



Tettenhall College
Pre-A Level Development Year
Course Guide





Tettenhall College
ENGLAND

The Pre-A Level Development Year

The Tettenhall College Pre-A Level is designed as an introduction to the UK further education system. With a duration of one academic year, it is designed mainly for international pupils who may be too young or not yet ready to commence A Level studies. Most students will be 15 or 16 years of age when they begin. Students experience a wide range of subjects which prepares them to study and succeed at A Level. Once A Levels have been completed, most students will move on to university, either here in the UK, in Europe, the USA, or elsewhere in the world.

The Pre-A Level offers students the opportunity to improve their English language skills, prior to moving to more advanced study. Subject to progress, students may expect to take external exams in English language and Maths at the end of the Pre-A Level year.

The majority of students will begin their Pre-A Level studies in September, which is the start of the academic year in the UK. A small number of places to commence in January may be available, however September is strongly recommended.

Pre-A Level students have a timetable of approximately 22 – 25 one hour academic periods per week, taking place from Monday to Friday. In addition, the weekly timetable will also incorporate Games (physical education), independent study periods and the Enrichment Programme. Academic Development Sessions are available at the end of each day, allowing students to cover topics which they have found challenging, or which may have not been previously covered.

Combined with the opportunities a full boarder can expect during the evenings and at weekends, the Tettenhall College Pre-A Level Development Year is an excellent route which we hope you will enjoy exploring.

Ms Caroline Troughton - Head of Senior School



The Pre-A Level Curriculum

The pre-A Level curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure students:

- are able to significantly improve their English language skills
- study core subjects including Maths & Science
- have lessons in a broad range of subjects, so they can best decide which subjects to progress at A Level
- receive dedicated study support sessions during their timetabled school day
- look and feel like full A Level students by wearing 'Business Dress', rather than the school uniform

Mathematics	5 classes per week, specifically for pre-A Level students. Working towards a Maths qualification by the end of the year, GCSE or other.
English Language	5 classes per week, specifically for pre-A Level students. Working towards an English language qualification by the end of the year.
Computer Science	2 classes per week, specifically for pre-A Level students
Chemistry	2 classes per week - integrated with the regular GCSE programme
Biology	2 classes per week - integrated with the regular GCSE programme
Physics	2 classes per week - integrated with the regular GCSE programme
Business Studies	1 class per week, specifically for pre-A Level students
Economics	1 class per week, specifically for pre-A Level students
Art	2 classes per week, specifically for pre-A Level students
Games	2 classes per week with all other Upper Senior School students
Personal, Social & Health Education	1 class per week, integrated with the A Level students

some changes to this may take place each year, subject to timetable requirements

A typical Pre-A Level schedule

When you board at Tettenhall College, you really do have the best of both worlds. Whilst some day pupils are already up and travelling to school, you can have a timely start, followed by a cooked breakfast in the College Dining Room, before joining all the other pupils to follow the daytime routine of the school.

BOARDING ROUTINE:

Monday to Friday

7.15am Rise
7.45am Breakfast
8am Collect mobile phones & tidy room
8.10am Room checks & House registration
8.15am Leave the Boarding House
8.20am

