

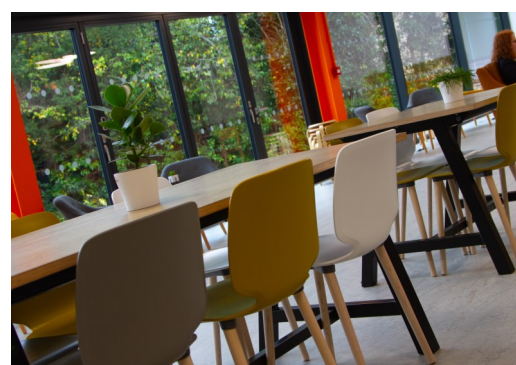


SIXTH FORM @ UPTON

Prospectus 2026-28



‘Outstanding Sixth Form Provision’ Ofsted June 2022



UPTON HALL SCHOOL FCJ

Your journey

begins here...

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WELCOME

'Outstanding Sixth Form provision' Ofsted June 2022

We are proud of our forward-thinking and inclusive Sixth Form that offers students a host of opportunities to enable them to flourish. Each year we welcome girls and boys from other schools who wish to experience its academic rigour, friendly atmosphere and first class facilities. We opened our state-of-the-art Sixth Form building in September 2020, which provides all the facilities our students would expect from a dynamic, 21st century education. In September 2021, this was complemented by a new dedicated Sixth Form Study area and reading room.

Tailored, specialist advice guides students in making an informed choice of career pathway. This could be a university education or the very best Higher Level Apprenticeship or School Leaver Programme. Personalised advice on Higher Education, the UCAS process and how to maximise success in getting on to the most competitive courses has produced a strong record in enabling students to obtain offers from Oxbridge as well as places for Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry. In 2019, we launched our bespoke Oxbridge preparation programme named after the nineteenth century computer visionary, Ada Lovelace. You will find further details about this programme on page 12 of this prospectus.

Inspirational speakers are welcomed to provide students with an insight into the world beyond Sixth Form, including Upton Alumni. Students will take part in Core RE, once per week, where students will be able to continue their Catholic education and social teaching into Sixth Form. Students will explore topics such as ethics and philosophy in consideration of our catholic faith.

Valuable skills are developed and new experiences offered in our Enrichment Programme such as 'The Bar Mock Trial', First Aid, Art and STEM leaders and even Sign Language. Our in house Careers Advisor plans weekly briefing on careers by various specialists, providing students with information on a wide range of future options. Sixth Form life is packed with rigour, hard work, outstanding pastoral support and a realm of opportunities.

Having balanced hard work and academic achievement with a full social life, our Sixth Form community come together to celebrate two memorable years with the **Leavers' Mass** and the **Leavers' Ball**.

They will have made lifelong friends and be ready to use their talents to shape the world.

Miss L Griffiths
Director of Sixth Form

WHY UPTON?

'Students in the sixth form are self motivated and strive to succeed.'

Ofsted June 2022



Here are just a few reasons why the Sixth Form @ Upton is the NUMBER 1 CHOICE..

1. OUTSTANDING TEACHING

Our teachers are some of the best in the business – friendly, experienced, full of ideas and real experts in their subjects. Above all, they are committed to helping you get the grades you need for whatever you plan to do next. That's why each year over 95% of Upton students secure their first choice of university or higher level apprenticeships, vocational course or employment.

2. OUTSTANDING PASTORAL SUPPORT

Upton is renowned for the high level of personalised support we provide at every stage of your education. You will be encouraged to be the very best version of yourself with a 'zest for life' and a thirst for learning. This is a crucial part of helping you to prepare for the next phase of your life.

3. EXCELLENT CAREER ADVICE & GUIDANCE

It's your life, your future, and we do everything we can to make sure you get where you want to be. There's always someone to discuss your options; at every stage of your sixth form career, we are here to listen, advise and support you in your choices. Everything we offer in our Sixth Form is to help you stand out from the crowd and come top of your chosen field.

4. PLENTY OF NEW AND ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES

Whatever your interests, there will be something for you on our enrichment programme. You'll have the chance to study for extra qualifications, such as the Sports Leaders Awards or the Extended Project Award. You might choose to volunteer to provide support at a local primary school or hone your knowledge of current affairs, environmental sustainability, practical life skills or cookery through our enrichment classes.

5. LOTS OF SUBJECT CHOICE

We offer an extensive range of A Levels in addition to BTEC courses. In addition, many students study for the EPQ, which is the equivalent to half an A level and carries UCAS points and presents you with the chance to research a subject or issue of your choice, and they are very successful!

ACADEMIC LIFE



‘Pupils, and students in the sixth form, benefit from a broad, rich and ambitious curriculum that prepares them exceptionally well for the next stage of their education.’ Ofsted June 2022

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to stand the best chance of success in the Sixth Form we require you to have achieved a minimum of **five GCSE passes at Grade 5 or above, including English and Maths at a grade 5**. Please refer to the entry requirements below for each subject area. You are also advised to check the relevant subject pages in this prospectus as there may be further, recommended requirements for each subject.

Minimum requirements for entry into Sixth Form	5 x Grade 5 at GCSE, including English and Mathematics at a grade 5.
Plus:	
Minimum requirement to study an A Level, where the subject has been studied at GCSE	Grade 6 at GCSE in the subject
Minimum grade to study A Level Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Minimum grade to study Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics
Minimum grade to study A Level Film Studies, Law, Drama, Business, Sociology	Grade 5 in GCSE English
Minimum grade to study A Level Psychology	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics
Minimum requirement to study BTEC courses	Grade 5 in GCSE English

ACADEMIC LIFE



‘Leaders are unapologetically ambitious for all pupils. Leaders have designed a vibrant and varied curriculum.’ Ofsted June 2022

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A-Level and BTEC courses last for two years; we ask that you select **three full A Levels/BTECs plus an enrichment course**, which will afford you a breadth of study whilst also ensuring you benefit from the linear specifications, which now allow more time for specific subject skill development. You will also be offered the AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to show you have the advanced study and research skills needed for university study if you so choose to study.

A small number of students, who have achieved a **minimum average point score of 7.4 in their GCSEs**, will be invited to take **4 full A Level subjects** should they wish to do so.

In the Upper Sixth you will continue with your three full A Level subjects (or four) which will form the basis of your UCAS offer for university entrance, degree apprenticeship or other.

A full list of subject choices can be found in this prospectus and details of the enrichment options can be found in our Sixth Form enrichment booklet.

ACCESS TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: 16-19 BURSARY

There is no reason why there should be financial barriers to continuing in education at Upton; the Government has set aside money for schools, colleges, training providers to allocate to young people who need financial support to stay on in further education or training. This fund, called the 16-19 Bursary Fund, is designed to help support young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post-16. There are two different bursary funds: The Vulnerable Bursary Fund and the Discretionary Bursary. Further details of the eligibility criteria and the application process can be found in the Sixth Form section of our website at www.uptonhallschool.co.uk.

ENRICHMENT



ENRICHING YOUR SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE

At Upton, our hope and expectation is that each young person grows into their best self, with zest for life and the generosity and confidence to use their talents and gifts in the service of others. Our Sixth Form enrichment programme has been designed with this intention at its very heart; by providing students with the opportunity to explore a rich and varied set of activities that go beyond their academic studies, they can thrive and develop as responsible young citizens.

