

PROSPECTUS









WHY CHOOSE WOOLWICH POLY?



POLYMAT OPERATES TWO VERY SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS IN THAMESMEAD – WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Welcome to the Poly Sixth Form prospectus. Our Vision is "Success for Everyone" and this means that we are highly inclusive and place the needs of our students and their community at the heart of our work. All that we do is driven by two values – Care and Unity. By Care, we mean that we show a level of consideration and commitment to eachand-every student that we believe is unmatched. This means that each student is seen as an individual and treated with the care that they need to achieve great things. Unity means that we always work together – with our schools, with our community and with our wider partners – to ensure that we are delivering the best strategies to create success for everyone.

The Poly Sixth Form has a track record of impressive exam results and impressive levels of pastoral care and we ensure that the environment for learning is always one which is safe, positive and enjoyable. We work very hard to create strong relationships within our organisation and we welcome strong parental involvement. We know that our students will only achieve their best if they are safe and happy.

I do hope that you find this prospectus exciting and that it persuades you to come and visit us to see what makes us special. I am confident that you will not be disappointed!



WELCOME FROM THE CEO OF POLYMAT MR T PLUMB

BECOMING PART OF THE POLY FAMILY

We are a very special Sixth Form that aims to serve the community, improve opportunity for our community and also reflect our community through our diverse and ambitious curriculum, as well as through our diverse staff and student bodies. We hope that you, too, feel that specialness when you visit us; a specialness that encompasses care and compassion, a genuine delight in young adults' contributions and a drive towards "success for everyone".

We have a long and proud history, having educated local students for over 100 years: we have been a technical school; reported as the most improved boy's school in the country; a community school and now an academy; a single school and now the founding 'brother' to our sister school, Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls. We have year-on-year exam results at A Level and BTEC that make us, our students and their families rightly proud. Yet our relentless focus is upon the futures of our current students as we counsel them through their educational careers to be the most successful version of themselves. This is evident in year-on-year increases in students accessing courses at Oxbridge, in medicine and at prestigious Russell Group universities, as well as high-end apprenticeships in finance.

To support your son or daughter through their Form education, we Sixth have firm foundations in exemplary pastoral care and expert teaching. Safeguarding our students is absolute priority that informs the the behaviours we demonstrate in the staff and student bodies. Our pastoral care and development personal programme are student-centred, empathetic to individual adults' needs, recognising young their challenges and assisting with overcoming them assisting our students in becoming minded, independently self-sustaining ambassadors of our Sixth Form motto, "tomorrow's leaders".

We care; we listen; we understand context and we actively build meaningful relationships with every student, something that I have no doubt our current sixth formers would report should you wish to visit our open evening.

Our teaching is equally student-centred, offering support and challenge as required to ensure that all our students achieve the grades they need to pursue the courses and careers they aspire to with confidence. Our ambitious and academically rich curriculum offer is designed to stimulate a culture of curiosity and questioning so that all our students leave us as well-rounded. caring members of the community, ready to navigate the adult world safely, critically and knowledgeably, whether that be the world of work or higher education.

We also recognise that student development is enhanced through pleasure, and we therefore cater for their personal interests with an extensive enrichment programme, including wellbeing days, year 12 work experience, curriculum and university trips and a variety of clubs. There are always opportunities for your son or daughter to have their voice heard, whether through the Student Council or more informal feedback to tutors, teachers and head of year or our dedicated student voice coordinator.

I am confident that you will have made the right choice for your son or daughter by privileging us with their care, education and personal development.

WELCOME TO WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SIXTH FORM AND THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST IN US.

WELCOME TO THE POLY FAMILY

We are delighted that you are considering our Sixth Form at Woolwich Poly. We are happy to announce our plans for a brand-new building in 2024, with the plan to expand our intake for the local community that we serve, as the only local Outstanding 6th Form in Thamesmead. We look forward to the energy and enthusiasm you will add to our already thriving community.

