**Rushmoor & St Andrew’s
Sixth Form**

**New opportunities**

Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in the Rushmoor and St Andrew’s joint Sixth Form. Moving into Sixth Form provides new opportunities for your future. It is an exciting time with lots of choices to consider. Your studies will follow a different format and you will notice a difference in expectations from the teachers. Our pupils are our focus and our Sixth Form is designed to give you individual attention and support, as guiding you to achieve your maximum potential is our aim and reward. We offer a warm and respectful environment and the encouragement for you to develop as an individual.

Education throughout the world faces unprecedented challenges; economic, technological, social, and personal. We believe in providing an education based on broader conceptions of abilities, focusing on how to motivate students individually, promoting positive self-esteem, with the emphasis on developing the skills and aptitudes needed in adult life. We have a long history of nurturing the ‘whole person’ by providing an environment where we encourage our students to have high aspirations and then help them to cope with the inevitable pressures. Developing the individual involves a balance between teaching skills and genuine understanding of each student. We believe that cultural development is important; young people need to be helped to engage positively with cultural change and diversity in order to become valued members of society.

Our new dedicated Sixth Form building incorporates teaching rooms, the latest information technology, private study areas and you can relax with friends in your own common room, whilst making use of your own catering facilities.

Our teachers are passionate about sharing their knowledge with you through innovative and inspiring lessons. You will be encouraged to discover things for yourself during independent study time and ask questions to deepen your learning. These independent study skills will be particularly important for those who opt to study an ‘Extended Project’ qualification.

There is a professional dress code and the expectation that you take on more responsibility as we treat you as a young adult. We hope you will want to contribute to the management and steering of clubs and to become involved in roles across the school, perhaps as a School Council representative or a member of the sports committee. You will also act as a role model for younger pupils. Taking on additional responsibilities provides you with benefits and can be used for your CV. Of course, you will also have more freedom to leave the school site and manage your own time.

As well as our existing pupils we are pleased to welcome students from other local schools who are keen to learn in our small, friendly Sixth Form. We will help you settle in as quickly as possible, giving you the chance to make friends and enjoy studying. You will find our Sixth Form is a perfect environment in which to discover yourself as an individual, learn and progress.

We offer a range of Sixth Form bursaries and more information is available from the School Business Manager.

I M Daniel
**Principal**

**Aims and Ethos**

***Through our excellent pastoral care system we aim to help you develop your
 potential in academic areas by encouragement and understanding.***

**Encouraging Confidence and Enthusiasm**

We aim to enable students to acquire the knowledge, wisdom and self-discipline appropriate for life-long learning, employment and adult life. To achieve this aim we ensure that all students have the opportunity to develop their intellectual, physical and creative gifts, across a balanced curriculum.

We promote the personal development of students, encouraging lively and enquiring minds, respect for themselves and others and a high regard for truth. We encourage self-confidence, integrity, social responsibility and awareness in students. Our students respect their school surroundings and are encouraged to display active concern for the wider environment.

**High Standards**

Our aim is to provide an environment in which every student can achieve the highest standards in all aspects of life in preparation for the challenges of the future. The stability and security provided will be a major factor in helping achieve this.

**Developing the Individual**

We place a major emphasis on the individual, recognising that we are all different, and we value everyone in their own right. Each student has his or her own talents and abilities, and we aim to encourage each one to develop their own special strengths and to grow in confidence and self-esteem to find their role in the community. Being happy in the Sixth Form is essential.

We consider it important that the students are confident, caring, honest and responsible young adults, capable of making a positive contribution to the society in which they live and work. We welcome students of all religious denominations and we strongly uphold moral principles in regard to the way in which we behave towards each other. In practice, it means that we teach our students honesty, integrity, compassion and a true respect for all around them.

**Life in the Sixth Form**

The Sixth Form provides a series of opportunities for you to develop not only your academic and vocational attainments, but also your self-confidence and skills such as communication, teamwork and management of your own learning. You will have to take responsibility for your work, particularly with regard to its planning and completion over longer periods of time. The delivery and style of teaching will be different; your preparation required for lessons and the amount of reading you will be required to do, to gain the necessary depth and breadth of knowledge, will significantly increase.

With more lessons in each subject, there is more chance to develop a closer contact with teachers and receive more individual attention. You will have a small number of private study and assisted learning periods during each week and this time should be seen as a chance to make progress with work or other relevant activities.

