



Bishopshalt School

Above all else a place for learning



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JOINING THE SIXTH FORM AT BISHOPSHALT

General Expectations

Applications to join the Sixth Form at Bishopshalt School are welcomed from everyone for whom there is an appropriate course, subject to course entry requirements and references. We would expect all applicants to have a positive attitude to learning and willingness to engage in the wider school community and ethos of the school.

Students must have sufficient maturity to accept the responsibilities of being a member of the Sixth Form and be willing to work hard.

General Entry requirements

To join the Sixth Form, students need a minimum **six grade 5s including Maths and English, both at grade 5**. It is then expected that students should have the specific grade required in the subject they wish to study i.e. grade 6 English Literature to study English Literature A level. There are a number of subjects which have a higher entrance requirement and you are advised to check these before making your application. We reserve the right to review course entrance criteria during enrolment.

Students taking a vocational Level 3 course (i.e. BTEC) in Business will be expected to have five or more GCSE grade 5 including Maths and English. Those who study these courses will be expected to take additional Level 3 courses to complete their programme.

All students undertake a full-time course with five lessons each day (some of which are study periods). In addition, the Extended Project Qualification is available and all students participate in the Tutor Time Programme. Students also have the opportunity to choose from a variety of courses as part of their enrichment programme. Students also take part in the Future Friday sessions each week where they hear from guest speakers from our Bishopshalt Alumni or Network.

Students will choose their preferred subjects from our programme of study which will then be confirmed through Option Blocks in a students meeting with Senior Staff. Not all courses will necessarily run and the blocks are subject to change.

Brief Overview of the Qualifications

A level: This is a two-year linear course with all assessments at the end of Year 13. . Grades A*-E represents a pass at A level.

AS level: This is a standalone qualification independent of an A level. At Bishopshalt, we offer AS French or Spanish and the Extended Project.

Level 3 Qualification: (CTEC): Students can opt for vocational courses including Diplomas (worth 2 A level equivalents) in Business.



Typical Programme of Study

At Bishopshalt, we know that each student has their own particular strengths, interests and career aspirations. In order to ensure that every student has a personalised programme of study that supports them to meet their aspirations, we have created the following programmes.

Students will be guided onto a programme based on their attainment at GCSE as shown in the General Entry Criteria below. The programmes below are two-year Level 3 programmes of study and students will sit all public examinations at the end of Year 13 subject to meeting the conditions of continuation on Sixth Form Courses.

Recommended Study Programmes

Study Programme	Qualifications	General Entry Criteria
Programme 1	Four A Levels and/or access to our Oxbridge scholars programme.	Achieved grades 8 to 9 at GCSE
Programme 2	Three A Levels and an AS (EPQ, Classics, MFL)* and access to our Oxbridge scholars programme.	Achieved grades 8 to 9 at GCSE
Programme 3	Three A Levels (including two facilitating subjects) and an AS EPQ*.	Achieved grades 7 to 9 at GCSE
Programme 4	Three A Levels (including two facilitating subjects) and a MOOC*.	Achieved a mixture of grades 6 and 7 at GCSE
Programme 5	A combination of vocational (BTEC) and an A Level qualification.	Achieved mostly grade 5 at GCSE

Please be aware that each individual subject has subject specific entry requirements.

* Facilitating subjects are highly sought after by universities and leave open a wide range of options for university study. The facilitating subjects are Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, Geography, History, Maths, Further Maths, Modern Languages and Physics.

* EPQ - Extended Project Qualification. The EPQ is a single piece of work of a student's choosing that requires evidence of planning, preparation, research and independent learning. Students can study for the Extended Project in addition to their main courses.

*AS Subjects - We also offer AS subjects equivalent to half an A Level and therefore worth half the UCAS points. Students can study 3 A Levels and an AS on programme 2. We offer AS Classics, Spanish and French.

* MOOC - Massive Open Online Course



Subject	Subjects Minimum Entry Requirements
Art and Design	6 in GCSE Art or a portfolio of work equivalent to a GCSE portfolio.
Biology	76 in Double/Combined Science or grade 766 in Trilogy Science with a 7 in Biology. Grade 7 in Mathematics is also required.
Business CTEC	5 at GCSE English and Maths.
Business A Level	6 in GCSE Business preferable or Grade 6 in English and Maths if never studied Business at GCSE
Chemistry	76 in Double/Combined Science or grade 766 in Trilogy Science with a 7 in Chemistry. Grade 7 in Mathematics is also required.
Computer Science	6 in GCSE Computer Science and 6 in GCSE Maths.
Dance	6 in GCSE Dance and Grade 5 in English.
Design and Technology	6 in Design & Technology and a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.
Economics	6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in English.
English Literature	6 in GCSE English Language and Literature.
Geography	6 in GCSE Geography preferable. Grade 6 in English if never studied Geography at GCSE.
History	6 in GCSE History preferable. Grade 6 in English if never studied History at GCSE.
Languages (French & Spanish)	6 in GCSE in French/Spanish.
Maths	7 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in Physics (or 65 in Combined Science).
Further Maths	8 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 7 in Physics (or 76 in Combined Science).
Media Studies	5 in GCSE Media preferable or Grade 5 in English if never studied Media at GCSE
Music	6 in GCSE Music is preferable or ability to read music to grade 6 or an equivalent standard.
Photography	5 in GCSE Photography is useful but not essential. 5 in GCSE English and 5 in GCSE Maths if never studied at GCSE.
Physical Education	6 in GCSE Physical Education and 5 in Science and 5 in English. If GCSE PE is not studied, at least two Grade 5s in GCSE Science and evidence of participation in competitive sport at school, county or national level.
Physics	76 in Double/Combined Science or grade 766 in Trilogy Science with a 7 in Physics. Grade 7 in Mathematics is also required.
Politics	6 in GCSE Politics or 6 in GCSE English plus a grade 6 in GCSE History, Geography or RS if never studied Politics at GCSE.
Psychology	6 in GCSE Psychology or 6 in GCSE English, 6 in Maths and 66 in Science if never studied Psychology at GCSE.
Religious Studies	6 in GCSE RS preferable or Grade 6 in English if never studied RS at GCSE.



Sociology	6 in GCSE Sociology 6 in GCSE English and 5 in GCSE Maths and Science if never studied Sociology at GCSE.
Theatre Studies	6 in Drama if studied at GCSE. 5 in GCSE English Language, and English Literature if never studied at GCSE.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Prospective students should apply using the application form on the school website at www.bishopshalt.hillingdon.sch.uk. At first, students are offered a 'free' choice. We then place subjects into blocks which take account of student preferences. The blocks are designed to accommodate the greatest number of first choice preferences. We will inform you of the blocks in due course. As a popular and successful school, we receive a large number of applications to join the Sixth Form each year. Successful applicants will be invited to a meeting at the school where we will discuss course choice options.

Following the meeting, a conditional place in the Sixth Form will be offered if we are satisfied that you:-

- are likely to meet the minimum entrance grade requirements;
- will be successful on the courses selected;
- have a good attendance record in Year 11 (above 97%);
- are motivated and have shown that through positive behaviours.