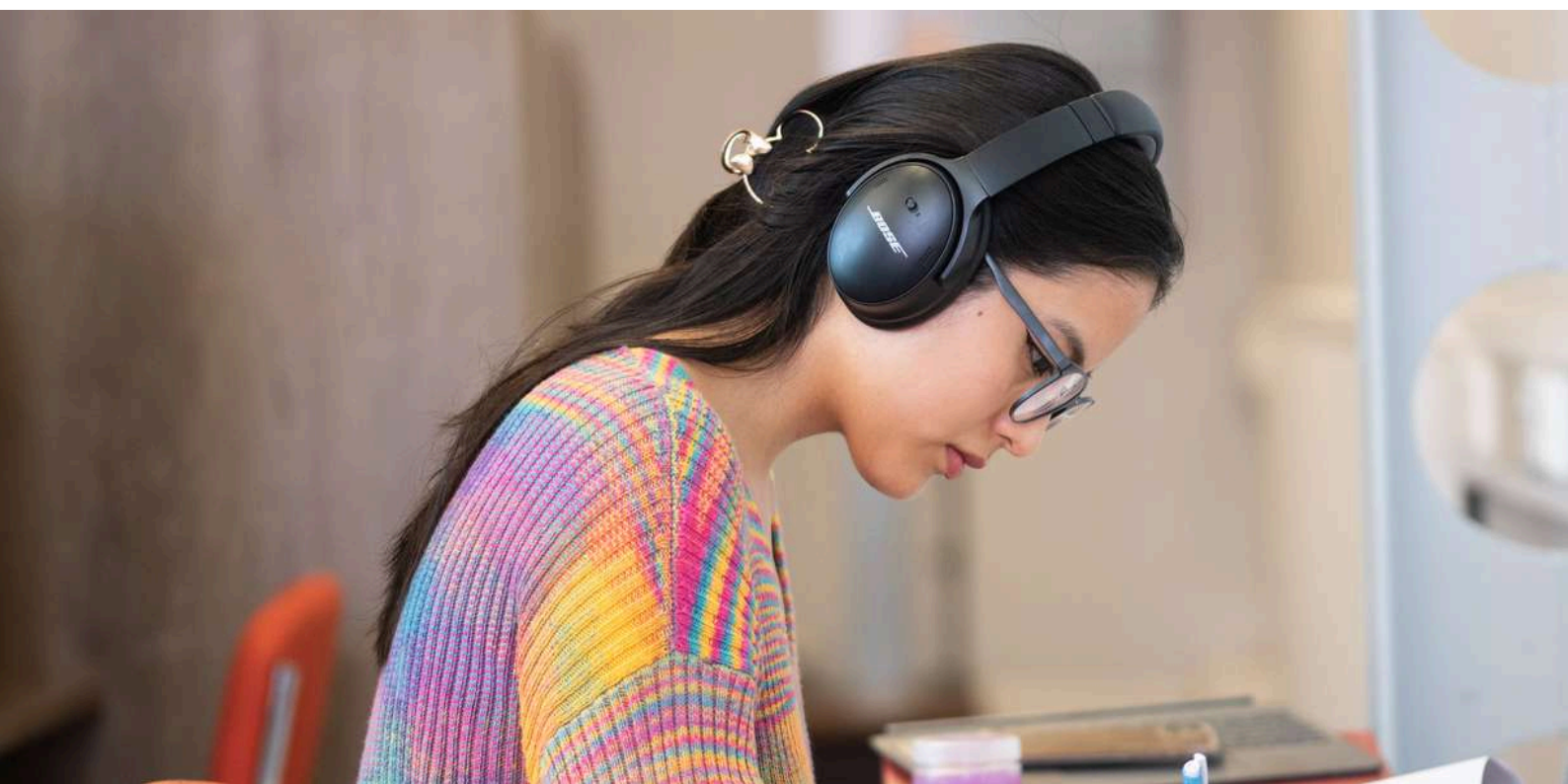
8.30am Form Tutor time and registration
8.35am Lessons begin
4.10pm Lessons end

4.15 - 5pm After School clubs and activities
5pm Free time

5.45pm Dinner
6.30 - 7.30pm Prep (homework)
7.45pm House Meeting
8 - 9pm Activities

Weekends

A programme of on and off-site activities is available for all boarding pupils. Off-site boarders' outings are very popular and, subject to where the trip is going to, may take a few hours, or the whole day. Some outings are compulsory and others are optional.



Extra Curricular Opportunities

To make the very most of their school life, students should look to explore as many opportunities as possible. Academic study is fundamentally important, however co-curricular and extra-curricular activities give students the chance to develop key personal skills such as communication, teamwork, resilience, and much more. These opportunities also widen a students perspective and may lead them to consider areas of future development or careers which they had not previously thought about.

The Enrichment programme takes place each week at Tettenhall College. Every Thursday afternoon, students take part in one of a wide range of activities which they pursue for one term, before choosing a new option once the next term begins.

