

BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL

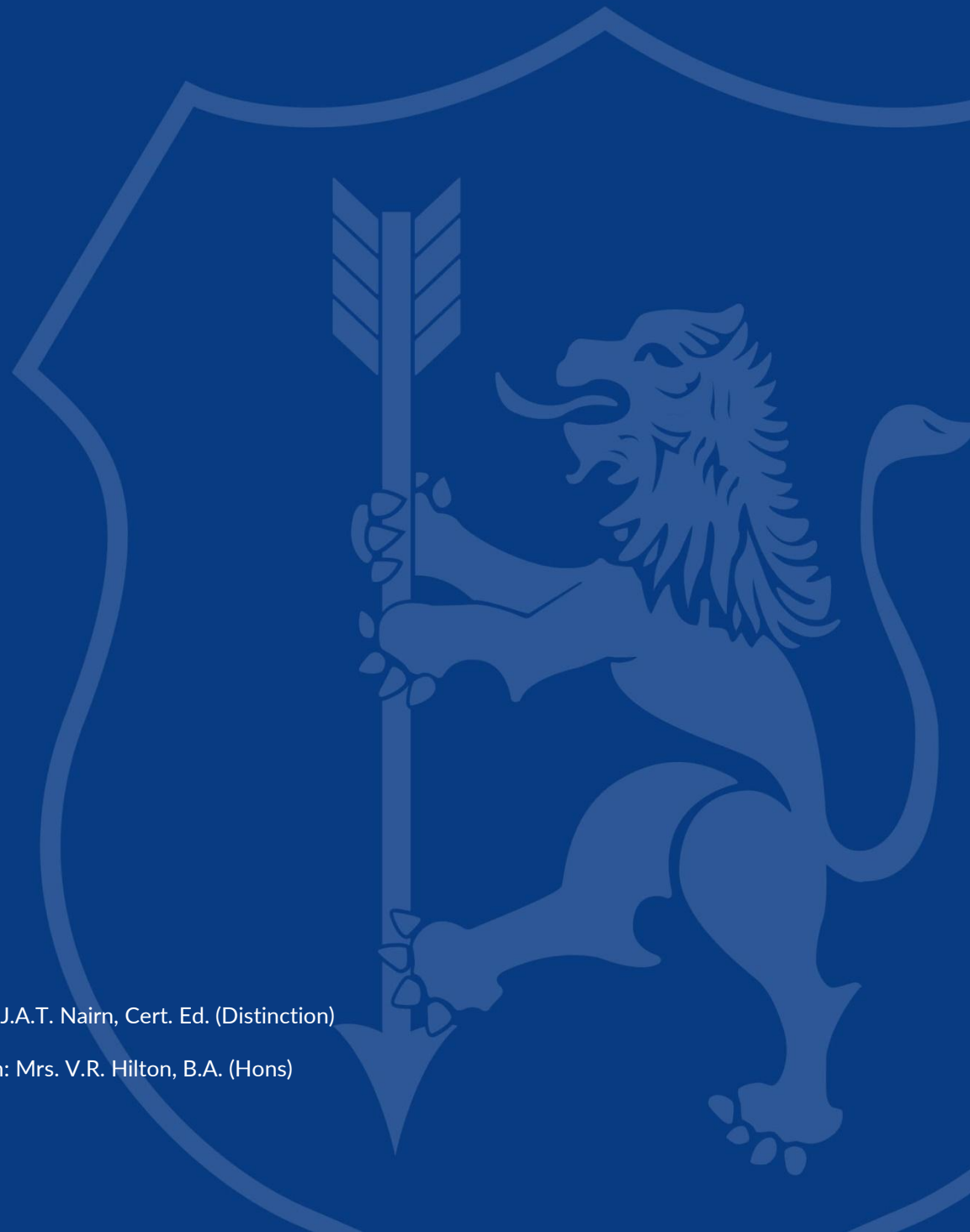
Sixth Form

Induction Handbook

2026-27

Headteacher: Mrs. J.A.T. Nairn, Cert. Ed. (Distinction)

Head of Sixth Form: Mrs. V.R. Hilton, B.A. (Hons)



Dear Students and Parents,

The ethos of our Sixth Form is quite simple – hard work and independent learning in an environment which is friendly and inclusive. We offer the intimacy and support of small classes, together with the support network of small tutor groups. We also offer the opportunity to get involved in extra-curricular and enrichment activities, which we hope will remain interests for a lifetime. Finally, we want our Sixth Formers to be inspired to give something back to the school community by getting involved with fundraising, extra-curricular support, or helping younger pupils in the Prep Department on a regular basis.

