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Mrs Townsend Director of Post 16 at MLT Sir Thomas Wharton Academy

Welcome!

Message from the Post 16 Team

At MLT Post 16 we know that there's more to life than just subjects.

Our aim is to produce well balanced and responsible young adults, fully prepared to take their place in higher education and the professions. We have a proud history and proven track record of developing well rounded students who have the qualifications, skills and character to go on and lead successful and fulfilling lives.

While subject choices are crucial for future successes, they will only ever help with obtaining an interview – securing the job depends upon character, at MLT Post 16 we aim to develop this through our wider enrichment programme.

We provide:

- Activities to develop confidence, character and resilience.
- Group work to develop team working, communication skills, leadership and problem solving – skills that employers often say are lacking in school and college leavers.
- Tutorials and seminars through our tutor programme and careers provision.
- Life skills, such as: the ability to travel independently, how to cook and eat healthily, stay safe, personal finance, or preparation for adult or university life.
- Activities to support students to build experience for their CV and/or personal statement.

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Skills for the Future

Tutor Time

Each student has a tutor that they can see every day and that relationship is a vital part of their Post 16 experience. Tutor groups are often structured with students who share particular interests or intended career pathways. We have a tutor programme that covers and develops students' skills for life. Tutors provide "coaching" sessions that is in the tutorial style, either working with small groups or individuals, as well as a daily session that focuses on a range of activities that relate to Post 16 life.

Tutor Plus

Additionally, "Tutor Plus" is a session every week where students are given the opportunity to focus on a programme that covers a range of relevant issues including; British Values, personal finance, relationships, work skills, current affairs, political parties, government, UCAS preparation, personal finance, and also provides opportunities for students to understand their own mental health. As part of our programme, we like to invite guest speakers to give talks about their particular areas of expertise or experiences. These wider enrichment events help to create impactful development opportunities for our students.





VESPA

VESPA is part of the tutor programme at MLT Post 16. The aim of VESPA is to assist students in the challenging transition from GCSE to A Level study, where there is an increased need for a proactive, resilient and independent approach to study. Each letter of the acronym represents an area that students will develop during their time in Post 16:

- **Vision** is about having a clear goal. A wealth of research highlights that both long-term and short-term goal setting enhances achievement. In simple terms, it is about learners knowing the outcomes they wish to achieve.
- **Effort** (sometimes called academic perseverance) refers to how much hard work a student does; performance on most tasks depends on effort that is proactive and independent.
- **Systems** is about two things: 1. a system to organise learning so students can make sense of it all; 2. a system to organise their time so students can complete key tasks to meet deadlines.

- Practice should be considered as distinct from effort – it refers to what learners do with the time they put into their studies. Practice is not the "how much?" but rather the "how?".
- Attitude has four elements: 1. confidence (in particular, confidence in abilities); 2. emotional control; 3. academic buoyancy; 4. growth mindset.

Research suggests that all students need an element of these five aspects in order to achieve their full potential, meaning they are crucial for success. Through tutor support, assemblies and coaching, we provide students with activities, tools and guidance to support their journey through VESPA.



Votes for Schools

Votes for Schools is a debate and online voting system designed to give all young people a better knowledge of current affairs. During tutor period each week, students participate in lively debate about a topical issue, which is then followed by a class vote. Recent topics have included: "Are communities strengthened in a crisis?", "Will increased awareness help end modern slavery?" and "Should male and female mental health be approached differently?".

Independent Study

Students at MLT Post 16 benefit from dedicated Post 16 study areas to use during their study periods and before and after school. They are equipped with access to computers, as well as refreshment facilities, to allow students to use their private study time productively. In addition, many post 16 students take advantage of other independent study areas around the school, such as the library.

Students are supported with developing their independent study skills through the Tutor Plus programme where they are taught independence and time management skills.

Peer Mentoring

Mentors can provide advice that can reduce stress and provide confidence to younger students. Student Mentors have themselves successfully completed compulsory education and they have an understanding of what younger students are experiencing.

Outreach

Take part in one of the most popular and rewarding activities, working with the primary school children. Primary outreach is fun, challenging, and extremely rewarding. Students will be assigned a subject, usually in pairs, based on their own strengths. They then assist the teacher and the staff from the primary.

Subject Support

MLT Post 16 students can opt into in-class support, an enrichment opportunity that gives them the opportunity to work alongside teachers for one or two lessons per week to provide support for students in younger years in the subject of their choice. This is particularly useful for those wishing to pursue a career in teaching or wishing to work with children or young people.