These activities can include, but are not limited to:

- Debating
- Musical Theatre
- Climbing
- Animation Club
- Bootcamp
- Chess
- Dance
- Ecology Club
- Fencing
- Life Guarding
- Golf
- Stock Market Challenge
- Book Club
- Fashion & Textiles
- Arts & Crafts Club
- Running Club
- Theatre Technology
- Volunteering
- Table Top Gaming
- Whizz Bang Science
- Wildlife Club
- Gardening Club
- Musical Jam sessions
- Target Shooting Club
- Harry Potter in Spanish
- Flash Fiction
- Photography Walks
- Modern Pentathlon
- Local History & Architecture
- TC Podcast
- Introduction to Film Studies
- Wellbeing Club
- Rambling Society



Personal Development Opportunities

When a student presents their application for university, it is essential that they present a strong Personal Profile. As well as academic study and extra-curricular activities, Tettenhall College offers a wide range of co-curricular opportunities to enhance a student's application. The following list is just a small number of the development options available, once a student progresses on to the A Level Sixth Form Pathway Programme:

- Medical Society
- Work experience relating to the medical profession -
NHS Work Experience support or Medic Mentor
Virtual Work Experience
- Medical Leadership Programme
- Biology & Chemistry Olympiads
- Mock trials at Wolverhampton Crown court
- Royal Geographical Society Lectures
- Model United Nations
- Royal Economic Society Essay competition
- Durham University Economics Essay competition
- History, Language & Business Studies residential trips
- Theatre visits & performances
- ISA Composition Competition for Sixth Form
- The Sports Leadership programme
- Trip to England Football Headquarters to take part in their Game Changer programme
- Mathematical Olympiad & Senior Mathematical Challenge
- Investor Challenge (Wharton Business School)
- ICAEW Base Accounting Competition
- British Wildlife Photography Competition
- Forge links with Amazon Future Engineers
- Join the Coding and Robotics clubs
- Additional virtual classes through Isaac Computer Science
- Education in Action Lecture Series (Chemistry) at Warwick University
- Schools Analyst Competition



Embracing Global Citizenship

Tettenhall College has a long history spanning 160 years. Whilst the majority of the students at our school are British, many living in the local area, we have a wonderful, diverse international community from more than 30 different countries.

In our boarding community, we have more than 28 nationalities represented, each in small numbers. We work hard to ensure each language group is not too large, to give everyone the very best chance of speaking English as much as possible.

Current nationalities include: Argentinian, German, Brazilian, French, Spanish, Chinese, Thai, Kazakh, Moldovan, Macedonian, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Mexican, Indian, Russian, Swiss, Chilean, Australian, Nigerian, Ghanaian, Bulgarian, Turkish, South Korean, Hong Kong.

Tettenhall College firmly believes that students must be prepared to be Citizens of the World. In addition to living in a diverse community, students can also take part in a range of trips each year, to different parts of the globe. Recently, these have included:

- Languages trips to France and Spain
- Business Studies trip to New York
- Ski trip to Italy
- Geography and Ecology trip to Ecuador
- History trips to France
- Choir trip to Paris

Boarding students can also choose to take part in a range of trips during the holiday periods, which can be organised via their guardianship provider.



Tettenhall College Values



Tettenhall College



AMBITION

We strive for excellence

In every aspect of our work and have the highest aspirations for our pupils. We encourage resilience by embracing mistakes as learning opportunities.



Tettenhall College



OPPORTUNITY

We foster self-belief

We provide academic challenge, personalised support and a breadth of learning opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom.



Tettenhall College



COMMUNITY

We have a safe and secure family environment

We promote our shared values and respect each other. Our pupils look outwards, act responsibly and become valued global citizens.



Tettenhall College



CHARACTER

We cultivate emotional intelligence

well-being, self respect and encourage support for each other. We lead by example to promote healthy and balanced lifestyles.



Tettenhall College



CREATIVITY

We have the freedom

to adapt our curriculum to achieve the best outcomes for our learners. We recognise that nurturing creativity is vital in today's world.

Sporting Life

We are extremely fortunate to have a full and expansive range of sporting facilities here at Tettenhall College. Sport is a very important part of life at Tettenhall, and you will have a wide range of opportunities to train, play in matches and represent the school.

