



**MAYFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL
GRAVESEND**

6TH FORM OPTIONS

2022-2023



Science



LANGUAGE
COLLEGES



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WELCOME TO MGSG SIXTH FORM

DEAR YEAR 11 STUDENT

You are aware that the time has come for you to consider your future and, in particular, the course you will be studying in the next two years.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join our Sixth Form. This is an important and exciting time in your life since the decisions you take now will have a great effect on your future career. It is important that you gather as much information as possible and ask all the questions you may have. In addition, you will be receiving support from your Form Tutor, Learning Leader, Mrs Murfet and Mrs Absolon. You will also have an opportunity to discuss your plans in your individual meeting in Term 3.

As a Sixth Former at Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend, you will continue to be a member of a Tutor Group, and be supported by a member of staff who will take an interest in your progress and welfare. I know that you will find your tutor's advice and guidance helpful throughout the time that you spend in the Sixth Form.

Life in the Sixth Form is very different:

- you will have much more responsibility for your own work and will organise the method of study which best suits the type of learner you are;
- you will be a senior member of the school community, encouraged to play an important part in the life of the school;
- you will have the opportunity to serve the local community and to take part in further work experience;
- you will have the use of a common room at breaks, for which the Sixth Form students are responsible, study rooms and our new library during study periods.

The Sixth Form has a lot to offer and we hope that you will find courses and experiences, both in and out of school, which will be useful, stimulating and full of opportunities. It is your life, so make the most of it, but do remember that what you get out of your time in the Sixth Form will depend to a large extent on what you are prepared to put into it.

We hope that you will find this booklet useful; do remember that we are all here to help you gain the most benefit from your time in the Sixth Form.

Mrs E Wilson
Headteacher

November 2021



GENERAL INFORMATION

This booklet has been prepared for Year 11 students hoping to enter the Sixth Form in September 2022. It provides information about entering the Sixth Form, advice on choosing subjects for courses, and other details about life and work in the Sixth Form. The bulk of the booklet however explains the courses available including entry requirements, assessment methods and content.

Entry to the Sixth Form is dependent on demonstrating achievements which show general breadth of ability as well as depth in the specific courses chosen for study in the Sixth Form. For this reason you will need to have achieved all the following:

1. **A minimum of 6 GCSEs at Grade 5 and above, preferably on the higher papers, in discrete subjects, with the exception of Combined Science, which counts as two subjects.**
2. **Grade 5 or above in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.**
3. **To have met the requirements of the individual subjects that you intend to study at A Level/Level 3, which are all a minimum of Grade 6 at GCSE on the Higher papers. This is essential.**

As I am sure you are aware, all A Levels are now linear, with only one examination at the end of two years.

Some subjects at MGS will offer the opportunity to complete a stand-alone AS Level, **but not all**. You will need to look very carefully at the subject information included in this booklet. We offer a very wide range of subjects and a number of AS Levels, this allows us to offer you real flexibility in your choices.

Continuation from the Year 12 course to the Year 13 course in a subject is dependent upon passing the internal examination at the end of Year 12. If a student gains only a D or E grade she/he will be expected to re-sit part of that examination to improve the marks in order to continue with the course in that subject. No student can continue a subject without a pass grade at the end of Year 12

It is important to discuss your intended choices with your subject teachers and Form Tutor, who are the staff best qualified to assess whether you are likely to be a suitable candidate. If you want to choose a new subject, one not studied at GCSE Level, you will need additional information and advice to help you reach your decision. We do not advise any student to start more than two new subjects at A Level, because there is no subject knowledge base on which to build.



GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

New Subjects

Recently we have decided to widen the breadth of our curriculum offer. After consultation with Year 11 we now also offer:

Criminology (Level 3 Applied Diploma)

Design and Technology; Product Design (A Level)

Health and Social Care (Level 3 Applied Diploma)

Law (A Level)

Philosophy (A Level)

Photography (A Level)

These subjects, like all others, will only run if sufficient numbers choose them on the options form.

Facilitating Subjects

The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities, defines facilitating subjects as: English literature, History, Modern languages, Classical languages, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and Geography. It is often very useful to study one or two of these subjects.

Why these subjects?

These are all subjects that universities **require** students to have to get on to many degree courses. For example, many science degrees require students to have two or sometimes three A Levels in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry or Biology.

Many specialist courses at A Level and beyond also take a large part of their content or structure from facilitating subjects. For example, engineering includes elements of Mathematics and Physics, so choosing a facilitating subject can prepare you for a range of courses.



STUDYING IN THE SIXTH FORM

Working in the Sixth Form is different from working in the Upper School. Teaching groups vary in size but are usually smaller than in the Upper School, so that you have more opportunity to take part in class discussion or practical work.

With more periods per week it is easier for the teacher to get to know you well. A considerable amount of homework will be set, but you will also be expected to find time for **independent study**. Students will be expected to keep a record of any extended learning completed in each subject on **Unifrog** and they will be encouraged to review their progress, research various careers, monitor their attendance and punctuality and keep a record of any community service and skills mastered.

You will need to demonstrate how you have worked above and beyond the subjects you study. You will be expected to be ready to discuss it with your tutor and subject staff. There are many different ways you can show wider knowledge. For example, it may be that you have read newspaper articles, watched television programmes, read books, journals, links from Twitter, lectures, seen plays and films. You should expect to spend an average of 15 hours per week working on your chosen subjects outside lesson times. All Sixth Formers may use the library and study rooms for private study. You must take more responsibility for your own learning. Not only will you have more opportunity to organise your own work and to learn to work on your own, but you will also have to monitor your own progress and set targets for improvement. All of these are valuable skills which prepare you for higher education and employment. Tutors and subject staff will help you with this. Once accepted on an A Level course, you will be assessed early in the course to identify progress and your next steps. If you are a student from another school and have followed different GCSE courses in subjects from those followed by students at MGSG, your subject staff will introduce strategies for you to ensure that you are not disadvantaged and can access any resources that may be required.

The Sixth Form curriculum at MGSG provides you with a few study periods and a wide variety of curriculum enrichment opportunities. We advise that you, therefore, think very carefully about the amount of paid work that you undertake. Careful time management can help you cope with school and work commitments to a certain extent but no more than 8 hours paid work per week is acceptable since longer periods will undoubtedly affect subject grades. We advise that the majority of this employment should be at weekends, rather than after school mid-week.

Attendance at all lessons and tutor time is compulsory. We also expect you to complete all work set during the course and meet deadlines. You will be expected to agree to conditions set out in a Student Learning Agreement, which will include both attendance and study expectations.

Our commitment as a school is to ensure that you are successful in your Sixth Form course. Therefore, we reserve the right to remove students from courses **at any point** if their performance fails to reach certain standards. In general the criteria we would operate may be summarised as expectations that the student will achieve standards of progress and behaviour that are 'reasonable'.

Some specific examples are:-

- Where attendance at school, or in individual subject lessons, falls below 98% without satisfactory explanation.
- Where at least 90% of the pieces of work set are not completed satisfactorily.
- Where the student's progress continues to fall below acceptable standards as measured by progress reviews and report assessments.
- Where behaviour is hindering the progress of either the student or the group(s) she/he/they is part of.

Personal Development Journey

Each area of the school has distinctive characteristics and the Sixth Form is no exception. Here we cover both the academic and the preparation for coping with life after leaving school. Below contains the main aspects of a student's journey through our Sixth Form.

	Sixth Form
Careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE lessons - Careers (Year 12), Unifrog opportunities • External speakers in General Lecture • Individual interviews with Careers Leader • Prep programme covers literacy, numeracy and living in the wider world. • Higher Education trip • Higher Education Evening • Futures lecture and booklet with UCAS, apprenticeship and job guidance • External mock interviews with members of local community • Oxbridge interviews with local MP • Use of Unifrog for university, apprenticeship and employment guidance. Also provides MOOCs for independent learning. • Work experience available
Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE lessons - Body Image (Year 13), mental health • Team building session • Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold Award • School trips • Prefect responsibilities • Subject responsibilities • House responsibilities • Student support responsibilities
Extra-Curricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold Award • PE clubs, Ping Pong, football etc and opportunities to work with younger students • Run non-school uniform days • Run Harvest collection • Help organise Sports Day • Trips

Cultural Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Prefect Team role • House festivals • EPQ • Pantomime • Graduation Ball • Cultural Days and events • General Lecture speakers • School Trips • Organise Christmas quiz • Help support and run clubs • Provide support to lower and upper school in curriculum. • PSHE Black History Month (Year 12 and 13)
Learning Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VESPA • Prep programme • Individual support from Ms DeBeer • PSHE lessons – Effective Exam Preparation (Year 12), Getting Ready for University (Year 13)
Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction days • Team building day • New Entrants orientation afternoon • Year 12 Parents' Meeting • PSHE lessons – Success in the Sixth Form (Year 12), Post 18 options (Year 12)
Moral development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE lessons – Fake News (Year 12), LGBTQ+ (Year 13) • Subject curriculum • Assemblies
Social development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing and performing pantomime • Graduation Ball • Head Prefect Team • Senior Officials • House Prefects • Subject Prefects • House events • Duke of Edinburgh Award • Charity events • Running and participation in clubs
Spiritual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblies • Curriculum enrichment days
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE clubs • Duke of Edinburgh silver and Gold Award • PSHE lessons – Physical Health (Year 12)
Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE lessons – Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health (Year 12), Stress (Year 13) • Counsellor • Trailblazers • Tutor/Learning Leader/Head of Sixth Form support • Assemblies
British Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedded in subject curriculum • PSHE lessons – Prevent (Year 12), Immigration and Asylum (Year 12), Human Rights (Year 12), The Rise of the Far Right (Year 13), Citizenship, Democracy and Voting (Year 13)
Life Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PREP programme • PSHE lessons – Healthy Relationships (Year 12), Sexual Exploitation – ZAK (Year 12), Sexual Harassment (Year 12), Relationship Abuse (Year 13), Personal and e-safety (Year 13) • Work experience opportunities • Working with younger students in clubs and as subject officials



YOUR APPLICATION TO MGSG

Current Year 11 students will not have to apply to join the Sixth Form. You automatically have an offer of a place conditional on reaching the qualifying grades/levels. We will speak with each of you about your choices, then confirm our offer in writing after your GCSE results.

External Year 11 students at other schools will be expected to apply through the online system used throughout Kent, This is called Kent Choices. You will be given full details of what to do from your current school. Following a review of your subject choices you will either be offered a provisional place or will be turned down. If you later exceed expectations we would ask that you get back in touch with us when you have received your results to discuss your options.

Students from other schools applying to MGSG should use the online system only, and send applications after **5th November 2021**. No applications will be processed before this date.

Applications close **7th February 2022**.

Once processing begins, the following procedure will take place:

- Information will be sought from your current school, requesting details about your suitability for a place at this school, including predicted GCSE grades/levels.
- The application will be reviewed against our entry requirements and the subject combinations chosen.
- If your predictions and all other information match the school criteria, a decision will be made whether to offer you a place at this stage, conditional on achieving the required grades at GCSE.
- You will be expected to attend our Orientation Afternoon and Sixth Form Induction in the summer term.
- You will be asked to contact the school on results day to confirm your place.
- If you are not asked to attend you will receive a letter which states that we are unable to offer you a place in the Sixth Form at this stage.

You should study carefully the information about the school and the subjects on offer, which can be found on the school website and the area prospectus.



RANGE OF COURSES

We expect students to start with 3 or 4 subjects in Year 12, taking at least 3 of these through to A Level.

When you make your choice of subjects, you will be asked to place them in order of priority and to add an extra subject.

Whilst we will make every effort to give you your choice of subject, as notified to us on the option forms in March, we cannot guarantee complete success in this area because of staffing constraints and the viability of set sizes.

In particular, last minute changes of course may be impossible to satisfy in September 2021 because the timetable is then complete, staffing arrangements have been made and courses may be full. We also reserve the right to move students between groups during the initial few weeks in September where necessary, either to ensure even distribution between groups or to allow other students access to courses. Students, unless there are exceptional circumstances, should not change their subject choices after October 1st of Year 12.

We will also be offering students the chance to learn Mandarin to A Level and at a transactional level.

We also invite all students to complete an **Extended Project Qualification** or **EPQ**. This is an AS Level qualification that provides the depth and study skills needed for a university education. It is also the only AS Level in which an A* grade is possible to achieve.

