

SIXTH FORM @ UPTON



Prospectus 2020-22

UPTON HALL SCHOOL FCJ

Your journey
begins here...

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WELCOME



Take some time to read this prospectus and you will rapidly realise why Upton Hall School's Sixth Form is justly considered to be one of the very best in the North West of England. This is a particularly exciting time to be joining the Sixth Form at Upton as we embark on the creation of a brand new, state-of-the-art Sixth Form building, which will provide all the facilities our students would expect from a dynamic, 21st century education.

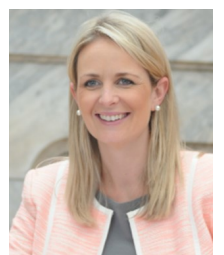
We are proud of our forward-thinking and inclusive Sixth Form that offers students a host of opportunities to enable them to flourish. Each year we welcome students from other schools who wish to experience its academic rigour, friendly atmosphere and first class facilities.

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 and high profile guests are welcomed each week to provide students with an insight into the world beyond Sixth Form. Valuable skills are developed and new experiences offered in our Enrichment Programme, and a weekly briefing on careers by specialists provides students with information on a wide range of future options. Sixth Form life is very busy!

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 **Going Down Mass** and the **Leavers' Ball**. They will have made lifelong friends and be ready to use their talents to shape the world.

Mrs N Hall
Director of Sixth Form



WHY UPTON?



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 level of personalised support that we give our students, at every stage of their education. Our students are encouraged to be the very best version of themselves with a zest for life and a thirst for learning. This is a crucial part of helping our Sixth Form to prepare for the next phase of their lives.

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 available to discuss the options available to students, and 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 interest, 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 Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. You might choose to volunteer and provide in-class support at a local primary school or hone your knowledge of current affairs, environmental sustainability, practical life skills or cookery through our enrichment classes. We have a long running 'guest speakers programme' where prestigious speakers talk to our students about what it takes to get to the top of their professions.

5. LOTS OF SUBJECT CHOICE

We offer an extensive range of A Levels in addition to some newly added BTEC courses. In addition, many students study for the EPQ, which presents them with the chance to research a subject or issue of their choice, and they are very successful!

ACADEMIC LIFE



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 A Level 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



PROGRAMME OF STUDY

A-Level and BTEC courses last two years; we ask that you select **three full A Levels/BTECs plus an enrichment course**, therefore affording you breadth of study whilst also ensuring you benefit from the new 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.

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.

A full list of subject choices can be found in this prospectus; 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.

Complementing the enrichment activities is an engaging and lively guest speaker programme, where students in Years 12 and 13 are privileged to hear from the guests from the world of industry, academia, public service, government and sport.

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.

ROTATION OPTIONS

- Cookery
- Current affairs
- Eco and sustainability
- Practical life skills

NON-ROTATION OPTIONS

- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Sports Leaders Award
- Art
- Bar Mock Trial Competition

EXTRA-CURRICULAR



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.

From September 2020, we intend to offer students a LAMDA qualification (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art), which carries additional UCAS points and is a great way of enhancing your public speaking skills.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duke of Edinburgh's Award • Subject Mentor Scheme • Bar Mock Trial Competition • Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition (mentoring) • Student Council • School Cabinet • Work experience placements • STEM mentors • US Sutton Trust Programme • School enterprise project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villiers Park programme • Nuffield Research placements • Senior choir • Senior orchestra • Foreign exchange programme • School newsletter • Ethos Group • Literacy Champions (mentoring younger pupils) • Ada Lovelace (Oxbridge) programme • Peer Education Project |
|--|---|

YOUR FUTURE



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.

YOUR FUTURE



CAREER INSIGHTS

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.

HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS AND SCHOOL LEAVER PROGRAMMES

Alongside the university route, our students secure high quality 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.

Upton Hall is proud to host many Oxbridge events and is also a member of the St Peter's Ambassador Schools Programme, in partnership with St Peter's College, Oxford.