Our enrichment programme runs alongside the academic programmes in both Years 12 and 13. Each Wednesday afternoon, students are given a choice about which enrichment pathway they wish to follow. Some activities are qualifications or competitions which means that they will last for the duration of a student's enrichment in either Year 12 or Year 13, whereas others (rotation subjects) are offered on a rotation basis to enable students to access a broad range of activities. **Further details of our enrichment programme can be found in our Enrichment booklet on the school's website.**

WEEKLY CAREER TALKS

Our Sixth Form is unique in that every Friday we invite speakers from universities, professional associations and industry to discuss different career paths. Our Sixth Form students may attend any of these talks, and we encourage them to listen to as many as possible! This year we have welcomed health-related professionals including surgeons, radiographers, consultants, GPs and pharmacists, as well as engineers, computer programmers, teachers, solicitors, bankers and journalists.

ROTATION OPTIONS

Cookery	Book Club
Sewing Bee	Enterprise
Outdoor Education	Art
First Aid	Stem Social
LFC Critical Skills	Dexterity Skills

NON-ROTATION OPTIONS

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
 Sign Language
 Sports Leaders Award
 STEM Leaders
 Bar Mock Trial Competition
 Level 3 Certificate Sustainability

EXTRA-CURRICULAR



'Pupils take part in many extra-curricular and enrichment activities. Many of these opportunities are carefully linked to the curriculum.' **Ofsted June 2022**

Sixth Form life certainly extends beyond the academic, and we actively encourage students to follow a rich diet of extra-curricular activities designed to suit their personal range of interests and build their character. Our students have been highly successful in competitions like the National Bar Mock Trial, the Historical Association's Great Debate, Young Enterprise, Merseyside Young Analyst Competition, Salters' Institute, Catenian Association Public Speaking Contest, to name just a few. Our students are equally successful at local, regional and national level in both sport and Art competitions, like the Unilever Art Competition, as well as all types of musical and dramatic activities. Wherever the possibility exists to extend students' experiences, staff are enthusiastic in opening new doors for them. Whatever your interests, you will find something that suits you!

We place a high emphasis on developing students' skills beyond the academic, which is why all Year 12 students complete work experience placements in the Summer term, gaining valuable insights into the world of work and enhancing their CVs.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Subject Mentor Scheme
- Bar Mock Trial Competition
- Student Council
- Student Leadership Team
- Work experience placements
- STEM mentors
- US Sutton Trust Programme
- School enterprise project
- Upton-ologists

- Eco Club
- Citizen Design
- Senior choir
- Senior orchestra
- Foreign exchange programme
- Charity Work
- Ethos Group
- Reading Rangers (mentoring younger pupils)
- Ada Lovelace (Oxbridge) programme
- Peer Education Project
- Chemistry Society

YOUR FUTURE

Leaders have organised an exceptional careers programme that wholly prepares pupils and students for their next steps.

Ofsted June 2022



SIXTH FORM AND BEYOND

As soon as you express an interest in our Sixth Form, we will want to know about your developing career aspirations. Our Careers Coordinator will analyse your ideas, inform staff about your ambitions and support you in a variety of ways. Whatever the need, you will find expert and dedicated advice, tailored to your situation.

UNIVERSITY PREPARATION (UCAS and UCAS Conservatoires)

We are outstandingly successful at enabling our students to submit excellent UCAS applications which lead to swift offers from universities. You only need to read the remarkable lists of our students' Higher Education Destinations in this prospectus to judge how effective we are in enabling our students to fulfil their dreams. Thanks to a panel of dedicated parents of pupils, as well as former pupils, we are able to offer specialised mock interviews to students applying for a range of competitive courses including Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Radiography and Primary Education.

Assistance with testing such as the BMAT, LNAT and UCAT is something we are experienced in providing; enabling students to achieve their potential in this crucial aspect of the university selection process for the most competitive degree courses. In addition, we have a dedicated programme for potential Oxbridge applicants, which is offered from an early stage in students' academic life in the Sixth Form. We pride ourselves on offering a comprehensive programme which includes visits to conferences, residential trips to Oxford/Cambridge, mentoring for additional admissions tests and intensive interview preparation. In addition, our students have had great success in gaining places on the US Sutton Trust Programme, enabling them to enjoy summer placements at universities such as Harvard, MIT and Yale.

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS AND SCHOOL LEAVER PROGRAMMES

Alongside the university route, our students secure high quality degree apprenticeships and school leaver programmes. Increasingly, we are seeing students becoming more interested in these routes into employment and we have strong connections with local firms offering such programmes. We have supported students in securing apprenticeships with Unilever, Airbus, Jaguar Landrover, CapGemini, Hill Dickinson and many more. CV and interview advice is available, as well as assistance with assessment centres to allow our students to secure the very best of the post-A Level programmes on offer

OXBRIDGE PROGRAMME



ADA LOVELACE PROGRAMME

In October 2019, we launched our bespoke Oxbridge preparation programme for pupils in Years 10 /11 and Sixth Form students. The Ada Lovelace Programme, named after pioneer and computer visionary, Ada Lovelace, aims to inspire, nurture and challenge academically gifted pupils and Sixth Form students who show the potential to apply to the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, known collectively as 'Oxbridge'.

This tailored programme affords pupils and Sixth Form students the opportunity to take part in events and visits to explore opportunities at the country's most competitive universities. In addition, the range of supra-curricular activities motivates pupils and students to develop their intellectual curiosity in a way that extends beyond the scope of their qualifications.

From the outset, the Year 12 programme aims to encourage students to immerse themselves into their chosen subject/s by undertaking significant 'supra-curricular activities' and wider reading.

This is complemented by termly workshops and events which guide students through the application process. Students are also encouraged to make applications to summer schools and subject insight days run by both the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge.

As students progress into Year 13, the programme focuses on students' final applications, admissions tests and interview technique.



DofE AWARD



GOLD AWARD/DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S 'YOUNG LEADERS'

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award provides many opportunities for young people to enjoy a wide variety of physical, creative and aesthetic experiences which encourage personal growth and development.

The Gold Award consists of five sections: Volunteering, Expedition, Skills, Physical and a Residential. The Gold Expedition will be one of the greatest challenges of your life and individuals on the same venture will have different perceptions of the experience. Expeditions usually take place in Snowdonia, North Wales, and the Residential Experience is normally Undertaken during the Lower Sixth and arranged by the participant. The Gold Award is a flexible programme designed to complement current school activities and personal interests, and will involve the local community. It is recognised nationally and enjoys high public recognition and acclaim. In recent years, participants received their Gold Awards at Buckingham Palace Garden Party in July and at St James' Palace in November. It is an opportunity that is available and suitable for every student. Every young person makes a free choice to enter the Award and must commit their leisure time to complete activities. The value and significance of the Award to participants is directly proportional to the quality of the experience and the degree of personal commitment they have invested.

The progress of Sixth Form students towards the prestigious Gold Award is a conspicuous example for younger pupils. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is managed by Mrs Seed, who has over 10 years' experience of outdoor education.

What is more, Sixth Form students have the opportunity to become Duke of Edinburgh's Young Leaders which enables them to build experience in leading younger pupils with their DofE expeditions. This activity can be used to satisfy the volunteering section for Gold Award.



