

Larkmead Sixth Form FAQs

How many subjects can I study/should I study?

Most students study 3 A Levels although some chose to study 4 subjects. You will make these choices as part of your personalised induction into Larkmead Sixth Form.

What grades do I need to join Larkmead Sixth Form?

Entry criteria at Larkmead are 5 or more GCSE's at grades 9-4, together with positive records of attendance, engagement and behaviour. Some A Level subjects have specific criteria, for example in maths and Science where you will be expected to have at least a strong grade 5 or 6. Each student is considered on an individual basis.

Can I study subjects outside of Larkmead?

Our options grid is set up to so that you can pursue your subject choices at Larkmead and also study in our partner schools to help you access your preferred combination of subjects.

Do I have to have studied a subject at GCSE to take it as an A Level?

Larkmead Sixth Form offers a wide range of A Levels, including those familiar at GCSE and new opportunities. You do not have to have studied a subject at GCSE to be able to study it at A Level, although if you aimed to study either music or a modern foreign language you would need to demonstrate some degree of proficiency when applying.

Do I have to study GCSE English and maths if I do not get a grade 5 in Year 11?

The regulations mean if you don't achieve a grade 4 in either English or maths in Year 11 then you have to study the subject at GCSE until you gain a grade 4. Students who don't gain a grade 5 are advised to study the GCSE, although this is not compulsory.

Can I join Larkmead Sixth Form if I don't live in Abingdon or go to school in Abingdon?

Yes. Every year we welcome students to Larkmead from beyond the Abingdon area and surrounding villages, attracted by the strengths and values of Larkmead Sixth Form, our comprehensive entry criteria and the rich range of extra opportunities. We are also delighted to welcome around 10 European students each year, with everyone playing a full part in our sociable, friendly and supportive Sixth Form.

What opportunities are there beyond academic study?

At Larkmead Sixth Form you will enjoy a wide range of extra opportunities. These include Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, the Extended Project Qualification, educational trips and visits as well as work experience or volunteering placements.

Sixth Form students benefit from the OX14 Partnership, training as peer mental health support leads and student coaches as well as collaborating with students from Abingdon School, St Helen's & St Katherine's and Radley College. The Mock United Nations and Vale Academy Trust Parliament help you to develop as campaigners.

You can develop leadership through the Senior Team, House system and supporting or school clubs. Larkmead Sixth Form is very sociable, with a well-equipped Common Room, sports fixtures, Sixth Form Panto and social events such as Balls twice a year.

Will I still have a tutor and access to pastoral care?

At Larkmead Sixth Form you are valued and nurtured as an individual. Pastoral care and attention are a key part of that experience. All students have a personal tutor who is responsible for your personal development and welfare, providing support, encouragement and guidance. Our highly experienced Head of Sixth Form oversees your progress and success to help you make the most of life at Larkmead. Other support networks such as the school nurse are also available.

If I have extra time or other access arrangements for my GCSE exams, will I still get these in the sixth form?

Sixth Form students continue to access our Learning Support Department for support on transition and over their two years. If you had access arrangements in the past it is most likely that these will continue, supported by our exams officers and SENCo.

What do students typically do after A Levels?

Our university preparation programme and award-winning careers service support you in achieving the next stage of your ambitions. Larkmead students progress into higher education or higher-level apprenticeships, further education or employment.

What support can I access to help me prepare for Oxbridge university applications?

You will access individualised support from our experienced team in applying for all universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Active links with our partner college at Oxford University, our UCAS fair and university visits support you in your ambitions, nurturing confidence and providing practical advice. This programme is supported by the OX14 Partnership, with specialist masterclasses including medicine, law and the sciences, as well as sessions on university interviews and Oxbridge applications.

What support is there if I plan to take a different route from university?

Larkmead careers service provides fantastic levels of support as you prepare for your future. Work experience or volunteering placements will help you further develop your skills and confidence. You can attend a number of career events to support your progression to apprenticeship or other employment, with specialist, individualised guidance from our Careers Coordinator. You can even become one of our Careers Champions, developing your skills and experiences while supporting other students.