Last year, one of our students, Ellie, who gained a place at the University of Oxford was featured in a national newspaper as a result of her outstanding achievements against the odds.



DoF E AWARD



GOLD AWARD/D of E 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: Service, Expeditions, Skills, Physical Recreation 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 take place in Snowdonia, North Wales, and the Residential Experience is normally undertaken during the Lower Sixth. 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. Our recent successes 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 DoE expeditions.



COURSE INFORMATION

1. ART AND DESIGN
2. BIOLOGY
3. BUSINESS STUDIES
4. CHEMISTRY
5. DRAMA AND THEATRE
6. ENGLISH LANGUAGE
7. ENGLISH LITERATURE
8. FILM STUDIES
9. FRENCH
10. FURTHER MATHEMATICS
11. GEOGRAPHY
12. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (BTEC)
13. HISTORY
14. IT (BTEC)
15. LAW
16. MANDARIN CHINESE (PRE-U)
17. MATHEMATICS
18. MUSIC
19. PHYSICAL EDUCATION
20. PHYSICS
21. PRODUCT DESIGN
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 new A Level Biology 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 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.

Top universities and employers are looking for a 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, marine biology, biotechnology, pathology, toxicology, pharmacology, physiotherapy, 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 new 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 Merseyside 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.

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, entertainment management, teaching, literature and in other opportunities such as retail, 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 buddy schemes. 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 from a specific period of time, 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 debating and writing competitions and primary school liaison projects.

Trips to the theatre are offered, to venues such as ‘The Lowry’, ‘Picturehouse at Fact’ and ‘The Everyman’. 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 running a Key Stage 3 Animation Club. 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.

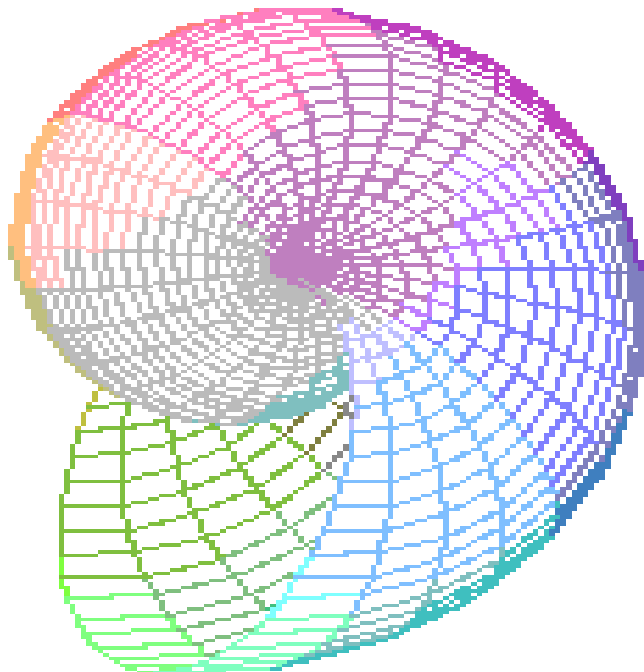
FURTHER MATHEMATICS

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students of A Level Further Mathematics have the opportunity to tackle Mathematics beyond the scope of the single A Level. In the Pure topics, very abstract concepts are studied, including complex numbers and proof by induction. During Year 13, the topics include methods for solving demanding differential equations. The Applied content for this course will consist of Mechanics topics beyond those studied in the single A Level. Studying this course gives an excellent grounding for students wishing to pursue Mathematics or related courses at university.



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 four core themes at A Level are:

- Water and carbon cycles
- Landscape systems
- Global systems and global governance
- Changing place; changing places

Students will also undertake fieldwork of at least 4 days.



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	96 marks; 40% of A Level	96 marks; 40% of A Level	35 marks; 20% of A Level

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

What do geographers become?