We expect a school reference recommending you for the courses applied for. Places are conditional on future GCSE grades meeting our minimum Sixth Form entry requirements and the grade requirements for each individual subject applied for.

If successful in your application, you will be invited to a Transition Day on Monday 6th July 2026 where you will receive details about Sixth Form Enrolment and the start of term.

Course Changes

If you want to make any changes agreed in your Sixth Form application or after your meeting, these must be put in writing, but may not be confirmed until Enrolment Day. Before requesting any changes, you should check your qualifications and make sure you are eligible to study this new course.

Although there is no official closing date for applications, we would expect to receive the majority of successful applications by 15th January 2026. We will consider all applications received by this date. We do accept late applications and these are viewed on a first come first served basis, so early applications will increase your chances of success.

The following notes must be read before any course choices are made:

1. Students select 3 choices, **but CTEC Business Studies count as 2 choices.** Please indicate a fourth and fifth 'reserve' choice to assist with resolution of course choice problems, although every attempt will be made to give all students their desired combination.

All courses will run subject to adequate student demand and our ability to staff the course.

HOW TO APPLY



APPLICATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE VIA THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AT:

<https://www.bishopshalt.hillingdon.sch.uk>

(FINE) ART

COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE Art or a portfolio of work equivalent to a GCSE portfolio

INTRODUCTION

Students will be entered for the A level Fine Art, which requires students to submit artwork through a range of disciplines - painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, lens-based image making. By working across disciplines, students will extend their understanding of the scope of fine art; by focusing on one discipline, they will gain a deeper understanding of specific processes within fine art. This specification offers students the opportunity to explore various concepts/materials whilst working to their own personal strengths and interests. The department is equipped in the following areas: Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture. A specific interest in any of these can be discussed when visiting the department.

COURSE CONTENT

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES All objectives must be met in every Component.	AO1	Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.
	AO2	Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.
	AO3	Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.
	AO4	Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

ASSESSMENT

COURSE STRUCTURE	WEIGHTING	ASSESSMENT
Component 1 Art and Design – Fine Art Title: Personal Investigation This is a practical investigation supported by written material.	60% of the total Qualification (subject to change following new guidelines from exam board) Marked out of 96	Internally set Internally marked Externally moderated
Component 2 – Set February in final year Art and Design – Fine Art Externally set assignment - incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies and a 15 hour period of sustained focus.	40% of the total Qualification Marked out of 96	Externally set Internally marked Externally moderated

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Many students go on to one year Foundation and then Degree courses. It is possible to pursue careers in Fine Art, Graphic Design, Animation and Film, Fashion and Textile Design, Photography, Three Dimensional Design, Arts Administration, Community Arts, Art Therapy, Architecture and teaching from nursery to degree level.

EXAM BOARD



AQA A level in Art and Design.

CONTACT NAME

Miss Gee – Head of Art.



BIOLOGY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

7- 6 in Double/ Combined Science or grade 766 in Triple Science with a 7 in Biology. Grade 7 in Mathematics is also required.

COURSE CONTENT

At Bishopshalt School students follow the AQA Biology course (7401). Biology A level is a linear course which means that students will sit internal exams at the end of Year 12 and AQA A level exams at the end of Year 13.

The content of the course builds on topics studied at GCSE, but these are delivered with much greater depth at A level. The content will include:

Year 12

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 13

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

ASSESSMENT

A level
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 1: Topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills.• Written exam: 2 hours• 91 marks (35% of A level)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 2: Topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills.• Written exam: 2 hours• 91 marks (35% of A level)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 3: Any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills.• Written exam: 2 hours• 78 marks• 30% of A level

There is a total minimum exam time of 6 hours for the A level. Students will be awarded a separate endorsement of practical skills, which will be assessed by teachers. This will not be graded. If students pass, it will be reported on their certificates. Knowledge and understanding of practical work will be assessed in written exams. About 15% of total marks in the A level exams will be based on practical questions.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Many students go on to study a Biology related degree at university such as Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Criminology, Environmental Sciences, Teaching and university research, Pharmacy to name but a few.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Mr O Omotayo – Teacher in Charge of Biology.



BUSINESS OCR CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL (DIPLOMA) - MARKETING

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 at GCSE English and Maths

INTRODUCTION

This two year course provides the opportunity for students to explore the world of business in a highly practical way. By adopting an investigative approach, students develop a range of skills while discovering the problems and opportunities faced by businesses. Students will study the Diploma across Year 12 and Year 13 (broadly equivalent to two A levels).

COURSE AIMS

The aim of the course is designed to encourage investigation and to support a highly active, student centred approach. Students will be encouraged to consider management decisions and their impact on a business. Students' organisational and higher order skills, such as analysis and evaluation, will be enhanced through this course.

COURSE CONTENT

The course involves a comprehensive overview of all business functions and the emphasis is placed on realistic business contexts. It enables students to develop an understanding of how various business functions, such as marketing, finance, human and physical resources, work together as part of a cohesive business. Students study twelve units over the two years and the resulting qualification is broadly the equivalent of two A level courses with respect to University entrance points. It will take up two option choices.

Year 1	Year 2:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Business Environment * ● Working in Business * ● Business Decisions ● Marketing and Market Research ● Customers and Communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marketing Strategy ● Marketing Campaign ● Change Management* ● Principles of Project Management ● Delivering a Business Project

ASSESSMENT

Units are assessed via a combination of externally set and marked examinations* and internally set and marked coursework units. Students will be following the Marketing Pathway. All of the units are mandatory units. Students are required to pass all units in order to achieve the qualification.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

This course gives students a wide choice of progression options into further study, training or relevant employment. Students who successfully complete the qualification will be well equipped to move onto University, work or Modern Apprenticeships in related subjects.

EXAM BOARD

OCR

CONTACT NAME

Miss King – Head of Business Studies.



BUSINESS STUDIES

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in English and 6 in Mathematics. It is not necessary to have studied Business at GCSE

INTRODUCTION

Do you think that you could run your own business? How do new businesses get started? What is a business plan? How do businesses grow and respond to a changing environment? What is globalisation? These are some of the questions that Business Studies examines.

COURSE AIMS

The course aims to introduce students to the world of business and the different 'stakeholders' who influence how a business develops. The wider economic and social environment is also considered alongside technology and ethical issues. It is important that students follow events in the news and understand how they affect organisations. The course provides a sound basis for students to continue studying the subject at a higher level.

COURSE CONTENT

This is a two year linear course. It is split over three papers and will cover the main areas below.

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making;
- Decision making to improve marketing performance;
- Decision making to improve operational performance;
- Decision making to improve financial performance;
- Decision making to improve human resource performance;
- Analysing the strategic position of a business;
- Choosing strategic direction;
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies;
- Managing strategic change.

ASSESSMENT

This will cover all of the content listed above.

Paper 1 – 100 mark paper in 2 hours. This contributes to 33.3% of the A level grade. It covers a range of questions from multiple choice to essay based questions.

Paper 2 – 100 mark paper in 2 hours. This contributes to 33.3% of the A level grade. It focuses on data response questions.

