged to participate in a wide range 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

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; Pathways to Birmingham.