Winterbourne Academy Sixth Form



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Olympus Post 16

About Winterbourne Academy

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant, caring and supportive community that provides students with new skills, wonderful opportunities, as well as qualifications that are right for them as individuals.

We are proud to be an inclusive community where every student is valued, supported and encouraged to succeed. You'll be part of a culture where differences are respected, and everyone feels that they belong.

Above all, we provide each student with the qualifications, skills and experience necessary for them to succeed in whatever path they choose. It is as much about offering a broad and balanced suite of opportunities as it is academic qualifications.

We also encourage you to take full advantage of our student leadership opportunities. Your voice, ideas, and actions are key to shaping a positive and inspiring Sixth Form experience for all.

We look forward to getting to know you, supporting your aspirations and helping you become the very best version of yourself.

We welcome applications from all students who wish to study Level 3 qualifications.

For more information about Winterbourne Academy and Olympus Post 16 – (link)

If you any questions, please feel free to contact me directly or ask any of our Year 11 or Post 16 Team.

Kind regards



Charlie Peake | Assistant Headteacher (KS5)

Why choose Post 16 at Winterbourne Academy?

We are a welcoming, high-achieving community

Our Sixth Form is a place where young people are encouraged to aim high and supported to reach their full potential. We are proud of our consistently strong results and the caring, purposeful environment that helps our students grow both academically and personally.

A caring and connected support network

We place student wellbeing at the heart of everything we do. Our dedicated Sixth Form team — including a Sixth Form Lead, Careers and Pastoral Support Coordinator, Administrator and Academic Mentors — ensures every student is known, supported and cared for. Parents can be reassured that their child will be part of a community that values everyone and helps them to thrive.

Exceptional choice and opportunity

As one of the largest Post-16 Centres in South Gloucestershire, we offer more than 30 courses under one roof. This breadth of choice allows every student to pursue their interests and ambitions, with flexible pathways that suit their individual goals and strengths.

The benefits of a school environment

Staying in a school sixth form offers a supportive and familiar environment where students can build on established relationships with teachers who already understand students' learning styles and strengths; allowing for a more personalised guidance, consistent academic support and strong pastoral care.

Supportive Trust

Students benefit from the opportunity to study across the Olympus Post-16 Centres. Aligned timetables and free transport make it easy to access courses at other Trust schools, ensuring every learner can find the right fit for their aspirations.

Inspirational teaching and individual attention

Our specialist teachers are passionate about their subjects and committed to helping every student succeed. Lessons take place in well-equipped classrooms using modern technology, and our students tell us how much they value the encouragement, care and guidance they receive from their teachers.

Leadership Opportunities

Students in the sixth form have a wide range of leadership opportunities that help them develop confidence, teamwork and responsibility. Included is our house system which provides a strong sense of belonging and friendly competition, giving students the chance to organise and participate within whole school events.

Modern facilities designed for success

Our Sixth Form offers outstanding facilities, including quiet study areas, a dedicated Post 16 café and welcoming social spaces. These areas provide a balanced environment for focused learning, collaboration and building lasting friendships.

An enrichment programme to build confidence and character

Beyond academic study, our enrichment programme helps our students develop the skills, independence, and resilience they need for life after school. They can take part in opportunities such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Core Maths and the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Focused preparation for the future

We are proud of our strong track record in supporting successful applications to university, apprenticeships, and employment. Each student receives tailored advice and experiences that strengthen their confidence and help them take their next steps with clarity and purpose.

Specialist pathways for ambitious goals

For students aspiring to competitive courses such as Oxbridge, Medicine, or Veterinary Medicine, we offer dedicated guidance and support. Our experienced team helps students navigate these challenging routes with expertise and care.

Destinations of our previous sixth form cohort



The WA process and timeline

Post 16 Open Event – Thursday 5th November 2026

Students should be exploring all their options and putting in place their plans for Sept 2027.