The EPQ allows each student to embark on a largely self-directed and self-motivated project. Students must **choose a topic, plan, research and develop their idea** and decide on their finished product. A **finished product** may take the form of a research based written report, production* (for example, a charity event, fashion show or sports event) or an artefact* (for example, a piece of art, a computer game or realised design). Students must also record their project process in their Production Log. The process of recording and completing a project is as important as the finished product. Both the Production Log and Product will be assessed

*A written report must accompany these options.

Universities such as Southampton (a Russell Group member) help promote the qualification as they believe it teaches the students the skills they need to make their university education a success. Students at this school have had their university offers lowered as a direct result of a good EPQ grade.

Although every effort will be made to offer all of the courses detailed in the following pages, the school reserves the right to withdraw courses should it become necessary and in such circumstances any student affected by such a withdrawal will be informed immediately.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR CHOICE

1. Ability

If you are already good at a subject you may sensibly wish to study it in the Sixth Form. If you have difficulty with a subject at GCSE Level you are likely to find increasing difficulty in the Sixth Form.

2. Interest

Ask yourself whether you like studying the subject now and whether you want to go on with it, and spend more time on it, for another one or two years.

3. Sensible Subject Combinations

Some subjects naturally complement each other, e.g. Biology and Chemistry while others can offer a contrast, broadening the skills areas studied, e.g. Physics, Mathematics and French. Think carefully before choosing three or four completely different subjects which neither complement nor contrast. Take advice from your careers advisor or subject staff.

4. Careers and Higher Education

If you have a career, or a group of careers, in mind, make sure that you choose the subjects that lead to the right qualifications for that career. If you wish to go to University, find out which qualifications are needed for the course that interests you and choose the appropriate subjects.

5. Coursework

Some subjects have an element of coursework which can be very useful if you do not want to rely entirely on examination results. This can be in either the AS course or the A Level course. Think carefully about the implications for you.

6. Workload

You must take on a reasonable and manageable workload, balancing the need for academic qualifications with the need for enrichment activities.

Some subjects are new to you. You will not have studied them before and so will not know whether you have the ability or the interest in them. Try to find out all you can about the subject; ask the members of staff who teach it or, of course, anyone else who can help you, including sixth form students already studying the subject.

Think about your choices carefully, discuss them fully. Do not hesitate to ask if you are in any doubt or difficulty. See Ms Johnson if you require more help and guidance over and above the interview that you will have with her as part of the Careers programme. It is essential to realise that the results of all your Sixth Form courses will be important to your future.



EXAMINATIONS, CAREERS & FURTHER EDUCATION

External examinations are held in May or June, the AS examinations in Year 12 and the A Level and Applied Diploma examinations in Year 13. Internal tests are taken in the January in Year 12 and 13 and in May/June.

There will be Parents' Evenings for Year 12 in Terms 2 and 6 and Year 13 in Terms 2 and 3.

All Year 12 students should consider carefully their plans for careers or continued education. The Careers staff, tutors and subject teachers are readily available to give advice and arrange careers interviews. Details of the help offered can be found later in this booklet.

There is a very wide range of courses at degree and diploma Levels at Universities and applications for these courses are made in the Autumn Term of Year 13, preferably as early as possible. Tutors write the references and subject teachers are asked to give estimates of the grades expected in the final examinations. Remember that poor AS and internal examination results may jeopardise your future plans.

Oxford and Cambridge University have different application procedures and there is intense competition for places. All students considering Oxford or Cambridge applications will be asked in the fourth term of Year 12 to discuss their plans with their tutor and the Head of the Sixth Form.

All students hoping to proceed to Higher Education will be encouraged to attend University Open Days, no more than three, and interviews in Year 13.

All students will need to apply for an award to support their tuition fees during their Higher Education course, and this should be completed during the third or fourth term of Year 13. Details of any changes to the financial arrangements for Higher Education will be given to students and parents as they are finalised by the Government.



IMPORTANT DATES

Year 11

December	Options evening - choice of subjects
January	Mock Examinations
March	Reports + Final submission of Option Choices
May/June	GCSE examinations
July	Induction course
August	GCSE results

Year 12

September	Sixth Form briefing - confirmation of choice of subjects
November	Senior Prize Giving
January	Internal Tests, Parents' Evening
Spring Term	Preliminary discussion for Oxbridge applicants
February	Election of Head Prefect, Deputies and Senior Officials
March	Start of Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
April	Higher Education meeting
May and June	Internal examinations and AS Level external examinations
July	Distribution of Higher Education booklets

Year 13

Sept/October	Higher Education applications and visits to Open Days
October	Deadline for Extended Project completion
November	Practice interviews Parents' Evening
January	Internal Tests
March	Reports Application for awards towards tuition fees
Spring Term	Higher Education interviews
June/	External examinations
July	Leavers' day Graduation Ball

After leaving school

August	Examination results - some school staff available for advice on Higher Education and Employment opportunities.
December	Leavers' Certificates and Prizes tea



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

GCSE Art and Design Grade 6

Essential skills

- Passion and aptitude for the subject.
- Ability to use initiative and work independently.
- Willingness to take risks.
- Good organisational skills!

The Art and Design A level consists of 4 units of work which comprise a portfolio of Personal Investigation (60%) and an Externally Set Assignment (40%). Students will follow the July induction session with a summer project on the theme 'Sense of Place' which develops the skills learnt at GCSE and will culminate in an early September outcome. The first term is dedicated to artist inspired workshops where students will practice a diverse range of processes in addition to building a foundation of higher level skills. Intense sessions in painting and drawing will be interspersed with print making, ceramics and sculpture. A focus on a student selected title encourages students to manipulate the formal elements. A day of life drawing from a professional model introduces this fundamental skill. This explosion of practical work explores still life and the human figure and informs the first major unit. Students pursue an independent direction which is documented through their journal and culminates in a series of two outcomes.

The second unit in Year 12 evolves from a mock Externally Set Assignment paper. Students begin preparatory studies with work from observation and develop ideas towards a timed assessment. Students research relevant artists, experiment with their own choice of media and develop work to show sequential thinking and evidence of self-review. The artist research element requires students to be critical in their analysis of Artwork and to show an understanding of context. Students participate in group critiques, mini presentations and peer and self-assessment activities.

Students show increased independence and the benefit of their earlier experience as they embark on the final unit of their portfolio. This self-directed exploration runs concurrently with the writing of a Personal Study. The illustrated, extended essay demonstrates a high level of critical analysis and is closely linked to the ongoing practical investigation. Sustained development of summer drawing work and a more in depth and risk taking approach leads to two outcomes. The Externally Set Assignment paper is issued in early February and forms the final 40% of the A level qualification. Students develop personal work from the externally set theme demonstrating the knowledge, understanding and skills that they have developed over the course. The A level concludes with the 15 hour timed assessment which takes place in early May.

University requirements

Students wishing to continue their studies at university will usually apply to complete a 1 year Foundation course to help them choose an area to specialise in at degree level. All candidates are required to submit a portfolio of work to take to interview.

Typical offers: Leeds: AAB – ABB; Oxbridge: AAA; Lancaster: AAB - ABB

Other details

Students who do well in this subject have an interest in Art and Design outside the classroom and will independently visit galleries and museums to further this.

Links to Further Education

Art and Design; Fine Art; Product and Industrial; Graphic Design; 3-D Design; Design and Computing ; Marketing; Interior Design; Fashion; Industrial Design; Multi-media Design and Computing, Architecture

Links to Careers

Advertising; Marketing; Fashion; Interior Design Industry; Textile Design Industry; Arts Journalism; Graphic Designer; Teacher; Product Design; Digital Design; Computer Game Design; Website Design, Freelance Artist, Curator, Photographer



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

GCSE Photography 6 English Literature 6

(Considerations will be made for students who have not studied photography previously but had achieved a Grade 7 or above in Fine Art)

Essential skills

- Passion and aptitude for the subject.
- Ability to use initiative and work independently.
- Willingness to take risks.
- Willingness to conduct wider reading, research, and has strong analytical skills.
- Good organisational skills!

The Photography A level consists of 4 units of work which comprise a portfolio of Personal Investigation (60%) and an Externally Set Assignment (40%). Students will follow the July induction session with a summer project on the theme 'Sense of Place' which develops the skills learnt at GCSE and will culminate in an early October outcome. The first term is dedicated to artist inspired photographic developments where students will draw inspiration from a selection of artists and photographers in order to inform their own responses to the starting theme. A focus on a student selected title encourages students to work independently and produce a series of photos from a personal perspective. Students pursue an independent direction which is documented through their journal and culminates in a series of outcomes, both digital and in the Darkroom.

The second unit in Year 12 will be set by subject staff in January and will complete in June. Students begin preparatory studies with work from observation and develop ideas towards a timed assessment in May. Students research relevant artists and photographers, experiment with their own digital photos as well as a substantial amount of time dedicated to developing a series of prints using manual cameras and Darkroom developing, in order to develop work to show sequential thinking and evidence of self-review. The artist research element requires students to be critical in their analysis of Artwork and Photography, and to show a deep understanding of context. Students participate in group critiques, mini presentations and peer and self-assessment activities.

Students show increased independence and the benefit of their earlier experience as they embark on the final unit of their portfolio from July. This self-directed, self-titled final project, is an exploration that runs concurrently with the writing of a written Personal Study. This extended essay demonstrates a high level of critical analysis and is closely linked to the ongoing practical investigation. The Externally Set Assignment paper is issued in early February and forms the final 40% of the A level qualification. Students develop personal work from the externally set theme demonstrating the knowledge, understanding and skills that they have developed over the course. The A level concludes with the 15 hour timed assessment which takes place in early May where students will have full access to the Darkroom to develop their photos.

Note; this course is not designed with Graphic Design or digital editing through Photoshop. It is a contextual based, traditional film method Photography course. Students will be able to take digital photos and edit photos on their own devices throughout the course however.

University requirements

Students wishing to continue their studies at university will usually apply to complete a 1 year Foundation course to help them choose an area to specialise in at degree level. All candidates are required to submit a portfolio of work to take to interview.

Other details

Students who do well in this subject have an interest in Photography, Art and Design and Literature outside the classroom and will independently visit galleries and museums to further this.

Links to Further Education

Photography, Art and Design, Fine Art, Product Design, Fashion, Architecture, Journalism, Teaching Curation, Advertising.

Links to Careers

Events Photographer, Advertising, Marketing, Fashion, Interior Design Industry, Journalism, Teacher, Freelance Artist/ Photographer, Curator.



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6,6 in Combined Science GCSE or 6 in Biology and 6 in one other Science GCSE.

Students wishing to study 3 Sciences will need Grade 7 in at least 2 GCSE Sciences.

Students wishing to study 2 Sciences will need at least Grades 7 and 6 in the chosen Sciences.

Essential skills

- Excellent organisational skills to manage the demands of the course
- Strong literacy and numeracy skills
- Good practical skills and the ability to follow instructions
- A logical and methodical approach to understanding concepts
- Ability to apply knowledge and understanding to unfamiliar contexts
- Ability to evaluate information and data

Year 1

You will study three modules in Year 12:

- Foundations in Biology
- Exchange and Transport
- Biodiversity and Evolution

There will be mock exams at the end of Year 12, which will assess your knowledge and understanding of course content covered across the year, and provide a valuable opportunity to build your skills in preparation for your Year 13 exams.

You will complete regular practical work throughout the year, which will be assessed by your teacher and contribute towards the award of the Practical Endorsement at the end of the course. A successful Practical Endorsement will be required in order to study scientific or medical courses at university, or to enter relevant careers. Practical work covers 12 essential skill groups in Biology – most of these take place in the lab, but there will be a field trip at the end of Year 12 focused on developing ecological sampling skills.

Year 2

You will study two modules in Year 13:

- Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
- Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

The A-level exams (at the end of Year 13) cover material from across the entire course.

There are three exam papers:

- Paper 1: Biological Processes (2 hours 15 minutes)
- Paper 2: Biological Diversity (2 hours 15 minutes)
- Paper 3: Unified Biology (1 hour 30 minutes)

You will continue to complete practical work as part of the Practical Endorsement, which will be awarded as part of the A-level qualification at the end of the course.

University requirements

A-level Biology is an essential prerequisite for degree courses such as medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, and pharmacology (please be aware that for many of these courses you will also need to study A-level Chemistry). It is also a useful subject to study in preparation for many degree courses, due to the demanding nature of the course and the skills this allows you to develop. Biology-related degrees are a popular option at university – you can study a broad-based degree or choose to specialise in a specific aspect of Biology, and these qualifications open the door to an enormous variety of potential career paths.

