**16-19 Study Programme – Overview**

Given the academic nature of our school population the post – 16 qualification programme offers a wide range of A level qualifications, the breadth of which is enhanced through collaborative work across the Mercian Trust. Students will normally study three subjects but a number choose to take on four. In a few cases, according to individual need, a student may have a slightly reduced programme.

Aside from the A Level programme all students will engage with the following non-qualification activities:

* Careers - individual tutorials with an external provider take place in Y12 to enable students to firm up their career plans and to support appropriate higher education course choices. In addition, students are able to access practice interviews to support the university interview process.
* Work experience – students have been able to arrange their own work experience placements according to their chosen career pathway. From 2020-21 it is planned that there will be a week set aside when all Year 12 students will engage in a suitable work experience placement.
* UCAS – the vast majority of students go on to higher education and the support for the application process is well informed and extensive.

There is a comprehensive programme for UCAS in Year 12 and 13 which includes the following elements:

* + Choice of course
	+ Writing a personal statement
	+ Student finance
	+ UCAT/BMAT/LNAT training
	+ Support for medical applications, Oxbridge applications and apprenticeships
	+ Aston University Outreach- Preparing for University

In addition, students attend a local Higher Education exhibition and also individual university open days.

* VESPA – the school has adopted this approach in order to support students in maximising the effectiveness and success of their studies:
	+ Vision – students are supported in establishing what they want to achieve.
	+ Effort – focuses on the number of hours of study that a student is willing to devote to achieving their goals.
	+ Systems – looks at the way in which the student organises their learning.
	+ Practice – aims to establish the level to which the students is willing to develop their skills through repetition and practice.
	+ Attitude – emphasises the ways in which a student responds to setbacks

Study skills – are supported through individual subject staff and, where required, individual mentoring, using the VESPA model.

* Enrichment – all students participate in our enrichment programme which covers a range of options including:

Kissing it Better (community work with the elderly a local hospital and care homes)

Community outreach e.g. Spanish in local Primary Schools and a mural in Manor Hospital

LAMDA

British Sign Language

First Aid with St John's Ambulance

Yoga

Photography

European language and culture

Debating

Creative writing

* Leadership – all Year 13 students have the opportunity to engage with leadership activities in school. These include formal roles such as Head Girl and Deputy Head Girls, House Captains, Subject Prefects, Youth Peer Mentors, Mental Health Ambassadors and other prefect roles.
* Subject mentoring – many students are allocated to support younger students with their academic work.
* Links with business and industry – the Engineering Education Scheme

The school uses the Unifrog package to enable students to record their engagement with the non-qualification programme and this is monitored by the Head of Sixth Form to ensure that all students have accessed the full range of opportunities that are available to them in order to guarantee that they are fully prepared for their next steps after school.