Everyone is new to Year 12; whether joining the Sixth Form from Woolwich Poly Boys, Girls, or from another school, we offer you a daily invitation to join in, work hard and enjoy a fast-paced, yet supportive, environment designed for developing "Tomorrow's Leaders" (Our Sixth Form motto). Once you step through those doors, it is a brand-new and exciting start for all.

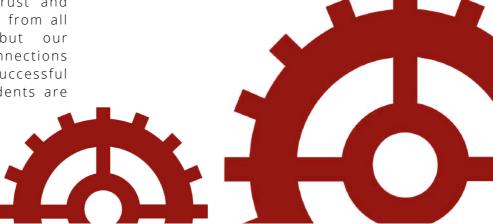
As a Woolwich Poly Sixth Former, you will be encouraged to hone and develop your talents and discover new interests, as well as doing the things you already know you love. We can provide an atmosphere in which you can do this, and which fosters a developing sense of autonomy and independence, both academically and socially. Our approach is a holistic one, driven by the fostering of strong studentteacher relationships, rooted in trust and respect. We expect professionalism from all members of our community, but our uniqueness is also the lasting connections we share with our ever-growing, successful student body and alumni. Our students are at the centre of all that we do.

WELCOME FROM MS H ELLIOTT HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



Whilst working among like-minded people, you can enjoy lessons specifically designed for students who share a positive attitude like your own, with teachers who will support you to fulfil your academic potential. Beyond the classroom we hope that you will take on one of the many opportunities of formal and informal leadership roles as well as enrichment and trips opportunities. When the time comes to look at life beyond the Poly, our highly experienced team is on hand to offer advice about every stage of the university and apprenticeship application process as well as other career opportunities.

Woolwich Poly Sixth Form is a community built on care and unity, led by a team who have worked at the school for well over a decade. At Woolwich Poly, we do care and this will be shown in the conversations you share with our staff and students at our Open Evening.



THE CURRICULUM

YOUR CHOICES

Woolwich Poly Sixth Form students follow a two-year programme of study, choosing from a broad range of 27 Alevel or Vocational qualifications. All the courses that we offer are graded as 'Level 3' qualifications by Ofqual, which means they are all of equal difficulty and accepted equally by the majority of universities, apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

Students have the choice of selecting a combination of three A-levels, which tend to be more heavily exam-based in their assessment, and/or vocational qualifications such as BTEC or Technical level qualifications, which have a greater proportion of coursework as part of their assessment. Some students may wish to deliberately select a greater number of 'facilitating subjects' as their choices; these are A-level courses that have been specifically recommended by some top universities and include English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History and Geography.

All of our subjects are delivered by our expert specialist teachers, over seven 50-minute periods a week. Our core aim is to support and secure aspirational levels of achievement for every student. We are dedicated to offering an environment that is conducive to the very best learning and attainment. Our goal is to prepare students for the next stage of their learning, be that university, apprenticeships, or employment.

Students are guided through their choices at their interview and will follow a personalised programme which best suits their ability and ambitions. Acceptance onto the chosen courses will be dependent on meeting the entry requirements. The standard entry requirements for our Sixth Form are a minimum of 5 GCSEs, grade 9 to 5, with at least a grade 5 in English and Maths. Please note that many A level subjects will require a grade 6 or above in English and/or Maths. Please check the individual subject requirements carefully.

For the full, detailed curriculum offer visit our website: www.polysixthform.co.uk



COURSE GUIDANCE GRADES 2023-2024

All students need to have at least 5 GCSEs at 9 to 5 including English AND Maths at Grade 5.

These show typical minimal grades for students studying these courses. Entry requirements for subjects with an asterisk (*) are subject to change. During your enrolment interview you will receive one to one support to ensure you are on the best combination of courses. If there are any extenuating circumstances consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis.