Other details

If you have any further questions please contact Miss Lock.

Links to Further Education

Biology; Physiotherapy; Occupational therapy; Nutrition; Medicine; Nursing; Marine Biology; Food Science; Sustainable Agriculture; Veterinary Medicine; Zoology; Ecology; Conservation; Dentistry; Radiology; Pharmacology; Forensic Science

Links to Careers

Physiotherapist; Doctor; Nurse; Dietician; Teacher; Industrial Biologist; Pharmacist; Crop or Fuel Management; Food Industry; Research Scientist; Forensic Scientist; Speech Therapist; Occupational Therapist



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in Economics GCSE [if studied at GCSE]

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and a Grade 5 in English Language

Essential skills

Sound communication skills, with an ability to write in paragraphs and to develop chains of logical reasoning. Moreover, you should be interested in business news, and be prepared to discuss these in class.

Quantitative – you should have confidence in using basic numeracy such as calculating percentage change, rearranging formula and an ability to draw and interpret graphs

Note that 20% of the assessment is quantitative.

A level Business is a linear course. This means that an AS qualification is not available and all external assessment will be at the end of the two year course.

Theme 1: Marketing and People

Theme 2: Managing business activities

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy

Theme 4: Global business

University requirements

Typical offers:

Warwick – Business Management – AAA

LSE - Finance - A*AA

Birmingham City University – Business Management - AAB

Other details

Whatever you choose to do in the future, you'll find that the topics learnt in this course will help you. For example, you'll probably work with lots of different people, so knowledge of motivational theory will help you to work well with others and help them achieve their potential. You might have ambitious plans to start your own business. If that's the case, you'll find the marketing and finance topics particularly useful.

Links to Further Education

Business and Media; Marketing; Accountancy; Management; Public Relations; Events Management; Law (with other relevant A levels); Computing with Business; Hotel Management; Human Resource Management; Data Analysis (with Maths AL); Languages and Business

Links to Careers

Administration Assistant; Civil Servant; Accountant; Legal Secretary; Risk Advisor; Banking; Human Resources; Events Management; Retailing; Marketing; Customer Services; Insurance Broker



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6,6 in Combined Science or 6 in Chemistry and 6 in one other Science GCSE.

Students wishing to study 3 Sciences will need Grade 7 in at least 2 GCSE Sciences.

Students wishing to study 2 Sciences will need at least Grades 7 and 6 in the chosen Sciences.

Essential skills

Many scientific skills are required to study Chemistry including data analysis, experimental work, collaborative work, problem solving, formula manipulation and calculations. You will also be required to work independently, make comprehensive notes and summaries and read around the subject thoroughly.

AQA Chemistry is split into the Physical, Inorganic and Organic disciplines. The AS qualification comprises 2 examination papers and the A Level qualification comprises 3 examination papers. Practical skills will be assessed throughout the course.

Year 1

This will involve a range of assessment type including multiple choice and structured questions covering both theory and practical skills. There will also be extended response questions covering all topics within the course. The chemical ideas involved include; atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria, redox, periodicity, group 2, group 7, organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols and organic analysis. The AS qualification consists of 2 examination papers.

Year 2

This will comprise 2 examination papers covering the whole of the Year 1 and year 2 course content as well as an extra synoptic examination paper. Key chemical ideas studied include; thermodynamics, rate equations, K_p , electrode potentials, acids and bases, period 3 elements, transition metals, reactions of ions in solution, optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, organic synthesis, NMR and chromatography.

University requirements

There are many Chemistry related degrees and qualifications but courses including medicine, dentistry and veterinary science will require this subject. Universities look for the highest grades if wanting to study these types of courses. To study Chemistry, the Russell group will typically require A*A*A, University of Wales Cardiff requires AAB-BBB and University of Kent requires BBB, to give a range of examples.

Other details

This subject will require a hardworking attitude and a general interest in the composition, structure and properties of materials and the interaction of atoms. Studying Chemistry allows you to develop subject-specific and transferable skills which are valued by all employers, meaning your future career doesn't have to be in a lab.

Links to Further Education

Chemistry; Physiotherapy; Osteopathy; Occupational Therapy; Dietician; Teacher; Medicine/Nursing; Industrial Biology; Food Science; Pharmacy; Engineering; Veterinary Science; Zoology; Dentistry; Radiology

Links to Careers

Doctor/Nurse; Veterinarian; Dietician; Teacher; Occupational Therapist; Pharmacist; Crop or Fuel Management; Food Industry; Research Scientist; Forensic science; Architecture; Speech Therapist; Pharmaceutical Chemist



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science

Essential skills

This exciting course offers students the ability to learn computer programming and the technology that makes computers work. The essential skills for this include a logical and systematic approach to solving problems, a keen interest in technology and a good ability in Mathematics.

Years 1 & 2

There are three sections in this course, the Programming and System development component contains the majority of the content of the specification and is assessed in a written paper recalling knowledge and understanding. The second part is Computer Architecture, Data, Communication and Applications. The programming project component is a practical project based assessment with a task that is chosen by the teacher or learner and is produced in an appropriate programming language of the learner's or teacher's choice.

The written examination paper in Computer Architecture, Data, Communication and Applications includes these topics: Characteristics of contemporary processors; Software and development; Exchanging data; Data types structures and algorithms; Legal, moral and ethical issues.

The written examination paper in Programming and System development includes these topics: Elements of computational thinking; Problem solving and programming; Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.

The programming project includes the following: This is an extended piece of written work and coding which is aimed to create a full application for a specific client, it follows this pattern: Discussion, Investigation, Design of the solution, Developing the solution, Testing and Evaluation.

The assessment is broken down into the following, the examination papers are taken at the end of the two year course.

Component 1 Examination Paper 40% final mark

Component 2 Examination Paper 40% final mark

Component 3 Non-Examination Assessment 20%

Lessons are a mixture of theory with practical lessons, the coding language used is C# as well as others which are included for specific topics.

University requirements

The majority of universities offer degree courses in Computer Science. The Computer Science A2 is accepted by the Russell Group as a useful A level for a wide range of courses from Biology to Civil Engineering.

Typical offers: Imperial: A*AAA – A*AA; Oxbridge: A*AA; Kent: AAB

Other details

This is an exciting course which will enable students to develop skills that can be applied to solve real world scenarios.

Links to Further Education

Biology, Psychology, Engineering, Computer Science

Links to Careers

Computing related careers, software designer, project management.



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 at GCSE in two of English Language, English Literature or a Humanities Subject

Essential skills

Students will gain an understanding of Crime and the Criminal Justice System. You will consider the theories that are offered to explain why people commit criminal behaviour (including sociological and psychological theories) the difference between Crime and Deviance, the role of the police, social workers/probation officers, the penal system and the societal response/reaction to crime.

Year 1 (Year 12 Content)

Paper 1: Changing Awareness of Crime (25% of the Diploma – Coursework Assessed):

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? Many people learn about the fear and fascination of crime from the media, but is the media a reliable source of information? To what extent are we misled by our tastes in programmes and newspapers about crime? In this unit, you will have gained skills to differentiate between myth and reality when it comes to crime and to recognise that common representations may be misleading and inaccurate.

Paper 2: Criminological Theories (25% of the Diploma – Externally Assessed)

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, but which is the most useful? In this unit, you will have gained the skills to evaluate some criminological theories and know there are debates within the different theories.

Year 2 (Year 13 Content)

Paper 3: From Crime Scene to Court Room (25% of the Diploma – Coursework Assessed)

What are the roles of personnel involved when a crime is detected? What investigative techniques are available to investigators to help to identify the culprit? Do techniques differ depending on the type of crime being investigated? What happens to a suspect once charged by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service? In this unit, you will gain the skills to review criminal cases, evaluating the evidence in the cases to determine whether the verdict is safe and just.

Paper 4: Crime and Punishment (25% of the Diploma – Externally Assessed)

Why do most of us tend to obey the law even when to do so is against our own interests? What social institutions have we developed to ensure that people do obey laws? What happens to those who violate our legal system? Why do we punish people? How do we punish people? In this unit, you will learn about the criminal justice system in England and Wales and how it operates to achieve social control.

University requirements

Typical grade requirements to study Criminology/ a related degree are as follows:
Oxbridge: A* AA; Russell Group: ABB to BBB; Non Russell Group: ABB to CCC

Other details: The Criminology Diploma is comprised of 4 units. Two units are assessed by coursework, with the remaining units examined externally at the end of Year 13. Criminology is graded A*-E and also carries UCAS Points and appears on the UCAS Tariff Calculator. It equivalent to an A Level and is recognised by many universities, including Russell Group institutions.

Links to Further Education: Any social science degree

Links to Careers: Criminologist; Law; Medicine, Children's Services; Public Service/Community work.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN – linear

Exam Board: AQA

Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Design & Technology, Grade 5 in 1 Science and Grade 5 in Mathematics

Essential skills

An understanding of different materials and properties as well as the ability to work through sustained projects from initial research stages through to the designing and making stages.

Good skills and application of knowledge when linking Mathematics and Science to the work of Design.

Strong drawing and modelling skills as well as an ability to work well with a range of tools and equipment, with understanding of working methods, such as model-making, constructing and assembling.

Examination at the end of the 2 year course

Paper 1 – Technical principles
30% of A level

120 marks available, a 2½ hour written paper

Paper 2 – Designing and making principles
20% of A level

80 marks available, a 1½ hour written paper

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Practical application of technical principles alongside designing and making principles.

Project based work exploring a range of materials and processes.

50% of A level

100 marks available

Higher Education

Foundation Diplomas are a steppingstone in which you can spend a year developing your personal and design skills in preparation for you to find your own style and which design path you want to continue down. Ravensbourne, UAL, UCA, AUB, and Kings college (entry 4-5 GCSE's Grade 4, C in relevant A-Level) are all strong Foundation courses which are found in the south on England.

Many universities offer degree courses that link strongly to Design and Technology: Product Design. For example; Design at Goldsmiths (entry requirements BBB), Product Design at Nottingham Trent University (entry requirements BBC), Architecture at Cardiff University (entry requirements AAB), Product Design at Edinburgh University (entry requirements ABB), Industrial Design at UCA (entry requirements BBC), Graphic Design at Canterbury Christ Church University (entry requirements CCC)

Degree apprenticeships are an active alternative to university. Learning on the job as well as time away at a training provider makes up the equivalent to a degree level certification. These can be found on the gov.uk website along with entry requirements and locations.

Other details

This course will engage you in both practical and theoretical study. You will find it helps to establish links between education and the world around you; enabling you to feel more comfortable when starting a University degree, apprenticeship or job in a related field (see some links below).

Design and manufacturing skills, alongside problem solving skills and the ability to visualise new ideas, can be useful in many different jobs such as, but not limited to, construction, engineering, manufacturing, designing, marketing, sales, advertising, broadcast media and journalism and publishing.

This A Level course will equip you with the skills and knowledge needed to apply yourself to a number of different apprenticeships should you decide to undertake an apprenticeship after your A Level studies.

Links to Further Education

Product Design; Design Engineering; Engineering; Graphic Design; Design and Computing; Marketing; Interior Design; Fashion; Industrial Design; Multi-media Design and Computing; A Technology, i.e. Food and Business; Fashion Design and Garment Technology.

Links to Careers

Product Design; Architecture; Interior Design Industry; Textile Design Industry; Graphic Design; Engineering (including a Science and Mathematics); Teacher; Technical industries; Design Engineer (including Science and Mathematics); Electrical engineer; Visual Merchandising; Aerospace; Animator;



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English, Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature, Grade 6 in GCSE Drama

Essential skills

The most important skills that you need are collaboration and analytical thinking. You will need to evaluate objectively and develop your awareness of the influence of social and cultural context. Wider reading and a willingness to see live theatre is absolutely essential to succeed when studying this course. Students must be aware there are substantial practical and written elements to this course.

Year 12 and 13

The A Level course allows students the opportunity to study drama as a practical form. Students will create, perform and respond to theatre and develop their own creativity as theatre makers. They will consider the theoretical processes and practices involved in interpreting and performing theatre and how creative and artistic choices influence meaning to an audience. Students will achieve this by focusing on analysing sub text, the practical demands of a text, the relationship between performers and audience, spatial relationships on stage and character motivation and interaction. Students will use theory and practice to explore a range of theatrical periods, styles, and historical and social contexts. Students will consider how texts are constructed to be performed focusing on genre, structure, language, stage directions, and character construction.

