SILVERDALE SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

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I chose Silverdale Sixth Form because I knew I would be challenged, supported and given every opportunity to succeed. The teachers are passionate and always go the extra mile to help you achieve your best. From enrichment opportunities to expert guidance for university and apprenticeships, I've gained so much more than great grades – I've grown in confidence and feel ready for whatever comes next.

Y13 student

WELCOME TO SILVERDALE SIXTH FORM

Jo Charlesworth,
Deputy Head
of Sixth Form

Jo Fisher,
Deputy Head
of Sixth Form

Choosing where to continue your post-16 education is one of the most important decisions you will make. At Silverdale Sixth Form, we are proud to offer an exceptional environment where students are challenged academically, supported personally, and inspired to achieve their ambitions.

Our Sixth Form has an established reputation for delivering outstanding academic outcomes, with students consistently progressing to leading universities, competitive apprenticeships and rewarding careers. At the heart of this success is our commitment to high-quality teaching, ambitious expectations and a culture that encourages every student to reach their full potential.

Academic success is only part of the Silverdale experience. We believe that outstanding pastoral care and a rich, varied programme of enrichment opportunities are fundamental to student wellbeing and achievement. Every student is known, valued and supported by a dedicated team of experienced staff who work closely with them throughout their time in the Sixth Form. We foster a welcoming, inclusive community where students broaden their horizons, develop confidence, resilience and independence, preparing them not only for examinations, but for life beyond school.

I am incredibly proud to lead Silverdale Sixth Form and to work alongside such talented students and dedicated staff. It is a vibrant, ambitious and supportive community where young people flourish, thrive and achieve.

Thank you for considering Silverdale Sixth Form. I hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of what makes our community so special, and I look forward to welcoming you as you begin the next exciting stage of your educational journey.

Mark Clayton,
Head of Silverdale Sixth Form

SILVERDALE SIXTH FORM

CONSISTENTLY OUTSTANDING RESULTS

Silverdale Sixth Form is consistently one of the most successful in Sheffield. We pride ourselves on the exceptionally high levels of attainment and progress achieved by our students.

The close academic and pastoral relationship between students and staff results in sixth formers fulfilling their potential and beyond, year after year. This opens doors for them to pursue their chosen career path.

15% of all grades were A*

36.5% of all grades were A*-A

65.4% of all grades were A*-B

84.1% of all grades were A*-C

90% gained a place at their first choice university

60% of university places were at Russell Group universities

B average grade

STUDENT LIFE

Friendly and welcoming

Silverdale Sixth Form is a welcoming community. In the words of one of our students: "After a few weeks you just forgot who was from which school originally because it's such a friendly place".

Enrichment opportunities

At Silverdale Sixth Form we passionately believe that a post-16 education must include a wide variety of enrichment options to enhance our students' experience in class, develop lifelong skills and provide the essential qualities that set our students apart when applying for university, apprenticeships or employment.

Enrichment opportunities at Silverdale Sixth Form include:

- One week of work experience
- Future Learn MOOCS (massive open online courses) giving access to prestigious universities and professionals worldwide
- IRIS Research projects
- University lectures and other super-curricular activities
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Debating Society, Medsoc, Politics Club and Culture Club to develop discussion and debating skills
- LGBTQ+ club
- Weekly social sport and sporting team opportunities
- Drama and musical performances
- Home language support for bilingual or multilingual students wishing to take GCSE or A-level exams in a number of languages, such as Urdu, Persian, Japanese, Polish, Tamil, Mandarin Chinese.

Leadership skills are developed through active involvement in events such as school open evenings and events or providing positive role models for students by acting as paired reading mentors or subject ambassadors.

Beyond the classroom

As well as our enrichment programme, we offer numerous extracurricular activities, opportunities, trips and visits.

Opportunities trips and visits including:

- University visits - Magdalen College, Oxford, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, The University of Leeds and The University of Nottingham
- Careers visits – UCAS Discovery and Apprenticeship Fairs
- Houses of Parliament Visit
- Subject specific visits

Sixth Form student leaders have the chance to make a difference by leading activities and events. There are currently several committees including wellbeing, charity, social, prom, extracurricular and diversity as part of The Head Team.

SUPPORTING ASPIRATION

> *Moving from another school was daunting but teachers believed in me from day one and were always there for support.*
>
> Former student

At Silverdale Sixth Form we support academic and individual aspiration for all students.

We have strong associations with many universities. In the summer term, all Year 12 students undertake two full days at a university the chance to experience university life and undertake workshops in preparation for their applications. We work in partnership with the University of Sheffield through their Access to Sheffield outreach programme. This provides our students with a wonderful range of experiences in a range of subjects including dentistry, medicine, engineering, law and humanities.