Sports regularly enjoyed by Senior School students include:

- Soccer
- Swimming (indoor pool)
- Tennis
- Squash
- Basketball
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rounders
- Cricket
- Rugby
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Fencing
- Fitness, including strength & conditioning
- Yoga
- Athletics & cross country
- Volleyball
- Laser Shooting



IELTS & Academic Support

IELTS

Those pupils who study English as a second or additional language and have not passed GCSE English, are required to undertake the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) course. IELTS is the English language qualification most recognised by British universities. It is therefore essential that overseas pupils wishing to undertake a higher education qualification at a British institution complete this course.

The IELTS examination will test a pupil's ability to comprehend, write on and speak about a wide range of general topics. These topics include leisure activities, education, technology, the workplace, climate and the environment, globalisation and tourism.

IELTS uses a unique nine-point scoring system to measure and report test scores in a consistent manner. Candidates receive scores for each language skill (listening, reading, writing and speaking) and an overall band score on a band scale from one to nine. University requirements vary according to the institution's academic reputation.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Support is available to help all pupils achieve their maximum potential in their academic studies. This may involve help and advice regarding study habits and techniques or assessment for examination access arrangements such as extra time. In the Sixth Form this is carried out on an individual basis rather than in timetabled lessons, and is organised by the Head of Academic Support.



Sixth Form Pathway Programmes

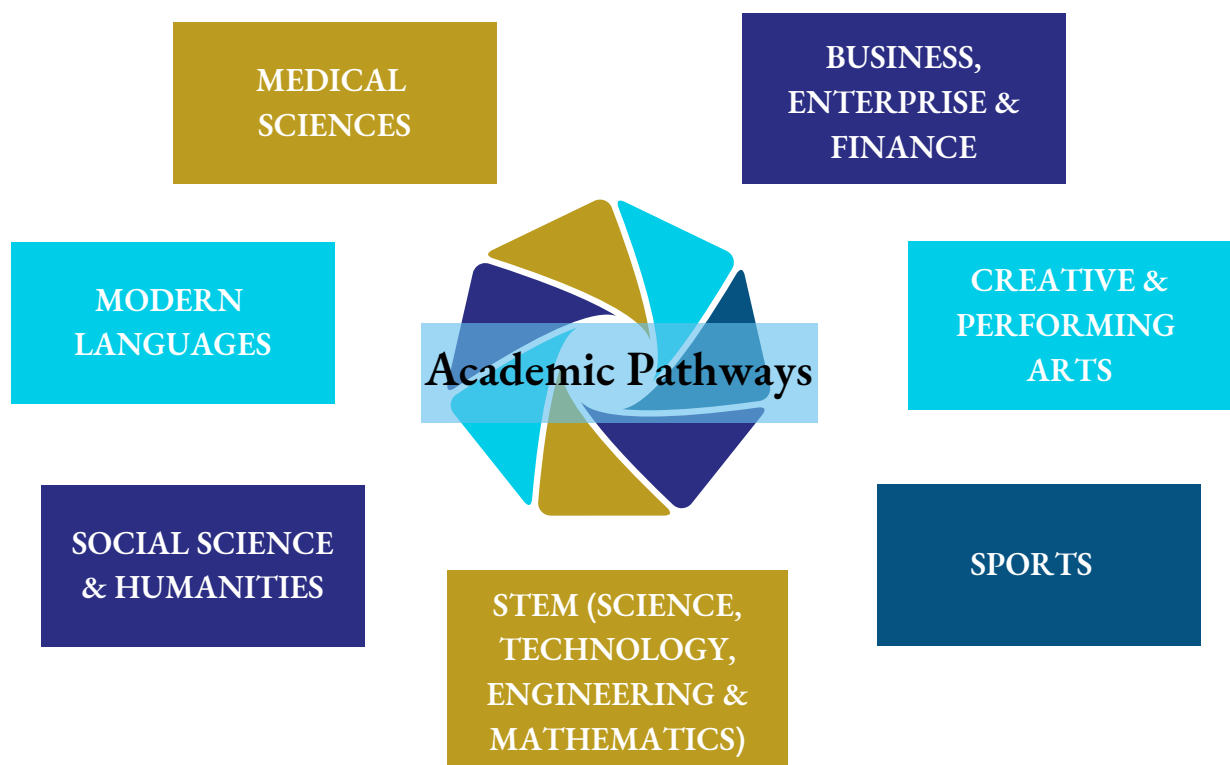
The Tettenhall College Sixth Form Pathways Programmes are designed to guide you in your A Level selection depending on your future career aspirations.