This two year course is split into 3 main components:

- Devising

Students will develop their devising skills, based on sound knowledge of established drama practitioners, further developing their theatrical skills.

- Text in Performance

Students will perform excerpts of a published play, bringing them to life through their theatrical skills and by justifying their choices based on their knowledge of drama theory.

- Theatre Makers in Practice

Students will evaluate a live theatre production and practically explore and study a complete performance text – focusing on how this can be realised on stage in light of a chosen theatre practitioner.

University requirements

There are a wealth of universities offering Drama courses. These are some of the typical requirements: Exeter AAB-BBB, Kent ABB, Royal Holloway ABB-BBB. Drama Schools including: Rose Bruford College, LAMDA, Arts Educational, Mountview also offer BA courses (Please Note: some drama schools operate through UCAS applications and others have their own application process)

Other details

The most important requirement is you have a keen interest in the subject and a willingness to actively participate in practical exploration and to discuss and share your ideas with others. Students are expected to make active contributions to the lessons and attend live theatre visits and workshops.

Links to Further Education

Drama and Theatre Studies, English; History; Acting; Lighting Design, Set Design, Costume Design; Journalism; Media; Creative Writing; Teacher Training; or any other Arts subject

Links to Careers

Education; Theatre Director; Theatre Designer; Drama Therapist; Stage Manager; Law; Politics; Human Resources; Writer; Journalism; Author; Sales; Marketing; Screenwriter



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 Economics GCSE, (If Economics has been studied at GCSE level) **though a grade 7 is recommended due to the rigorous nature of the course. Grade 6 in Mathematics. Grade 5 English (Though grade 6 is recommended due to the 25 mark essays)**

Essential skills

Successful students in Economics enjoy

- Thinking hard about real world problems such as poverty, inequality, economic growth etc.
- Reading around the subject and keeping an up-to-date record of your reading
- Discussing economic concepts, problems, and events in small groups and as a class
- Problem solving, using logical chains of analysis and applying these to real world economic events
- Taking part in super-curricular events e.g., essay competitions, extended lectures, debate society, etc
- And a high level of challenge in lessons

English - The course is highly discursive and essay based, so oracy and literacy are both essential skills.

Quantitative – you should have confidence in using basic numeracy such as calculating percentages, and ability to draw and interpret graphs. Note that 20% of the assessment is mathematics

A level Economics is a linear course. This means that an AS qualification is not available and all external assessment will be in June in the second year of study.

Years 1 and 2

Theme 1: Microeconomic theory – markets and market failure

Theme 2: Macroeconomics – how the economy works

Theme 3: Business Economics

Theme 4: International Economics

University requirements

Typical offers:

Birmingham – AAA; Oxbridge – A*AA; Greenwich - BBB

Other details

Economics is often referred to as a ‘real world’ subject. The study of the subject helps to explain current affairs and much of what can be seen in the news. We discuss topics as wide and varied as: why the price of fuel is falling; what explains unemployment; the significance of globalisation; the growth of China; Brexit, Covid-19 and how the government make decisions about taxation and spending each year. After studying this course you will realise the impact this subject has on day-to-day lives and have a better understanding of what you hear and see in the media.

If you have any questions, please come and have a chat with Mr Valdiny.

Links to Further Education

Economics, Actuarial Science, Finance, Accounting.

Some degrees are more specialised, for example: International Economics, Development Economics.

There are many combination degrees such as Economics and Mathematics, Economics and language.

Links to Careers

Actuary, Business Management, Civil Servant, Accountant, Insurance Broker, Risk assessment, Banking, Manufacturing, Transport, Retailing, Communication, Government agencies, Charities



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature

Essential skills

The most important skill that you need is the ability to write a perceptive analytical essay in which you demonstrate your ability to use critical sources and original ideas. In your own creative writing, you are expected to structure your writing in a sophisticated manner using a consistent register and an appropriate style. Wider reading is absolutely essential to success on this course.

Year 1

This two-year course is designed to ensure breadth and depth. Students will be introduced to many aspects of linguistics; they will increase their knowledge and understanding of grammar; and they will develop their literary appreciation. Students will come to understand how texts are shaped and how they are products of the society in which they were written.

We will study a wide range of examples of non-literary and digital texts from the 20th and 21st century. The anthology contains a variety of different forms, such as interviews, broadcasts, podcasts, blogs, screenplays and travelogues. In addition, we will study 2 prose fiction texts from a chosen theme (*Wuthering Heights* and *The Bloody Chamber* – theme of 'Encounters'). We will study a drama text (*All my Sons*) considering the playwright's use of linguistic and literary features and relevant contextual factors.

Students will develop their understanding of how writers and speakers shape and craft language to create a sense of voice in their work and how they communicate ideas or issues.

Assessment is by internal examination at the end of the year.

Year 2

Students will continue to study a wide range of examples of literary, non-literary and digital texts from the 20th and 21st century and, now, further explore connections between texts, informed by linguistic and literary concepts. Students will explore and evaluate the ways different writers convey similar themes and issues in different texts.

The coursework component is designed to allow students to demonstrate their skills as writers, drafting their own original texts for different audiences and purposes. Students will explore the various forms of writing and the ways different writers use linguistic and literary techniques in texts.

Assessment is by examination (80%) and coursework (20%).

University requirements

There are a wealth of universities offering English courses. These are some of the typical requirements: Cambridge A*AA, LSE A*AA, Bristol AAA- these are part of the Russell group. Royal Holloway AAB.

Other details

The most important requirement is your interest in the subject and a willingness to discuss your ideas with others.

Students are expected to make active contributions to the lessons having read widely and thought critically about the material under examination. A highly developed personal response based on a secure and detailed knowledge of both language and literature is the key to success in this course.

Links to Further Education

English, or any other Arts or Science subject;; Linguistics; English or American Literature; Joint Honours, English with a variety of subjects; English with a foreign language; Applied English studies; Contemporary English; English Education/ Teaching; Creative Writing; English and Drama

Links to Careers

Business Management; Civil Servant; Law; Politics; Human Resources; Writer; Journalism; Editor; Teacher; Author; Sales; Marketing; Copywriter; Screenwriter



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature

Essential skills

Students are expected to make active contributions to the lessons having read widely and thought critically about texts studied. A highly developed personal response based on a secure and detailed knowledge of literary features is the key to success in this course.

Year 1

This two-year course is designed to ensure breadth and depth. Students will study a wide range of poetry, prose and drama from 1300 to the present day. They will be encouraged to make connections and comparisons between texts and to investigate the contexts in which the texts were written and received. This allows students to consider contemporary critical writing and to develop independence.

In Year 12 students will study poetic form, content and meaning in preparation for responding to an unseen poem and extend their understanding of the concerns and choices of modern day poets. They will also study aspects of drama via one play, exploring the use of literary and dramatic devices and how playwrights shape meaning.

Students will study aspects of prose via two thematically linked texts. They will explore links and connections between them and the contexts in which they were written and received.

Assessment is by examination.

Year 2

Students will study aspects of drama via two plays, including one by Shakespeare.

They will also study a range of poetry, from the established literary canon through to the present day. They will study a selection of poetry from a specified poetry collection.

Coursework will be assessed via two texts. Both texts are enhanced by the study of the links and connections between them, different interpretations and the contexts in which they were written and received.

Assessment is by external examination (80%) and coursework (20%).

University requirements

There are a wealth of universities offering English courses. These are some of the typical requirements: Cambridge A*A*A, LSE A*AA, Bristol AAA- these are part of the Russell group. Royal Holloway AAB.

Other details

Teaching approaches build on those used at GCSE. If students are thinking of reading English Literature at university, they will opt for this course. For those students who are undecided, English Literature offers an excellent coverage of writing skills, both analytical and creative, and the emphasis on class discussion will ensure that all students develop effective oral communication skills. All students, however, will need to possess a love of reading, a keen interest in analysis and the willingness to discuss ideas freely in class.

Links to Further Education

English, or any other Arts or Science subject;; Linguistics; English or American Literature; Joint Honours, English with a variety of subjects; English with a foreign language; Applied English studies; Contemporary English; English Education; English Teaching; Creative Writing; English and Drama

Links to Careers

Business Management; Civil Servant; Law; Politics; Writer; Journalism—post graduate; Editor; Teacher; Author; Sales or Marketing; Copywriter; Screenwriter



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 7 in the corresponding GCSE language.

Essential skills

You will enhance your linguistic skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation), and increase your knowledge, understanding, and capacity for thoughtful discussion of a range of social, political, cultural and historical topics relating to the countries where the language is spoken (see the list of topics below). You will also apply your language skills to the critical study of a film and literary text, analysing themes, character, language and plot, and understanding them within their cultural and social context. By completing an Independent Research Project about a topic of your choosing, you will also equip yourself with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will prepare you well for further study or employment.

Year 1

Social issues and trends in France: changes to family structures, education, world of work.

Political and artistic culture in French-speaking countries and communities: music, media, festivals and traditions.

Study of a film in the French language: *Intouchables*, dir. by Olivier Nakache & Éric Toledano (2012)

Year 2

Immigration and multicultural society in France: positive impact of immigration on French society, response to challenges of immigration and integration, the Far Right.

The Occupation and Resistance: occupied France, the Vichy regime, the Resistance.

Study of literature in the French language: Joseph Joffo, *Un sac de billes* (1973)

University requirements

Typical offers:

Modern Languages:	Oxbridge – AAA	Exeter – AAB – ABB	Kent – BBB
Translation and Interpreting:	Cardiff – AAB-ABB	Newcastle – ABB	East Anglia – BBB
International Business Management (with a language):		Bath – AAB	Royal Holloway – ABB-BBB

It is possible to combine a wide range of subjects with a language at university level as a Joint Honours degree, Combined Studies or Liberal Arts programme:

History and Language:	Oxbridge – A*AA	Warwick – AAB	Reading – BBB
Law and European Law:	Kings – A*AA	Nottingham – AAA	Aberdeen – ABB
Life Sciences and Language:	Birmingham – A*AA	Manchester – AAA-ABB	Winchester – BBC-C

Other details

We welcome enquiries from students who have a native speaker background in the language but who may not have had formal teaching in the language at secondary school level.

Links to Further Education

French, Spanish or German Studies; International Business/Marketing/Management with a language; Politics and International Relations with a language; Joint honours degree that includes a European language and an eastern/world language such as Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Russian; Languages and Economics; Languages with Hotel Management, Mathematics/Science/Engineering with a language, Law and European Law

Links to Careers

Business Management; Translator; Civil Servant; Accountant; Human Resources; Events Management; Retailing; Marketing; Customer Services; Law; International Marketing; Health Service; Media; Transport and Logistics; Teaching; Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL post grad), Journalism and Publishing.



FURTHER MATHEMATICS – AS offered Exam Board: Edexcel

Minimum recommended entry requirements:

A high Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics is preferred.

Essential skills

All good Mathematicians demonstrate a high standard of numerical and algebraic competence. They are capable of reading questions carefully to disseminate the key skills that have been taught to answer them fully, very often linking together various topics to provide full solutions. Students need to have determination and an enquiring mind to ensure that the greatest level of success is achieved.

AS Level

Students who choose to study AS Level Further Mathematics will study the whole of Mathematics (see separate page) in Year 12 across two timetable blocks. Once this has been completed, students will then start to study Further Mathematics, made up of Core Further Pure Mathematics and two other options from Further Mechanics 1, Further Mechanics 2, Further Statistics 1, Further Statistics 2, Decision Mathematics 1 and Decision Mathematics 2 – this decision is based upon the strengths and future aspirations of those studying the course. There will be two examinations that are both 1 hour 40 mins long. A number of Year 13 students choose to study AS Further Mathematics each year with their peers to achieve an additional AS Level.

A Level

Students will study Core Further Pure Mathematics 1 and 2 and extended versions of the two options that have been started for the AS course. There will be four examinations that are all 1 hour 30 mins long.

University requirements

Most Universities offer Mathematics degree courses, often in combination with other subjects. The grade requirements can vary, for example, Oxford and Cambridge require A*A*A, Bath A*AA, Loughborough AAA, Surrey A*AA-AAA. Sussex AAB-ABB, Kent AAA or equivalent. If you have studied Further Mathematics, this grade may well be a specific part of the offer made to you but it would never be an absolute requirement of places offered to undergraduates.