COURSE INFORMATION

1. ART AND DESIGN
2. BIOLOGY
3. BUSINESS STUDIES
4. CHEMISTRY
5. COMPUTER SCIENCE
6. DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN
7. DRAMA AND THEATRE
8. ENGLISH LANGUAGE
9. ENGLISH LITERATURE
10. FILM STUDIES
11. FRENCH
12. FURTHER MATHEMATICS
13. GEOGRAPHY
14. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (BTEC AAQ)
15. HISTORY
16. LAW
17. MANDARIN CHINESE
18. MATHEMATICS
19. MUSIC
20. PHYSICAL EDUCATION
21. PHYSICS
22. PSYCHOLOGY
23. RELIGIOUS STUDIES
24. SOCIOLOGY
25. SPANISH

ART

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

COURSE OVERVIEW

Art & Design is initially a broad based, experimental course which will create an impressive portfolio for a number of routes post A Level. Students will explore a variety of media including drawing, painting, photography, mixed media, textiles and ceramics. Students will then specialise in one area of strength which will become the focus of the externally set assignment. Working with contemporary artists and undertaking gallery visits will form an important part of the course. Students will have the opportunity to exhibit their work in high profile venues locally, nationally and internationally.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The entry requirement for the course is a 6 at GCSE in any of the following endorsed areas:

- Craft and Design
- Fine Art
- Textile Design
- Three-Dimensional Design



TOPICS COVERED

1. Personal Investigation

Students will choose one of the following titles:

- Art
- Craft and Design
- Fine Art
- Textile Design
- Three-Dimensional Design

2. Externally set assignment

Students will develop and generate ideas, research sources, record practical and written observations and experiment with media, producing outcomes in response to an externally set theme.

Edexcel Exam	Personal Investigation	Externally Set Assessment
Length	Portfolio of Work/ Personal Study (1000 words of continuous prose)	Portfolio of work/ 15 hours of sustained focus under examination conditions
Weighting	60% of total A Level (Personal study is worth 12% of the qualification)	40% of total A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Many graduate employers want to recruit people who are lateral thinkers and creative problem-solvers - natural qualities of artists and designers. Jobs directly related to your degree include:

Art therapist, Community arts worker, Fashion designer, Fine artist, Graphic designer, Illustrator, Printmaker, Textile designer.

Jobs where your degree would be useful include:

Advertising account executive, Arts administrator, Multimedia specialist, Museum/gallery curator.

BIOLOGY

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

If you are inquisitive about the natural world, you will love Biology! You will particularly enjoy this course if you are interested in all aspects of living organisms, how they work and how they interact with their environment. By studying Biology you will develop a logical approach to problem solving and data analysis, combined with practical applications in experiments. You will also learn about the way scientists work and their contributions to modern society.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum entry requirement for studying A level Biology is a Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grade 6-6 in GCSE Trilogy Science. There is a significant amount of mathematics involved in the A Level Biology curriculum specification, including statistics, so a minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics is highly recommended.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Biological Molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships with organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

AQA Exam	Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Length	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
Weighting	91 marks in total; 35% of A Level	91 marks in total; 35% of A Level	78 marks in total; 30% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students have previously had the opportunity to participate in the Biology Olympiad competition at Edge Hill, visit the Biological Science department of Manchester University and the University of Liverpool Christmas Science lectures. In addition, guest speakers are invited to school to deliver talks on relevant biological issues as part of the Upton-ologies lecture series. Top universities and employers are looking for Biology A level as an indicator of strong data analysis and problem solving skills. A considerable number of students pursue higher education courses in medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, physiotherapy, optometry, genetics, marine biology, biotechnology, pathology, toxicology, pharmacology, midwifery, nursing, environmental science and forensics.

BUSINESS

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students of Business A Level will study businesses in a variety of contexts (large/small, UK focused/global, service/manufacturing).

The course allows you to follow business developments and think critically about contemporary business issues. Most of the assessment material is based on real business situations; by examining and thinking critically about real business situations as you study the subject, you will gain an insight into the different contexts in which businesses operate.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If Business Studies has been studied at GCSE, a minimum of a grade 6 is required for A Level Business.

If Business Studies has not been studied at GCSE, a minimum of a grade 5 in English is required for A Level Business.



TOPICS COVERED

Theme 1: Marketing and people
(*The market, marketing activity, entrepreneurs, leadership*)

Theme 2: Managing business activities
(*Raising and managing finance, external influences*)

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy
(*Objectives, strategy, growth, decision making techniques*)

Theme 4: Global business
(*Globalisation, global markets, expansion*)

Edexcel Exam	Paper 1: Themes 1 and 4	Paper 2: Themes 2 and 3	Paper 3: Synoptic paper
Length	Written Exam: 2 hours	Written Exam: 2 hours	Written Exam based on a pre-released case study: 2 hours
Weighting	100 marks; 35% of A Level	100 marks; 35% of A Level	100 marks; 30% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Business A Level can lead to careers in Business Management, Business Administration, Accounting, Law, Finance, Human Resources and Marketing.

Students of A Level Business may have the opportunity to take a leading role in the school's enterprise projects, such as the *Green Lady* apple juice and *Golden Lady* honey, as well as taking part in competitions with organisations such as Urban Plan or the ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales). There is also an annual trip to London where students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in life in the 'City' as well as visiting start-up enterprises/established businesses in different sectors.

CHEMISTRY

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

A Level Chemistry is a rigorous, challenging and ultimately rewarding course that develops students' scientific skills and knowledge, built upon the knowledge gained at GCSE level.

The course is broken down into Inorganic, Physical and Organic Chemistry. In Year 12 the foundations of each of these sections are taught and then they are developed in Year 13.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study Chemistry at A level, students must have achieved a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or grades 6-6 in GCSE Trilogy Science. There is a significant amount of mathematical content in the A Level Chemistry course so it is highly recommended that students have at least a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Physical Chemistry including atomic structure, bonding and energetics.
2. Inorganic Chemistry including periodicity, the halogens and transition metals.
3. Organic Chemistry including alkanes, alkenes and alcohols.



AQA Exam	Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Length	Written Exam: 2 hours	Written Exam: 2 hours	Written Exam: 2 hours
Weighting	105 marks; 35% of A Level	105 marks; 35% of A Level	90 marks; 30% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

A-Level Chemistry students have the opportunity to take part in the Nuffield Research Placement in a University or centre of scientific research and also participate in the Young Analyst competition. A-Level Chemistry is essential for degrees in medicine, veterinary science and dentistry and can open up a range of careers and higher education courses in optometry, physiotherapy, pharmaceutical sciences, forensic science, biomedical and biological sciences, environmental health and food sciences. A-Level Chemistry can also help gain direct entry into employment, especially into the scientific and related sectors, with the skills of problem solving and analysis.

EXAM BOARD: OCR

Computer Science is structured into two main components focusing on both theory and practical application. A-level is a natural progression from GCSE Computer Science and can help you prepare for a computing-based career. The course will value computational thinking, help you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. You will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions. The programming project offers a creative aspect and combines invention and excitement.

A minimum of grade 6 in Computer Science is desirable. If you have not studied Computer Science at GCSE level, a grade 6 in Mathematics is required. The course combines high level academic knowledge with practical skills, so students will need a strong interest in the subject and aptitude in problem-solving skills. Mathematics is heavily involved in computational thinking, algorithms and logic.

This is the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA), where you will apply your knowledge to solve a practical problem through programming.



OCR Exam	Unit 1 Computer Systems	Unit 2 Algorithms and programming	Unit 3 Computer Project
Length	Written Exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes	Written Exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes	Non– Exam based Project
Weighting	40% of A Level	40% of A Level	20% of A Level

Past pupils have gone on to study further education in software engineering, cybersecurity, forensic computing as well as computer programming. Former students have also been successful in accessing higher level apprenticeships at Cisco Networks and Unilever.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: Product Design

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

A Level Design & Technology Product Design develops students' skills in creative, innovative thinking, and problem solving. Through practical coursework, 'design and make', tasks and the study of materials and manufacturing processes, students can relate this to how products would be commercially manufactured.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If GCSE Design and Technology was studied at GCSE then a minimum grade 6 is recommended.

