



Atrium Studio Post 16 Provision

Study Support

The step up from GCSEs and other Level 2 courses to A-Levels and other Level 3 courses is often thought to be more challenging than the transition to University. The aim of Study Support is to enable students to take this step confidently and effectively.

One of the biggest differences between GCSE study and 6th Form is the provision of private study periods. Students can have between two and ten private study periods (depending on their chosen subjects), and making effective use of this time is fundamental to their success at 6th Form. This is why we focus on the skills and learning habits required for 6th Form success.

As a specialised Studio School 6th Form, we not only provide our students with individual support but also work with students of all abilities on any aspect of their studies. Our dedicated Study Area is fully equipped with up-to-date computers and internet access. We also hold textbooks for different subject areas, past papers with exemplar responses, and resources to demonstrate how those responses have been constructed.

6th Form staff are always on hand to support students – both individually and in small groups. If a more dedicated service is required, students can either self-refer or be referred by a member of staff.

In addition, we run a programme of Peer Mentoring. Mentoring gives our students a position of responsibility, while reinforcing their own skills and understanding. Those who are being mentored find it extremely useful to work with someone who has been on the same learning journey.

Students with Additional Needs

As a community, we welcome students with additional needs and provide a range of measures to meet individual requirements. We endeavour to work in partnership, to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

Although the primary voice belongs to the student, we welcome parents' and carers' expertise and input; assisting us with understanding how best to support students with additional needs.

We have a wealth of experience in working to meet a variety of additional needs, and treat every student as an individual. This can range from a personalised curriculum to support in lessons, out of lessons, and with exams.

Students join a Tutor Group and participate in 6th Form activities. If they need a quieter environment at break times, this is always available. We work closely with students to develop a programme for their transition into 6th Form, as well as in taking their next step after completing their studies. We also assist with accessing services, and funding.

Welfare

At Atrium Studio 6th Form, we believe that the whole person is important - not just their academic progress.

We cultivate strong relationships with our students through the tutor system. Tutors meet their students four times a week; holding academic tutorials and checking that they are happy and not experiencing any difficulties.

In partnership with South Dartmoor Community College's 6th Form, we deliver a programme of assemblies on topics ranging from how to do CPR, to working with The Prince's Trust.

We want our students to feel that there is always someone they can talk to. Therefore, our Head of 6th Form, Jared Baldwin, maintains an 'open door' policy; enabling them to access support, guidance and advice when needed. If a student is struggling with events or issues, we will immediately put a programme of support in place. When they need help, students can alert their tutor, teachers or any other member of staff - in most cases, they will be seen that day.

For some students, we also offer a Bursary up to the value of £1200 a year, to support with items such as books, trips and transport.

Well-Being

Teaching well-being is about recognising that exam success is not the only - or the most important – measure of success. Other factors are the ability to form relationships; coping with stress; being healthy, productive and creative; and developing potential. Our course covers the following aspects:

1. **Physical Health:** This provides information on the foundations of well-being: keeping ourselves physically healthy.
2. **Positive Relationships:** This explores what is arguably the most important aspect of well-being: namely, our relationships with other people.
3. **Perspective:** This is concerned with building a 'psychological immune system', or grit and resilience. It aims to help develop the thinking skills that enable us to overcome adversity.
4. **Engagement:** This is about recognising that humans are naturally curious about investigating the world around us. The unit looks at ways of staying engaged in the things we choose to do, and the things we have to do.

5. **The World:** This focuses on ways of living sustainably in a conspicuous consumer society; considering our place in the world and our relationship with it.
6. **Meaning and Purpose:** The final element of the course is concerned with exploring meaning-making. This is a central aspect of working out, as Viktor Frankl would say, our response to the questions life asks us.

Our Approach

Learning Habits

At Atrium 6th Form, we build on the Best Practice approach to learning. This was developed and applied across our Academy at both the Atrium 14-16 and South Dartmoor Community College 11-16. Through this, students develop Learning Habits that equip them with skills to help them be successful in life: perseverance, resourcefulness and the ability to overcome obstacles.

The application of Learning Habits is nationally recognised as key to enabling students to be entrepreneurial, form successful working relationships and face challenges. Although not taught explicitly at Atrium 6th Form, this is inherent in our approach to teaching and learning. We want our students to leave Atrium 6th Form equipped for life. The success stories of our first cohort of students are a testament to the effectiveness of this approach.

Exam Support

Exams can be an anxious time for students. Due to emotional stress and pressure, some find that their exam performance does not match their normal daily performance in the same subject.

We support students in a variety of ways to overcome this, including reinforcing the importance of having adequate sleep, eating a healthy diet, starting revision early and maintaining a positive approach.

We also recommend a few useful Apps, which can help develop the skill of mindfulness to cope with, or prepare for, stressful situations. These include 'Brain Wave', 'Headspace', 'Calm' and 'Insight Timer'.