Other details

The Department will be using the Edexcel Syllabus which allows a flexible approach, enabling students to study a wide range of mathematical topics. Four modules must be taken for the award of an A Level certificate or two for an AS certificate. Each module is approximately one quarter of the Year 13 course and all examinations are sat in May/June of each year. Full details of the syllabuses may be available from the Mathematics Department at the Sixth Form Open Evening.

Students considering studying Further Mathematics are advised to discuss their suitability for the course with their Mathematics teacher and/or the Faculty Leader for Mathematics, Computing and Economics.

Links to Further Education

Mathematics; Economics; Actuarial Science; Business; Marketing and Statistics; Accountancy; Management; International Economics; Events Management; Economics and ICT; Computer Science with Maths; Mathematical Sciences; Economics and Mathematics

Links to Careers

Actuary (with Economics); Business Management; Civil Servant; Accountant; Operations Management; Insurance Broker; Data Analyst; Banking; Human Resources; Events Management; Retailing; Marketing; Customer Services



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Geography

Essential skills

There is an emphasis on acquiring the skills that will be of value to students in future employment namely to be able to plan, collect and analyse a whole range of information and statistical data, to write in a concise manner and present a balanced argument, making full use of ICT including GIS, PowerPoint and other audio-visual methods.

Year 1

The Geography A-level is offered as a linear course, where all external examinations and coursework are undertaken in the second year. Regarding content there are four main areas studied in the first year of A-level: tectonic hazards and management; coastal landscape and change; globalisation; changing places - regeneration. Each area of study incorporates a range of contemporary case studies drawing on both local, national and global perspectives. These units will be assessed by internal examinations comprising papers that reflect the style and content of the actual A-level papers.

In addition the fieldwork component of the course is undertaken during the first year. This involves a four day residential visit where data collection and fieldwork techniques are investigated in preparation for the individual coursework, which is a key element of the overall A-level.

Year 2

The second year focuses on the water cycle and water insecurity, the carbon cycle and energy security, superpowers, health, human rights and intervention. There is a strong focus on developing synoptic links between topics.

The examination papers are diverse and represent 80% of the A-Level grade. Some questions will be based on resources that need data analysis and short answers while others will require longer guided essays. In addition there will be an individual 3,000-4,000 word coursework report (linking back to fieldwork undertaken in Year 1) which contributes 20% of the A-Level grade.

University requirements

Many universities offer pure Geography or Geography-related courses; some examples include: Earth Sciences/Geology (Oxford) entry requirements = A*AA, Oxford = A*AA, Exeter = AAA - AAB, Durham = A*AA, Edinburgh = AAA-AAB, Cambridge = A*AA (the above are Russell Group Universities).

Other institutions include: Reading = ABB-BBB, Royal Holloway (London) = ABB, Canterbury Christ Church = BBC (C in Geography A Level)

Other details

The Geography A Level is an exciting course which address key ideas and debates in our world today such as climate change, globalisation, urban regeneration and management of the world's resources. The topics studied include those with a definite physical, human or environmental approach as well as synoptic activities. Fieldwork is an important element of the course and is carried out in Year 12 and Year 13. After all, Geography is about the real world and therefore needs to be studied in the open air!

Links to Further Education

International Studies; Earth Science; Geology; Valances; Architecture; Environmental Science; Resource Management; Biological sciences; Cartography; Oceanography; Business Management; Biology and Geography; Education and Geography; Water Management; Environmental Politics

Links to Careers

Town Planning; Civil Servant; Oil Industry; Water Resources; Earth Science; Teacher; Architect; Geologist; Cartographer; Weather forecaster; Agriculture; Landscape gardener



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 7 in the corresponding GCSE language.

Essential skills

You will enhance your linguistic skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation), and increase your knowledge, understanding, and capacity for thoughtful discussion of a range of social, political, cultural and historical topics relating to the countries where the language is spoken (see the list of topics below). You will also apply your language skills to the critical study of a film and literary text, analysing themes, character, language and plot, and understanding them within their cultural and social context. By completing an Independent Research Project about a topic of your choosing, you will also equip yourself with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will prepare you well for further study or employment.

Year 1

Social issues and trends in Germany: environment, education, world of work.

Political and artistic culture in German-speaking countries and communities: music, media, festivals and traditions.

Study of a film in the German language: *Good Bye, Lenin!*, dir. by Wolfgang Becker (2003)

Year 2

Immigration and multicultural society in Germany: positive impact of immigration, the challenges of immigration and integration, the reaction of society and the state to immigration.

The German Reunification: society in the GDR before reunification, events leading up to reunification, Germany since reunification.

Study of literature in the German language: Friedrich Dürrenmatt, *Der Besuch der alten Dame* (1956)

University requirements

Typical offers:

Modern Languages:	Oxbridge – AAA	Exeter – AAB – ABB	Kent – BBB
Translation and Interpreting:	Cardiff – AAB-ABB	Newcastle – ABB	East Anglia – BBB
International Business Management (with a language):	Bath – AAB	Royal Holloway – ABB-BBB	

It is possible to combine a wide range of subjects with a language at university level as a Joint Honours degree, Combined Studies or Liberal Arts programme:

History and Language:	Oxbridge – A*AA	Warwick – AAB	Reading – BBB
Law and European Law:	Kings – A*AA	Nottingham – AAA	Aberdeen – ABB
Life Sciences and Language:	Birmingham – A*AA	Manchester – AAA-ABB	Winchester – BBC-C

Other details

We welcome enquiries from students who have a native speaker background in the language but who may not have had formal teaching in the language at secondary school level.

Links to Further Education

French, Spanish or German Studies; International Business/Marketing/Management with a language; Politics and International Relations with a language; Joint honours degree that includes a European language and an eastern/world language such as Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Russian; Languages and Economics; Languages with Hotel Management, Mathematics/Science/Engineering with a language, Law and European Law

Links to Careers

Business Management; Translator; Civil Servant; Accountant; Human Resources; Events Management; Retailing; Marketing; Customer Services; Law; International Marketing; Health Service; Media; Transport and Logistics; Teaching; Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL post grad), Journalism and Publishing.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Cambridge Technical LEVEL 3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: OCR

Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 at GCSE in two of English Language, English Literature or a Humanities Subject and Grade 5 in Mathematics.

Essential skills

The OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care qualification is designed to provide learners with underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills of the health and social care sectors, providing a broad basis for further or higher education or for moving into employment within the sectors. The Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care enables learners to gain essential employability skills that are valued by employers, further and higher education including: literacy and numeracy, digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem solving, planning and organisation, creativity and innovation, personal effectiveness

Year 1 (Year 12 Content)

Unit 1: Building Relationships in Health and Social Care: This unit aims to introduce you to the many different relationships that you will encounter within the health and social care sector, whether with colleagues, senior members of staff, other professionals within the sector or individuals who require care and support. You will also be introduced to the concept of the person-centred approach which will help with your relationship building skills.

Unit 3: Health, safety and security in Health and Social Care: This unit introduces you to health, safety and security in health and social care. You will learn how legislation, policies and procedures work to reduce risks in health and social care and the consequences of not following them.

Unit 4: Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care, Illness and Disability: This unit aims to introduce you to the basic structure and functions of the body systems involved in everyday activities and maintenance of health, including cardiovascular, respiratory, and digestive systems. Unfortunately, things do go wrong, and each system has well-known diseases and disorders. Also, as individuals grow older, they are likely to be affected by malfunctions as a result of degeneration.

Year 2 (Year 13 Content)

Unit 2: Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health and Social Care: This unit will help you to understand the implications of diversity on practice and the effects of discriminatory practice on individuals who require care or support. You will also gain an appreciation of how legislation and national initiatives can support and promote anti-discriminatory practice. Strategies used to promote equality, respect diversity and support individuals' rights will be examined.

Unit 13: Sexual health, reproduction, and early development stages: Health and wellbeing are not just relevant when you are an adult; it is just as relevant when you are a child and, as this unit demonstrates, health and wellbeing is of vital importance even before you are born. This unit will also look at the development from conception to a one-year-old child. On successful completion you will have a sound understanding of the importance of sexual health and contraception. You will understand pre-natal health and the various stages of pregnancy and the factors that could have an impact.

Unit 24: Public Health: Health and wellbeing extends further than the individual and the implication of poor health has wider impacted on a community, area and even the country. There are many external factors to good health. Clean water and limiting pollution are just two factors that have an influence on our health. Public health is concerned with protecting and improving the health of the population, rather than focusing on the health of the individual. You will gain an understanding of current public health strategies and initiatives and consider the effectiveness and the implications of health policy for the wider population.

University requirements

Typical grade requirements to study Health and Social care or a related degree are as follows:
Russell Group: ABB to BBB; Non Russell Group: ABB to CCC

Other details: The Health and Social Care Extended Certificate comprises of 6 units. Three units are assessed internally, with the remaining units examined externally. The extended certificate carries UCAS Points and appears on the UCAS Tariff Calculator. It is equivalent to an A Level and is recognised by many universities, including Russell Group institutions.

Links to Further Education: Any social science degree

Links to Careers: Social worker, Youth Worker, Charity Worker, Nursing, Children's Services; Public Service/Community work.



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE History. *Past results show that high grades at A Level require a 7/8 at GCSE, and an excellent level of effort and commitment from students.*

Essential skills

The ability to analyse large amounts of information from primary and secondary material and reproduce this in cogent and focused arguments.

Year 1 (AS Level)

British History – The study of the development of the modern British state from a country struggling to win a small war in 1906 and then avoids a Civil War, arguably thanks to the intervention of the First World War. The year concludes with the onset of an economic depression having the Liberal welfare reforms, the challenges in Ireland, the campaign for female suffrage, the growth of the Labour Party and the impact of the First World War. Did Britain benefit from the First World War?

American History – This course evaluates the extent to which America was able to heal the wounds of slavery and the devastating American Civil War in the years 1865-1920. These years saw self-interested politicians put their own fate and that of big business ahead of the American people before undergoing a progressive era of reform which was projected overseas increasingly as the First World War dawned.

Coursework – Students complete a research essay of around 4000 words which covers a one-hundred-year period of time focusing on the Tudor dynasty. Students look at the strength of the Tudor monarchs & consider the key reasons for instability.

Year 2 (A Level)

British history – This will look the impact of the Great Depression on Britain in the thirties, considering whether this was a 'hungry' decade for all. Students will subsequently look at the impact of the Second World War and arguably the birth of the modern British state with the NHS, debates about Britain's role in the world and how governments attempted to manage the economy.

American History – Students will look at the rise and fall of American liberalism. Started by FDR and his New Deal, furthered by the Second World War, America pressed on with a range of reforms for its citizens spearheaded by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson before reform was ended by the trauma of the Vietnam War.

University requirements

A level History's academic demands and standing means that it is classified as a 'facilitating subject' by the Russell group universities. Offers to study History at university are traditionally in the range: A*AA (Cambridge, Durham), AAA (Oxford [+HAT test], Bristol, King's London), AAB (Royal Holloway London, Southampton, Sussex), ABB (Essex, Kent, Leicester), BBB (Swansea)

Other details

Students will be asked to bring an enquiring mind. Lessons will draw connections across the full time period being studied and invite students to form their own judgements, defending them and justifying them with evidence.

Links to Further Education

History; International History; Politics, Economics, Philosophy; Economic History; Social History; Product Design; Architecture; Classic Civilization; History and Fashion; Design Cultures; Anthropology and History or Art; Archaeology and History

Links to Careers

Business Management; Civil Servant; Law; Politics; Human Resources; Writing; Journalism; Teacher; Architect; Design; Economist; Planning; Research; Archaeology; Restoration



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 at GCSE in two of English Language, English Literature or a Humanities Subject

Essential skills

Students will gain an understanding of the English Legal System and three areas of law: Criminal Law, Tort Law and Human Rights Law. You will examine the law-making process (from Bill to Act of Parliament), the court structure of the civil and criminal systems, the role of the criminal law and the law pertaining to offences against the person, manslaughter, murder and theft, the role of the civil justice system and the law of Tort. Key areas of Human Rights Law are also considered as a special study in Year 13. The course will develop your ability to think critically, solve legal problems and reflect on key moral/legal issues.

Year 1 (Year 12 Content)

Paper 1: The English Legal System and Criminal Law

In this Unit, you will look at the Criminal Law. You will start by exploring the difference between the 'Civil' and 'Criminal' Justice system, with a focus on the role of the courts, legal personnel and penal sanctions (i.e. fines, prison, probation). You will look at the law relating to Offences Against the Person (assault, battery, Grievous Bodily Harm, Actual Bodily Harm), Murder/Manslaughter and apply this knowledge to answer problem questions based on legal scenarios.