SUBJECT		ENGLISH	MATHS	SUBJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (MINIMUM)
Applied Science	BTEC	5	5	GCSE Science Grades 5/5
Art & Design	A-Level	5	5	GCSE Art Grade 6
Biology*	A-Level	6	6	GCSE Biology Grade 6 or Additional Science Grad 6 in Biology Exam Unit
Business	A-Level	6	6	GCSE Business Grade 6 will be an advantage
Business (Single & Double)	BTEC	6	6	GCSE Business Grade 5 will be an advantage
Chemistry*	A-Level	6	6	GCSE Chemistry Grade 6 or Additional Science Grade 6 in Chemistry Exam Unit
Computer Science	A-Level	6	6	GCSE Computing Grade 6
Drama	A-Level	6	6	GCSE Drama Grade 5 will be an advantage
Economics	A-Level	6	6	
English Language	A-Level	6	5	GCSE English Language Grade 6
English Literature	A-Level	6	5	GCSE English Language and English Literature Grades 6/6
Extended Project	AS-Level	6	5	
Film Studies	A-Level	5	5	
Forensic and Criminal Investigation	BTEC	5	5	GCSE Science Grades 5/5; Note - Must be combined with Applied Science
Further Maths	A-Level	5	8	GCSE Maths Grade 8; Note - Must be combined with Maths
Geography	A-Level	6	6	GCSE Geography Grade 6
Government and Politics	A-Level	6	5	GCSE Humanities (any) Grade 6 is required
History	A-Level	6	5	GCSE History Grade 6
ІСТ	CTEC	5	5	GCSE or ICT Qualification Grade 6 will be an advantage
Marketing	BTEC	5	5	
Mathematics	A-Level	5	7	GCSE Maths Grade 7
Photography	A-Level	5	5	GCSE Art Grade 5 will be an advantage
Physics*	A-Level	6	6	GCSE Physics Grade 6 or Additional Science Grade 6 in Physics Exam Unit
Product Design (DT)	A-Level	6	6	GCSE DT Grade 6
Psychology	A-Level	6	6	GCSE Science Grades 6/6
Sociology	A-Level	6	5	GCSE Humanities (any) Grade 6 is required
Sport and Physical Activity	CTEC	5	5	

APPLICATION FOR SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form Applications open – Thursday 9th November 2023 at 9am Sixth Form Applications close – Friday 19th January 2024 at 4pm

Interviews will be scheduled for February and March 2024.

Applications received after the deadline may not receive an invitation for interview or an offer.



"Teachers pay close attention to individual students' progress. Teachers' subject knowledge is a strength across all subjects. Students make outstanding progress."

OFSTED, 2019

'TOMORROW'S LEADERS' MEET OUR HEAD BOYS AND GIRLS

Samad - Head Boy



It is astonishing to me that my seven-year journey at Woolwich Poly is in its final stages...and what a journey it has been. Woolwich Poly is the place where I have met some of the most brilliant and diverse people, many of which I can proudly call my family. Poly isn't just a social hub, but also a sanctuary for higher learning. I can wholeheartedly say that I have been challenged and motivated by the teachers-people who have played a major role in shaping who I am as a person. Woolwich Poly teachers are some of the most ambitious teachers I have ever seen: always willing to go the extra mile to provide whatever support we may need, whether that is academic or pastoral. But what truly distinguishes Poly from other schools is its outstanding commitment to providing students with invaluable work experience and programs outside of the classroom. The opportunities provided by the school's work with Career Ready, the Access Project, and Berenburg have been invaluable. These programs not only offer internships but also provide mentors in our chosen career fields. These opportunities open doors for us and help bridge the gap between education and our professional life.



Helen - Head Girl

I may not have enrolled in Year 7 or been a part of Woolwich Poly as long as some of my peers, however I feel like it's been forever since I joined our community. My Sixth Form journey has been anything but easy and there have been countless obstacles, yet the very hardworking and passionate staff have never let me fall behind. Their support is endless, contributing greatly to my academic success at this school. I have seen first-hand that this is more than just an institute of higher learning but an invaluable opportunity to develop social and life skills, aiding you in a smooth transition to post-18, making sure you're ready for life beyond the Poly. On my first day, I didn't know anyone and was terrified by the prospect of having to start from scratch, also knowing I'd be a minority as a girl in an all-boys school. Today, just one year later, standing beside me are lifelong friends that I am proud to call family, a team of dedicated teachers pushing me to my limits and enough memories to last a lifetime.