Paper 3 – 100 mark paper in 2 hours. This contributes to 33.3% of the A level grade. It is assessed on one compulsory case study consisting of approximately 6 questions.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

The course gives students access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. Accounting and Finance, Marketing, Operations Management and Human Resources are all offered as part of the many degree courses and lead to worthwhile and rewarding careers. Business Studies is also recognised as developing important lifelong skills.

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

CONTACT NAME

Miss King – Head of Business Studies.



CHEMISTRY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

7 6 in Double/Combined Science or grade 7 6 6 in Trilogy Science with a 7 in Chemistry.
Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics is also required.

COURSE AIMS

The aim of the course is to stimulate students' interest and enjoyment of Chemistry and to give them the required knowledge to understand many aspects of contemporary Chemistry that affect their lives, as well as providing an appropriate qualification for those who need Chemistry for their future studies or career. Teaching will involve practical work, discussion and note taking, independent learning, demonstrations, and some use of ICT.

COURSE CONTENT

The content of the course builds on the topics studied in Trilogy Science at GCSE, but these are dealt with in much greater depth. A-level Chemistry is a two year course.

Year 1 Topics			
Physical Chemistry	Inorganic Chemistry	Organic Chemistry	
Atomic structure	Periodicity	Introduction to organic Chemistry	
Amount of substance	Group 2 metals	Alkanes	
Bonding	Group 7, the halogens	Halogenoalkanes	
Energetics		Alkenes	
Kinetics		Alcohols	
Chemical equilibria, K _c		Organic analysis (Infrared, High Resolution Mass Spectroscopy and functional group tests)	
Oxidation, reduction and redox			
Year 2 Topics in addition to the above:			
Thermodynamics	Period 3	Optical isomerism	Polymers
Rate equations	Transition metals	Aldehydes and ketones	Amino acids, proteins and DNA
Equilibrium constant K _p	Reactions of ions in solution	Carboxylic acids and derivatives	Organic synthesis
Electrode potentials		Aromatic Chemistry	NMR spectroscopy (¹ H NMR and ¹³ C NMR)
Acids and bases		Amines	Chromatography

ASSESSMENT

There will be three written exams, each taking two hours. Students will be awarded a separate endorsement of practical skills, which will be assessed by teachers. This will not be graded. If students pass, it will be reported on their certificates. Knowledge and understanding of the practical work will be assessed in written exams. About 15% of the total marks in A-level exams will be based on practical questions.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

A qualification in Chemistry is vital for higher education courses in dentistry, medicine and pharmacy. Many science based courses in Biology, engineering and the environmental sciences also require knowledge of Chemistry. Chemistry also opens up a wide range of careers in industry. The chemical and allied industries - fragrances, fuels, pharmaceuticals - are the most important manufacturing industries to the UK economy. These industries employ large numbers of chemists in research and development, sales and marketing, plus management. The intellectual training obtained in studying for a degree in Chemistry is also ideal for a career in areas not directly related to chemical sciences, such as Law.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Mr Wilson – Teacher in Charge of KS4/5 Chemistry.



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION AS Level

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Enrichment course available as an option to Year 12 students after enrolment

COURSE AIMS

AS level Classical Civilisation is an introduction to the literature, history and ideas of ancient Greece and Rome that have been the foundation for Western culture for more than two thousand years.

Students will explore elements of the literature and visual/material culture while acquiring an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts.

The course is aimed at broadening hinterland knowledge and developing cross-curricular skills, and is useful both for humanities students who wish to supplement their A Level subjects, and for those studying maths, business or sciences who wish to demonstrate their ability to master essay writing and literary criticism.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course is half the content of an A Level, with two hours of classes a week over Year 12 and Year 13, culminating in two 90 minute exam papers.

The first investigates the World of the Hero, and explores the epic poetry of Homer and Virgil, with Homer's *Odyssey* as a prescribed text.

The second paper explores Greek Theatre, including the development of tragedy and comedy from their origins in 5th century Athens. The prescribed sources are Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, Euripides' *The Bacchae*, and Aristophanes' *The Frogs* - plays that have been performed almost continually for more than two millennia.

Both papers include an appreciation of the artistic and aesthetic legacies of the Classical world, and how they have influenced the arts over the centuries.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

The course requires no prior knowledge of Classics or the history or mythology of ancient Greece or Rome.

The AS level provides the opportunity for students to consider courses related to Classics at leading universities (including Ancient History, Archaeology and Anthropology etc), and a familiarity with Classics is seen as a major bonus in a wide range of courses from Politics and History to English, Drama or Journalism / Media.

Graduates who have studied Classics at university are successful in a variety of careers, including law, economics, government, academia, the media and the arts.

EXAM BOARD

OCR

CONTACT NAME

Mr Thornton - Head of Classics.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE Computer Science and 6 in GCSE Maths.

INTRODUCTION

This course is relevant to the modern and changing world of computing. Computer Science is a practical subject where students are encouraged to apply the academic principles to real-world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. The Computer Science qualification values computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limitations of human and machine intelligence.

COURSE CONTENT

The A level course is studied over 2 years and is made up of 3 units:

01 Computer Systems

This unit covers computing theory with topics including:

- How CPUs work and can make use of multi-core and parallel processing
- Operating systems, compilers, interpreters, linkers and loaders
- Methodologies for tackling large programming projects in business
- Types of programming languages from Assembly Language through to object oriented Java
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues

02 Algorithms and Programming

This unit covers problem solving and computational thinking:

- Thinking logically, abstractly, concurrently and procedurally
- Study of algorithms such as Quick Sort, A* and Dijkstra's Shortest Path (as employed, for example, by Google Maps)
- Most theory is reinforced with practical implementation using either Python, Visual Basic or Java
- Study of the complexity for common algorithms to enable performance predictions for large systems

03 Programming Project

This unit is the coursework element of the qualification. Students will select their own user-driven problem to solve. This could involve, for example, the creation of a 2D or 3D game, where Artificial Intelligence algorithms could be developed to control an enemy character. In the past students have successfully used development platforms such as Unity/C#, PyGame, Monkey-x or Java for their projects.

ASSESSMENT

Unit 01 Computer Systems - 40% of the overall grade.

2 hour and 30 minute examination that is externally marked by the examining board with a mix of short-answer, longer-answer and levels of response mark-scheme type questions.

Unit 02 Algorithms and Programming - 40% of the overall grade.

2 hour and 30 minute examination that is externally marked by the examining board.

Unit 03 Programming Project - 20% of the overall grade.

Coursework element that is marked by the centre and externally moderated by the exam board.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Students can follow Computer Science in higher education or many jobs within the Computing Industry. It will provide students with a range of transferable skills which will facilitate personal growth and foster cross curriculum links in such areas as Maths, Science and Design and Technology. Russell Group lists this A level as a "useful qualification" for entry to a broad range of degree courses.

EXAM BOARD

OCR

CONTACT NAME

Mr Price – Lead Teacher of Computer Science.



DANCE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE Dance and Grade 5 in English.

COURSE AIMS

The A level Dance specification aims to cultivate creativity in students by allowing individual enquiry within the areas of performance, choreography and critical engagement with professional repertoire through both practical and written responses.