We strongly believe that all students, irrespective of social or economic background, should have equal access to the opportunities available, including residential courses with major employers and mentoring from Year 12 until university graduation. We partner with a range of organisations including the Social Mobility Foundation and the Sutton Trust to ensure that this happens.

We work extremely hard to ensure students start thinking about their choices from the time they join us. This process starts with discussions in tutor groups and supported by our careers specialist advisor and visiting speakers who inform students about student finance, gap years, career paths, degree apprenticeships, CVs and interviews.

Focused support is given to potential applicants to Oxbridge and to competitive courses such as medicine and law. We run Oxbridge and Russell Group sessions within school as well as attending the Sheffield Oxbridge Conference each year. The opportunities we offer have helped our students to enhance their skills and knowledge in a chosen subject and extend their higher education and career goals.

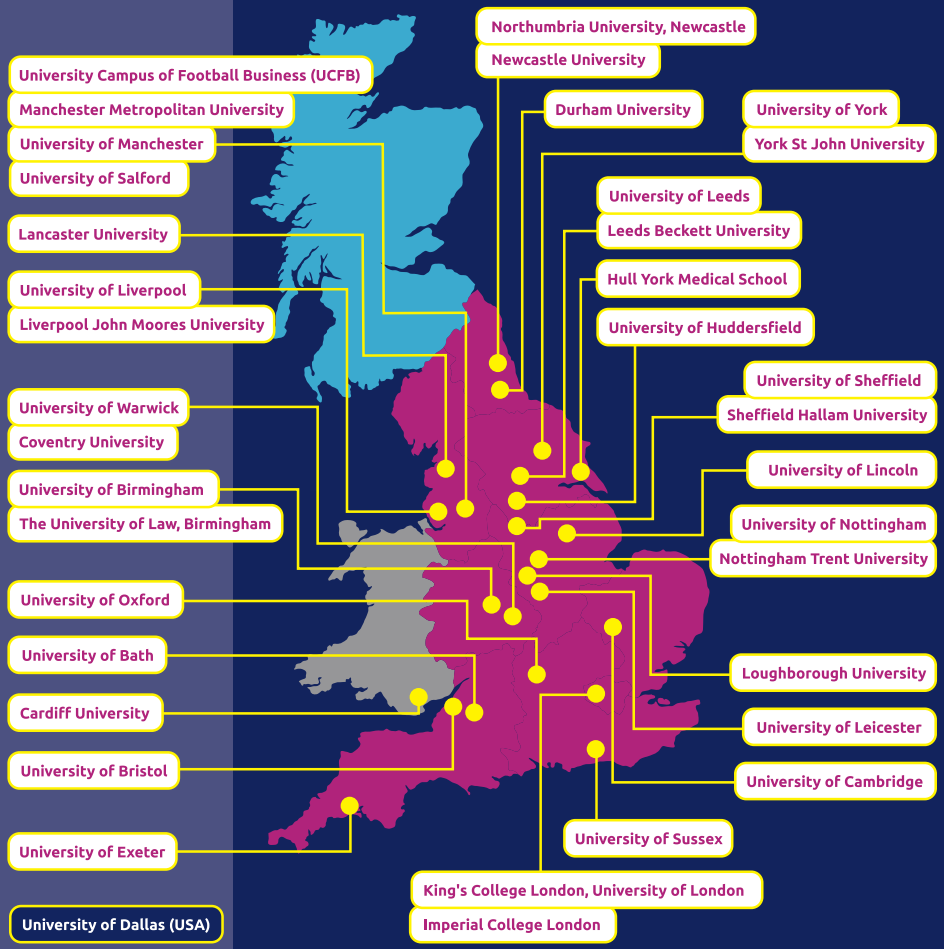
In Year 13, their tutor will help them to manage the transition to university, higher level degree apprenticeships or the world of work. They help students to complete their applications and also write references using the academic references provided by subject teachers as guidance. We then provide interview practice should students require it.

Our support continues during results day, and beyond if necessary.

DESTINATIONS

I got to study at my first choice course at Manchester because of the fantastic support and care from the sixth form team.