Joshua - H<mark>ead Boy</mark>

Woolwich Poly is a place where you are genuinely cared for and are given the freedom to become the best version of yourself. As a student that has been at the Poly since year 7, I can honestly say that there is nothing this school hasn't done to help me accomplish my goals and reach my success. The teaching team here genuinely care about you and your success. This support and care cannot be found anywhere else: it's irreplaceable. My school career, unlike others, has definitely had its ups and downs, but all along my journey, I have had the right support, just when I needed it. My experience was so positive that I also decided to remain here for Sixth Form. The Poly will care about you just like it has cared about me. This care, this community, is unique and I will say again: it simply cannot be found elsewhere.



Charline - Head Girl

It's safe to say I never thought my experience at Woolwich Poly would be as inspirational as it has been. Coming from an all-girls secondary school to a co-ed Sixth Form was one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make. It would be dishonest to say it was easy but the community here at Poly was so inclusive from day one, I felt an immediate sense of belonging. Social life aside, the education here is unmatched. A-levels are by far the hardest we have ever been tested academically but the support system in place here ensures you never feel alone in any of your struggles. From the Sixth Form team to the reception staff, teachers are here for you. All of this has built me up to the young woman I always hoped I would become; this wouldn't have been possible without Woolwich Poly. I will forever be thankful for how this school has introduced me into the real world through an array of opportunities, from programs and events to mentorships. Poly has opened so many doors for me that I can honestly say I wouldn't have been opened anywhere else.

If great education, outstanding support, and a loving community is what you want, Poly is the place.

SAFE AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

We have been working with The Safe School Ambassadors® Programme, originally delivered by Imago, which harnesses the power of students to prevent and stop bullying and mistreatment as well as nurture mental health.

The Safe Ambassadors received two full days of training with a trained professional. They looked at various factors that affect well-being and mental health and ways of helping their peers.

Our Ambassadors are always supported by a member of staff and are aware that they must share any important information that fellow pupils may share with them.

This programme creates a safe space for all students, particularly those in the lower years, who maybe struggling with home or school. We open a safe space, in the CLS, on a Tuesday's lunch which gives our students the opportunity to come along and talk to our Safe Ambassadors. Our Safe Ambassadors also take part in the lower school assembly to make themselves known to the lower school.

Our ambassadors work very hard to make sure that every student in the school knows they have a place they belong in our school community.

Students can report any incidents or concerns anonymously to: safe6th@woolwichpolyboys.co.uk.

Students also have the opportunity to join the LGBTQ+ society and there are trusted members of staff that are trained to support students who identify as LGBTQ+. Counselling is also available through our designated 6th form counsellor.

TRANSITION: TAKING YOUR SIXTH FORM STEP



The academic leap from GCSEs to A-Levels can be challenging for students. In order to ensure a smooth transition from Year 11 into Year 12, we offer a number of opportunities to assist with this step.

All applicants will be interviewed for our oversubscribed Sixth Form. Appropriate courses and career aspirations are discussed during the interviews with experienced staff. During the summer term, all students who have been accepted into our Sixth Form will be expected to participate in our popular Springboard Transition School.

This is where we begin our Level 3 teaching over a one-week period towards the end of the summer term. All of this ensures that students make informed choices when selecting their Level 3 courses.

We also have an exciting induction programme at the start of the year which includes visits from both our partnership universities, Newcastle and Exeter, speakers from multiple professional backgrounds, and a team-building day to allow students to get to know each other as well as their form tutors.

Stepping up from Year 12 to Year 13 is also very important. We offer a whole week of "Beyond the Poly" activities, which is dedicated to further developing students' work, life and study skills, as well as preparing students for the UCAS application process.

For further advice on choosing your subjects in Sixth Form please visit our website www.polysixthform.co.uk

PASTORAL CARE

DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

We have been recognised through Ofsted and other outside agencies as having an outstanding pastoral system. We believe that every student matters and that every conversation is important. High quality relationships and high-quality interactions with students are the hallmark of our work at the Poly.