The A level specification requires students to develop, demonstrate and articulate practical and theoretical knowledge, understanding and experience of:

- technical and performance skills;
- the process and art of choreography;
- the interrelationship between the creation, presentation and the appreciation of dance works;
- the development of dance placed within an artistic and cultural context;
- current professional dance works and the significance of these works.

ASSESSMENT

This is a linear qualification. In order to achieve the award, students must complete all assessments at the end of the course and in the same series.

It is important to note that this course is new and there may still be some minor changes to assessment schemes by the exam board.

<p>Performance and Choreography:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study 2. Performance in a quartet 3. Group choreography <p><i>Practical exam assessed by visiting moderator</i> 80 marks 50% A level</p>	<p>Critical Engagement:</p> <p>Section A: Short answer paper 25 marks and one essay on the compulsory set work 25 marks.</p> <p><u>Rambert History</u></p> <p>Section B: Two essay questions on the second set work. 50 marks.</p> <p><u>Contemporary Dance since 2000</u></p> <p><i>Written examination</i> 100 marks 50% A level</p>
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PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

To a degree in Dance or Performing Arts with a view to production, performance, choreographing and devising. Teacher, Dancer, Choreographer, Administration for Company, Animateur, Community Arts worker. University course, e.g. Chichester, Middlesex, De Montfort.

Conservatoire for Dance e.g. Laban, London Contemporary, Rambert Dance.

Stage School London Studio Centre, Italia Conti, Urdang, Doreen Bird.

Wider applications would be to any career which requires excellent presentation skills, creativity and incisiveness, original thinking, teamwork and negotiation, e.g. Management in general, advertising, public relations, personnel management and media careers.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Mrs Gooch – Head of Dance or Mrs Briggs - Dance Teacher.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE Design & Technology and a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.

INTRODUCTION

The Advanced level course has been designed to:

- Encourage candidates to take a broad view of the world of Design.
- Develop candidates' capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials and manufacture.

Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. The practical problem solving processes in this specification will encourage independent learning, creativity and innovation.

ASSESSMENT

The course will be assessed over 1 exam paper and 1 Non-Exam Assessment (NEA), which is a piece of coursework.

Paper	What's assessed?	How it's assessed	Questions
Exam	<p>Core technical principles and core designing and making principles.</p> <p>Understanding of materials and processes used to manufacture a broad range of products.</p> <p>Ability to analyse and evaluate the social and environmental impact of designers past and present.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2.5 hours • 120 marks • 50% of A level 	<p>Mixture of short answer and extended response.</p> <p>15% will be Maths based questions, where students typically have to calculate material wastage.</p>
Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	<p>Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial design and make task • 50% of A level 	<p><u>Evidence</u></p> <p>Digital design portfolio and final prototype</p>

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Design and Technology enables students to develop both a broad understanding of design and manufacturing principles and an insight into the infrastructure which underpins design and manufacturing enterprises, such as finance, marketing and environmental issues. In addition, the qualification covers a mixture of units from the theoretical through to those with a clear practical emphasis. As such it will provide a firm basis for progression to either employment or higher education. The qualification allows for a number of progression routes:

- **Higher Education:** The units provide a sound basis for progression to a range of higher education courses, e.g. Product Design, Graphic Design, Industrial 3D Design, CAD/CAM, Engineering, Architecture, Interior Design, Manufacturing, but also courses linked to the Environment, Business, Advertising, Creative Arts, MultiMedia Technology and Marketing.
- **Employment:** Examples of career opportunities are in Product Design, Graphic Design, Marketing, Technical Sales, Buying, Interior/exhibition Design, Quality Control, Production Planning, Finance and Costing of the Manufacturing Process, use of CAD in Manufacturing etc.

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

CONTACT NAME

Mr Flanagan – Head of Design and Technology.



ECONOMICS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in GCSE English.

INTRODUCTION

Economics is an interesting and relevant subject. It explores how the economy works and considers the decisions made by consumers, firms and the government, which affect all our lives. Economics is a two year linear A level with examinations at the end of Year 13. The course has four modern themes and students use economic models and data to explore markets and economies and how governments influence them.

COURSE AIMS

To encourage students to develop a keen interest in the subject and begin to think as an economist. To provide the foundation for studying economics at a higher level and equip students for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult working life.

COURSE CONTENT

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure

Introduction to microeconomics. This theme will enable you to understand how markets for goods and services work. We study demand and supply and how the price mechanism works as a means of allocating resources. We then go on to explore situations where markets do not work well and what governments can do to correct this market failure.

Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies

Introduction to macroeconomics. This exciting theme will give you a good understanding of how the whole economy works. You will learn about problems such as unemployment, inflation and how these might be tackled through government policy. It looks at how economic success is measured and evaluates different ways of solving economic problems.

Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

This builds on the microeconomic concepts learned in *theme 1* and focuses on business economics. We use economic models and theories to understand how revenues, costs and profits are likely to be different in various types of market, including labour markets. Students go on to learn about how and why the government promotes competition in markets.

Theme 4: A global perspective

Builds on knowledge of the macro economy from *theme 2* and applies these concepts to a global context. You will study globalisation, international trade, exchange rates, the growth and development of emerging and developing countries. You will also learn about financial markets, the role of the Bank of England and the factors that caused the 2009 financial crisis.

ASSESSMENT

There are *three* 2 hour exams at the end of the two year A level. The papers are almost equally weighted and there is some choice of questions. There is no coursework.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

The course gives students access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. A degree in Economics offers careers in banking, finance, business management and the civil service. Economics combines with other disciplines such as Mathematics and the social sciences to enhance degree opportunities.

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel (option A specification)

CONTACT NAME

Miss Berry - Assistant Head and Teacher of Economics.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

COURSE AIMS

The aim of the course is to foster and encourage an enjoyment and appreciation of literature in a number of contexts, as well as to hone analytical skills. It is essential, therefore, that any student who wishes to commence the A level must enjoy reading and studying literature. In addition, the course also gives students the opportunity to develop their critical thinking. It is also important that they are willing to orally contribute to lessons.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1 (Drama) is a 2 hour and 15 minutes examination; you will answer one question on 'Dr Faustus' by Christopher Marlowe and one question on 'Othello' by William Shakespeare.

Component 2 (Prose) is a 1 hour and 15 minutes examination; one question is answered where you compare 'Dracula' by Bram Stoker and 'Beloved' by Toni Morrison via the theme of 'The Supernatural'.

Component 3 (Poetry) is a 2 hour and 15 minutes examination where two questions will be answered: one on poetry from the 'Poems of the Decade' anthology and one based on Christina Rossetti's poetry.

The final part is coursework, where students will create a 2,500-3,000 word comparative essay exploring a question of their choice, comparing 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khaled Hosseini with another text from a range suggested by the exam board.

The course is the perfect foundation for a degree in Literature or a related course. In addition, our students report that they find lessons enjoyable and thought-provoking, as well as helpful for their other subjects.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of the A level course you will sit three written exams: Component 1 is worth 30%, Component 2 is 20% and Component 3 is 30%. Coursework is 20% of the overall marks.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

English Literature is a subject valued by higher education institutions and employers. It demonstrates that you have the ability to read texts, analyse and respond to them and produce coherent, critical and analytical essays, which draw on relevant parts of the texts to support your opinions. English Literature also requires you to discuss texts in small groups or in whole class discussion, which is a valuable skill for both working life and university.