Paper 2: The English Legal System and Tort Law

This Unit complements the first unit, by looking at the 'Civil' System. You will examine the role of the civil courts, legal personnel and civil remedies (i.e. damages, specific performance and injunctions). You will consider the law-making process in detail and the role of Parliament in drafting Bills/legislation. You will consider how judges 'interpret' the law and the importance of legal precedents to our common-law system. Finally, you will look at the law of Tort – with a focus on the law of negligence and apply this knowledge to answer problem questions based on legal scenarios.

Year 2 (Year 13 Content)

Paper 3: Special Study – Human Rights

In this Unit, you will undertake a special study into Human Rights Law. You will examine the origins of Human Rights laws and the rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights. You will consider several of the 'key' rights protected by law – e.g. the Right to Life, Right to a Family Life, Freedom from Torture. In looking at case studies from the law relating to these areas, you will consider whether Human Rights protect the 'wrong' people – i.e. are these laws just 'get out of jail free cards' for terrorists, criminals and whether we still need these rights to be protected in contemporary British society. This study is designed to get you thinking more critically about 'rights' and the wider purpose of the law. In doing so, you will look at cases relating to the deportation of terrorists (e.g. Abu Hamza), assisted dying/euthanasia (e.g. Dianne Pretty) and the extent to which people should have a 'right' to privacy.

University requirements

Typical grade requirements to study Law/ a related degree are as follows:
Oxbridge: A* AA; Russell Group: ABB to BBB; Non Russell Group: ABB to CCC

Other details: The reformed A Level Law course has no coursework. Students taking this course should be prepared to keep up to date with changes in the law and show an interest in current affairs. The course is a good grounding for students interested in studying Law at university. Law would be ideally suited alongside Politics, Sociology, Criminology, Psychology and Economics as well as Mathematics or Sciences.

Links to Further Education: Any social science degree

Links to Careers: Law; Criminology, Civil Service, Teaching, Medicine, Business, Finance



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 7 in the corresponding GCSE language.

Essential skills

You will enhance your linguistic skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation), and increase your knowledge, understanding, and capacity for thoughtful discussion of a range of social, political, cultural and historical topics relating to the countries where the language is spoken (see the list of topics below). You will also apply your language skills to the critical study of a film and literary text, analysing themes, character, language and plot, and understanding them within their cultural and social context. By completing an Independent Research Project about a topic of your choosing, you will also equip yourself with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will prepare you well for further study or employment.

Year 1

Contemporary changes in Chinese society: family, education and work

Chinese culture: traditions, cultural life

Study of a film in Mandarin: 请为我投票 *Please Vote For Me*, dir. by Weijun Chen (2007)

Year 2

The development of Chinese society: Communications & Technology, Economics & Environment

Post-1978 economic reform and its effect on China : Social Transformations, Sino-British Relations

Study of literature in Mandarin: CAO Wenxuan, 一只叫凤的鸽子 *A Very Special Pigeon* (2015)

University requirements

Typical offers:

Chinese Studies:	Oxbridge - AAA-A*AA	Leeds – AAB-AAA	SOAS - ABB
Modern Languages:	Oxbridge – AAA	Exeter – AAB – ABB	Kent – BBB
International Business Management (with a language):	Bath – AAB	Royal Holloway – ABB-BBB	

It is possible to combine a wide range of subjects with a language at university level as a Joint Honours degree, Combined Studies or Liberal Arts programme:

Film & Television Studies and Modern Language:	Exeter – ABB-AAB	Manchester - ABB
Law and European Law:	Kings – A*AA	Nottingham – AAA
Life Sciences and Language:	Birmingham – A*AA	Manchester – AAA-ABB
		Winchester – BBC-C

Other details

Please be aware that the current A Level specification is currently being consulted upon and changes may be made.

For those who have not completed a GCSE in Mandarin, there is still the opportunity to undertake an enrichment course and HSK 1 & HSK 2 qualifications.

Links to Further Education

French, Spanish or German Studies; International Business/Marketing/Management with a language; Politics and International Relations with a language; Joint honours degree that includes a European language and an eastern/world language such as Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Russian; Languages and Economics; Languages with Hotel Management, Mathematics/Science/Engineering with a language, Law and European Law

Links to Careers

Business Management; Translator; Civil Servant; Accountant; Human Resources; Events Management; Retailing; Marketing; Customer Services; Law; International Marketing; Health Service; Media; Transport and Logistics; Teaching; Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL post grad), Journalism and Publishing.



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 7 is required in GCSE Mathematics. Students who achieve a high standard Grade 6 but whose prediction was for a Grade 7 will be considered.

Essential skills

All good Mathematicians demonstrate a high standard of numerical and algebraic competence. They are capable of reading questions carefully to disseminate the key skills that have been taught to answer them fully, very often linking together various topics to provide full solutions. Students need to have determination and an enquiring mind to ensure that the greatest level of success is achieved.

AS Level

Students who only wish to study AS Level Mathematics will learn Pure Mathematics and a combination of Mechanics and Statistics. They will take one 2 hour Pure examination and one 1 hour 15 mins examination covering Mechanics and Statistics at the end of Year 12.

A Level

Students who wish to study A Level Mathematics will continue to learn more Pure, Mechanics and Statistics topics. They will take two Pure examinations and one Mechanics/Statistics examination, each of 2 hours, at the end of Year 13.

University requirements

Most Universities offer Mathematics degree courses, often in combination with other subjects. The grade requirements can vary, for example, Oxford and Cambridge require A*A*A, Bath A*AA, Loughborough AAA, Surrey A*AA-AAA, Sussex AAB, Kent AAB or equivalent.

Other details

The Department will be using the Edexcel Syllabus which allows a flexible approach, enabling students to study a wide range of mathematical topics. Full details of the syllabuses may be available from the Mathematics Department at the Sixth Form Open Evening.

All potential students will be set some work on various numerical and algebraic topics during Induction in July which they are expected to complete over the summer break. After having the opportunity to seek any assistance upon formally starting the course in September, students will be required to sit a Fundamentals Test on these topics. There is a minimum standard which students are expected to reach, as this test contains those key topics on which the whole course is built. Those who do not reach the required standard will need to undertake a Fundamentals Retest in order to continue with the course. A more detailed list of GCSE topics that form an integral part of the AS and A Levels will be available at the Sixth Form Open Evening.

Links to Further Education

Mathematics; Economics; Actuarial Science; Business; Marketing and Statistics; Accountancy; Management; International Economics; Events Management; Economics and ICT; Computer Science with Maths; Mathematical Sciences; Economics and Mathematics

Links to Careers

Actuary (with Economics); Business Management; Civil Servant; Accountant; Operations Management; Insurance Broker; Data Analyst; Banking; Human Resources; Events Management; Retailing; Marketing; Customer Services



MATHEMATICS IN CONTEXT (CORE MATHEMATICS)

Exam Board:
Edexcel

Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 is required in GCSE Mathematics. Students who either achieve a high Grade 5 but whose prediction was for a Grade 6 or a high Grade 5 from Foundation Tier entry will be considered.

Please note that if students are unable to choose Mathematics in Context for study in Year 12, it may be possible to do so in Year 13, as the subject will be placed in a different block each year.

Essential skills

This course is designed for those students who have a desire to continue their mathematical education but who do not wish to take AS or A Level Mathematics. It consolidates and builds upon students' GCSE mathematical understanding, and develops further understanding and skills in the application of mathematics to authentic problems. As such, the content supports the mathematical content in other qualifications such as A Level Biology, Business, Economics, Computer Science, Geography and Psychology and BTEC Health and Social Care. Only 20% of the course involves content that is beyond GCSE Level.

Year 1

The content is split into four content areas, namely the application of statistics, probability, linear programming and sequences and growth. Further details of the content to be taught in each area can be obtained from the Mathematics Department at Options Evening.

There will be two examination papers. The first paper is Comprehension lasting 1hr 40mins with 60 marks available and worth 40%. There will be two sections and a source booklet, detailing two real-life contexts, which is pre-published for students to gain familiarity. Each section will require students to comprehend, interpret and analyse the content in order to answer the questions, referring to the source booklet as appropriate. The second paper is Applications lasting 1hr 40mins with 80 marks available and worth 60%. There will be two sections and a source booklet which will replicate just one of the two real-life contexts given for Paper 1 and will be required for the task within the first section. The second section will contain three tasks, each with a separate theme, and which requires students to apply their problem-solving skills in order to answer the questions.

Year 2

Not applicable.

University requirements

The successful completion of Mathematics in Context may well be taken into account by some universities for some of the courses that they offer.

Other details

A scientific calculator is required for this course. Students will need to be use basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division rules with spreadsheets, as well as understanding the sum, power, average, median and count functions. A Formulae Sheet is given at the front of both examination papers.

Links to Further Education

Supports courses in Mathematics, the Sciences and the Social Sciences.

Links to Careers

Links to a wide range of careers from Marine Biology to Civil Servant.



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in English Literature

Essential skills

Prospective students should have good written communication skills as the ability to produce reasoned, detailed and sophisticated written analysis is essential. Students who possess strong creative skills will also find the subject appealing due to the 70% exam, 30% coursework nature of the linear course. The ability to think independently and critically is important in order to be successful and a natural interest in areas such as film, TV, news and the online world would be extremely beneficial.

Year 1

This course is designed to promote broader and deeper understanding of the media's role in society, culture, politics and the economy. Students will explore the usefulness of critical ideas about the media and of academic theories and subject-specific terminology. Year 1 involves developing an understanding of a wide range of new concepts and theories that are used to practise analysing various contemporary media texts across different platforms (audio-visual forms, online forms, magazines and print forms). Students are then able to take these concepts and use them to aid in the production of their own practical products. Throughout Year 12, students are exploring the key question of *how* and *why* media texts are constructed, considering important areas of study such as audience, representations, industries and media language. Students will study a wide range of issues and debates in the media where they will apply the theoretical framework they have studied.

Year 2

Media Studies builds upon the understanding of concepts and theories studied in Year 12. The students will continue to develop a critical approach to a wider range of more complex media theories and perspectives. Students will be encouraged to develop a full knowledge and understanding of the contexts of the media and the theoretical framework.

For the coursework (externally assessed 30%), students will have a choice of topics related to annually changing briefs that are set by the exam board. They are expected to create a cross-media production using two of the media platforms. They should demonstrate an appreciation of how theoretical understanding supports practice.

University requirements

Typical offers:

Brighton – BBC; Keele – BBC; Lancaster- ABB; Newcastle- AAB; Kings– AAB; Leeds-AAB

Other details

If a student is thinking about a career in media, producing and evaluating their own media productions will give them hands-on understanding of both how media messages are created and what they are aiming to do.

Links to Further Education

Media; Multi Media Design and Computing; Media with programming; Games design; Marketing; Advertising; English Teaching; Film and Television studies; Media production; Illustration and Visual Media; Media Communication; Web Design; Graphic and Media Design

Links to Careers

The Media Business; Film; Production; Post Editing; Journalism; Internet content; Runner; Television or Radio; Marketing; Advertising; Web Designer (with computing); Copywriter (with English); Teacher; Public Relations



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Music. (Competence in reading notation and instrumental/vocal proficiency equivalent to at least Grade 4 standard is advised along with the minimum entry requirement.)

Essential skills

The most important skills that you require are the ability to perform to a good standard (at least Grade 4) on your chosen instrument and the ability to listen to and discuss music critically.

All students follow three components. Component 1 (Performance), Component 2 (Composition) and Component 3 (Analysis). Components 1 and 2 can be taken as one of two pathways:

Option A: Specialism in Performance

Performance (35% of qualification): A performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces with a total duration of 10-12 minutes. At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. The other pieces may be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one other, different area of study. The performance component will be assessed by a visiting examiner.

Composing (25% of qualification): Two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by Eduqas. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs. The second composition is a free composition.

Option B: Specialism in Composition

Composition (35% of qualification): Non-examination assessment: externally assessed by Eduqas.

Three compositions, one of which must reflect the musical techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition and be in response to a brief set by Eduqas. Learners will have a choice of four set briefs. The second composition must reflect the musical characteristics of one different area of study (i.e. not the Western Classical Tradition) while the third composition is a free composition. Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes.

