

FAQ's

On Applicant Day you all filled out a form called 'What You Say'. Here you will find answers to all the questions that were asked on those forms.

Can I change my chosen subjects? Yes, you can – please email Miss Scholes on sscholes@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk if you would like to change your subject choices. Sometimes you need to try a subject out before you realise it's not right for you, so there is a cut off period in September and you will be informed about this deadline.

Are we allowed extreme haircuts or colours, and what are the rules around piercings? There aren't any specific rules on this – your overall appearance needs to be smart, but we do recognise individuality. As we are on a school site, our appearance does need to reflect this and be appropriate.

How much independent work will be set? It does depend, but the general idea is 1 hour of independent study for each hour in the classroom.

Do we get student discount? There is no student discount available. However, you may be able to register with Unidays via your school account.

Can we buy things with cash at school? We are a cashless school and sixth form, so you can only purchase food/drink using your Squid card, which will be issued when you start. We are currently investigating installing a card machine to our tills in the sixth form so students can pay by card.

If I don't have lessons, do I still have to come in? Yes, in the morning otherwise you miss out on key information. However, you can leave after your last lesson of the day, or choose to stay and study in Sixth Form.

How many study periods do I get per week? Your study programme is individual to you, and includes your lessons (5 hours per subject), an enrichment programme (1 hour a week in which you select activities that interest you) and some full days in which we focus on study skills, your future plans, key speakers and so on. You will also have 2 hours a week for your EPQ. Therefore, the number of study periods will depend if you are doing 3 or 4 subjects, but is roughly 7 hours a week. If you are falling behind in your subjects a formalised program of study periods will be put in place to help support you in achieving excellence in your subjects.

How intense is the workload? You will find the work is at a higher level than GCSE but as you get study periods, you can complete a lot of work in Sixth Form. You are supported in stepping up to the level of work and independence needed.

ETHOS OF EXCELLENCE

What can we wear? Please go to <http://www.george-spencer.com/sixth-form-dress-code/> for the dress code information. This information will also be in your welcome packs when you enrol.

Can you wear flared jeans? No – you are not allowed to wear any items made out of denim.

Can students do the Gold Duke of Edinburgh? Yes! We encourage you to get involved. This can be something you can do in the background with other enrichment opportunities in and out of school.

Why is it important that I attend form every day? Studying at Sixth Form is a big step up, and we support you with study skills so you have the 'toolkit' for success. You also focus on your future and work on UCAS/apprenticeship applications. It is a key part of the Sixth Form experience.

Is there anything that I would need to bring daily to Sixth Form? Yes, your planner and subject folders.

How big does your bag need to be? Have a day folder for each subject and a lever arch one at home to store completed units, therefore you are not bringing too much in each day.

Do we need to get our own subject books and folders? You will need to provide your own folders and stationery. Some subjects provide textbooks, others have online versions. It can be useful to buy revision guides.

What will my timetable look like? 5 hours of lessons per subject, registration 4 times a week, enrichment programme and EPQ 2 hours per week.

Is there a Sixth Form Football Team? Yes, if there is enough interest.

How many people are usually in one class? This can vary but the average is roughly 12.

Are the breaks the same as lower down the school? Yes.

Do we have the same inset days as lower down the school? Yes.

Do we have the same excellence days as lower down the school? Yes, Excellence Days do run in the Sixth Form as they provide useful time to focus on developing your skills e.g. revision techniques, experience university talks and visits, apprenticeship advice and practice interviews. We tend to have fewer but tailor them to what benefits you most at Sixth Form.

How does lunch time work in Sixth Form and how long does it last? First break is 30 minutes, Lunch break is 35 minutes – there are lots of places for you to go and relax. You can purchase food and drink in the Sixth Form Common Room, there is seating in there. There are also the picnic tables in the Sixth Form Quad. You can also come into the Resource Centre. Some students even go and find a quiet classroom to study in during their breaks. You are permitted to leave the school grounds, however please ensure you sign out and back in when you arrive back.

ETHOS OF EXCELLENCE

How many hours per week do we have to do for each subject? 5 hours per week.

Will the money that is on my Squid card now stay on it for Sixth Form? Yes, it will.

If we only have lessons in the morning, can we go home afterwards? Yes

How does the Sixth Form help to prepare me for life after Sixth Form? As you will make some big decisions about your future, we have guidance for different career paths, and help you to consider whether university or apprenticeships are the right route for you. Our Enrichment Programme is a great way for you to choose options to broaden your life skills and try new things. Finally, there are always lots of things to get involved with that will make you the best candidate for wherever your future takes you.

Can I accept work shifts in the school day? We ask that you **do not accept work shifts** in the school day, your studies must come first. This is so if you need help with your studies you are not restricted as to when to see your teachers. Appointments and driving lessons should also be scheduled so that they do not impact on your studies.