The academic advantages of individual care and attention in small tutorial groups are clear. However, in addition to this, Sixth Formers gain from our flexible approach towards subject combinations. Our dedicated subject specialists will work with you to ensure that you achieve your aims. Their knowledge, teamed with accurate assessment, will ensure you are supported every step of the way.

**University or career**

We will provide you with information, advice and guidance when you need it, so that you are fully prepared for the decisions you have once you move on from the Sixth Form. We will support you with your university application or workplace applications. We will help to arrange work experience opportunities and mock interviews to assist you with applying for both university places and career interviews.

Careers education and guidance is an integral part of the Sixth Form programme with the aim of helping you to make informed, appropriate choices about your future. You will receive advice and assistance when making applications to university or college, and for apprenticeships and work experience. We will also arrange talks and presentations from industry representatives wherever possible.

**Pastoral care**

Both Rushmoor and St Andrew’s Schools have excellent reputations for providing excellent pastoral care to all our pupils and this will continue with our Sixth Formers. Moving into Sixth Form is a big step and we aim to make the transition as easy as possible by being here to guide you and listen to your needs.

You will be assigned to a tutor and a tutor group for the whole of your time in the Sixth Form. The tutor, supported by your Head of Sixth, is responsible for your academic guidance and pastoral care. Academic guidance will include aspects such as monitoring progress, offering support and discussing whether progression from Year 12 to Year 13 stages of a course is always the right move.

**Enrichment opportunities**

Successful people create a happy life by balancing a busy, challenging work life with a variety of other activities and interests. We aim to provide enrichment opportunities for our pupils to ensure they too are happy and become successful. There are enrichment activities to choose from throughout the year, for example, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme will continue throughout your time in the Sixth Form. It aims to develop young people through adventure, challenge, service, learning new skills and teamwork.

Six Formers can choose to be part of The Combined Cadet Force voluntary youth organisation, the aim of which is to provide an opportunity for students to exercise responsibility and leadership in a disciplined environment. Cadets have the opportunity to develop the qualities of self-reliance, resourcefulness, endurance, perseverance and a sense of service to the community. The acquisition of these personal attributes will remain of value throughout the cadets' lives and will be relevant in whatever career they pursue.

Whole school trips, such as the annual ski trip, will be available to Sixth Formers, as well as subject specific visits. There are also extra-curricular clubs and sporting opportunities available. Our aim is to work in partnership with our Sixth Form students to allow them to help decide what enrichment opportunities they want. In a small Sixth Form environment there is the potential for you to become very involved in shaping your own areas and that of the wider school community.

**Extended Project**

We offer the AQA Extended Project which provides you with the opportunity to follow your own personal interest and demonstrate how you work independently. This qualification counts towards your UCAS points. The qualification can be a ‘practical’ project (i.e. it doesn’t have to be purely a written one). For example if you are good with a camera then you could choose to do your extended project on photography. If you have a real interest in geography, you may wish to extend your knowledge in this area and choose a geographical topic for your extended project work.

**Leading by example**

We aim to encourage confidence, responsibility and self-reliance, with Sixth Form students playing a unique and valuable role as school leaders, in roles such as Head Boy and Head Girl. The Sixth Form Council will meet regularly to discuss issues relevant to the Sixth Form and the wider school community. Council members will represent fellow students, and will become fully involved with student life and give valuable feedback on school-wide issues. The Sixth Form Council will help to organise whole-school events such as the Macmillan coffee morning, as well as organising functions such as the Sixth Form dinner dance. All these responsibilities and organisational skills will form part of your CV and help prepare you for university life and the work world beyond.

Sixth-formers can also help the younger pupils by being a mentor, discussing particular subject concerns, study and organisation skills, and helping younger pupils plan their next steps; supporting junior school pupils by offering to help with one-to-one reading. Working alongside younger pupils gives you the chance to develop skills which universities and employers are looking for.

**The Sixth Form Centre**
The Sixth Form Centre is located on Shakespeare Road in Bedford, opposite the main Rushmoor School site. It has been built specifically for Sixth Form use and provides a modern and well equipped space in which to learn. There is a pedestrian zebra crossing that can be used to move between the two sites.

The Sixth Form provides classrooms, study areas, a common room and catering facilities for the use of Sixth Form students only. The study areas are designed for you to work quietly in small groups or independently whilst not in actual lessons. Wifi and up-to-date technology is available throughout the building. There is also study material in the Sixth Form learning resource area, as well as the main learning resource centre in the main school site.