Our highly experienced Sixth Form Heads of Year and tutor team take the students through their two years of Post 16 education, delivering a one-to-one mentoring programme to support academic studies, providing guidance for a successful future and enhancing the family ethos of our Sixth Form.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

One of the many benefits of studying at the Poly is the huge network of community contacts and extra-curricular activities. We want our students to be leaders in the community. This means students need to be confident and as 'world aware' as possible. Our extra-curricular programme covers a myriad of activities, including sports, student ambassadors, as well as university visits and guest speakers from the academic and business worlds. We also offer enrichment trips every half term to broaden the experiences of our students.

2020 we added the Career Ready In programme to our offering at Woolwich Poly Sixth form. Career Ready is a complete 360degree opportunity in preparation for the world of work, including one-to-one skills masterclasses, mentoring, and experiences of work. Each individual career ready plan is mapped to specific learning outcomes, enabling our young people to develop the skills, confidence, and aspirations needed for future career success.

This year we have also begun working with The Safe School Ambassadors® Program (SSA) which harnesses the power of students to prevent and stop bullying and mistreatment as well as nurture mental health.



"Leadership and management in the sixth form are outstanding with real ambition and care for all students."

OFSTED, 2019

BEYOND THE POLY: PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Our aspiration for our students is to attend an outstanding university or secure an apprenticeship with a prestigious firm. This aspiration has led a number of our alumni into successful careers in multiple vocations, many of whom return to speak in assemblies of their journeys beyond the Poly. For the last five years, 30% of our students, on average, have attended a Russell Group university to study such courses as Medicine, Chemical Engineering, Mathematics and statistical Science, Theoretical Physics, Law and English Literature to name but a few. We have an extended school support system for admission tests and interviews for Oxbridge and other top universities. This also includes a free tuition package for the UCAT that takes place between the summer of Year 12 and Year 13, as well as the BMAT.



SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

Our purpose:

The core purpose of the Scholars Programme at KS5 is to nurture potential in our academically gifted students. We want to enable our chosen scholars to advance and embrace their talents in the company of teachers, students and invited guests, who share their passion and ambition. We also seek to fully prepare these students for pathways towards the most challenging and rewarding courses at the top universities and most sought-after apprenticeships.

Our aims:

- Support and nurture students with exceptional academic gifts
- Accelerate the pace of learning for our gifted students
- Foster extremely high expectations
- Promote independence in thinking and learning
- Add further breadth, depth, complexity and enrichment through our super curriculum
- Ensure that students are confident and fully prepared for early-entry university applications and interviews
- Our links and programmes:

Etonx: courses go beyond the curriculum – Etonx helps students gain the skills they need to achieve their goals. From critical thinking to LNAT preparation, this online platform is free to all students on the scholarship programme.

Cambridge Outreach: this link is used to facilitate personal statement support, early entry submissions and entrance exam preparation.

Wycombe Abbey Outreach: A world leader in girls' boarding education and a school that has outstanding results. This outreach link supports our prospective medical students and ensures that each student has one-to-one interview preparation and entrance exam support.



THE ACCESS PROJECT

Woolwich Polytechnic began working with The Access Project in 2018. The Access Project is a charity that combines tuition and in-school mentoring to support gifted students from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve the highest possible grades and compete – successfully – for a place on some of the most competitive university courses in the country.

Students selected to join The Access Project's 4 year programme from year 10 onwards are paired with a volunteer tutor from a wide range of professions to receive free 1:1 subject tuition for an hour a week throughout the year. In addition, Access Project students benefit from a dedicated member of The Access Project team, who works at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys two days a week to offer expert advice on A-Level choices, university applications and academic development. Access Project students attend regular workshops arranged around their timetable and enjoy visits from speakers and outings to top universities. In addition, all Access Project students are given exclusive access to work experience and supercurricular opportunities, as well as a free subscription to Uplearn and AlTutor.Students not chosen to be part of the Access Project's programme can still benefit from support with applications, admissions tests and interviews through The Access Project's Medicine and Oxbridge societies.