Working in SEND:

- Hosting family coffee afternoons and "training sessions' for families - invitations and refreshments for these could be a leadership opportunity.
- Student Librarians at lunch and break.
- Student Mentors to work 1:1 with younger students to support learning and mental health.

Maths

- Supporting in lessons as Maths TA.
- Wider support in lessons or working with individuals, in tutor time to support and boost their confidence in Maths.

English - Peer reading

Peer reading offered by 6th formers one of a number of opportunities for successful students to help students with reading and learning needs in the lower school. Coordinated by members of the Year 13 Leadership Team, volunteers help develop literacy skills in Year 7 and 8 students, giving them the confidence and encouragement needed for them to thrive and progress.

- Support with reading lessons.
- Running extra curriculum clubs; reading, writing, poetry, etc.
- Mentorship for HA students weekly mentor meetings to promote further study and academic achievement.
- Mentorship for boys.
- Running of a prep club.
- Maths Mentors.

LGBTOI+

Post 16 ambassadors for LGBTQ help promote the group and meeting dates.



Community & Charity Support

Making a positive contribution to the wider community is a key aspect of life at Post 16. We encourage all students to become involved in charitable events, giving them the opportunity to help through devising, organising and implementing fundraising ideas. This in turn increases each students' understanding of the wider social issues that impact the community.

Our most successful charitable event last year involved collecting for the local food bank. With a phenomenal level of support, the idea came from one sixth form student. She gained recognition with a Community Hero award from Morrisons and receiving a letter from Parliament for her efforts. The foodbank said that it was the biggest donation they had ever had – it was a tremendous privilege and will become a legacy of that one student which the Post 16 council will carry on for years to come.

FAIRYTALES WITH A TWIST

POST 167

BAME AUTHORS & BOOKS





Leavers Event, 2021

Our leavers event this year was particularly special. This year's leavers have had the most surreal, unexpected Post 16 experience, and they have excelled themselves, surpassing all of our expectations throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and extended periods of remote learning.

We have come through it together, and we couldn't be more proud.







Trips & Visits

Trips and visits are a vital part of enrichment opportunities and enable students to enhance their experiences. We run a range of trips and visits that are only for Post 16 students.

HE+

HE+ extension classes are intended to enable students from the state maintained sector to make strong, competitive and confident applications to Cambridge and the other Russell Group universities. The specifications of the extension classes address eight core A level subjects: Economics, English, Modern Foreign Languages, History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics. They are not a "Cambridge curriculum" but a guide to the breadth and depth of extension work, including key skills and attributes needed to make competitive applications.

Students should become competent and confident in using what they already know to engage with new and unfamiliar contexts (being confident includes having the self-assurance to take time to think about answering questions and solving problems). This is particularly important for those students called for interview.

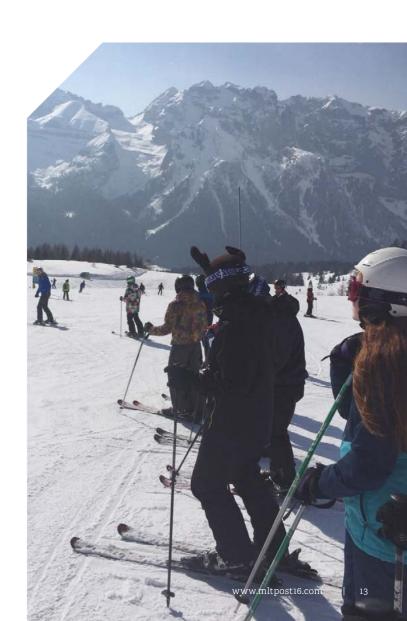
Not all universities will call students to interview but what they learn from these classes will benefit all participating students as they transit from A level to degree level study. In addition to a launch event and visit to Cambridge, there are four classes on offer per subject, delivered across a range of institutions in Rotherham.





Our Trips and visits have included:

Hepworth Gallery Art and Design trip London trip with Social Sciences, Alton Towers, Visits to University, HE+, which includes visits to the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford, Health and Social Care visits to the Sheffield Hospitals (The Hallamshire and Northern General), Media Studies photoshoots to Kelham Island.









Performing **Arts**

Within the Performing Arts our MLT Post 16 students can take part in whole school productions, as well as Post 16 performances such as a Christmas Pantomime. Students can take part in a range of roles; from dancers, singers and actors to backstage roles such as scenery painting and back stage support roles.







