Sandringham School 2026-27

Information about Post-16 Pathways

After you have completed Year 11, there are different options for your next steps. These are:

- Full-time education at school Sixth Form;
- Full-time education at a Further Education (FE) college;
- An apprenticeship or traineeship - led by an FE college or employer.

The following information is an indication of post-16 pathways available in the local area. There are many other types of courses and providers available. Detailed entry criteria for individual courses are available on provider websites.

Provider	Courses	Entry criteria	Notes
School Sixth Form (Sandringham)	A-levels A small number of 'single' BTEC/CTEC courses	GCSE grade 6+ for A-levels (7 for maths) Grade 4 for BTEC/CTEC	The vocational (BTEC) offer is very limited, and is intended to supplement the A-level programme.
FE College (Oaklands / West Herts)	Wide range of vocational including BTEC Extended Diplomas (equivalent of 3 x A-levels)	Level 3: GCSEs grade 4+ Level 2: GCSEs grade 3	Level 3 is the same level as A-levels. Many universities accept BTEC and other vocational qualifications.
FE College (T levels)	Technical qualifications worth 3 x A-levels with integrated, high quality work placements.	5 GCSEs (4-9 including English and Maths)	Programmes funded generously by the government to promote parity between 'academic' and 'technical' routes.
Apprenticeship	Varied types in terms of employment sector and level of entry.	Varied depending upon level of apprenticeship.	Some only available post 18.
Elstree Screen Arts Academy	A-levels and vocational qualifications in the arts and media production	Varied depending on type of course.	Academy for ages 14-18, can enter in Year 10.

FAQs

Can I apply to more than one school or college?

Yes, you can apply to as many as you like. Indeed, it is a good idea to apply to both a school sixth form and to an FE college if you are not confident about getting the grade 6s needed for A-levels. However, you cannot apply to more than one school in the BSV Consortium, you can only apply to one.

Can I take three single BTEC/CTEC courses at Sandringham, rather than A-levels?

It is technically possible, as there will be three single courses available, you will have to consort to another school for one of them. However, we strongly suggest that you don't take this option as the three single vocational courses don't offer a very clear pathway post 18 and are difficult to manage. We would recommend the college option and the BTEC Extended Diploma or a T-level in one subject as a better option for your future.

If my GCSEs are all at grade 5, can I come to Sandringham Sixth Form?

Possibly, yes. But your options will be very limited as A-levels require GCSE grades of 6 or above in relevant subjects. If you think these are your likely grades at GCSE, it is best to also apply to college and then we can discuss all options with you.

How and when should I find out about all of my options?

Colleges and schools start to hold their open evenings and days from September of Year 11, so look at the websites now to plan when you should go and explore the options. Sandringham Sixth Form will be explained in general as part of the virtual BSV Information Evening in the autumn term, and then the full Sixth Form Information Evening with all of the full details and subject presentations is in January.

Websites for local providers:

Oaklands College: https://www.oaklands.ac.uk/

West Herts College: https://www.westherts.ac.uk/

Elstree Screen Arts: https://esaacademy.org/

T level information:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels

Example of T levels from Harlow College:

https://www.harlow-college.ac.uk/study-options/t-levels)

Sandringham Sixth Form: https://sandringham.herts.sch.uk/