If this subject was not studied, a grade 6 in Art and Design would be acceptable, as well as an aptitude for other STEM subjects.

15% of the assessment is of a mathematical nature, therefore at least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics would also be highly recommended.



TOPICS COVERED

This course is linear with all assessment taking place at the end of Year 13.

There are 3 components to the assessment:

1. Paper 1: Technical Principles. A 2h 30 minute examination consisting of a mixture of short and extended response questions. (18% Mathematics).
2. Paper 2 Designing and Making Principles. A 1h 30 minute examination also consisting of short and extended responses, product analysis and questions on commercial manufacturing (12% Mathematics).
3. Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). A substantial design and make task consisting of a design portfolio and a student-manufactured prototype product.

AQA Exam	Paper 1	Paper 2	Non examined assessment
Length	Written Exam 2 hours 30 minutes	Written Exam 1 hour 30 minutes	Project 45+ Hours
Weighting	30% of the A Level	20% of the A Level	50% of the A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

In Year 12, students produce a fully functional prototype of a product aimed at a specific user. In Year 13, students choose their own project. This project should relate to students' career aspirations as it allows them to immerse themselves in the sectors they wish to enter after completing A levels. Product Design students will enjoy a range of subject specific visits during the course, particularly those that relate to their own projects.

Product Design leads directly to degree courses in 3D Design, Product / Industrial Design. It also provides an excellent qualification that is favoured by admission tutors in all engineering disciplines, construction, architecture, planning and many other manufacturing and production focussed courses.

DRAMA AND THEATRE

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: WJEC

COURSE OVERVIEW

A Level students participate in the creation and development of a range of live theatre performances.

Students will learn how to explore, analyse and perform extracts from plays in order to create theatre. They also develop their verbal and written skills in the critical evaluation of the essential elements. This course will help you to develop your understanding of drama and theatre, using analytical and creative skills, as well as the ability to communicate effectively with others.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If Drama and/or Performing Arts have been studied at GCSE, a minimum of a grade 6 is required for A Level Drama and Theatre Studies.

If Drama or Performing Arts has not been studied at GCSE, a minimum of a grade 5 in English is required for A Level Drama and Theatre Studies.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Induction - What is Drama? What is Theatre?
2. An introduction to Drama and Theatre History
3. Working with plays and practitioners
4. Developing acting and performance or design skills
5. Understanding and using the language
6. Devising, performing and evaluating original theatre
7. The work of the playwright, performer, director and designer.
8. Understanding practical skills, theatrical forms and structures
9. How to create, realise and justify a director's and designers interpretation of a play
10. How to recognise, analyse and evaluate a director's interpretation of a text.

WJEC (Eduqas) Exam	Component 1: Theatre Workshop	Component 2: Text in Action	Component 3: Text in Performance
Length	Internally assessed as either an actor or designer in the performance of a text.	Externally assessed as either an actor or designer in two live theatre performances.	Written Examination: The exploration of Theatre history, style & genre.
Weighting	20% of total A Level	40% of total A Level	40% of total A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students of A Level Drama and Theatre Studies take part in a number of large and small scale productions, both as performers and designers, and are encouraged to visit the theatre regularly. A Level Drama and Theatre Studies can lead to careers in the theatre and media, technical theatre design, fashion, entertainment management, teaching, literature and in other occupations including law/criminal justice, hospitality, retail, sales, travel, charitable work and human resources.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students of English Language will study the use of language in the world today; they will consider subjects as diverse as Language and Gender, Accent and Dialect, World English, Ethnicity, and Attitudes to Language Diversity. They will also be able to explore their creativity in an original piece of writing in Year 2. Students will learn about the linguistic principles that underpin the study of language, and they will engage with a number of non-literary texts and genres, exploring sociolinguistics and the way language works.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of Grade 6 in English Language at GCSE is required. This is an advanced and challenging course so students must be motivated to read around the subject and to collect their own data; this could take the form of transcripts and other aural texts, and written materials from varying sources.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Language, the individual and society
2. Language diversity and change
3. Non-examination assessment:
A personal language investigation and a piece of original writing.



AQA Exam	Paper 1: Language, the individual and society	Paper 2: Language diversity and change	NEA: Language in Action
Length	Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes	Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes	One Language investigation (2,000 words excluding data) A piece of original writing and commentary (1500 words in total)
Weighting	40% of A Level	40% of A Level	20% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students of English Language have the opportunity to attend lectures and presentations by linguists such as David Crystal and the children's poet, Michael Rosen (when scheduled). They will also be able to access podcasts and lectures where appropriate. We encourage students to involve themselves in extra-curricular activities, such as debating, writing competitions, and mentoring schemes such as Reading Rangers. Trips to the theatre are also offered. This subject is a desirable qualification for a wide range of courses, including journalism, linguistics, English, speech therapy, psychology, publishing, public relations, advertising and creative writing.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students of English Literature at A Level will explore the relationships between texts and the contexts within which they are written and understood. This specification privileges the power of the reader to make meaning, encouraging students to challenge the interpretations of other readers.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a grade 6 at GCSE for English and English Literature is required for A Level English Literature.

A love of reading is also a must if you are to be successful on this course.

TOPICS COVERED

‘Love through the Ages’ – Students will explore the theme of love as seen over time by reading four set texts, including one Shakespeare play, an anthology of love poetry and one prose text.

‘Texts in Shared Contexts’ – Students will explore three set texts written in between 1945 and the present day, including one prose, one poetry and one drama text.



AQA Exam	Paper 1: Love through the ages	Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts	NEA: Independent Critical Study
Length	Written Exam: 3 Hours	Written Exam: 2 Hours 30 Minutes	One extended essay
Weighting	75 marks in total; 40% of A Level	75 marks in total; 40% of A Level	50 marks in total; 20% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students of A-level English Literature have the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities, such as mentoring schemes including Reading Rangers and Key Stage 4 Wider Reading Project.

Trips to the theatre are offered, to venues such as ‘The Lowry’, ‘The Everyman’ and ‘The Royal Shakespeare Company’ in Stratford. Trips to explore an author’s biographical background in their hometown has also been offered each year.

An English Literature A-Level can lead to a career in many professions, including Teaching, the Performing Arts, Law, Social work, Human Resources.

FILM STUDIES

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: WJEC

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course aims to develop the students' interest in and enthusiasm for the study of film and the film industry. They will also engage with a wide range of different kinds of films, developing skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection, as well as developing creative and practical skills.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE English and a love of cinema is required. This is an advanced and theoretical course and students must be motivated to watch films independently in a variety of contexts, complete secondary reading in film theory and write extended essays.



TOPICS COVERED

1. Varieties of Film

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990

Section B: American film since 2005

Section C: British Film

2. Global Film Making

Section A: Global Film

Section B: Documentary Film

Section C: Film Movements—Silent Cinema

Section D: Film Movements—Experimental Film

3. Film Production

WJEC (Eduqas) Exam	Unit 1: American and British Film	Unit 2: Global Film	Unit 3: Production
Length	Written exam: 3 Hours	Written exam: 3 hours	Non-exam assessment: Film Production
Weighting	120 marks; 35% of the A Level	120 marks; 35% of the A Level	60 marks; 30% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students are given the opportunity to widen their production skills by learning how to use Microsoft Pro. They are also encouraged to enter their films in the WJEC Moving Image Awards. Film Studies is a subject that by its nature requires candidates to consider individual, moral, ethical, social, cultural and contemporary issues. A number of our past students have gone on to study Film and Film Production at college and university with the intention of working in the film industry. Other students have progressed into a wide range of higher education courses and careers including Teaching, Media, Drama, History and Politics.