Initial Interest Survey – Starting 6th November 2026

Students will be asked to provide information about their plans and back up plans and will be asked to put their course preferences in order of priority. This survey will be completed in school.

Curriculum planning – January 2027

The Olympus Academy Trust Curriculum Team will decide which courses will and will not run and where they will be taught, based on the Initial Interest Survey completed by students in each centre. We try to minimise clashes to ensure as many students as possible can take the subjects they want.

Y11 Student Interviews – January 2027 onwards

Student interviews, including those not currently based at Winterbourne Academy, will be with a member of the Sixth Form Team to discuss career plans, courses choices and entry criteria.

Post 16 Confirmation Letters – April/May/June 2027

Students applying to Winterbourne Academy Sixth Form Centre will receive a letter to confirm their conditional offer of a place and course choices.

Olympus Post 16

Post 16 Results 2026 – Winterbourne Academy

A Level Results	2025
Average Point Score	32.6
A* to A	21%
A* to B	44%
A* to E	98%

Applied General Results	2025
Average Point Score	33.1
D* to D	52%
D* to M	91%
D* to P	97%

Value Added for 2026 will be confirmed by the DFE later this year

Post 16 Centre Comparison

A level Performance 2025	Progress Score (VA)	Student completing main study programme	Grade for a student's best three A levels	Points for a student's best three A levels
Winterbourne Academy	0.01	99%	B-	35.19
SGS	-0.36	85%	C-	26.23
St Brendan's	-0.25	82%	C	30.84

Applied General Performance 2025	Progress Score (VA)	Student completing main study programme	Average Result	Point Score
Winterbourne Academy	0.17	79%	Dist-	31.58
SGS	-0.50	91%	Merit	26.47
St Brendan's	0.01	83%	Dist-	30.82

Source: School Performance tables 2025 (link)

What do I need to do now?

Explore your options - November 2026

Research and ask questions

Year 11 Mocks – at Winterbourne Academy these take place between 9th and 20th November 2026.

Do as well as you can; these will support in planning your next steps.

Initial Interest Survey – to be completed by Friday 27th November 2026. This is the first stage of your application.

Complete this as accurately as possible; you can however change your mind later if necessary

External Application Form* to be completed as soon as possible (link)

*Only for students **not** currently attending an Olympus Trust secondary school

Post 16 one to one meetings to start asap, i.e. in Terms 3 to 5.

Be prepared to discuss your choices/decisions

Focus on your courses and exams – until June 2027!

Do your best; the better you do the more options you will have

Transition Day – June 2027

Now your GCSEs are complete it is time to reflect – so engage with the day, make sure you are happy with your course choices.

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 19th August 2027

Enrol with your chosen Post 16 provider

Which courses should I choose?

Which are you most successful at?

e.g. coursework v. exams, maths v. English, science v. humanities?

What courses do you think you would enjoy?

How will level 3 courses be different?

e.g. more Chemistry content in Biology A level and more Science content in Sport

Will you meet the entry requirements?

Make sure you check the criteria for all the organisations you are applying for - each centre will have their own entry criteria (*found at the end of this booklet)

What courses would best support my future career pathway?

Spend some time researching if particular subjects are required (by universities or employers) to fulfil your ambitions

Final top tips

1. Keep your MIND and OPTIONS OPEN

If you already have an idea of your next steps after Post 16 study – you need to check if there are any specific subject requirements e.g:

Engineering: Maths and Physics

Medicine: Biology and Chemistry

Some universities may also discourage certain subject combinations e.g: Art and Photography.

This website will help explore what career and degree course options may be a good match for your chosen subjects.