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

CONTACT NAME

Mr Scanell - Key Stage 5 Coordinator or Mrs Seager - Head of English.



EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ) AS Level

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Study Programme 1 or 2

COURSE AIMS

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) allows students to extend their abilities beyond the A level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career. It is worth half an A level, so can be used to earn extra UCAS points. Whilst the EPQ has no specific progression route, its flexibility and challenge demonstrates to universities and employers your ability to work independently and develop skills vital to degree level study and the modern workplace.

COURSE CONTENT

The course also includes a **formal taught** element, delivered through Google Classroom, which includes the following:

- Any skills or techniques that will be required for the safe and effective execution of the project which are not part of the candidate's course of study, e.g. professional codes of practice, ethical guidelines, research methodology.
- ICT skills that will enhance the production of the report and/or the development of the project, covering research, analysis and execution.
- Research skills including the ability to search for and identify suitable sources of information and prior research or relevant work already undertaken.
- Project management skills including time, resource and task management.
- The format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report, to include abstract, introduction, background research, further research content with all sources cited, discussion, conclusion, references, including the evaluation of sources.
- Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills, Functional Skills and Key Skills.

ASSESSMENT

Students will need to produce:

- a log of their progress;
- a 5,000 word written report or a 1,000 word written report (if the main project is a performance or an artefact);
- a presentation to an audience.

The Extended Project is graded from A* - E and is potentially worth up to 28 UCAS points.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

The Extended Project is an excellent choice for students wishing to demonstrate their ability to work independently. Universities, especially the highly rated universities, are looking for evidence of this skill. The Extended Project is also an opportunity to demonstrate your interest in and commitment to a particular career area, e.g. Medicine, Performing Arts, etc.

EXAM BOARD

Pearson.

CONTACT NAME

Mrs Magee, Careers Lead



GEOGRAPHY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE Geography preferable. Grade 6 in GCSE English if never studied at GCSE

INTRODUCTION

In order to be successful at A level Geography you need to have a real interest in the world around you; from natural disasters to geopolitics. The A level course is intellectually stimulating and challenging.

COURSE AIMS

The A level will cover the main themes of modern day Geography in a changing world, with a balance between the physical, human and environmental aspects of the subject. As a department, we feel that in a world that is changing so rapidly, Geography is the key to understanding and preparing you for these changes. In A level Geography you will have the chance to develop vital lifelong skills including teamwork, enquiry, investigation, extended writing, map work, statistical analysis, decision making and presentation skills. There is a compulsory fieldwork (and associated coursework project) element which can cover either human or physical Geography.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Paper 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tectonic Processes and Hazards (Year 12) • Landscape Processes and Change: Coastal Landscape and Change (Year 12) • The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity (Year 13) • The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security (Year 13) 	2 hours 15 minutes 105 marks 30% of A level
Paper 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalisation (Year 12) • Shaping Places: Diverse Places (Year 12) • Superpowers (Year 13) • Global Development and Connections: Health, Human Rights and Intervention (Year 13) 	2 hours 15 minutes 105 marks 30% of A level
Paper 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synoptic Investigation of a contemporary Geographical issue (studied throughout Year 12 and 13) • Related to the three synoptic themes of players, attitudes and actions and futures and uncertainties 	2 hours 15 minutes 70 marks 20% of A level
NEA (Coursework)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000-4000 word independent fieldwork investigation • Completed throughout Year 12 and early Year 13 • Internally assessed and externally moderated 	20% of A level

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Geography opens up an amazing breadth of career opportunities and students wishing to use their geographical skills in careers have gone on to extremely varied fields ranging from careers in the armed forces, engineering, journalism, conservation, law, environmental consultancy, meteorology, landscaping, local government, teaching, lecturing and surveying to name but a few! Geography bridges the arts and sciences and is seen as a 'facilitating subject' by universities and therefore incredibly sought after by top Universities.

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

CONTACT NAME

Mr Dupres – Head of Geography



HISTORY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE History preferable. Grade 6 in GCSE English if never studied History at GCSE

COURSE AIMS

A level History requires students to recall, select and deploy knowledge, communicating it accurately and clearly in writing. They will also be taught to understand, interpret, analyse and evaluate source material and provide historical explanation and substantiated judgements.

Learning is mainly accomplished through a pattern of reading, note taking, discussion and then essay writing. Debate and discussion form an important part of the course and allow students to develop their own opinions on a given topic, based upon the evidence they have encountered.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Year 12 and Year 13 will be studying Nationalism in Europe in Papers One and Two through depth studies of Germany and Italy. Paper Three is a breadth study of the Wars of the Roses and Henry VII's establishment of the Tudor Dynasty. Students also complete a personal study of any area of interest within the Civil Rights Movement for their Non-Examined Assessment task.

Unit/Paper	% Weighting
1. Germany and West Germany, 1918–89	30%
2. The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911–46	20%
3. Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399–1509	30%
Non-Examined Assessment – Civil Rights in the USA	20%

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

History is a highly respected, intellectually rigorous qualification. It provides a pathway for a variety of arts degrees and the foundation for success in managerial and professional roles. The Historical Association suggests these are careers that follow naturally from the study of history:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Accountancy | Information technology |
| Administration | Journalism |
| Archaeology | Law |
| Architecture | Libraries |
| Archives | Local government |
| The armed forces | Media |
| Business management | Museums and galleries |
| The Civil Service | The Police |
| Conservation | Politics |
| The heritage industry | Teaching and university research |
| Human resources | Tourism |

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

CONTACT NAME

Mr Mignot - Head of History.



LANGUAGES - French and Spanish

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE French/Spanish.

COURSE AIMS

The course aims to encourage students to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively, develop an understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and increase their awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of the countries where the language is spoken.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course focuses on how society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of the countries where the target language is spoken. In the second year, further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues, such as life for those on the margins of society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. Students also study aspects of the political landscape of the countries of the target language.

Skills	What's assessed?	Assessment form	Weighting
Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aspects of society: current trends Aspects of society: current issues Artistic culture Aspects of political life Grammar 	Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes	40% of A level
Paper 2: Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification Grammar 	Written exam: 2 hours	30% of A level
Paper 3: Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and discussion of an individual research project Discussion of one of the four sub-themes i.e. aspects of society: current trends, aspects of society: current issues, artistic culture, aspects of political life 	Oral exam: Approximately 25 minutes	30% of A level

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

An A level in Languages provides a basis for further study of French, and/or Spanish at degree level, or for study of Languages together with almost any other subject or subjects – for example Law, History, English, Philosophy, Media, Leisure, Sciences – at degree level or equivalent. Possible careers might be in Law, Journalism, Media, ICT, Marketing, Sport and Leisure, Travel and Tourism, Teaching or Translation, but almost any career can be complemented with an understanding of a foreign language.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Mrs Hudson - Head of Languages.



LANGUAGES - French and Spanish AS Level

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE French/Spanish.

COURSE AIMS

The course aims to encourage students to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively, develop an understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and increase their awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of the countries where the language is spoken.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course focuses on how society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of the countries where the target language is spoken.