- Scientists and Engineers – Hydrologists, Volcanologists, Civil Engineers, Chartered Surveyors, Planners, Site Managers
- Managers – Business, Retail, National Parks Officers, Forestry and countryside commission officers.
- Decision Makers – Planners, Insurance company risk assessors, Politicians, Cartographers, GIS, Aid Agencies workers.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (BTEC) *(new from 2020)*

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/ 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, and the factors affecting development and the effects of ageing.

2. Meeting individual care and support needs

This unit is assessed through an assignment which is marked internally. You will focus on the principles and practicalities that underpin individuals' care and support needs.

3. Working in health and social care

This unit will be assessed through a controlled assessment and you will study what it is like to work in this sector, developing an understanding of key responsibilities such as safeguarding, handling personal data and preventing discrimination.

4. Psychological perspectives

This unit is assessed through an assignment which is marked internally, and you will learn about the key psychological perspectives and they apply to Health and Social Care.



BTEC Extended Certificate	Human lifespan development	Meeting individual care and support needs	Working in health and social care	Psychological perspectives
Length	Written exam 1.5 hours 90 marks Externally assessed	Assignment Internally assessed	Exam Board Task Externally assessed	Assignment 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, 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 Witch Craze
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, Wirral Youth Parliament and the essay competition run by the Historical Association each year. Trips to Auschwitz are 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.

IT (BTEC)

QUALIFICATION TYPE: BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

COURSE OVERVIEW

The BTEC Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level. This qualification supports progression to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT.

The aim of the BTEC Extended Certificate in IT is to introduce candidates to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information.

Grades are awarded from Distinction* to Pass.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 in GCSE English will enable you to access this qualification. A keen interest in ICT and good time management are also essential qualities. This qualification would suit students who would prefer a mix of assignment-based work and examinations.

TOPICS COVERED

BTEC Extended Certificate units are as follows:

1. Information Technology Systems
2. Creating Systems to Manage Information
3. Using Social Media in Business
4. Data Modelling

BTEC Extended Certificate	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Length	Written Exam 2 Hours	Exam Board Task	Assignment	Practical Task
	Externally assessed	Externally assessed	Internally assessed	Internally assessed

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Many sectors such as Government, music, hospitality, sports, etc. employ IT professionals. Past pupils have gone on to study Coding, Forensic Computing, Cyber Security, Accountancy and Business Information Systems. The subject contains many transferable skills useful for other courses and complements most other subjects. Indeed, such is the shortage of IT specialists, that some major companies offer advanced apprenticeships in a Sponsored Degree Higher Apprenticeship Programme, which means you can get paid whilst studying for a degree!

LAW

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: OCR

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students of Law will study both Criminal Law and the Law governing the rules of Negligence. A Level students will continue to study different areas of criminal law as well as considering conceptual issues. 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 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 or Contract Law

OCR Exam	Paper 1: The legal system and Criminal law	Paper 2: Law Making 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: CAMBRIDGE PRE-U

EXAM BOARD: CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Cambridge Pre-U Principal Subject in Mandarin Chinese is the equivalent of an A level qualification. It equips students with the skills they need to make a success of their undergraduate studies and is a two year programme of study.

The structure of the syllabus is linear, so students take exams at the end of the whole course. They are fully compatible with A Levels and may be taken in combination with them.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 6 in GSCE Chinese is required to study the Pre-U Mandarin Chinese course.



TOPICS COVERED

Language Components

1. Family
2. Young people
3. Education
4. The media
5. Work and leisure
6. The environment

Culture Components

(Students will be required to read and write both in English)

1. Chinese culture
2. Chinese literature and film

Cambridge Pre-U Exam	Paper 1: Speaking	Paper 2: Listening, reading and translation	Paper 3: Writing and usage	Paper 4: Chinese Culture
Length	15 minutes Speaking Test	Written Exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes	Written Exam: 2 hours	Written Exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes
Weighting	20% of qualification	30% of qualification	25% of qualification	25% of qualification

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM & FUTURE PROSPECTS

Students of the Pre-U Mandarin Chinese course have the opportunity to attend the British Council Language Programme in China and take a gap year to teach English in a Chinese school. Students also can attend the Chinese Language and culture summer camp in China and to visit our linked school in Shanghai. This course enables students to continue with Mandarin studies in higher education.