Across all the 35 schools currently working with the Access Project, students on the programme are more than twice as likely to end up at a top university than those of similar ability who were not on the programme. In a 2022 survey of Access Project students, almost all participants felt that the initiative has helped them become more confident (97%), more independent (98%) and more positive about their future (95%).

For the students at Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys, those enrolled in the Access Project typically apply to and receive offers from at least one top university and eight out of ten students will meet the grades needed to secure a place at one of these selective institutions.

BEYOND THE POLY: APPRENTICESHIPS

With the growing interest and increased numbers of opportunities in the apprenticeship ecosystem, we believe that this is alternative to university is becoming a more and more viable option for our young people.

We provide tailored career guidance with bespoke workshops and support for each individual student covering how to apply for jobs, interview skills and real-world financial literacy.

We support our young people with regular webinars and bulletin emails with new opportunities and firms recruiting for the roles that they are interested in.

Partnering with several different mentoring schemes has allowed our nonuniversity students to flourish and secure some of the best apprenticeships on offer. We have successfully helped secure roles for our young people on higher and degree apprenticeships at firms including KPMG, JP Morgan, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Barclays, OFCOM, Bloomberg, Kepler interactive & BCS. The roles that our young people have undertaken cover project management, IT and software development, business administration, engineering to name but a few.

As more and more firms see the benefits of hiring an apprentice, Poly is uniquely placed to support those looking for a path, outside of university, to secure the next step on the journey they take to their chosen career.









THE DRESS CODE: DRESS FOR SUCCESS

There is an old but true adage that says, 'You dress not for the job you have today, but for the job you want tomorrow.' Our dress code is smart business attire for all students. This reflects our aspirations for our students and the success that they have already achieved and for the standing our students have in our learning community. Their status as ambassadors and role models for all students at The Poly is crucial for the continuing success that our Sixth Form has had, but it is also indicative of the success that our students will have in the future.



CULTURE CLASH EVENT 2023

CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY OF OUR SIXTH FORM WITH PRIDE













































































A LEVEL RESULTS 2023

It is with tremendous pride that Woolwich Polytechnic Sixth Form, rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, celebrates the success of the Class of 2023.

47% of our students received A* - B grades, with a significant number continuing their academic pathways at Russell Group universities, including Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Warwick amongst others.

Head of School, Mr Tom Lawrence states, "Our class of 2023 have done themselves proud and nearly all have achieved their first-place offers or high-end apprenticeships, securing an average grade that matches 2019 and 2022. We have many students again going to illustrious Russell Group universities. The results day itself has been a great day of rightful celebration for staff and students. All these enormous achievements have been made against a backdrop of significantly tougher marking, particularly at the top end."

This sentiment is shared by Mr Tim Plumb, CEO of PolyMAT, "After such hard work through challenging times, it was fantastic to see so many students with happy faces, being rewarded with progression to university and apprenticeships. This is why we all work so hard, to change lives and ensure 'Success for Everyone' that will last for many years to come."

Ms Hannah Elliott, Head of Sixth Form, comments: "I am so proud of all our students here at Woolwich Poly. Each of them has shown resilience and determination in the face of adversity. Year on year, our results echo our school ethos of 'Tomorrow's Leaders' demonstrating the dedication and commitment of the students themselves, as well as our hardworking staff and supportive wider community. We look forward to seeing the future successes of our students as our Sixth Form expands next year to accommodate Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls."

- Abubakar Engineering at Cambridge (A*A*A*A)
- Sam Maths at Bath (A*A*AA)
- Dario Engineering at Edinburgh (A*A*AA)
- Mercy Architecture at Leeds (A*AB)
- Yedidia Medicine at Plymouth (ABC)
- Calista Medicine at Southampton (BBB)
- Andrei Mechanical Engineering at Nottingham (ABB)
- Pharell Computer Science at Warwick (AAA)
- Prapti Global Sustainable Development at Warwick (A*AB)
- Callum English and Drama at Queen Mary's (A*A*B)
- Neha English Literature at Kings (AAB)

COME AND VISIT US







CONTACT US



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