In the second year, students study a book or a film in the target language.

Skills	What's assessed?	Assessment form	Weighting
Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aspects of society: current trends Aspects of society: current issues Artistic culture Aspects of political life Grammar 	Written exam: 1 hours 45 minutes	45%
Paper 2: Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book / film studied Grammar / translation 	Written exam: 1 hour 30 mins	25%
Paper 3: Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of two of the sub-themes i.e. aspects of society: current trends, aspects of society: current issues, artistic culture, 	Oral exam: 12-14 mins	30%

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

An A level in Languages provides a basis for further study of French, and/or Spanish at degree level, or for study of Languages together with almost any other subject or subjects – for example Law, History, English, Philosophy, Media, Leisure, Sciences – at degree level or equivalent. Possible careers might be in Law, Journalism, Media, ICT, Marketing, Sport and Leisure, Travel and Tourism, Teaching or Translation, but almost any career can be complemented with an understanding of a foreign language.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Mrs Hudson - Head of Languages.



MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (MATHEMATICS)

A grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and a grade 6 in Physics (or a grade 6-5 in Combined Science) are required.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (FURTHER MATHEMATICS)

A grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics and a grade 7 in Physics (or a grade 7-6 in Combined Science) are required.

INTRODUCTION

Mathematics is taking an increasingly important role in our highly technological world. Besides the obvious relevance to industry, commerce and science, there is a growing use of statistical techniques in social sciences and humanities.

COURSE AIMS

Mathematics is divided into Pure and applied:

Pure Mathematics

When studying Pure Mathematics at A level, you will be extending your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry, as well as learning some brand new ideas, such as calculus. If you have enjoyed the challenge of problem-solving at GCSE using such mathematical techniques, then you should find the prospect of this course very appealing. Although many of the ideas you will meet in Pure Mathematics are interesting in their own right, they also serve as an important foundation for other branches of Mathematics, especially Mechanics and Statistics.

Mechanics

When you study Mechanics, you will learn how to describe the motion of objects mathematically and how they respond to forces acting upon them - from cars in the street, to satellites revolving around a planet. You will learn the technique of mathematical modelling; that is, of turning a complicated physical problem into a simpler one that can be analysed and solved using mathematical methods.

Many of the ideas you will meet in the course form an almost essential introduction to such important modern fields of study as cybernetics, robotics, biomechanics and sports science, as well as the more traditional areas of engineering and physics.

Statistics

When you study Statistics, you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to derive conclusions. You will extend the range of probability problems that you started during GCSE by using the new mathematical techniques studied on the Pure Mathematics course.

Many of the ideas you will meet in this course have applications in a wide range of other fields - from assessing what your car insurance is going to cost to how likely the Earth is going to be hit by a comet in the next few years.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

- All assessments will be linear, with 100% examination at the end of Year 13.
- A-level Mathematics will have 100% prescribed content, containing both Pure and Applied (no optional content).
- Mechanics and Statistics will be part of the compulsory content for A-level Mathematics students.



PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

A-level Mathematics is a much sought-after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education. There are also many areas of employment that view a Mathematics A level as an important qualification, and it is often a requirement for the vocational qualifications related to these areas. Higher Education courses or careers that either require A-level Mathematics or are strongly related include: Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching, Psychology, Environmental Studies, Computing, and Information Technology.

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

CONTACT NAME

Miss A Collins – Head of Mathematics, Mr R Austin - Head of KS5 Mathematics.



MEDIA STUDIES

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5 in GCSE Media preferable. Grade 5 in English if never studied Media at GCSE

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world where we are constantly exposed to the media. Media Studies is designed to help students make sense of the media. Media Studies is a well-established and popular subject and grades have consistently been above the national average.

COURSE AIMS

The aims of Media Studies are as follows:-

- To understand and analyse media products, practices, institutions, representations, media language, audiences, values and ideologies, genres and narrative;
- To develop practical skills and a critical understanding of the processes involved in producing media products;
- To develop independent thinking skills by using critical media theory and analysing media debates.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Unit	Level of Component	Name	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	A level	Exam – analysis of media products	2 hours	35%
Paper 2	A level	Exam - analysis of media products	2 hours	35%
NEA	A level	Non-exam assessment creating a cross media production		30%

COURSE STRUCTURE

A level Media Studies will cover audio-visual/on-line and print forms. The non-exam assessment (NEA) at A level will involve a practical production using media technology.

The A level will analyse media products in relation to four areas: Media Language, Media Representation, Media Industries and Media Audiences.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Media Studies is a very useful subject for a student who intends to enter a career where dealing with the Media is a regular occurrence, for example, marketing, public relations and journalism.

Students will also be able to study Media Studies/the arts and humanities at university for their degree.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Miss Rana - Media Studies Coordinator.



MUSIC

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is useful to have taken Music at GCSE level, but this is not essential, as long as you can already play a musical instrument and are able to read music to grade 6 or an equivalent standard. You will need to reach a grade 6 or above level by the end of the two year course.

INTRODUCTION

Music is a two year Linear A level. It retains its focus on performing, composing, listening and analytical skills, with technology also now a feature of some aspects of the composing units of the course. Note that Music Technology remains as a separate Level 3 qualification and both subjects can be studied.

COURSE AIMS

The aims of Music are as follows:-

- To develop and further enhance your analytical and reasoning skills through your ability to listen and decipher the musical elements of any piece.
- To develop your practical music making skills in greater depth, through composing to a brief and for your own purposes.
- To develop your confidence and musicianship skills through performance.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Music is fortunate to be one of the few practical subjects that has retained its 60% to 40% split of practical work to written exam.

NEA = non examined assessment – this is the term for coursework

COMPONENTS	%	DETAIL
1 - Performing (NEA)	25 - 35	<p>OPTION A 35% - Total performance time of 10 - 12 minutes Solo/ensemble</p> <p>OPTION B 25% - Total performance time of 6 - 8 minutes Solo/ensemble</p> <p>Grade 6 level is marked as standard. Grade 7+ allows you to access higher marks.</p> <p>Must be performed between March and May in the second year of the course. Marked solely by the exam board.</p>
2 - Composing (NEA)	25 - 35	<p>OPTION A 25% Compose two pieces with a combined time of 6-8 minutes. One linked to Western Classical Tradition. one based on a brief set by the exam board.</p> <p>OPTION B 35% Compose three pieces with a combined time of 8-10 minutes. One free choice, one based on a brief chosen by the exam board and one linked to Western Classical Tradition.</p> <p>Marked solely by the exam board.</p>
3 - Appraising Exam	40	Written exam sat in June of the second year of the course. 2 hours 15 minutes.



		<p>There are three areas of study covered:</p> <p>AOS 1 - Western Classical Tradition AOS 2 - Select from: Rock n Pop/Musical Theatre /Jazz AOS 3 - Select from: Into the 20th Century/Into the 21st Century</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Set work analysis with a score2. Extended responses on wider context3. Unprepared extracts of music with and without a score4. Comparison questions <p>This component includes a listening examination.</p>
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COURSE STRUCTURE

A level Music will cover Music used/composed in different eras and performed in different traditions. The non-exam assessment (NEA) at A level will involve compositions to be submitted to the exam board and performing resulting in a recital during the 2nd year of the course. The final exams will also be sat in the final year.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Any career to do with music, including teaching, librarian, publicity etc. However, it is very important to realise that music is an extremely valuable and highly regarded qualification whatever your chosen vocation, particularly by universities that appreciate the intellectual, analytical, sensitive and creative qualities of musicians.