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.

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.

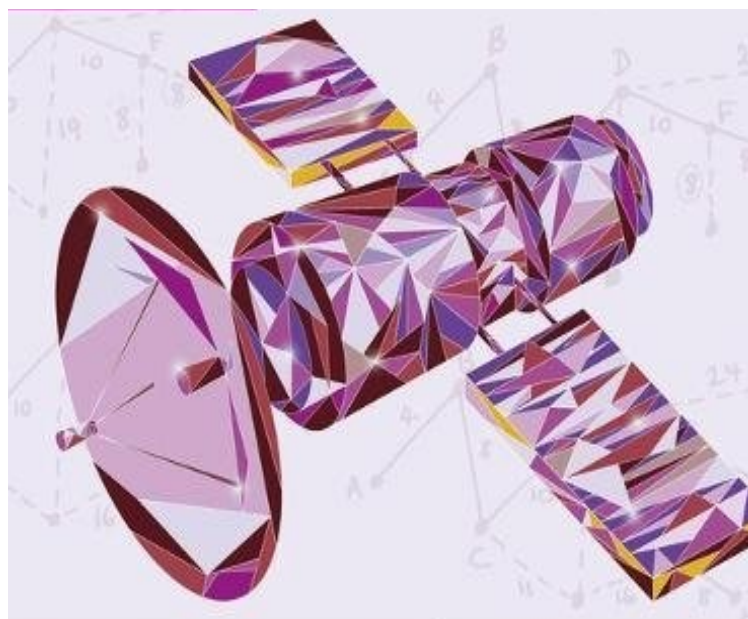
Pure topics include: Algebraic fractions; co-ordinate geometry; differentiation and integration of polynomials and other functions; the factor theorem; applications of calculus; radians; logarithms; trigonometric identities; composite and inverse functions; transformations; three dimensional vectors.

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 prepares students for study and careers in performance, composition, musicology, ethnomusicology, sound engineering, conducting, popular music and jazz, and music education.

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.

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. Trips to CERN are offered as well as visits to Liverpool University. Radiography Department and to the Institute of Physics lectures.

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

PRODUCT DESIGN

QUALIFICATION TYPE: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA

COURSE OVERVIEW

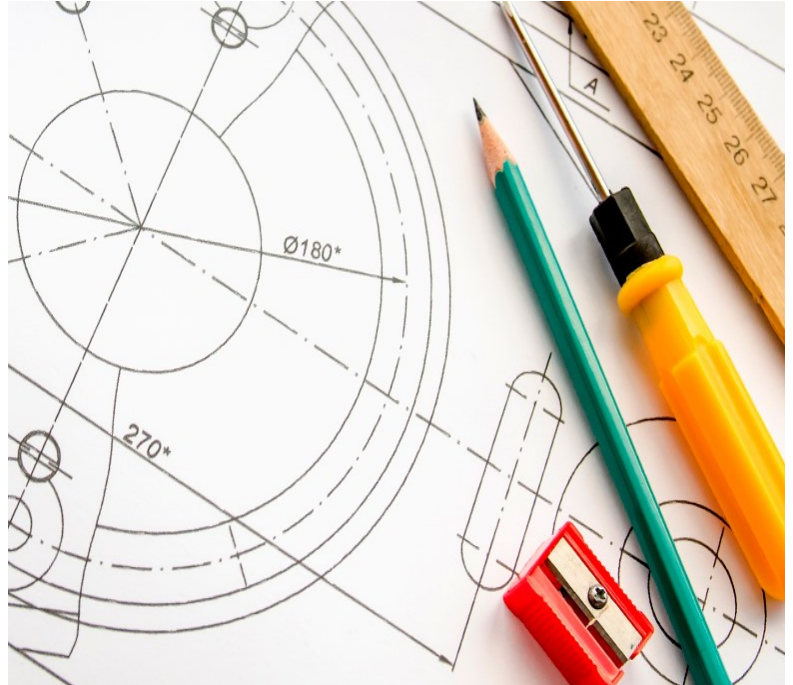
A Level Product Design develops the students' skills in creative and innovative thinking and problem solving. Through practical coursework, Design and Make tasks and the study of materials and manufacturing processes, this enables students to relate this to how the products would be commercially manufactured.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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

Where these subjects were not taken, a grade 6 in Art and Design would be acceptable or an aptitude for other STEM subjects.

