

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What are the entry requirements?

Students need to attain 5 GCSE's Grades 5 and above to meet the entry requirements to RWBA Sixth Form. Some subjects also request set grades for their course to ensure that students have attained the right level of knowledge to cope with the subject. For example, Maths and Sciences, request a grade 6 or above.

Q. Can I do 4 A levels/BTEC courses

We would only support this if a student has attained all 8/9 grades at GCSE. Universities do not ask for more than 3 and 3 strong grades are felt to be better than 4 mediocre grades. We do not want students to spread themselves too thinly. A Levels are a big step up from GCSE and a lot more research outside of the classroom is expected.

Q. Can I do a combination of A level and BTEC Courses?

Yes, and many of our students choose a combination.

Q. How are the Option Blocks put together?

There are 5 option blocks A-E and we try to ensure that complimentary subject themes are not put together (eg Science and Maths), or as a suite such as subjects that would be suitable for certain professions (eg Law, Veterinary Science, Medicine). We also need to ensure that the timetable works around A level and specialist staff availability. Your choices will be put into Option blocks after all students have been interviewed.

Q. EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

EPQ is timetabled in separately after a couple of weeks, once students have completed their proposal. They are then timetabled in for 2 lessons a fortnight. They are also allocated a supervisor to monitor their progress. This is a 1 year course and is finished before the end of Year 12.

Q. What is Maths Studies and who is this suitable for?

Maths Studies is an intermediary level between GCSE & A Level and offers ongoing mathematics to support subjects that require additional mathematical knowledge to that studied at GCSE. It helps to support students studying subjects like Geography, Biology and Psychology and is studied over the one year. It is equivalent to an AS level.

Q. What is the Sports Performance Programme?

This was introduced in September 2023 and is a programme that runs alongside the A Level/BTEC Courses. For full information students are encouraged to contact the Head of PE, Mr I'Anson – CIAnson@rwba.org.uk.

Q. How do I find out about subjects for particular professions?

We encourage all students to look at the UCAS website – regardless as to whether students plan to go on to University, this site provides very useful information regarding subjects and career paths.

There is also a useful website called **What Uni** which has an active twitter feed, and is a one-stop shop for employment, university and apprenticeships.

Sixth Form also put out useful information on our instagram and twitter account [@RWBA6](#). [@RWBAsixth](#)

Q. What do I need to know about for careers in Medicine?

At RWBA we support students who wish to pursue a career in a medical field and offer an Oxbridge/Medic/Dentist/VET group that meet regularly to help students with applications and personal

statements, searching for work experience/joining summer programmes/Dare to Doctor and preparing for any entrance exams.

Q. What do I do about transport, as I live in Swindon?

Currently it is difficult times for transport. Many students live in different areas in and around Royal Wootton Bassett and Swindon.

There is a very good transport link (Bus No 55) from the Centre of Swindon that travels through RWB, Lyneham and Calne to Chippenham and many of our students use this. There are some school transport routes but this is limited, and lower school students get priority due to their age. You can email our Transport Coordinator on jmstewart@rwba.org.uk with any questions.

Q. What are UCAS points?

UCAS points are awarded to Level 3 Qualifications only. There are a range of tariffs and you can find details of these on the UCAS Website.

The points on GCSE results sheets do not relate to UCAS points.

Q. Can I do Further Maths without Maths?

No, you have to do both. Further Maths is often a fourth choice and gives breadth to a student's understanding. Some students do it for a year and take the AS, some continue and complete the full A level. Teachers will discuss this with the student in the Spring Term of Year 12 to gauge their intentions.

Q. Will I have a full timetable?

Students will have study periods on their timetable (or “free periods” as the students refer to them) where they can use the time to catch up on work, complete assignments in their own time. Students studying 3 subjects will have 9/10 hours of timetabled lessons per subject per fortnight.

Students can use the Study Area, break out areas, Common Room or the Resource Centre in the new Sixth Form block to work.

Currently students have the opportunity to go off-site if they do not have a timetabled lesson.

Q. When are Exams?

The A level courses are linear, so the final exams are sat at the end of Year 13 in the Summer Term. BTEC exams also have an element of assignments that are marked and moderated at set times over the two years.

Q. Can I still apply now, if I don't have any mock grades or don't know my target grades?

Yes, if you are an internal student we will be able to access this information. If you are an external student wanting to apply, please don't let this stop you, please go with the guidance from your school (it

can be target grades, predicted grades, mock grades, assessments) or you can always forward updated information later on when you have it.

Q. I don't know what I want to do, so I am struggling to choose my subjects?

Internal students can always access our Careers Advisor, for some advice on subject choices. Speak to your tutors or subject teachers who are also happy to advise you.

Q. Are there any future visit opportunities?

We have our Open Evening on 11 October. If you miss this event, please contact us and we will see if we can arrange a visit after the school day.

Q. If I start a subject in September and then change my mind, can I switch subjects?

Students can still swap courses during the first 4 weeks. After this period we have to submit details to the school census. This is normally long enough for a student to decide if they are going to be happy on the course. After this time period it is viewed that too much will have been missed of the delivered curriculum.

Q. What time does the school day start and end?

Students need to arrive to be with their tutors for 08.40. They will spend half an hour with their tutor and then start timetabled lessons. The school day ends at 15.00.

Q. Can I bring my own laptop to school to work on?

Yes we encourage students to bring their devices, so that they can use them during study periods. Our study areas have plenty of plug points available to charge up.

Q. How do I ensure I don't miss messages?

We produce a weekly Sixth Form Newsletter that is sent out to Year 12 and 13 Students and Parents. It covers all sorts of items, including calendar dates, important changes about the block, events and opportunities or webinars, careers and vacancies we have been notified about.

Your tutors also pass on messages during the I-learn registration period and staff send important information out **via school emails**. It is stressed at the start of the year that Students need to read their emails regularly and respond as requested in a timely manner.