Our aim is to help students develop their intellect and gain the best set of academic credentials possible to enable them to move onto the university of their first choice or suitable employment; but also to support them in building their integrity and introduce them to leadership responsibilities, to the world of work and to planning for a career. In return we will be expecting them to show a responsible attitude to their studies, to meet deadlines and to take the opportunity to learn independently. A high degree of personal organisation is crucial in the professional world and we plan to inculcate these habits in them now. Students will find that their relationship with their teachers will have changed subtly. They will be treating them more as adults and equals but will expect a degree of initiative and personal organisation, which they may not have been forced to exercise at GCSE.

Students will be studying fewer subjects but in greater depth. The usual pattern is to take three subjects in Year 12, and pursue all three to the full A Level in Year 13 – with the optional extra AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in Year 13 (following consultation with Mrs Hilton). These will form the basis of their application to university and eventual career choice. On occasion, students may study a fourth subject in full, subject to consultation and individual circumstances.

This booklet is designed to take you through all aspects of Sixth Form life at Bridgewater. If you have any queries or any issues you would like to discuss further, please contact your form tutor or myself at school: we are always happy to arrange a meeting. We look forward to working with you over the coming years.

Mrs Hilton

Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Form Staff



Mrs V. Hilton
Head of Sixth Form

Form Tutors



Year 12
Miss C Bentley
Psychology, RS
Room 9



Year 13
Mrs A Embrey
Director of Music
Room 10

Your child's form tutor is the first point of contact. Mrs Hilton is also available for more general issues.

Student Guidelines 2026-27

1. **Registration:** Morning registration takes place at 8:40am ***prompt*** in your form room. (Morning lessons then begin at 9:05am.) Afternoon registration takes place at 2:35pm in your form room.
2. Any absences from school must be requested, in advance, by a parent or legal guardian. Absences due to illness should be covered by a phone call or email from parents.
3. If you arrive late, ***you must sign in at the office***. Failure to do so may result in the removal of designated free periods (see guideline 6).
4. You may go off site at lunch time, but **MUST** sign out and back in again at the office on return to school to satisfy fire regulations.
5. Wednesday afternoons are dedicated to '**Enrichment Time**'. For Year 12, this will mainly focus on Higher Education, Careers, Life Skills, Charity Projects and Wellbeing (including sporting activities).
6. All students are able to choose **one hour** per week as a '**designated free period**' when they are able to go off site or come into school late / leave early. Additional 'designated free periods' can be earned subject to excellent attendance, punctuality and general effort.
7. Students are **expected to be in school at all other times**. (Any medical appointments or driving lessons should be made during their 'designated free period').
8. **All** other study periods should be used for **independent study** in one of the many study areas available. Mobile phones **should not** be used during this time. If the use of internet is required, students have access to the Sixth Form Library computers, Sixth Form Chromebooks and other ICT rooms around school.
9. A Level requires a **minimum** of 5 hours of study per subject per week, in addition to timetabled lesson time. It is therefore essential that you make the most of your study periods during the day, in order to find time to relax in the evenings and at weekends, alongside building in independent study and research.
10. You must attend lessons **on time** and with all the necessary equipment, including a student planner / diary.
11. **Mobile phones** must not be visible during lessons, study periods or registration. They should only be used in the Sixth Form building (**and not on corridors, in lessons or around school**) during break and lunchtime. If excessive use is repeatedly noted in non-designated times, students will be asked to hand in their phones to Mrs Hilton when they arrive in school. Students may choose to hand in their phones to avoid the distraction of them, and can be returned for break and lunchtime, if they wish.