FRENCH

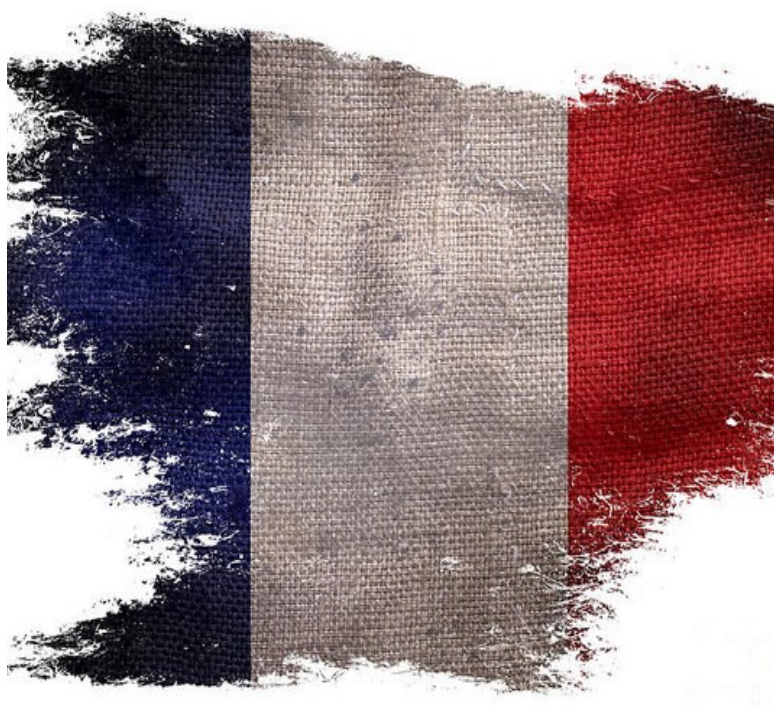
QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: WJEC

COURSE OVERVIEW

If you are fascinated by French and its differences from English, then this course is for you. Through listening, reading, speaking and writing the language you will gain awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, commercial and political background of the countries where French is spoken. We enable students to build on the skills acquired at GCSE and to develop an understanding of the grammar of French.

Languages are demanding at this level but will definitely enhance employment prospects and will facilitate opportunities to travel abroad.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE French is required to study for A Level French.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Being a young person in a French-speaking society
2. Understanding the French speaking world
3. Diversity and difference
4. France 1940-1950: the occupation and post war years
5. Study of one film
6. Study of literature (one novel)

WJEC (Eduqas) Exam	Unit 1: Speaking Test	Unit 2: Listening, Reading and Translation	Unit 3: Critical and Analytical Response in Writing
Length	21-23 minutes	Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes	Written exam: 2 hours
Weighting	60 marks ; 30% of A Level	100 marks; 50% of A Level	40 marks; 20% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Language study contributes to a broad general education and gives you invaluable practical and transferable skills for the future. You may choose to specialise in French at university or combine French with other subjects such as Engineering or History. In most careers in the twenty-first century language abilities are highly valued. Recent A level linguists have gone on to take, among other disciplines, Business Studies, European Studies, and International or European Law.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students of A Level Further Mathematics have the opportunity to tackle demanding problems and to attain a high degree of mathematical fluency. In Year 12, the entire content of A level Maths is taught, and in Year 13 the content of Further Mathematics is taught. This allows students to gain a deep understanding of the fundamentals of A Level Mathematics, particularly integration, and then to apply these concepts in Further Mathematics. It also allows students ample time to embed their knowledge and to complete practice papers before tackling the final exams.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To take Further Mathematics, you will be required to take A Level Mathematics in Year 12 as the Further Mathematics specification requires A Level concepts to have been covered.

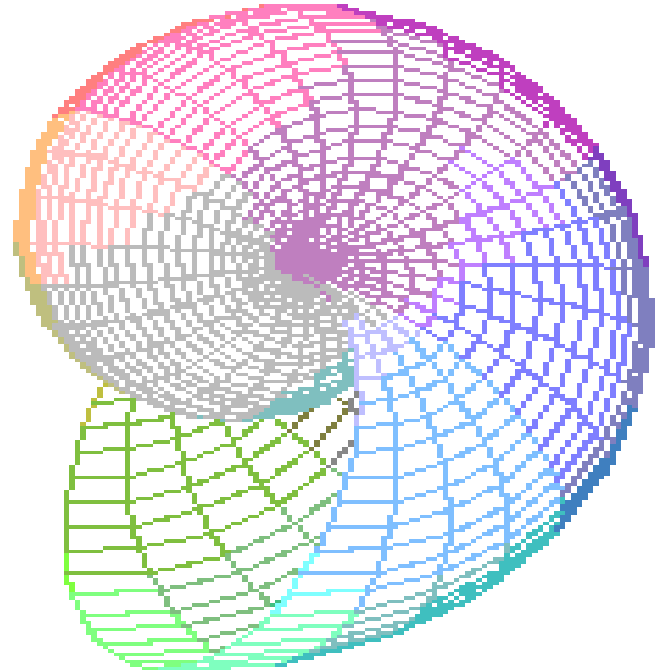
You need to have achieved a minimum of a grade 8 in Mathematics at GCSE, and you should enjoy a challenge!

TOPICS COVERED

Topics in the Advanced Core Papers include: mathematical induction; manipulation of complex numbers; complex roots of equations; the uses of matrices and their inverses in transformations; Maclaurin Series; differentiation of inverse trigonometric functions.

Topics in the Further Pure 1 Paper include: the t-formulae and their applications; derivation and use of Taylor Series; Leibnitz's Theorem; the Weierstrass substitution.

Topics in Further Mechanics 1 include: momentum and impulse; conservation of energy; elastic collisions in two dimensions.



Edexcel Exam	Advanced Core 1	Advance Core 2
Length	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes
Weighting	25% of A Level	25% of A Level

Edexcel Exam	Further Pure 1	Further Mechanics 1
Length	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes
Weighting	25% of A Level	25% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students of A Level Further Mathematics are given opportunities to extend themselves beyond the limits of the syllabus. In particular, lunchtime enrichment sessions are in place to challenge very able students, and to prepare those who are looking to apply to Oxford or Cambridge. A Level Further Mathematics is a very challenging course. For this reason, it is highly valued by universities and by employers. Many of our Further Mathematicians go on to study Mathematics, Engineering or Physics at university.

GEOGRAPHY

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

The multidisciplinary nature of geography allows students to pursue a variety of options. Some of these may, in fact, form specialities at university and provide obvious career pathways. Increasingly, courses have become more applied and therefore relevant to the world of work.

Geographers are seen as versatile and dynamic. They are able to collect, assess and validate information from a variety of sources. Decision making skills are developed throughout their academic studies, enabling geographers to provide balanced opinions.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If Geography has been studied at GCSE, a minimum grade 6 is required.

If Geography has not been studied at GCSE, students may be accepted dependent on other results. As there are statistics involved in the course, a minimum grade 6 in Mathematics is highly recommended.

TOPICS COVERED

The A level will include four core themes, geographical skills and fieldwork relating to both physical and human themes.

The six units studied at A Level are:

- Water and carbon cycles
- Population and the Environment
- Landscape systems
- Hazards
- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places

AQA exam	Unit 1: Physical Geography	Unit 2: Human Geography	Unit 3: Geographical investigation
Length	Written exam 2 hours, 30 minutes	Written exam 2 hours, 30 minutes	3000–4000 words
Weighting	120 marks; 40% of A Level	120 marks; 40% of A Level	60 marks; 20% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

What do geographers become? As it combines transferable skills it supports both a science and arts pathway.