EXAM BOARD

Eduqas

CONTACT NAME

Mr Shah-Sylvester - Head of Music.



PHOTOGRAPHY AND CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 5 in GCSE Photography is useful but not essential.
- 5 in GCSE English and 5 in GCSE Maths if never studied at GCSE.

INTRODUCTION

It is a dynamic and well recognised qualification that compliments all other A level courses. It is a fantastic platform for creativity and can lead you into a wide variety of future opportunities and career paths, such as the creative industries, apprenticeships and university courses.

The course follows the AQA A level linear syllabus and is a Photography, lens and light based media endorsement. The creative world is rapidly moving in the direction of Creative Digital Media and this course harnesses the creative possibilities of Digital Technology. You will be using both traditional and modern processes to record and manipulate still and moving images (e.g. photographs, digitally manipulated photographs or imagery, Gifs, video and animation).

You will learn how to develop your technical and creative skills, exploring exciting and adventurous ideas. You can choose to explore and combine a wide variety of digital processes, skills and techniques. You are able to choose the final direction of your work and the format with which you present it. You can personalise and extend projects to suit your interests and skills or to suit your future plans, as long as it is based around a digitally captured image (photograph or video), for example, you could create a show reel to demonstrate your directing/acting/dance skills for auditions, design a website to promote your special effects makeup skills or create and design a book/poster/album cover to showcase your photographic, illustrative and editing skills. You can combine other skills/media with your digitally captured imagery, such as art, graphics, media, textiles, website design, illustration, film, video, animation etc.

COURSE CONTENT

During the course you will:

- develop a strong knowledge of the working functions of Digital Media, such as cameras (analogue, digital, video and film) and software such as Photoshop, Premier Pro and Illustrator;
- creatively explore a wide variety of genres, such as portraiture, surrealism, advertising/editorial/fashion, abstraction, street photography, experimental photography (light painting/long exposure) and many more. Producing your own personal responses to the stimulus;
- develop advanced digital editing and digital image manipulation skills;
- develop your visual literacy skills through investigation and analysis of different types of photographic/film/video imagery; this will take the form of your own work based around photographic/video/animation;
- develop your imaginative and creative skills, learning different ways to express your ideas and realise your intentions;
- participate in workshops for a variety of topics, from studio portraiture, traditional film photography/chemical process, to stop motion animation/video;
- visit exhibitions and participate in location shoots in a variety of locations outside of school.

continued.....



ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Personal Investigation

Component 1 is about developing skills, knowledge and understanding of different Digital Media. You will spend time experimenting and exploring different processes and techniques based around your creative skills and ideas. You will work on multiple themes that are designed to guide you through the process of creating a successful project building and building your confidence to work independently. Towards the end of Year 12 you will undertake a final project, where you can produce a project based on an area of personal investigation linked to your preferred genre/processes/ medium/skills/concepts. In support of your practical work for your personal investigation, you will explore and discuss an area of interest further. This will be undertaken in the form of an illustrated essay (approx. 1000 words).

Weighting: 60% of total A level.

Component 2: The Exam Project

In the latter part of Year 13 you will be given a choice of 8 themes (from the exam board), picking one as your starting point for an independent project (with guidance from your teacher). Students will complete 15 hours of supervised time at the end of the exam period to produce a “final piece”, presenting your work in a creative and relevant way. You will have 10 weeks preparation time and 15 hours supervised exam.

Weighting: 40% of total A level.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Freelance Photographer, Commercial Photographer, Fashion Photographer, Stock Photographer, Photo Journalist, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Design, Digital Retoucher, Animation, Film, Director, Cinematographer, Television and Media, Website design, Illustration, Digital Artist, Moving Image Artist (Gif).

Universities in London and around the country offer exciting and varied photography courses suited to individual students' needs, such as fashion, documentary, advertising and more fine art based. Students have progressed to study at University of the Arts, London, Thames Valley University, Brighton, Southampton, Reading and University of Wales, Newport amongst others.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Miss Adams – Head of Department.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE Physical Education and 5 in Science and 5 in English.
If GCSE PE is not studied, at least two Grade 5s in GCSE Science and evidence of participation in competitive sport at school, county or national level.

COURSE AIMS

All specifications are designed to encourage candidates to:

- develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance;
- understand how physiological and psychological states affect performance;
- understand the key socio-cultural factors that influence people's involvement in physical activity and sport;
- understand the role of technology in physical activity and sport;
- refine their ability to perform effectively in physical activity and sport by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas;
- develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance;
- understand the contribution which physical activity makes to health and fitness;
- improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Candidates study three discrete areas, physiology, psychology and socio-cultural aspects, which are examined by two papers at the end of 2 years. Each area carries equal weighting in the exam. For the non-examination assessment students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity. In addition, candidates are required to complete a written analysis of performance.

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

What's assessed

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology Section B: Skill acquisition Section C: Sport and society

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

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

What's assessed

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
Section B: Sport psychology
Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

**How it's assessed**

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A-level

Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)
- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (35 marks)

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

The course provides a good basis for progression onto a number of sports related university courses, such as Sports Studies, Sports Sciences or combined degrees such as Sports Development and Business. Furthermore the academic content of the course complements those students wishing to pursue a science based course at university. This course will also provide a good basis for careers in health, leisure and fitness and anyone wishing to pursue sports coaching or development as a career.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Mr Citrigno – Head of Physical Education.



PHYSICS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

7- 6 in Double/ Combined Science or grade 7 6 6 in Trilogy Science with a 7 in Physics.
Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics is also required.

COURSE CONTENT

Experimental work forms an integral part of the course with 12 compulsory experiments as well as multiple optional ones. This reinforces the theoretical work and provides training in practical skills, as well as experimental procedures. The ability to express ideas in simple mathematical terms and understand the physical significance of equations will be developed during the course.

The linear nature of the A level means that students sit all the exams at the end of year 13.

Topics covered:-

Core 1 Measurements and their errors;

Core 2 Particles and radiation;

Core 3 Waves;

Core 4 Mechanics and materials;

Core 5 Electricity;

Core 6 Further mechanics and thermal physics;

Core 7 Fields and their consequences;

Core 8 Nuclear physics.

Options:

Engineering physics

ASSESSMENT

A level	
Paper 1: Sections 1 to 5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion)	Written exam: 2 hours 34% of A level
Paper 2: Sections 6.2 (Thermal Physics), 7 and 8. Synoptics questions can include sections 1 to 6.1.	Written exam: 2 hours 34% of A level
Paper 3: Section A Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis. Section B Optional module: Engineering Physics.	Written exam: 2 hours 32% of A level
12 Practicals which will be used to assess practical skills. This pass grade is separate to the A level grade.	Teacher assessed through practical observation and lab book.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

A level Physics is very demanding, but the qualifications are correspondingly valuable. For those who intend to go on to Higher Education, degree courses in the Physical Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Mathematics as well as most Technological and Applied Science courses, usually require Physics qualifications.