12. The TV may only be on at breaks and lunchtime. If you choose to work whilst listening to music, the volume should be set at such a level that the music is not audible to anyone else.
13. You must leave the Sixth Form Common Room and kitchen area clean and tidy at the end of each day. Any food you want to keep must be put in the fridge. Food should only be consumed in the Sixth Form kitchen or Common Room, **not** in any of the classrooms or the Sixth Form Library. Cold food may be taken out of the Dining Hall and consumed in the Common Room or Sixth Form kitchen. Any plates / cutlery etc. used must be returned by the end of lunch.
14. All your personal belongings, including books and study materials should be stored in your 'pigeon hole' at the end of each session, leaving the work area free for other students. Lockers are also available (you will need to purchase your own padlock to keep it locked).
15. The Common Room can be used for private or group study during lesson times. The Sixth Form Library is for **silent study only** whilst Rooms 10 and 11, when available, are suitable for collaborative group work or independent study. In silent study areas, no music or headphones are permitted.
16. Visitors can only come on site during break time or lunchtime following prior arrangement with Mrs Hilton. They must sign in, wear a visitor's badge and be accompanied at all times.
17. ***Extra-curricular activities and Part-time Employment:*** It is important to be involved in extra-curricular activities (including part-time and voluntary work) for your personal development. However, please be sensible and avoid 'over-stretching' yourself, thereby hindering your academic progress!
18. The ***Dress Code*** is smart-casual. You are senior members of the school and will regularly be coming into contact with visitors, parents and younger students. Therefore please dress appropriately. Tracksuits, jeggings, crop-tops and ripped or torn items of clothing are not acceptable, nor should any underwear be visible. Any logos must be appropriate and inoffensive. (Please see overleaf for further details of the full dress code).

Finally, remember **the 4 Cs** and you can't go far wrong:

Common Sense

Care

Cooperation

Courtesy

Sixth Form Dress Code

The key look for our Sixth Form is 'smart-casual'. We want our students to feel like they can be themselves, whilst presenting themselves as professional and tidy at all times and ready to present themselves in public or to prospective parents and students touring the school site. What this means, to us, in practice is:

Girls

- Smart trousers / jeans / skirt (knee length unless worn with opaque tights or leggings)
- Smart, longer length shorts permitted in warm weather (not sports shorts)
- Formal shoes / smart boots / smart, clean trainers
- Smart top / t-shirt / shirt etc. (midriff must be covered)
- Smart hoodie / sweatshirt / jumper etc. (no offensive logos)
- Smart indoor jacket / blazer (optional)
- Leggings are only acceptable if worn under a skirt or dress.

Boys

- Smart trousers / jeans
- Smart, longer length shorts permitted in warm weather (not sports shorts)
- Smart top / t-shirt / shirt etc.
- Smart hoodie / sweatshirt / jumper etc. (no offensive logos)
- Formal shoes / smart boots / smart, clean trainers
- Smart indoor jacket / blazer (optional).

Not permitted

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Ripped tops / torn jeans | • Outdoor coats worn inside |
| • Cropped tops | • UGG style boots / flip flops / sliders / Crocs |
| • Tracksuit bottoms / activewear (unless permission given for a specific activity) | • Shorts (unless given permission for warm weather or specific activity) |

Students are expected to be smartly and appropriately dressed at all times, across the whole school site. They should have a smart jacket available to wear for more formal occasions and when representing the school.

If students fail to comply, they will be given one warning and will thereafter lose certain Sixth Form privileges, such as 'designated frees' or permission to go off site at lunch time.

Head Students

The roles of the Head Students are:

- Work as a team to ensure that all Sixth Form members have the opportunity to develop the academic and personal skills needed to achieve their true potential
- Meet regularly with the Head of Sixth Form to ensure the smooth running of the Sixth Form
- Ensure that the Common Room and kitchen are kept tidy
- Liaise with staff and students in the Senior and Prep departments on a regular basis
- Promote the Sixth Form via assemblies and whole school events
- Attend Open Day, Bonding Trip, Sixth Form Open Evening and other relevant whole school events
- Run charity events to raise money for worthwhile causes
- To show visitors around school
- Organise the Careers Library / HE resources
- Organise Leavers' Assembly / Meal and 'Hoodies'
- Set a good example to their peers and other students in the school through their appearance and general conduct.