- Scientists and Engineers – Hydrologists, Volcanologists, Civil Engineers, Chartered Surveyors, Planners, Site Managers
 - Managers – Business, Retail, National Parks Officers, Forestry, marketing and countryside commission officers.
 - Decision Makers – Planners, Insurance company risk assessors, Politicians, Cartographers, GIS, Aid Agencies workers.
- Plus careers in health, animal and social care – ecologists, aid workers, medical research, conservationists.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (BTEC AAQ)

QUALIFICATION TYPE: BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

COURSE OVERVIEW

The BTEC Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education for health-related professions, when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC qualifications or A Levels. Grades are awarded from Distinction* to Pass.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 in GCSE English will enable students to access this qualification. A keen interest in health and social care is essential. The BTEC will particularly suit students who wish to pursue a related discipline at university or an apprenticeship. This qualification should appeal to students who would prefer a mix of assignment-based work and examinations.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Human lifespan development

This is an examination unit which focuses on the different stages in human development, including physical, intellectual, emotional and social development, the factors that affect development and the effects of ageing.

2. Human Biology and Health

This is an examination unit which focuses on the organisation, structure and normal physiological functioning of the human body, and the effect on health of common disorders of body systems.

3. Principles of Health and Social Care Practice

This unit will be assessed through an assignment which is marked internally. You will learn the principles that underpin meeting the care and support needs of individuals, which are the foundation of all services within health and social care.

4. Health Science

This unit is assessed through an assignment which is marked internally. You will learn about the key microbiological concepts relevant to the diagnosis and spread of disease.



BTEC Extended Certificate	Human Lifespan Development	Human Biology and Health	Principles of Health and Social Practice	Health Science
Length	Written exam 1.5 hours 80 marks	Written exam 1.5 hours 80 marks	Assignment	Assignment
	Externally assessed	Externally assessed	Internally Assessed	Internally Assessed

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

This qualification is intended to be taken alongside other qualifications which allow progression on to a range of degree programmes within the health and social care sector, including: nursing, social work, primary teaching, counselling, child care, occupational therapy and paramedic services.

HISTORY

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: OCR

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students of History A Level will study three exciting periods of change in British, European and American history: the Norman Conquest; the Reformation; and the Witch Craze in Europe and North America.

Students can see through the eyes of people in the past. Using interpretations of the past, ranging from the Bayeux Tapestry to the records of the Salem witch trials, students will learn to think critically. Our students are passionate about History and able to see the importance of understanding the past when analysing the present.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE History is required.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Anglo-Saxon England 1035—1066
2. The Norman Conquest 1066
3. William the Conqueror and William Rufus
4. The mysterious death of William Rufus and Henry I
5. The German Reformation 1527—1529
6. Charles V
7. Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16th and 17th centuries

OCR Exam	Paper 1: Norman Conquest	Paper 2: German Reformation	Paper 3: Witch Craze	Coursework
Length	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes	Written exam: 1 hour	Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes	Independent study on the Normans
Weighting	50 marks in total; 25% of A Level	30 marks in total; 15% of A Level	80 marks in total; 40% of A Level	40 marks in total; 20% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students of A Level History have the opportunity to take part in the national Great Debate competition and the essay competitions run by the Historical Association and other organisations each year. Participation in the Holocaust Education Trust's online Holocaust education programme is offered, along with other visits to historical sites.

A History A Level can help with any career which requires analysis and critical thinking, including law, journalism and business management, as well as careers which require historical knowledge, such as museum curatorship and archive work.

LAW

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students of Law will study both Criminal Law, Tort (eg. the Law on Negligence) and Human Rights law. Studying Law develops students' problem solving skills through the application of legal rules to real life scenarios. A Level Law is excellent preparation for students who wish to progress to degree level study (in law, or many other subjects) or pursue a wide variety of careers.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 in GCSE English Language to study A Level Law.

TOPICS COVERED

1. The legal system
2. Criminal Law
3. Law making
4. The Law of tort
5. The nature of Law
6. Human Rights Law

AQA Exam	Paper 1: The Nature of Law and Criminal law	Paper 2: Nature of Law and the Law of Tort	Paper 3: The Nature of Law and Human Rights Law or Contract Law
Length	Written exam: 2 hours	Written exam: 2 hours	Written exam: 2 hours
Weighting	100 marks; 33.3% of A Level	100 marks; 33.3% of A Level	100 marks; 33.3% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students of A Level Law will have the opportunity to take part in the Bar Mock Trial organised by the National Citizenship Foundation.

A Level Law can lead to a wide variety of careers including those in Law, Business, Human Resources, Marketing and Social Work to name just a few.

MANDARIN CHINESE

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Pearson Edexcel A Level Chinese course is designed to help students prepare for their higher education and enhance their employability profile. The course has a clear and coherent structure. It will enable students to develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the Chinese language, literature, film and culture of Chinese-speaking world. Through the course, students will not only develop their practical and valuable language and transferable study skills, but also enhance their capacity for critical and analytical thinking.

Students must complete their speaking assessment in April/May and written assessments in May/June at the end of the A level Chinese course.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 6 in GCSE Chinese is required to study the A level Chinese course.

TOPICS COVERED

Language Components

1. Changes in contemporary Chinese society
2. Chinese Culture
3. The evolving Chinese society
4. The impact of reform on China since 1978

Literature Component

1. Two literary texts
2. One literary text and one film

Edexcel A Level Exam	Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation	Paper 2: Written response to works and translation	Paper 3: Speaking
	<i>Themes 1-4</i>	<i>Literary work, film</i>	<i>Independent research and Themes 1-4</i>
Length	2 hours	2 hours and 40 minutes	16 – 18 minutes + 5 minutes preparation time for Task 1
Weighting	40% of qualification	30% of qualification	30% of qualification

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

You will have opportunities to attend the British Council's language programme and summer camp in China, attend a University Open Day at IOE where you can learn more about (combined) Chinese studies degree courses offered at prestigious UK universities, and enjoy a gap year teaching English in a school in any Chinese speaking part of the world.

Language study contributes to a broad general education and gives you invaluable practical and transferable skills for the future, such as critical thinking. You may choose to specialise in Mandarin Chinese at an university or combine Mandarin with other subjects such as business, finance, statistics, art, geography, psychology, law or politics. In most careers in the twenty-first century language abilities are highly valued.

MATHEMATICS

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students will study a mixture of Pure and Applied Mathematics. In Pure Mathematics, the emphasis is on number and algebra. You will further develop the techniques you have learned at GCSE, and be introduced to new concepts such as calculus and logarithms. You will learn to move fluidly between an equation and its graphical representation.

In Applied Mathematics, you will study a mixture of Statistics and Mechanics. This will give you an understanding of the power of Mathematics to model real world situations.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study Mathematics at A Level, you need to have achieved at least a grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE, ideally a grade 8.

You should enjoy problem solving and be confident in your use of algebra.

TOPICS COVERED

The Pure content is examined over two papers – any topic could come up on either paper. The third exam is a mixture of Statistics and Mechanics.

Pure topics include: Algebraic fractions; co-ordinate geometry; differentiation and integration of polynomials and other functions; the factor theorem; applications of calculus; radians; logarithms; trigonometric identities; composite and inverse functions; transformations; three dimensional vectors.