Internships/ **Work Experience**

As part of the MLT family of schools as an innovative organisation we are in the unique position to offer internships to some of our students. We offer work experience opportunities to highly committed Sixth Form students alongside their current studies. Current examples are our IT internship where students combine work experience with specialist post 16 study and further study in ICT at level 3.



Football Scholarship



The Football Scholarship Programme offered at MLT Post 16 is in conjunction with The World's First Football Club, Sheffield FC, providing a unique opportunity for talented 16 – 18 year old footballers to secure a realistic pathway into Semi-Professional/ Professional Football, whilst studying at a highly successful Post 16 Centre.

The Sheffield Football Club Scholarship is an Elite Football Development Programme and ensures that all students access a first class football experience, in addition to their Post 16 Education. All players on the Scholarship Programme undertake A Levels or BTEC Level 3 in Sport during the course, acquiring work based qualifications such as FA Level 1 Coaching Badge in Football.

The students will access a high quality football provision working with Coaches (Matthew Higgins and Ronnie Moore - Both UEFA A Licence) who have previously and currently Coach/Played within the professional game.

The Programme involves training on a daily basis with the scholarship coaching staff. This provides the players with a fantastic opportunity to further develop their football education, development and knowledge of the game. There are many different progression routes our scholars have taken after completion of their Scholarship. We have developed players that are now playing regular Evo-Stick Football, Full Time Employment, University or alternatively gained a Football Scholarship in the U.S. Many students who have progressed through our programme have gained a Football Scholarship in the US through our partners. As part of the programme we also play competitive fixtures against Professional Football Clubs which is a fantastic opportunity for our Scholars to showcase their talents.

Additionally all Scholarship Players have the opportunity to participate in an overseas football tour to various international locations. The tours provide our Scholars with the opportunity to learn the game and understand the requirements of playing football in a foreign country. We have recently visited Murcia, Barcelona and Dusseldorf.



Performing Arts Scholarship

If you are interested in a career within the performing arts industry, then the new MLT Collaborative
Sixth Form Performing Arts Scholarship is for you.
This programme is designed to give you a practical and theoretical understanding of performing arts, education and industry. Although it is a very practical course, there are elements of theory in all units. The Performing Arts Scholarship is for students who actively want to be a part of the performing arts industry and have an interest in performing arts as a potential career pathway. Performing Arts scholars study BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts as an Extended Diploma (equivalent to three A Levels) or Foundation Diploma (equivalent to one-and-a-half A Levels), alongside other A Level and/or applied subjects.

The units and assignments in the Performing
Arts Scholarship are tailor-made to help you gain
experience of what it would be like to be a professional
dancer and work within the performing arts industry.
It is a great stepping stone to prepare you for higher
education or a professional setting. To take the
Performing Arts Scholarship, you must have had some
form of wider performing arts experience, whether
that be in school or through a private dance school.
You need to be open minded and resilient, with a
positive attitude towards learning new styles and
concepts. You need a clear understanding of technique
and performance and be prepared to attend evening
rehearsals and performances.



Extra Qualifications

Extended Project Qualification

Our students can opt to study for the Extended Project Qualification alongside their other A Level or BTEC choices. The course is designed to prepare them for academic life at university, with a big emphasis on independent learning. Students design their own research project, shaped from their personal interests and they then organise their time to research, plan, write, present and evaluate their final project. The outcome can be a research paper, a scientific report or something artistic and creative. The course lasts for a year and is the equivalent of half an A Level. Unlike many one-year courses, an A* is also available to students, which means highly successful projects can gain a few extra UCAS points! Universities also love students who study an Extended Project, which means they often lower their entry requirements for successful completion of the course.

What are the benefits of completing the EPQ?

- Students choose their own project topic giving them the chance to learn more about something that they are passionate about.
- It helps to prepare them for study at University.
- It is worth up to 70 UCAS points.
- Some universities give students alternative offers based on the completion of the EPQ.
- This qualification is internally assessed meaning there will be no exams.

Examples of EPQ projects:

"Are biological factors the primary cause of schizophrenia?"

"What is the legacy of the American Civil Rights movement in America today?"

"What is the social and ethical impact of football hooliganism?"