The pathways will provide you with supplementary skills and experiences to enable you to be successful in your applications to university as well as in the competitive world of work.

When you commence your A Levels you will select one of the following pathways:

- Medical Sciences
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Modern Languages
- Creative & Performing Arts
- Sports
- Business, Enterprise & Finance
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

More information on each of these pathway programmes can be found in the Sixth Form Course Guide.



TC Futures: University Counselling & Careers Support Programme

At the heart of the Senior School is a mission to ensure that all students are well prepared for life after school. In the majority of cases, this will be further study at university, whether this is in the UK, the USA or elsewhere in the world.

The Tettenhall College Futures Programme is a structured and comprehensive plan that is actively followed from Year 9 onwards. For those students joining Tettenhall for a Pre-A Level Development Year, our team of teachers who specialise in supporting university applications will work closely with them to develop personal plans and ensure Personal Profiles are as strongly presented as possible.

Students will look at the vast range of university courses available, the different institutions and their entry requirements, make visits, do interview preparation and work to craft effective applications.

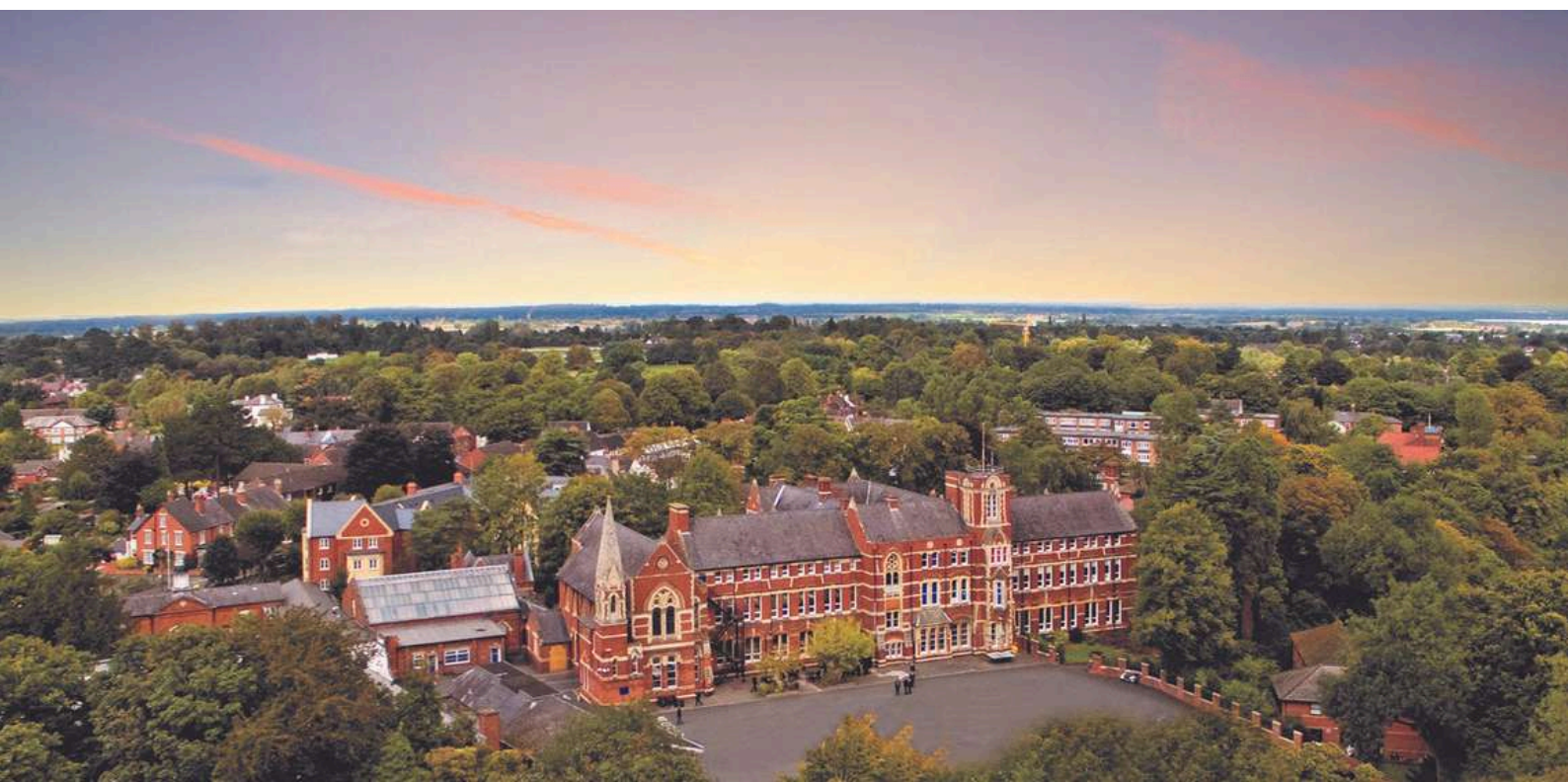
Those students looking to submit an Oxbridge application will be mentored and given coaching for this route. Equally, those students looking to pursue a Medical Degree will be given wide-ranging support and opportunities, to maximise their chances of success.

