

NORTHGATE
SIXTH FORM IPSWICH
CENTRE



ADVANCED LEVEL PREPARATION COURSE

2020-2021

Preparation for Advanced Level Study Course

What is the purpose of the course?

This one-year course is designed to give a further chance to students who have not quite got the grades they require to progress straight from Year 11 to A Levels or other Level 3 courses.

Why is it different from other one-year courses?

Northgate's one-year course involves the study of a combination of subjects at GCSE, not early specialisation into one vocational area. The range of GCSEs on offer enables students to select subjects which fulfil their essential needs (perhaps retakes in Maths and/or English and/or Science). It also gives them the opportunity to study new subjects, some of which they may wish to go on to study at Advanced Level, such as Film Studies and Psychology.

What are the minimum qualifications required for the course?

Because we hope that for many students the course will lead on to study at Advanced Level we expect applicants to be capable of mainly achieving grades 4 and 5 or better by the end of Year 12. A good indication of this is to have at least five grade 3s at the end of Year 11, although where a student is clearly hard working and determined a slightly lower offer may be made.

Can I apply for A Levels and hold the Prep Course as a reserve?

Yes, although it is important that your application is realistic. If your school predict GCSE grades which would not get you on to the Advanced Level course of your choice you should apply directly to the one-year course. When results are published, those who applied for the Prep Course and did much better than predicted can still negotiate immediate access to the Advanced Level courses they are qualified to begin.

What optional subjects are on offer?

Students choose one option from each of four blocks. These options are shown opposite.

Optional Subjects

A	B	C	D
GCSE ICT	GCSE Maths	GCSE Film Studies	GCSE English
GCSE Maths	GCSE Science	GCSE English	GCSE Psychology
	GCSE Business		

What else does the Prep Course include?

All Prep students take part in a Core Programme which includes the Gateway Level 2 Certificate for Progression. This aims to develop organisational skills and incorporates careers education and vocational experience. It is equivalent to 1 GCSE (at grade 4). In addition all students will complete the Level 2 Higher Project Qualification.

There is also the opportunity to get involved in Community Service and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Who should I speak to if I have further questions?

Mr Watson is in charge of the Preparation For Advanced Level Study Course and will be happy to talk to students about any queries they have.

How do I make an application?

The Sixth Form Prospectus includes full details of the subject choices Prep students have. You will need to complete an application form, available on the website www.northgatesixthform.co.uk. Your application will be acknowledged and contact will be made with your current school for a reference, before a formal offer is made.

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