Performance (25% of qualification): Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes

A performance consisting of a minimum of two pieces with a total duration of 8-10 minutes. The performance can be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble or a combination of both. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. The performance component will be assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3: Analysis (40% of qualification). Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (approximately). Three Areas of Study will be covered as follows:

- Area of study A (Compulsory): The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900) which includes two set works, one to be studied in detail and the other for general study.

A choice of one of the following: (this decision will be made with the cohort in mind, all students in a year group must study the same area of study)

- Area of Study C: Musical Theatre

There are no set works for Area of Study C, an in-depth study of the stylistic conventions of music composed in that genre will be undertaken.

All students will study either:

- Area of Study E: Into the Twentieth Century (including two set works)

In total, four set works will be studied and an in-depth understanding of the Areas of Study will be gained in preparation for the examination which will include listening and essay questions.

Extra-curricular opportunities

It will be advantageous for learners to become involved in the rich programme of musical opportunities we offer, including weekly ensemble rehearsals, bi-termly concerts and other performance opportunities. The experiences gained in doing so aid preparation for the performing and composing components and assist students' understanding of a wide variety of styles in preparation for the Analysis examination in Component 3.

University requirements

There are a wealth of Music, Music Technology and related courses available. These are some of the typical requirements: Oxford AAA, Durham AAB, Sussex ABB, Canterbury Christ Church BBC, Oxford Brookes BCC. Also, ABRSM, Trinity Guildhall and Rock School Music grades above Grade 5 earn UCAS points.

Other details

Music works very well with a wide variety of other subjects and teaches a range of disciplines. Students often study Music along with Drama, English, Mathematics, Sciences, Languages and Humanities.

Links to Further Education: Professional Performance; Music with drama; Music and Theatre Studies; Musical Theatre; Performing Arts; Teaching; Contemporary Music Production; Electronic Music Production; Modern and Contemporary Music; Music Business and Innovation; Film and Screen Studies

Links to Careers: Performance; Teaching; Music Production; Media; Music, Drama and Dance; Music Technology; Business Management with Music; Musical Theatre; Commercial Music Production and Recording; Economics and Music Technology; Computer Science and Music; Performance Practice and Events Management



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies, if taken, and a Grade 6 in GCSE English

Essential skills

The most important skills that you require are the ability to write a good essay and be able to analyse different sources and points of view. This means that you can structure your work and understand and extract key points from the sources.

Course Content

This course has four units, Epistemology, Moral Philosophy, Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind. It will be assessed at the end of the two year course with two written exam papers each lasting 3 hours.

Philosophy is arguably the most cross-curricular subject you can take, in other words it will fit in with your other options, whatever they are. You will be building on your skills of analysis, evaluation and rational thinking started at GCSE, while dealing with paradoxes, dilemmas and arguments about God and the Mind. The course aims to help you understand philosophical arguments, and develop your responses to these issues.

The content includes questions about knowledge and realism, ideas about idealism and the limits of knowledge. In the Ethics unit you will study ethical approaches like Utilitarianism, Kant and then apply these ethical theories to topics like honesty, killing, and eating animals. In Metaphysics of God you will consider the nature of God, arguments about God's existence and the problems of evil and religious language. Lastly you will consider Dualism, Physicalist theories and Functionalism.

Philosophy is a good basis for studying any subject. It develops your thinking skills, your ability to reason and argue a case. This will help you write well-informed and critical essays. It will help you identify the rationale in any argument and is fun at the same time.

University requirements

Philosophy and Ethics are highly valued by universities and other Higher Education establishments as they demonstrate your ability to study and gain insight into other areas of thought which are relevant to the understanding of human life, culture and behaviour. Philosophy and Ethics are traditional university subjects which can provide a considerable amount of valuable background knowledge to the study of other subjects which can include English Literature, Art, History, Sociology, Psychology and Medicine.

Typical offers: Manchester – ABB – BBB; Oxbridge – A*AA; Kent - BBB

Other details

A course in Philosophy and Ethics always develops English skills because of the large amount of reading and writing involved. There are plenty of opportunities to discuss and debate issues that are raised by the course. Group work as well as individual presentations is encouraged and thinking skills and personalised learning are important. This course will stretch and challenge you and help to develop your full potential.

Links to Further Education

Philosophy or Religious Studies; Social Science; Medical Ethics; Political Science; International Studies, Politics and History; Politics, Economics, Philosophy; Anthropology; Ethics; Religious and Philosophical Education with Secondary Teaching; History & Philosophy of Science; Theology and Religious Studies; Philosophy, Ethics and Religion; Biblical Studies and Philosophy; Theology; Archaeology

Links to Careers

Civil Service; Teacher; Medicine; Medical Research; Psychologist (with Psychology); Counsellor (with Psychology); Journalism; Probation Officer; Management



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education.

In exceptional circumstances, students who have taken a very active part in sport during KS3 and 4 and who have Grade 7 in Dual Science and English will be allowed onto the course.

Essential skills

A strong scientific background will help your understanding within this subject. It is an advantage if you take part in sport outside of school and you will be required to independently work under guidance of your teachers in your chosen sports. When you enrol on this course it is a requirement for you to join a team/club to enhance your practical skills.

A Level Course – 7582

Theory (70%)

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition

Section C: Sport and Society

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B: Sport psychology

Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity.

Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance **(30%)**

Assessment Overview

Paper One (35%) 105 marks

Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport – 2 hour paper

Paper Two (35%) 105 marks

Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport – 2 hour paper

Non- exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity.

Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance. **(30%)**

University requirements

This will all depend on the field you wish to follow and the university you choose to study at.

Physiotherapy – ABB

Teaching – BBB

Sports Therapy – CC

Sports Science – AAB

Sports Management – BBC

Sports Rehabilitation – BBB

Other details

We cover a wide range of skills. In the theory, we encourage independent thinking and learning. We use many different strategies, including practical investigations, student presentations, use of PowerPoint, videos and DVDs.

Students have the opportunity to attend various trips to support their studies in the three areas of focus.

Links to Further Education

Physical Education; Sports Science; Osteopathy; Marketing; Paediatrician; Sports Massage; Ergonomics; Sports therapy; Dietician; Social or Youth Work; Teacher; Sports Management; Sport and Exercise Science; Sport and Social Science; Philosophy and Religion and Sports Science; Sports Science and Italian

Links to Careers

Physiotherapist; Dietician; Sports Management; Teacher; Occupational Therapy; Industrial Ergonomics; Sports Therapy; Sports Journalism; Coaching; Outdoor pursuits; Sports Business Manager; Osteopathy



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6,6 in Combined Science GCSE or 6 in Physics and 6 in one other Science.

Students wishing to study 3 Sciences will need Grade 7 in at least 2 GCSE Sciences.

Students wishing to study 2 Sciences will need at least Grades 7 and 6 in the chosen Sciences.

Essential skills

The most important skills that you require are the ability to manipulate data and equations, use apparatus as well as planning and evaluating experiments.

Year 1/AS

AS level is assessed through two exam papers (50% and lasting 1 hr 30 mins each). In addition to the content met in each unit, each paper will have questions which relate to the core practicals. The paper may include multiple-choice, short open, open-response, calculations and extended writing questions.

Paper 1: Mechanics, which includes motion graphs, Newton's Laws, Vectors, Equations of Motion and Work, Energy and Power and Electricity which includes Current Electricity, Ohm's Law, Resistivity, EMF and internal resistance and Potential Dividers, Nuclear Particles and Radiation, Materials, which includes Hooke's Law, Stoke's Law and Young's Modulus and Waves and Particle Model of Light which includes refraction, total internal reflection, standing waves and lenses.)

Paper 2: Paper 2 includes synoptic questions on all topics listed in Paper 1 above as well as questions on experimental methods (including questions on core practicals).

Year 2

The course leading to the Advanced Physics qualification is examined through three written papers of 2 hour duration each. Paper 1 and Paper 2 contributes 34 % each to total A level mark and Paper 3 contributes 32 %.

All students follow the same course. In Year 2 there are 3 papers to be taken at the end of the year.

Paper 1: includes building upon the knowledge of topics listed for AS as well as Further Mechanics, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Nuclear and Particle Physics, Thermodynamics, Space, Nuclear Radiation, Gravitational Fields and Oscillations

Paper 2 includes synoptic questions and experimental skills questions of all topics covered in Paper 1.

Paper 3: includes questions on the Optional Module chosen, which will be **Astronomy**

University requirements

These are some of the typical entry requirements:

Bristol AAA ; Nottingham A*AA-AAA; Durham A*AA; Warwick A*AA - these are part of the Russell group universities. Royal Holloway AAB-AAA. Kent BBB

Other details

All Physics exams must have a minimum of 40% mathematics at a level above higher tier GCSE maths. Pupils who do not take A Level Mathematics are expected to have achieved at least a grade 6 in Mathematics at GCSE and be prepared to develop their mathematical skills. We strongly recommend that students taking Physics also take Mathematics to at least AS level. However, each unit is supported by Maths notes and highly numerate students have been successful in taking Physics without Mathematics. As an A-level student you are responsible for your own learning. This responsibility includes reading around the subject material taught in class and going beyond the limits of the syllabus.

Links to Further Education

Law, Accountancy, Banking and Financial Services; Mathematics, Chemistry, Design and Technology and Biology. However, a wide range of other subject combinations is also possible.

Law, Accountancy, Banking & Financial Services; Mathematics, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Biology



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 at GCSE in two of English Language, English Literature or History

Essential skills

A strong emphasis is placed on up-to-date knowledge and students are encouraged to follow current affairs and make sense of what appears in the media. Students will need to develop their skills of argument and debate, bearing in mind that such skills need to be based on evidence and consider alternative viewpoints. In a subject that is examined by written papers, these skills must also be translated into the ability to mount a powerful, written argument.

The most important requirement is your interest in the subject and being prepared to work hard. You should **already** be familiar with the political system and have a good understanding of events in the news. You need to be able to write fluently, research independently and have an analytical approach to the issues involved. You should take an **interest** in the news and either watch this regularly or **read** a good quality newspaper.

AS

We will not be offering an AS Level in Politics

A Level

For the A Level course we study for three components:

For Paper 1 we study British politics including democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media as well as liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

For Paper 2 we study British government including the constitution, parliament, prime minister and executive, relationships between the branches and the ideology of feminism.

For Paper 3 we focus on American politics. This comparative component covers the US Constitution and federalism, the US Supreme Court and civil rights, the US Congress, the presidency, and democracy and participation. For each individual component there will be a 2 hour exam.

University requirements

To study Politics at Oxbridge you will need A* A* A. To study at a Russell Group university you will need AAA – AAB. For example, The London School of Economics asks for AAA, as do Durham, Warwick and Exeter. Politics can be studied at Leeds, Nottingham and Sheffield and you will need AAB.

Other details

Due to the up-to-date and constantly changing nature of the subject matter the exam boards have decided that there will be **no coursework** element to any Politics syllabus. Politics has been combined with every subject offered within the Sixth Form syllabus. Clearly it enhances a study of History, Sociology, Geography, Psychology or English, but its contemporary nature and obvious relevance attracts students from every subject area.

Links to Further Education

Political Science; History; International Politics and History; International Marketing; Politics, Economics, Philosophy; Economics; International Studies; International Business; American Studies with Politics and Governance; Business and Computing with Politics and Governance

Links to Careers

Business Management; Civil Servant; Solicitor; Barrister; Politics; Human Resources; Writing; Journalism; Charity worker; Teacher; Economist; Political Researcher; MP



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in two GCSE Science subjects and Grade 6 in Maths. Grade 6 at GCSE is also required if taken.

Essential skills

Psychology is a discipline that attempts to apply the scientific method to the study of human behaviour and mental processes. By studying Psychology, you will gain a solid foundation in a range of topics including biological psychology, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, social psychology and individual differences.

Moreover, you will also gain a critical appreciation of different theoretical perspectives and extensive training in research methods. Later you will learn how to evaluate the numerous studies you will learn about and be able to make informed judgements about the validity and reliability of a piece of research.

Successful students in this subject typically, enjoy challenge and being outside of their comfort zone, are self-reflective and self-motivated learners, and thrive on discussion and debate.

Year 1

This is intended as a broad introduction to Psychology. The Year 1 content covers the Scientific method and research methods, the different approaches to psychological investigations, memory, social influence, attachment, and psychopathology.

Year 2

In Year 2 we study a range of options designed to give students a deeper understanding into some specific areas of scientific interest. To this end, students will apply their learning from Year 1 of the different approaches to a range of topics including Relationships, Forensic Psychology, and Schizophrenia.