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



TOPICS COVERED

This course is a linear course 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 market. In Year 13, students choose their own project. This project should relate to students' career aspirations and this 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.

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 is required as a minimum.

TOPICS COVERED

1. Social influence
2. Memory
3. Attachment
4. Psychopathology— 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: WJEC

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: WJEC

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.

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 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 *(new from 2020)*

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 may consider why working class boys don't make as much educational progress as other groups of young people in society or 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

2019

Location	Course
Sheffield Hallam University	Languages with TESOL (Spanish)
Liverpool John Moores University	Law 2020
Liverpool John Moores University	Law
Manchester Metropolitan University	International Business Management
Manchester Metropolitan University	Educational Psychology
Liverpool University	Occupational Therapy 2020
Liverpool John Moores University	Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice
Bangor University	History
Liverpool John Moores University	Law
Durham University	Chinese Studies with Year Abroad
Leicester University	Psychology
Hull York Medical School	Medicine
Worcester University	Primary Teaching
Liverpool John Moores University	Pharmacy
Herriot Watt University	International Business Management with Year Abroad
Salford University	Media and Performance
Edge Hill University	Film Studies with Film Production
Liverpool John Moores University	Product Design Engineering
Liverpool University	Politics and International Business
Lancaster University	Physics
Liverpool John Moores University	Marketing
Liverpool University	Mathematics
LIPA University	Theatre and Performance Technology
Manchester University	Geography
Birmingham University	Physiotherapy
Liverpool University	Geography
Liverpool John Moores University	Product Design Engineering
Liverpool John Moores University	Business with International Business Management
Lancaster University	Law
Oxford University	English Language and Literature
Sheffield Hallam University	Chemistry
Bangor University	Zoology
Manchester Metropolitan University	Spanish with Italian
Liverpool John Moores University	Marketing
Hull York Medical School	Medicine

DESTINATIONS OF LEAVERS

2019

Location	Course
Nottingham University	Mathematics
Sheffield University	Landscape Architecture
Liverpool John Moores University	Psychology
Edge Hill University	Law
Manchester Metropolitan University	Sport, Physical Activity and Health
Bath University	Psychology
Chester University	Musical Theatre Performance
Cardiff University	Mechanical Engineering
Chester University	Fashion Marketing and Communication
Liverpool University	Law
Liverpool University	Business Studies and Hispanic Studies
Liverpool John Moores University	Law with Foundation Year
Newcastle University	Mathematics
Durham University	Chinese Studies with Year Abroad 2020
Swansea University	Chemistry with a Year Abroad
Durham University	Chinese Studies with Year Abroad
Edinburgh University	Arabic and French 2020
Oxford Brooks University	Built Environment with Foundation Year
Edge Hill University	Geo - environmental Hazards
Warwick University	History
Manchester University	Child Nursing
Liverpool John Moores University	Criminology with Foundation Year
Leeds University	Chemistry with Study Abroad
Liverpool University	French and Hispanic Studies
Liverpool John Moores University	Events Management
Salford University	Quantity Surveying
Leeds University	Languages , Cultures and Business
Nottingham University	Economics
Liverpool John Moores University	Accounting and Finance
Liverpool John Moores University	Law
London Metropolitan University	Theatre and Film
Manchester University	Child Nursing
Liverpool John Moores University	Accounting and Finance
Cambridge University	Veterinary Medicine
Leeds University	Geography
Newcastle University	Civil and Structural Engineering with Year in Industry

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