Selection procedure:

Year 12 students are invited to apply during the summer term for a Head Student position. Positions are allocated on the basis of a written letter of application, an interview with the Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form plus observation of the student's general conduct throughout the year and their proven ability to fulfil the duties listed above.

Head Students will begin their duties in the autumn term of Year 13.

Enrichment Activities and Extra-Curricular Activities

All students in Years 12 and 13 are encouraged and expected to take part in a range of enrichment activities. Some of these will be delivered in school via the dedicated 'Higher Education and Careers' slot on Wednesday afternoons, others students are expected to pursue on an individual basis during their own free time or study periods.

All such activities are recorded in the Individual Student Record every half term and will form a crucial part of each student's broader education. (They will also be an essential ingredient in the Personal Statement and a successful application to Higher Education).

Enrichment

In addition to following their three or four main academic subjects, students will be encouraged to develop their key skills through taking part in:

- **Life Skills** - (a series of presentations in school, delivered by outside speakers). Life Skills will include topics such as Study Skills, Safe Driving, and Financial Matters.
- **Independent Learning Project** - All students will be required to complete an Independent Learning project in the Spring term of Year 12. The students will need to think and work independently and to use a range of resources in order to complete their research. They will then present their findings (via a PowerPoint presentation) to an audience of professional adults from the local community in March. (Some students may decide to continue their research on a more formal basis and be entered for the **AQA 'Extended Project'** qualification in Year 13.
- **Current Affairs** - All students will be encouraged to take an active interest in current affairs and to develop an awareness of the world around them.
- **Work Experience** - Students are expected to secure one week's work placement during a designated week in Year 12. (This is particularly important if it relates to their chosen career and might therefore help with their UCAS application).
- **Volunteering** - All students should consider working for a few hours a week on a voluntary basis for their favourite local charity, or for school e.g. in the Prep Department or in leading / supporting extra-curricular activities.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities, including getting involved in the life of the school as a whole, all provide opportunities for Initiative and Leadership and are an invaluable part of your time in the Sixth Form. Some ideas might include:

- **Helping in the Prep Department or Senior School** – (obligatory for all Year 12 students)
- **Organising Fundraising and Charity Events**
- **Duke of Edinburgh Awards**
- **Organising the Talent Show**
- **Leading Assemblies**
- **Sport**
- **Music**
- **Helping with Clubs in Senior School** (e.g. Debating Society, Model UN)
- **Helping at Open Day / Open Evening / Sports Day etc** (obligatory)
- **Running stall at school fairs.**



...the options are endless!

Super-curricular Activities

Students should also be looking to extend and broaden their academic studies by taking part in 'super-curricular' activities outside the classroom. These might include wider reading, joining a nationally recognised society (e.g. Royal Society of Chemistry), completing a MOOC (Massive Open On-line Course) or listening to programmes on Radio 4 which relate to their particular area of interest e.g. 'Beyond Belief' (RS), 'All in the Mind' (Psychology), 'Law in Action' (Law) or 'The Life Scientific' (Sciences).

All such activities are vital for a successful application to a top university, apprenticeship programme or employment.



Sixth Form Assessment, Recording and Reporting Pattern

During the course of A level study, students are assessed continually through class work, homework assignments, past papers and external examinations.

As a summary of this continual assessment they will receive four progress reports per year, in the form of either a **Grade Card** or a **full Review**.

This pattern of assessment, recording and reporting will enable us to keep track of pupils' progress and to identify any problems as they arise.

There will also be regular meetings and informal discussions with tutors and the Head of Sixth Form to discuss how the pupils themselves perceive their own progress, to set targets and to deal with any concerns. Students record the outcomes of these meetings in their own '**Individual Student Record**'.

Students will also sit their ALIS baseline test at the beginning of Year 12, to update their predictions and set suggested targets – based on their performance in the ALIS test itself and taking into account their GCSE results.