Criminology Enrichment

The purpose of the WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology is to provide students with an introduction to the criminal justice system and explanations of criminal behaviour. Together with other relevant qualifications, such as Psychology and Sociology A Level, it develops the understanding to support entry to higher education courses.

The course is taught over two years, students complete the following units:

Unit: 1 Changing Awareness of Crime

Not all types of crime are alike. What different types of crime take place in our society? What kinds of crime exist about which we know very little, or which are simply not reported to the police and the media? How do we explain people's reluctance to come forward about crimes of which they have been the victim?. Students use and assess a variety of methods used by agencies to raise awareness of crime so that it can be tackled effectively. Students will gain the skills to plan a campaign for change in relation to crime; for example to raise awareness, change attitudes or change reporting behaviour.

Assessment: Internal Controlled Assessment - Year 1

Unit: 2 Criminological Theories

How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What makes someone a serial killer, or abusive to their own families? Criminologists have produced theoretical explanations of why people commit crime. At the end of this unit students will have gained the skills to evaluate some criminological theories and know there are debates within the different theories. Students will understand how changes in criminological theory have influenced policy and will be able to apply the theories to a specific crime or criminal in order to understand both the behaviour and the theory". The qualification is graded A*-E, it is equivalent to an AS level and is awarded UCAS points, so is the perfect enrichment alongside the other Social Science qualifications.



"The purpose of the WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology is to provide students with an introduction to the criminal justice system and explanations of criminal behaviour."





Photography

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to study Photography at an advanced level. The course focuses upon the use of digital photography.

This course is assessed through a range of coursework, personal investigation and a controlled assignment.

Students can progress to full and part-time programmes in Art & Design areas or use the qualification towards entry to an HNC or degree level programme at university or Art schools.

This course, combined with an A level in art, could lead to university, a career or apprenticeship in photography and photo-journalism. If you study this course it will also provide you with transferable skills such as project management, problem solving, creativity, confidence, co-operation, communication and critical analysis.

"Studying an enrichment subject alongside A Levels and Applied Subjects enables students to extend their experiences for their next stage."

Sports Leaders Level 3 Certificate in Higher Sports Leadership

The Level 3 Certificate in Higher Sports Leadership is a nationally recognised qualification that enables successful learners to lead unsupervised groups of people in sport and recreational activities.

It is a fun and practical qualification teaching generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport.

Students are provided with the opportunity to lead lessons in curriculum time, officiate and coach in Sports Partnership Events and lead sessions in primary schools.

The course provides students with an opportunity to show important employability skills and qualities such as leadership, communication, self-confidence and community spirit.









Core Maths

The Core Maths qualification is designed for students who have achieved grade 5 or better in GCSE Mathematics (and have studied some higher material), but who do not intend to take AS/A level Mathematics. It enables learners to strengthen and develop the mathematical knowledge and skills they have learnt at GCSE so that they can apply them to the problems that they will encounter in their other Level 3 courses.

It supports student progression by:

- Preparing students for the mathematics requirements of a number of higher education courses
- Developing understanding and ability to apply mathematics

Equipping students to apply for employment or higher apprenticeships in a wide range of industry sectors, professional training or university.

This qualification will be particularly useful for students studying subjects such as Geography, Economics, Business Studies, Product Design, Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Computer Science, giving learners the mathematical skills to tackle problems in a variety of authentic situations.

Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS)

This Certificate in Financial Studies has been designed to provide students with a challenging qualification covering the core disciplines of financial capability.

Students are encouraged to become responsible borrowers, sensible savers and have an appreciation of the need for financial planning throughout their life.

CeFS is a comprehensive introduction to personal finance. It develops the knowledge and skills required for young people to make informed financial decisions by introducing them to the risks and challenges involved in personal finance and the tools for effective planning. Through developing core skills of critical analysis and evaluation, synthesis and written communication, the CeFS provides a foundation for further study in business and financial related disciplines, as well as a wide range of other fields.

"Studying an enrichment subject alongside A Levels and Applied Subjects enables students to extend their experiences."





E-Sports Scholarship Programme

Our E-Sports scholarship is an opportunity for students with a passion and interest in the gaming industry and the business opportunities this is creating. Students will study for an E-Sports qualification and combine this with further Level 3 qualifications in Business and ICT, to support their progression into this huge emerging market. E-Sports scholars will also have the opportunity study business finance. Students will also be given the opportunity to develop key leadership, entrepreneurial and organisational skills, planning and delivering E-Sports events

"Students will also be given the opportunity to develop key leadership."