Students are expected to use study areas for work and make good use of the time and facilities available between each lesson. Private study is a major difference in the Sixth Form and it is vitally important that we assist our students to use this time wisely by giving guidance and advice.

Dependent on the timetable, students will have some periods free for private study each day. By using the study areas and tools available in the Sixth Form Centre students will stay on top of their workloads. As well as the teaching staff, the Learning Resource Centre Manager will be available to assist students with research and study tasks.

Each student will meet with their personal tutor on a regular basis to provide a structured way for students to discuss matters in-depth, thus ensuring we are meeting each individual’s needs. Tutorial meetings are formally registered so that each student can be monitored closely to ensure progress, with attendance and punctuality at tutorial meetings expected.

The common room is an area where students can relax and socialise on a more informal basis and where they can enjoy light refreshments.

Some subjects that require specialist resources, such as laboratories, design technology equipment, gym or drama suite will be taught in the main Rushmoor School building, which provides excellent facilities.

**Reformed A-Level and AS Level Courses**

In February 2013, The Secretary of State for Education initiated the reform of A-Levels with a view to making the qualifications more ambitious; better preparing young people for employment and further study and giving everyone greater confidence in the integrity and reliability of the qualifications system. The Government has stated that the purpose of taking A-Levels is primarily for entry to university and changes are needed so students are better prepared to start their university course.

All new A-Levels will be linear, with assessment by examination taking place at the end of two years of study. There will be minimal coursework content and the AS Level qualifications taken at the end of the first year of the Sixth Form studies will not count towards the final grade of an A-Level. The new AS Levels will be stand-alone qualifications in their own right. There will be one examination session in the summer each year.

**Entry Requirements**

You are encouraged to move on to the Sixth Form provided that you are capable of benefiting from the courses which are available and that you have a positive approach to your work. The level of course you could progress onto will depend on the results you achieve for your GCSEs. We suggest that all pupils select 4 A Level subjects to follow throughout the first year. You will then make the decision to continue with three of the subjects into the second year. At the end of year one for subjects where the course followed for A Level has the same content as that of the AS Level, you will be entered into the AS examination in June of year one for the subject you decide to drop.

Minimum entry requirements to our Sixth Form are either 5 A\*-C at GCSE or equivalent, including Maths and English. Or 7 A\*-C at GCSE or equivalent, including Maths **or** English. If students did not attain grade C or above in Maths or English, Government rules now require them to continue their studies at GCSE level and this will be offered to our A Level students where applicable.

Some A Level subjects will have additional specific requirements and where these apply, they are detailed on the subject information supplied with this prospectus. Sixth Form work is not suited to everybody; some students who do not quite make the entry requirements may be asked to enter a probationary period, with a small number of students asked to embark on a course of 3 AS Levels based on their GCSE results

We will hold a Sixth Form evening each year where the curriculum and option choice process will be explained. Dates are included in the accompanying information sheets or can be found on our school websites. Provisional option choices should be submitted no later than February half-term. Once we receive all option choices we will arrange timetable option blocks. This will be done in such a way as to accommodate as many requested combinations as possible. However, the school cannot guarantee that all combinations will be available. Any changes to option choices after this date will only be possible if they can be accommodated within the option block structure. All subjects are offered on the basis that sufficient numbers of students will opt to take them (a minimum of 5 students per subject).

**Contact Information**

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| **For information on Sixth Form admissions, please contact:** |
| Mrs P Abruzzese | Admissions Secretary & Principal’s PA - Rushmoor | Email: pabruzzese@rushmoorschool.co.uk |
| Mrs S Heaney | Admissions Secretary & Head of School’s PA – St Andrew’s | Email:  |
| **For information on Sixth Form bursaries, please contact:** |
| Mrs S Diffey | School Business Manager | Email: sdiffey@rushmoorschool.co.uk |

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| **crest red**Rushmoor School58-60 Shakespeare RoadBedfordBedfordshireMK40 2DLTelephone: 01234 352031Email: office@rushmoorschool.co.uk | **St Andrews Logo_flag[1]**St Andrew’s School78 Kimbolton RoadBedfordBedfordshireMK40 2PATelephone: 01234 267272Email: standrews@standrewsschoolbedford.com |