Statistics topics include: Histograms; box plots; coding of data; calculations with mean; probability distributions; linear regression.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students of A Level Mathematics are supported in their studies with regular drop-in sessions that run throughout the year during the lunch period. There are also opportunities to attend extra-curricular trips, which include the UKMT Senior Team Challenge and the John Moores Maths Quiz.

A Level Mathematics requires you to think logically and analytically. As such, it is a qualification that is highly valued by employers and universities alike. It is a prerequisite for many scientific and numeric degrees.



Edexcel Exam	Paper 1: Pure	Paper 2: Pure	Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics
Length	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours
Weighting	One third of the A Level	One third of the A Level	One third of the A Level

MUSIC

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: WJEC

COURSE OVERVIEW

The A level in Music offers a broad and coherent course of study which encourages learners to recognise the interdependence of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, and make links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising underpinned by attentive listening, in order to broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above at GCSE Music OR Grade 5 Theory, and at least Grade 5 (ABRSM or equivalent) in your main instrument.

A commitment to extra - curricular activities is also necessary to develop and improve overall musicianship.



TOPICS COVERED

1. The Western Classical Tradition
(The development of the Symphony 1750-1900)
2. A choice of **one** area of study from:
 - Rock and Pop
 - Musical Theatre
 - Jazz
3. A choice of **one** area of study from:
 - 'Into the Twentieth Century'
 - 'Into the Twenty-first Century'

WJEC (Eduqas) Exam	Unit 1 Performing	Unit 2 Composing	Unit 3 Written Examination
Length	Option A: Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes. Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes.	Option A: Total duration of composition: 6-8 minutes Option B: Total duration of composition: 8-10 minutes.	2 hours 15 minutes (including a listening examination)
Weighting	Option A: 35% of A Level; Option B: 25% of A Level	Option A: 25% of A Level; Option B: 35% of A Level	40% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

A Level Music is an academic subject which counts towards any university course. It prepares students for study and careers in performance, composition, musicology, ethnomusicology, sound engineering, conducting, popular music and jazz, and music education, but can also open the doors to many opportunities outside of music.

Music helps you to develop a variety of skills such as analysis, dedication, teamwork, self confidence and self-reliance, as well as providing a means of artistic expression and relaxation. It stretches your imagination; playing an instrument also makes you think and react quickly—valuable to all types of employers.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

The sports industry is one of the fastest growing sectors of modern society. You only have to look at the rise of performance analysis in Premier League football or at the growth of the Olympic and Paralympic movements to see that with the right qualifications and a passion for sport, there are a huge number of exciting opportunities open to talented young people.

The specification provides breadth and balance; giving students the chance to study a wide array of theoretical areas that underpin Physical Education, whilst also getting the chance to experience and develop an interest in a variety of roles and performances.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 6 at GCSE PE is a minimum requirement, if taken. It is also strongly recommended that students have at least a grade 6 in Biology. You must be playing competitive sport in at least one sport.

TOPICS COVERED

Component 1 – Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport.

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society
- Written exam 2 hours

Component 2 – Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport.

- Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Sports psychology
- Sport and society and technology in sport

Component 3 – Non exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport.

- Students assessed in one activity.
- Written/Verbal analysis and evaluation of performance
- 30 % of A level



AQA Exam	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Length	2 hour written paper	2 hour written Paper	Practical Assessment
Weighting	35% of the A Level	35% of the A Level	30% of the A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

A Level PE represents the first steps towards many opportunities. With a good grounding in a wide range of sports disciplines our students go on to study sport related courses at a number of the UK's leading universities. Possible career pathways for those with A Level PE include Match Analyst, Nutritionist, Journalist, Sports Development Officer, Physiotherapist, Sports Scientist and many more. It is complemented well by Biology, Psychology, History, Business and, to a lesser extent, Maths and Physics.

PHYSICS

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: OCR

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students will build on their knowledge of the laws of Physics, applying their understanding to areas from sub-atomic particles to the entire universe.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 6 in GCSE Physics or grade 6-6 in GCSE Trilogy Science is required to study A Level Physics.

A grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics is also highly recommended due to the mathematical nature of the course.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Development of practical skills
2. Foundations of Physics
3. Forces and motion
4. Electrons, waves and photons
5. Newtonian world and astrophysics
6. Particles and medical physics



OCR Exam	Paper 1: Modelling Physics	Paper 2: Exploring Physics	Paper 3: Unified Physics	Practical Endorsement
Length	Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes	Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes	Non-exam assessment
Weighting	100 marks in total; 37% of A Level	100 marks in total; 37% of A Level	70 marks in total; 26% of A Level	Reported separately as a Pass/Fail

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students of A Level Physics have the opportunity to take part in the British Physics Olympiad and the Liverpool Physics Olympics, as well as other competitions run by Oxford University. We offer trips to local universities and CERN. We also have visiting astronomers from LJMU.

Physics A Level can lead to careers in Physics research, Teaching, Engineering, Accounting, Law, Finance, Medicine, Radiography, Astronomy.

PSYCHOLOGY

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students of A Level Psychology will study features of human development using a range of methods and approaches including cognitive, social, biological, and developmental psychology. Using a scientific approach, Psychology enables students to use methods and statistics to analyse and draw conclusions in a critical way.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Psychology is a subject that requires students to argue effectively in essays and to describe and draw inferences from data. Therefore, a grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English is required as a minimum.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Social influence
2. Memory
3. Attachment
4. Clinical Psychology and Mental Health— Phobias/OCD/Depression
5. Approaches in Psychology
6. Biopsychology
7. Research methods
8. Gender
9. Schizophrenia
10. Forensic Psychology



AQA Exam	Unit 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology	Unit 2 Psychology in Context	Unit 3 Issues and Options
Length	Written exam 2 hours	Written exam 2 hours	Written exam 2 hours
Weighting	96 marks in total; 33.3% of A Level	96 marks in total; 33.3% of A Level	96 marks in Total; 33.3% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Psychology appeals to a cross-section of students, regardless of whether they have studied the subject before. Extension activities have included lectures by a Senior Neuroscientist and participation in a brain dissection, visits to the Maudsley Hospital and Freud Museum in London and a Behavioural Lecture at Chester Zoo.

Psychology can lead to careers in Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Forensic/Criminal Psychology, Business Psychology, Occupational Psychology and Neuroscience. amongst others. Alternative careers for which Psychology would be useful include the Police, Armed Forces, Human Resources, Health and Social Care, and Psychotherapy.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: EDUQAS

COURSE OVERVIEW

A-Level Religious Studies helps students develop an enthusiastic interest in the rigorous study of religion and its relation to the wider world. This three-unit specification encourages students to reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their learning. Students will have an opportunity to study aspects of one or more religions, including textual, theological, historical, ethical, phenomenological and philosophical perspectives.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies is required to study A Level Religious Studies.

TOPICS COVERED

1. A study of Religion—Christianity

Theme 1: Religious Figures and Sacred Texts

Theme 2: Religious Concepts and Religious Life

Theme 3: Significant social and historical development in religious thought

Theme 4: Religious practices that shape religious identity

2. Philosophy of Religion

Theme 1: Arguments for the existence of God

Theme 2: Challenges to religious beliefs

Theme 3: Religious Experience

Theme 4: Religious Language

3. Religion and Ethics

Theme 1: Ethical Thoughts

Theme 2: Deontological Ethics

Theme 3: Teleological Ethics

Theme 4: Determinism and Freewill



WJEC (Eduqas) Exam	Unit 1 A study of Religion	Unit 2 Philosophy of Religion	Unit 3 Religion and Ethics
Length	Written Exam: 2 hours	Written Exam: 2 hours	Written Exam: 2 hours
Weighting	100 marks; 33.3% of A Level	100 marks; 33.3% of A Level	100 marks; 33.3% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

A Level Religious Studies encourages students to develop critical and evaluative skills which will enable them to go on to higher education to study a wide range of courses including Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy, Law, Sociology. Religious Studies is looked upon favourably by disciplines such as Medicine and Law because of the Ethical and Philosophical components which are academically rigorous. It raises awareness of the complexities of the issues which define the modern world.