Former student



SILVERDALE SIXTH FORM

SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

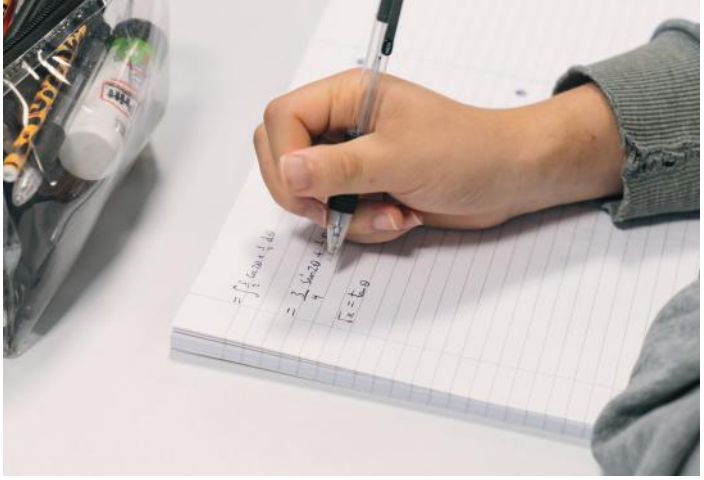
> *The support at Silverdale Sixth Form has been incredible. The staff genuinely care about your wellbeing as well as your academic success, and there's always someone to listen and help when you need it. Knowing that support is there has given me the confidence to thrive.*
>
> Y12 Student

Our team of committed staff ensures that students are well supported throughout their time at Silverdale Sixth Form.

The team includes experienced form tutors, who provide one-to-one mentoring and skilled teaching staff who work with students to developing study skills and knowledge of personal finance, health and relationships, and post-18 career options over and above curricular studies. Our experienced pastoral team support academic mentoring and progress monitoring. Where additional academic or pastoral support might be beneficial, we will discuss the various options with students and their parents to help identify the most appropriate course of action.

Our Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Teams work extremely hard to ensure that all students can access their education and feel included within our community. This includes access to mental health support. At Silverdale Sixth Form we work in partnership with the school's two integrated resources to enable young adults with an EHCP (for example, those students who are deaf or with high functioning autism spectrum conditions) to access high quality post-16 education.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is money from the government to provide for students who need financial help to stay in education.

There are two types of 16 to 19 bursary:

1. A discretionary bursary based on your individual circumstances, typically including your family income.

2. A vulnerable bursary for young people in one of the following groups:

- In care or a care leaver
- Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit
- Receiving Disability Living Allowance and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit
- Receiving Personal Independence Payment and ESA or Universal Credit

Students are advised to apply for the bursary at the start of term in September, as the funding is limited. Applications can be made throughout the year if their household circumstances change; however, it is not guaranteed there will be sufficient funds. Please note that funding is not backdated and commences from the point of the application being successful. Application is via an online form.

Further details are available at:
www.silverdale.chorustrust.org/sixthformfinancialsupport

COURSES

We offer a wide range of subjects* to study at Silverdale Sixth Form:

- Art and Design (Fine Art)
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Drama and Theatre
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Maths
- Maths (Further)
- Media Studies
- Medical Science
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish

*Please note that all courses are subject to change, depending on the number of students who apply and the availability of teaching staff.

Option blocks

Our courses are arranged in option blocks. Usually, students will choose three subjects. However, students with a grade average of 7+ can opt to study four subjects. The option blocks can be found at:
www.silverdale.chorustrust.org/coursesinsixthform

FOR FULL DETAILS OF OUR SUBJECTS, VISIT:

www.silverdale.chorustrust.org/courses-insixthform

APPLY TO SILVERDALE SIXTH FORM

Priority access

- Chorus Education Trust students: students who are predicted to meet the entry criteria and who attend a school within Chorus Education Trust will get priority over other students.
- Other criteria for priority treatment can apply (for example students in care and students facing exceptional circumstances, such as illness) and are detailed in Sheffield City Council's A Guide for Parents: Transfer to Secondary School guidance.

In the event of there being insufficient places for students from other schools, oversubscription criteria are stipulated in the Sheffield City Council's 'A Guide for Parents – Transfer to Secondary School' available at **www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/apply-school-place**

Entry criteria

To qualify for a place at Silverdale Sixth Form, students must meet both criteria:

- **5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including Grade 4 Maths, plus Grade 5 English Language.** A Grade 5 in English Literature can be accepted instead where a Grade 4 has been achieved in English Language
- Individual subject entry requirements as stipulated at **www.silverdale.chorustrust.org/coursesinsixthform**

If students do not meet the entry requirements for a course applied for, they will be offered alternatives. We cannot guarantee that a student will gain a place on their original course if they subsequently achieve the required grade in their GCSE. We operate a waiting list process once the maximum number for a course is reached.

19 November 2026
Silverdale Sixth Form open evening

1 December 2026
Apply online at:
www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk

31 January 2027
Application deadline

February 2027
Decisions sent to students

March 2027
Offer acceptance deadline

June 2027
Year 12 induction day

19 August 2027
GCSE results day/enrolment at Silverdale Sixth Form

September 2027
Start at Silverdale Sixth Form

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Silverdale School
Bents Crescent
Sheffield S11 9QH

T 0114 236 9991
E sixthform@silverdale.chorustrust.org
W www.silverdalesixthform.org