University requirements

Typical grade requirements to study Psychology/a psychology related degree are as follows:

Oxbridge: A*AA

Russell Group: A*AA to AAB

Non Russell Group: AAA to BBB

Other details

Psychology is one of the most versatile subjects and compliments a range of different subject combinations. For example, students have successfully been able to apply theories learned in Psychology to Sociology, Economics, Business, Politics, and a range of other subjects.

However, Psychology is also a highly discursive subject with students expected to regularly discuss research findings and share opinions with the class.

Links to Further Education

Psychology; Dietician; Nursing; Midwifery; Paediatrician; Business Management; Human Resource Management; Counselling; Sales and Marketing; Web Design and Digital Media; Environmental Science; Resource Management; Psychology and Sport; Psychology and Counselling; Forensic Psychobiology; Computing Science and Psychology

Links to Careers

Psychologist – Clinical; Counselling; Educational; Forensic; Neuropsychology; Occupational; Sport; Health; Medicine; NHS; Teacher; Journalism; Management; Human Resources; Marketing and Sales



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 at GCSE in two of English Language, English Literature or a Humanities subject.

Essential skills

Studying A Level Sociology will teach you to interpret the world more critically. You will develop skills that will enable you to gain a greater insight into your society and how it works. You will challenge common-sense assumptions about poverty, inequality and discrimination. In addressing these, and other themes, you will become acutely aware of current affairs and the links this has to the stratification of contemporary society; this will often link with policy changes that affect everyday life for many.

Year 1 (Year 12 Content)

Paper 1: Education with Research Methods (33% of the A Level):

This unit introduces students to one of the key social institutions: the Education System. In Britain, all students are expected to go to school and, as such, the Education System plays an important role for society. However, who does education benefit? In this unit you will consider the role and functions of the education system, the reasons why some groups of students do better than others and the significance of educational reforms introduced by previous governments.

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology: SECTION A: Culture and Identity (33% of the A Level):

In this unit, we consider what a 'family' is. Does it have to be two people from the opposite sex living together, or can it be something else? We consider why the family is important in contemporary societies and the different functions that families play. We also look at the individuals that make up families and how their positions have changed over time: whilst women have made huge progress in terms of legal rights and equality the home remains a site of much injustice for many women: the family is the front line for women looking to fight inequality today. Similarly, we also examine childhood and the moral panics surrounding their abuse.

Year 2 (Year 13 Content)

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology: SECTION B: Beliefs in Society (33% of the A Level)

In this unit, you will examine the role of 'Belief' in Society. In particular, you will consider what is meant by the term 'Belief' and how 'Beliefs' are used by individuals/groups to justify their positions in society and oppress/control the behaviour of others. You will consider different types of 'Belief': Scientific, Religious and Secular. You will consider why people join 'religious' movements and, why, if religion is losing its importance in secular society, we can explain religiously inspired terrorism and the growing number of sects and cults worldwide.

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Research Methods (33% of the A Level)

This unit is only studied at A Level. You will consider how and why certain acts are classified as criminal and who this benefits. You will examine various theories of crime and deviance and consider how and why certain acts are classified as criminal and who this benefits. You will explore how certain groups are treated by the criminal justice system and whether this reinforces stigma and inequality. You will discuss the role of crime prevention strategies and whether they are effective – e.g, do we need prisons?

University requirements

Typical grade requirements to study Sociology/ a sociology related degree are as follows:
Oxbridge: A* AA; Russell Group: ABB to BBB; Non Russell Group: ABB to CCC

Other details

There is no coursework for this subject. Assessment is through short and extended pieces. Students need to be able to write a balanced essay. No previous knowledge is required – just an open and engaging mind! Sociology can be studied with ALL A Levels, but has good links with History, RS, Geography, Psychology, Media Studies, Politics, Economics/Business Studies and English.

Links to Further Education

Any social science degree

Links to Careers

Criminologist; Law; Medicine, Children's Services; Public Service/Community work



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 7 in the corresponding GCSE language.

Essential skills

You will enhance your linguistic skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation), and increase your knowledge, understanding, and capacity for thoughtful discussion of a range of social, political, cultural and historical topics relating to the countries where the language is spoken (see the list of topics below). You will also apply your language skills to the critical study of a film and literary text, analysing themes, character, language and plot, and understanding them within their cultural and social context. By completing an Independent Research Project about a topic of your choosing, you will also equip yourself with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will prepare you well for further study or employment.

Year 1

Being a young person in Spanish-speaking society: families and citizenship; youth trends and personal identity; education and employment opportunities.

Understanding the Spanish-speaking world: regional culture and heritage in Spain and Spanish-speaking countries and communities; media, art, film and music in the Spanish-speaking world.

Study of a film in the Spanish language: María, llena eres de gracia, dir. by Joshua Marston (2004)

Year 2

Diversity and difference: Migration and integration; cultural identity and marginalisation; cultural enrichment and celebrating difference; discrimination and diversity.

The two Spains – 1936 onwards: el franquismo, Post-Civil War Spain – historical and political repercussions, Spain – coming to terms with the past?

Study of literature in Spanish language: Book to be decided upon from new list

University requirements

Typical offers:

Modern Languages:	Oxbridge – AAA	Exeter – AAB – ABB	Kent – BBB
Translation and Interpreting:	Cardiff – AAB-ABB	Newcastle – ABB	East Anglia – BBB
International Business Management (with a language):	Bath – AAB	Royal Holloway – ABB-BBB	

It is possible to combine a wide range of subjects with a language at university level as a Joint Honours degree, Combined Studies or Liberal Arts programme:

History and Language:	Oxbridge – A*AA	Warwick – AAB	Reading – BBB
Law and European Law:	Kings – A*AA	Nottingham – AAA	Aberdeen – ABB
Life Sciences and Language:	Birmingham – A*AA	Manchester – AAA-ABB	Winchester – BBC-C

Other details

We welcome enquiries from students who have a native speaker background in the language but who may not have had formal teaching in the language at secondary school level.

Links to Further Education

French, Spanish or German Studies; International Business/Marketing/Management with a language; Politics and International Relations with a language; Joint honours degree that includes a European language and an eastern/world language such as Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Russian; Languages and Economics; Languages with Hotel Management, Mathematics/Science/Engineering with a language, Law and European Law

Links to Careers

Business Management; Translator; Civil Servant; Accountant; Human Resources; Events Management; Retailing; Marketing; Customer Services; Law; International Marketing; Health Service; Media; Transport and Logistics; Teaching; Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL post grad), Journalism and Publishing.



Minimum recommended entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Textiles Art & Design or other Art based course

Essential skills

An awareness of the elements of textile design, such as shape, line, scale, colour, texture, pattern, contrast and/or repetition in relation to the chosen area/s of Textile design. An in depth understanding of intended audience or purpose for a chosen area/s of Textile design and the ability to respond to an issue, concept or idea, working to a brief or answering a need in the chosen area/s of Textile design. A strong appreciation of the relationship of form and function and, where applicable, the constraints of working to a brief. The understanding of a variety of textile methods, such as: fabric printing, mono-printing, relief printing, screen printing and laser cutting; tie-dye and batik; spraying and transfer; fabric construction; stitching, appliqué, patchwork, padding, quilting and embroidery.

Year 1

Advanced Skills project – Internally assessed

Component 1 – Personal Investigation (from Easter onwards)

60% of A Level

Work produced will be marked by the centre and moderated by AQA

Year 2

Continuation of Component 1 – Personal Investigation

Portfolio of work set and marked by the centre and moderated by AQA

60% of A Level

Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment

40% of A Level, Supervised time 15 hours

Work produced will be marked by the centre and moderated by AQA

University requirements

Universities select students based on the quality of their applications, looking primarily at their portfolio of work and personal statements.

Also applicants are expected to have, or are expected to achieve: a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design; 1 GCE A Level; 3 GCSEs grade 6 or above

Other details

Students should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, fashion design, fashion textiles, costume design, digital textiles, printed and/or dyed fabrics and materials, domestic textiles, wallpaper, interior design, constructed textiles, art textiles and installed textiles.

Links to Further Education

Design Engineering; Graphic Design; Design and Computing; Marketing; Interior Design; Fashion; Industrial Design; Multi-media Design and Computing; Fashion Design and Garment Technology

Links to Careers

Interior Design Industry; Textile Design Industry; Fashion Journalism; Graphic Designer; Teacher; Product Design; Technical industries; Design Engineer (including Science and Mathematics)



NON-EXAMINATION COURSES

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT

Sixth Formers are expected to spend time working in the community, both in school and outside. Community Service placements can include helping at local primary schools, Cygnet Leisure Centre, the Ellenor Lion's Hospice. These are normally organised either during free periods in the school day or after school.

Sixth Formers are also given the opportunity to assist with the organisation of voluntary activities and with whole-school fundraising activities. A Fun Run is held in the Summer Term to raise money for charity. The charities chosen are ones that have particular links with the school. Sixth Formers take an active part in this. Members of Year 12 also take part in preparing and sorting our harvest donations for the local Food Bank. This will provide valuable experience in developing students' caring, communication and social skills and in preparing them for future challenges.

THE GENERAL LECTURE

All Year 12 students are expected to attend the General Lecture which is arranged throughout the academic year. Topics chosen for consideration include issues such as health, careers, general knowledge and the environment. Special emphasis is placed on social, moral and religious issues as well as on presentation skills and study skills. Outside speakers are invited to these sessions to increase student awareness of the problems facing society today.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Everyone in the Sixth Form has the opportunity of a Work Experience placement, which may or may not be directed at a particular career. Alternatively you may consider Work Shadowing in an area where Work Experience is not available or possible, for example, being a manager in local industry or commerce. Instead of doing that job, you would shadow the person who did, and learn from that experience. Work experience abroad and foreign exchanges, in Germany, Spain and France, are organised by the Modern Languages Faculty.

All students are encouraged to complete Work Experience because it is important in developing employability skills and in helping students to consolidate their future career paths. Employers and Universities increasingly expect applicants to have some relevant work experience.

R.E. CONFERENCES

R.E. Conferences and visits are organised for both Year 12 and Year 13 students. These represent the compulsory R.E. elements of the Sixth Form course.

Students will attend these unless there are strong religious reasons for not doing so and then a letter from parents is required to withdraw them, explaining the reason for so doing. Conferences cover a variety of spiritual, social, moral and cultural issues.



NON-EXAMINATION COURSES (continued)

CAREERS GUIDANCE

Academic Tutoring sessions offer students an opportunity to discuss plans with their tutor, their targets and their progress. These discussions can be referred over to Careers so that students can have help in exploring progression pathways and 18+ options.

We offer independent advice and guidance to all students as they plan and manage their transition to Higher Education, Further Education or to work. Students are given individual interviews with our Careers Leader, Ms Johnson. There is a comprehensive Careers Library, space to research and Careers packages that students can access at any time throughout the school.

We hold a Higher Education Evening for Year 12 students and their parents in April so that everyone can be fully briefed about the procedure involved in moving into Higher Education. This session is in the evening and university Admissions Tutors talk on what they look for in an application, how to apply and how university is financed. In April we also take the whole of Year 12 to an HE Conference at the University of Kent where dozens of universities have stands and advisors who can talk to students about courses and supply literature to help student choice. The sixth form are encouraged to attend University Open Days in the Summer of Year 12, after their examinations.

Some students look to go into Level 3 and Degree Apprenticeships. These students are identified and helped in their search for a suitable position. We have some very strong links with firms and information is circulated to interested students.

All students have access to online and telephone support from the National Careers Service.

During November mock interviews are arranged for all Year 13 students. Each student is interviewed in the evening by two interviewers from industry/business. Students are given feedback on their performance, their CV and their letter. At this time intensive support is given to students by tutors and by Careers in relation to UCAS statements for university entrance.

On results day staff are on hand to offer their help and guidance.

We strive to ensure that support is given by subject staff, form tutors and the Careers Department to meet the individual needs of students, enabling them to make realistic and informed decisions about their future.

SUBJECT CONFERENCES and TRIPS

Most of the courses provide the opportunity to attend conferences, one in each of Year 12 and Year 13, and offer trips of various types which are relevant but not essential to the course. These include theatre trips, visits to companies and concerts. The cost generally varies from £10 to £25 and unless they are essential, they are not subsidised. There is, of course, help for those who are in financial hardship and students can apply for the 16-19 Bursary if they think they may meet the criteria.