Which Degree Courses Do Your A-Levels Suit? - The Uni Guide

Also look at the typical A level requirements for university subjects:

University course & degree finder – search for university courses (theuniguide.co.uk)

Suggested Degrees | Informed Choices

Also look at the entry requirements for apprenticeships:

What are the entry requirements for apprenticeships? | The Apprenticeship Guide

UCAS | At the heart of coFnecting people to higher education Allows you to look at Degree courses and Apprenticeships alongside each other

Post 16 study is not easy! So to help you succeed and make the right choices:

- Choose a subject you enjoy and you are good at - don't be persuaded by friends and family-it's your choice!!
- Do your research – speak to the subject teachers ask about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed – especially if this not a subject you have studied at GCSE.
- Even if you don't know what you want to do after Sixth Form use the websites provided and see where different combinations can take you.
- Don't panic!! Make an appointment to see Mrs Baker or Mrs Brookman if you start to feel overwhelmed by your choices.

2. **UNCERTAIN? Remember there is NO LIMIT to the number of your applications you make to various sixth form providers**

3. **Try to GET PLANS IN PLACE EARLY; then you can put them aside and focus on getting the results you deserve**

Some useful terminology

Levels

Level 2 (L2): Includes GCSEs and BTEC Firsts (the same or similar qualifications to those in Key Stage Four).
Please note: Olympus Trust ONLY OFFER Level 3 programmes in Post 16.

Level 3 (L3): Advanced level programmes which are a step up from the courses studied in Key Stage Four (KS4).

Courses

A-levels courses: Sometimes referred to as academic. These are level 3 studies, with assessments mainly through exams held at the very end of the two years. A minority of courses have a small coursework element.

Vocational courses: Vocational courses can be offered at all levels and of different sizes. Vocational courses are assessed through a balance of exams and coursework, usually around a 50%/50% split. Exams are spread across the two years, not all at the end; there are usually opportunities to resit vocational exams.

You can select a combination of A level and Vocational courses.

Courses offered and Minimum Entry Criteria

For September 2027 Entry

There is an expectation that students will achieve at least 5 good pass grades (GCSE grades 9-4), including English Language and Maths, to study A levels or an equivalent vocational course. Additionally, each course has individual entry requirements (please see below).

Level 3 Vocational Subjects

Applied Science	5 in Maths & 5-5 in Combined Science
Business	4 in English & Maths
Criminology	4 in English
Health & Social Care	4 in English
Engineering	4 in English & 5 in Maths
Engineering T Level	5 in English & 5 in Maths
Media	4 or Pass in relevant subject
Food & Nutrition	4 or Pass in relevant subject
IT/Cyber	4 or Pass in relevant subject
Music Performance	4 or Pass in relevant subject
Music Technology	4 or Pass in relevant subject
Sport	4 or Pass in relevant subject

A Level Subjects

Art	5 in GCSE Art or related discipline if taken
Biology	6 in Maths; plus 6 in Biology or 66 in Combined Science
Business Studies	5 in English & Maths; plus 5 or Merit in Business if taken
Chemistry	6 in Maths; plus 6 in Chemistry or 66 in Combined Science
Computer Science	6 in Maths & Computer Science if taken
Drama	5 in English Literature & Drama if taken
Economics	6 in English & Maths
English Language	6 in English Language
English Literature	6 in English Literature or English Language
French	6 in French
Geography	5 in Maths & English; plus a 5 in Geography if taken or in a humanities subject
German	6 in German
History	5 in English; plus a 5 in History if taken or in a humanities subject
Law	6 in English Literature
Maths (Core)	5 in Maths
Maths	7 in Maths or 6 in Maths plus an entrance test
Maths (Further)	7 in Maths
Philosophy	6 in English or in a Humanities/Social Science Subject
Photography	5 in GCSE Art or related discipline if taken
Physics	6 in Maths; plus 6 in Physics or 66 Combined Science
Product Design	5 in a relevant Design Technology GCSE and a 5 in Maths
Politics	6 in English or in a Humanities/Social Science Subject
Psychology	5 in Maths and English; plus 55 Combined Science or 5 in Biology
Spanish	6 in Spanish
Sociology	5 in English; plus 5 in Sociology if taken or a humanities subject
Textiles	5 in a relevant Design Technology GCSE or Art or related discipline

Please visit our website (link) for further information

A to Z of courses (link)

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