Whilst university admissions offices look for high academic grades when assessing an application, they also look at a wider Personal Profile, which should demonstrate a broad range of interests, skills and achievements. Leadership positions, evidence of teamwork, sport, music, art and drama, can all contribute strongly to this Personal Profile. Tettenhall College excels in giving students a very wide range of opportunities to develop such a profile and ensure each and every student has the personal attributes, attitude and ambitions for their future successes to be realised.



Why choose Tettenhall College?

- **Fantastic location in the heart of England:**
 - Birmingham = 30 minutes
 - Manchester = One hour
 - Central London = 1 hour 45 minutes by direct train
 - London Heathrow = Two hours
- **Genuinely British environment, with majority of students from the UK and all classes taught by native subject specialists.**
- **Beautiful campus with outstanding boarding facilities.**
- **A focused pre-A Level year which effectively prepares students for success in future university applications.**
- **Wonderful sporting opportunities. Including (but not limited to):**
 - Football (soccer), swimming, tennis, basketball, athletics, fitness, squash, badminton, hockey, cricket, fencing, rounders, netball, laser shooting, volleyball, golf (offsite), rugby, yoga
- **Focussed 'Sixth Form Pathways Programme' allowing students to secure high level academic preparation alongside a wide range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, which support a strong university application, whether in the UK, USA, Europe or elsewhere.**
- **Warm and welcoming family atmosphere, where students are known as the individuals that they are, and encouraged to develop their own talents and ambitions. Pastoral care is a significant strength at Tettenhall College.**



The Application Process

Once a student and their family have decided to apply for the Tettenhall College Pre-A Level Development Year, we will ask them to follow this application process:

- Complete the Tettenhall College registration form and remit the registration fee.
- Send their most recent school reports - at least one full academic year's report.
- Send a copy of their passport.

Once we are in receipt of this information we will:

- Arrange a time for a member of the school's leadership team to have an online or in person conversation with the applicant student. This will feel in many ways like an interview. However, it is also an opportunity for the student (and their parents) to ask as many questions as they would like, to ensure they are clear that this is the route they wish to pursue.
- Arrange for the student to complete an online Entrance Assessment. This takes the form of a CAT4 assessment, which covers numeracy, literacy and non-verbal reasoning. Further information about the CAT4 assessment can be found by undertaking an online search on 'GL Assessments'. An English Language assessment will also be completed.

If we are happy that the student has the correct level, attitude and attributes to participate well in the Pre-A Level Development Year, we will issue an offer letter. This should be accepted promptly and an acceptance deposit paid to secure the place. Tettenhall College will then work closely with the student and their family to complete the admissions process, including the submission of a visa application, where applicable.





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