SPANISH

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

If you are fascinated by Spanish and its differences from English, then this course is for you. Through listening, reading, speaking and writing the language you will gain awareness and understanding of the cultural, social, commercial and political background of the countries where Spanish is spoken.

We enable students to build on the skills acquired at GCSE and to develop an understanding of the grammar of Spanish. Languages are demanding at this level but will definitely enhance employment prospects and will facilitate opportunities to travel abroad.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a grade 6 at GCSE is required for A Level Spanish.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Aspects of the Hispanic society
2. Multiculturalism in the Hispanic society
3. Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
4. Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world.
5. Prescribed works:

Twelve works are available for study at A Level:

Six literary works, and six films.

Candidates are required to study two works; one of which must be a literary work.

AQA Exam	Unit 1: Listening, Reading and Writing	Unit 2: Critical and Analytical response in Writing	Unit 3: Speaking Test
Length	Written exam: 2 hours	Written exam: 2 hours	21-23 minutes
Weighting	60 marks 30% of A Level	80 marks 20% of A Level	60 marks 30% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Language study contributes to a broad general education and gives you invaluable practical and transferable skills for the future. You may choose to specialise in Spanish at university or combine Spanish with other subjects such as Engineering or History. In most careers language abilities are highly valued.

Recent A Level linguists have gone on to take, among other subjects: Business Studies, European Studies, International or European Law.

SOCIOLOGY

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

A level Sociology examines social behaviour from a variety of perspectives: how it originates and then develops, and the ways people are organised into groups. The course looks at the institutions and forces which shape and are shaped by groups within a society, such as the media, religion and education

A level Sociology focuses on contemporary UK society, providing an awareness of the importance of social structure and actions in explaining social forces and issues. For example, you will consider why working class boys don't make as much educational progress as other groups of young people in society and why fewer couples are marrying.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE English is required to study A Level Sociology.

TOPICS COVERED

In the AQA specification, students must study the following two core themes:

- socialisation, culture and identity
- social differentiation, power and stratification.

The central focus of study in this specification is on UK society today, with consideration given to other contexts where relevant, including the study of UK society within its globalised context.

The following topics are covered:

1. Families and households (Topics in Sociology)
2. Education with Theory and Methods
3. Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
4. Beliefs in society (Topics in Sociology)

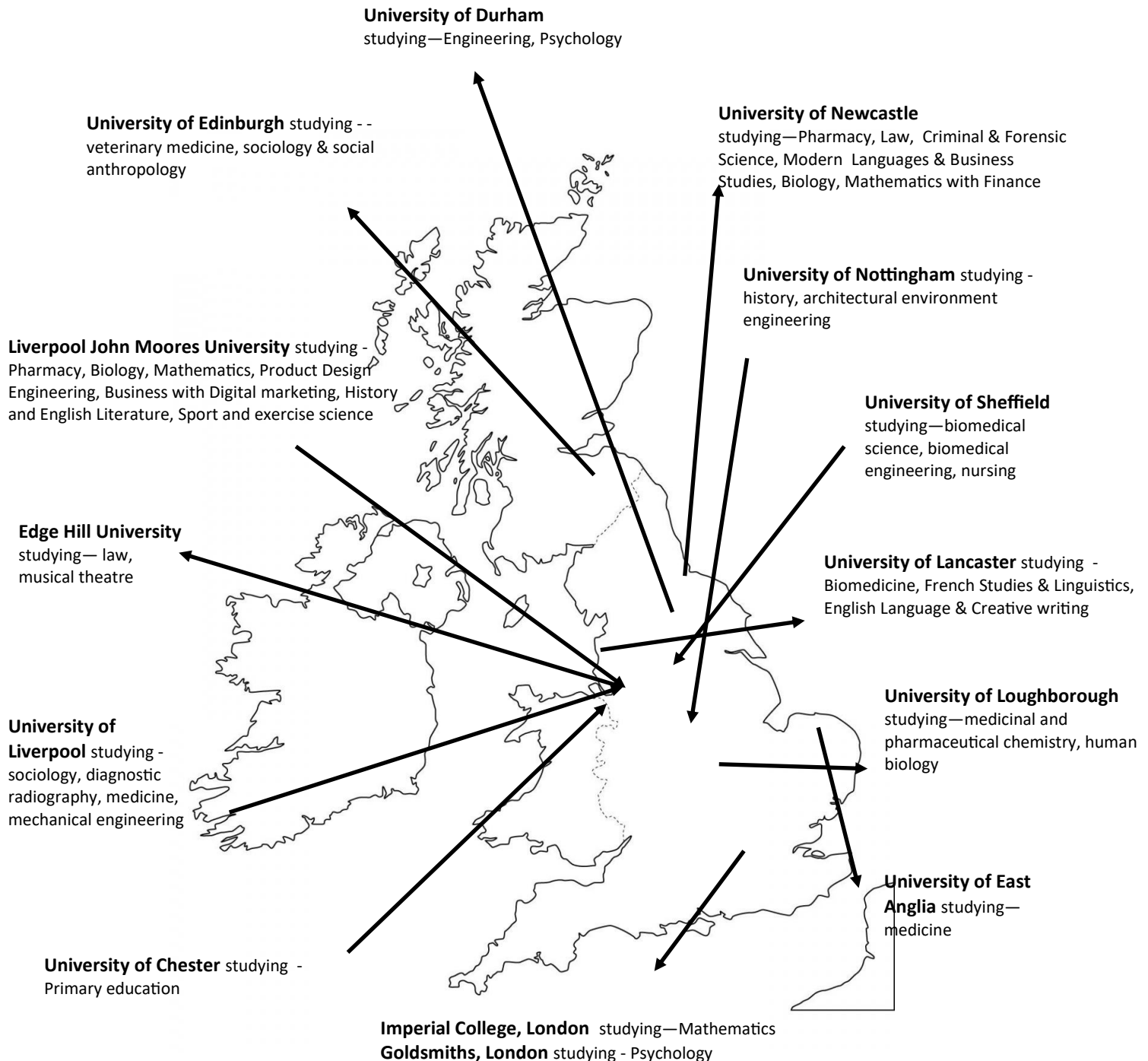
AQA Exam	Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods	Paper 2: Topics in Sociology Part 1. Families and Households Part 2. Beliefs in Society	Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods
Length	Written exam 2 hours	Written exam 2 hours	Written exam 2 hours
Weighting	80 marks in total; 33.3% of A Level	80 marks in total; 33.3% of A Level	80 marks in total; 33.3% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students studying Sociology A Level may wish to study a social science at university, whether that is in Sociology itself or a related discipline such as education, social work, law, policing, politics or criminology. Some students use Sociology A level as a way of developing their critical thinking and analysis skills, research skills and data interpretation skills and, therefore, may go on to study something completely unrelated in higher education or even an apprenticeship. Whatever path they take, they will have gained transferrable skills and a real sense of cultural and social awareness.

DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS 2025

An overview of some of the destinations and courses gained by our students from 2025



Apprenticeships secured at Airbus and Davies Wallis Foyster and in policing and podiatry
Scholarship in USA for Athletics
Employment in the RAF and Civil Service

Notes

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Age quod agis - Whatever you do - do well!

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