Reporting Pattern 2026-2027

October: Grade Card 1

December: Grade Card 2

March: Grade Card 3 (Yr 12), Full Review (Yr 13)

July: Full Review (Yr 12)

Careers and Work Experience

Careers advice is given to students in four ways:

1. Through an ongoing programme of careers' guidance which is delivered during Form Periods and the weekly 'Higher Education and Careers' slot on Wednesday afternoons. Students are advised on general careers issues and are introduced to the UCAS system in Year 12. All students receive help and guidance with their Personal Statement and are taken through the UCAS Application process early in Year 13. As part of the programme, the whole of Year 12 also attend the Higher Education Convention at Manchester Central Convention Centre in the Spring term, alongside other relevant events throughout the year.
2. Through individual consultations with students, on both a formal and informal basis.
3. Through a series of talks by visiting speakers, including representatives from Higher Education, Apprenticeships, key professions and former Bridgewater students.
4. Through access to the leading careers and education guidance service, Morrisby; following a simple assessment process, Morrisby provides a personalised action plan and life long careers advice.
5. Students are encouraged to speak to their subject teachers, Mrs Hilton and, in particular, the Head of Careers for specific careers or job-related advice.

Work Experience

All Year 12 will undergo four days of career / degree focused work experience / super-curricular activities in June.

Students are also encouraged to organise at least one week's work experience during the summer holidays at the end of Year 12. Students are expected to arrange their own placements, though the school can help with these and often provide useful contacts. Reference to work experience can be a key element of the UCAS Personal Statement for university applications, particularly when applying to competitive universities and for highly competitive courses, for example Medicine, Dentistry and Computer Science.

Preparing for Higher Education / Careers 2026-27

Expected itinerary (subject to availability of speakers)

	Year 12	Year 13
Term 1	- Why Higher Education? - Attend Introduction to Higher Education Exhibition (Edge Hill)	- Finalise Personal Statements and University choices. - Apply via UCAS - Oxbridge / Medical UCAS deadline 15/10/26
	<i>October half-term</i>	<i>October half-term</i>
Term 1	- Safe Drive Stay Alive - Consider other options e.g. gap year, studying abroad, apprenticeships	- Deadline for UCAS applications to UCAS = 13/01/27 - Complete applications by the end of term
	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Christmas</i>
Term 2	Continue to research suitable courses and universities in line with ALIS results	- UCAS deadline = 13/01/27 - Attend interviews - Organise student finance - Prep for university interviews
	<i>February half-term</i>	<i>February half-term</i>
Term 2	- Mock examinations (AS) - Attend UCAS Higher Education Conference in Manchester	- Mock examinations - Consider choice of Firm and Insurance universities - Prep for university interviews
	<i>Easter</i>	<i>Easter</i>
Term 3	- Individual Careers Interviews - Research specific courses via UCAS website	Confirm Firm and Insurance choice (Insurance choice MUST be in line with or lower than 'realistic' predicted grades)
	<i>Whitsun</i>	<i>Whitsun</i>
Term 3	- Write first draft of Personal Statement and draw up shortlist of 5 universities - Register with UCAS - Attend Open Days throughout summer	Final examinations

Timetable of Events for Autumn Term 2026

Date	Activity	Action/Speakers
9th September	Term starts	All students and tutors
9 th September	Induction Programme begins	All Sixth Form students and tutors
9-11 th September	Complete 'Individual Student Record' with tutor	Year 12 students and tutors
18 th September	Sixth Form Team Building Day	All Sixth Form students, tutors and Mrs Hilton
25 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Year 13 students and the wider school community
1 st October	Year 12 Induction into Sixth Form (virtual)	Year 12 parents and students
6 th October	Sixth Form Open Evening	Parents and students
23 rd Oct – 1 st Nov	Half term	
7 th November	Whole School Open Day	All staff and Sixth Form students
11 th November	Y12 trip to Edge Hill for HE Exhibition	Year 12 students and tutors
13 th November	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening	Parents and students
TBC	Safe Drive. Stay Alive	Year 12 students
TBC	Senior School Talent Show preparation	Year 12 students
16 th December	Christmas Holiday begins	

Other key dates / events will be communicated throughout the year.