Those who decide to seek employment at 18+ could find openings in telecommunications, scientific civil service, 'service' industries, medical physics, research, education, environmental physics etc. Some find their qualification in Physics valuable in areas not so connected with science.

EXAM BOARD

AQA.

CONTACT NAME

Ms Nation – Teacher in Charge of Physics.



POLITICS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 6 in GCSE Politics.
- 6 in GCSE English plus a grade 6 in GCSE History, Geography or RS if never studied at GCSE.

INTRODUCTION

A level Government and Politics is a subject designed for students who want to make a real difference to the world around them. Across the two years we explore personal political philosophy, the inner workings of government and the ever-changing relationship between politicians and the public. Students quickly come to appreciate that every aspect of their lives is shaped by decisions taken at Westminster and that a deep understanding of the political process provides them with genuine power to influence and affect these choices. The subject is also uniquely placed to help young people formulate their own political viewpoints which will guide their actions and opinions throughout their adult lives.

COURSE AIMS

The course aims to give students an introduction to a wide range of aspects of government and politics and to provide a sound basis for students to continue studying the subject at a higher level. The course allows students to see how the theory regarding government and politics is put into practice in the real world. Students are encouraged to take an interest in the news and current affairs in order to gain an appreciation of what is happening in the world.

COURSE CONTENT

There are three components in the A Level:

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

This explores the nature of Politics and how people engage in the political process in the UK. It includes the three traditional political ideas of Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism.

Component 2: UK Government and Optional Political Ideas

This considers how political decisions are made in Britain looking at Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary. One non-core political idea is also studied.

Component 3: Comparative Politics

Looks at the Government and Politics of the USA and how the American system of government operates. Students compare the institutions in the USA with the UK, e.g. Congress and Parliament.

ASSESSMENT

There are three externally examined papers at the end of the course for each of the components. The written examinations are equally weighted and are two hours in duration. Students are given a choice of questions to answer in each paper. There is no coursework for Politics.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

The course provides a firm foundation for university studies in Government and Politics and is relevant for studying Law, History and Economics. A good Politics degree can lead to careers in law, government, journalism and teaching. You could even become Prime Minister!

EXAM BOARD

Edexcel

CONTACT NAME

Mr Mignot - Head of History and Politics.



PSYCHOLOGY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE Psychology or
6 in GCSE English, 6 in Maths and 66 in Science if never studied at GCSE.

COURSE AIMS

Psychology is the study of mind and behaviour. Psychologists try to understand mental processes, such as perception and memory as well as attempting to explain both normal and abnormal behaviour. Psychology draws on many disciplines such as biology, sociology, philosophy and statistics. Students who study Psychology will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills, such as analysis, evaluation and critical thinking.

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 1	Memory Early Childhood Attachments Social Influence Research Methods Psychopathology	33.3% of the total A level marks 2 hour exam
Unit 2	Approaches in Psychology Biopsychology Research methods	33.3% of the total A level marks 2 hour exam
Unit 3	Issues and debates in Psychology + 3 from the following options: Relationships Gender Cognition and Development Schizophrenia Eating Behaviour Stress Aggression Forensic Psychology Addiction	33.3% of the total A level marks 2 hour exam

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Psychology is a broad subject that will enable you to access a range of higher education pathways such as Social Science, Business, Counselling/Therapy, Nursing and Medicine.

There are many career opportunities in Psychology, for example: Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Educational Psychology, Environmental Psychology, Consumer Behaviour and Sports Psychology among others.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Mrs Bagga - Head of Social Sciences.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE RS preferable. Grade 6 in English if never studied at GCSE.

COURSE AIMS

The aim of Religious Studies is to encourage learners to:

- develop your interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world;
- develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies;
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion and reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

COURSE CONTENT

Content Overview	Overview	Weighting
Philosophy of religion: (Component 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments for the existence of God • Evil and suffering • Religious experience • Religious language • Miracles • Self and life after death. 	Philosophy of religion Written exam 3 hours	25% of total A level
Ethics and Religion: (Component 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical theories • Issues of human life and death • Issues of animal life and death • Introduction to meta ethics • Free will and moral responsibility • Conscience • Bentham and Kant. 	Religion and ethics 120 marks 2 hour written paper	25% of total A level
Section A Study of religion: for each faith option (2A–2E) the following topics are covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of wisdom and authority • God/gods/ultimate reality • Self, death and the afterlife • Good conduct and key moral principles • Expression of religious identity • Religion, gender and sexuality • Religion and science • Religion and secularisation • Religion and religious pluralism. Section B The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion Section C The dialogue between ethical studies and religion	Component 2 3 hour written paper	50% of total A level

ASSESSMENT (...)



ASSESSMENT

AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teaching• Influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies• Cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice• Approaches to the study of religion and belief	40%
AO2	Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study.	60%

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Philosophy, Religious Studies, Law, Medicine, Journalism, Business, Teaching, Higher Education and research, Civil Service such as Administration, Police or Social Worker, Politics. Advertising, Charities Administrator, Computer Analyst/Programmer, Information Management, Marketing and many more.

EXAM BOARD:

AQA

CONTACT NAME:

Ms Clark – Head of Religious Studies.



SOCIOLOGY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in GCSE Sociology
6 in GCSE English and 5 in GCSE Maths and Science if never studied Sociology at GCSE.

You will have to be keen on reading and thinking about controversial ideas, conflicting arguments and evidence. You will have to be prepared to develop your ability in essay writing. This course involves studying statistics and trends so you have to come ready to think in an analytical way.

COURSE AIMS

Sociology is the study of the different forces and influences that shape society as a whole and the people within it. Sociologists apply theory and method to the study of topics such as crime and deviance, family, education and religion.

COURSE CONTENT

Year 12 Sociology

Families and Households
Education with research methods

Year 13 Sociology

Beliefs in Society
Crime and Deviance with theory and methods

ASSESSMENT

The A level is three 2 hour exams. 1) Beliefs in Society 2) Crime, Deviance, Theory and Methods and 3) Education with Research Methods and theory exam. Each worth 33.3%.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

Sociology is recognised by employers and universities alike as an excellent qualification showing literacy, numeracy, scientific ability and insight into human situations. Spanning, as it does, the boundary between science and arts, can be useful when applying for many higher education courses from medicine to philosophy and literature. It is also an asset in business, management, education and many other fields of employment requiring an understanding of human relationships.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

CONTACT NAME

Mrs Bagga - Head of Social Sciences.



THEATRE STUDIES

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6 in Drama if studied at GCSE.

5 in GCSE English Language, and English Literature if never studied at GCSE.

COURSE AIMS

This course is an in depth study of all aspects of theatre. You will practically explore how theatre is made, and learn a range of techniques that actors and directors use to bring dramatic works to life. You will study, interpret and perform the work of well-known playwrights, while developing a critical appreciation for live productions.

COURSE CONTENT

We expect students to study for the full 2 year A level and all 3 components will be explored across the 2 years of the course. The course is divided into the following 3 components:

Component	Component Name	Mode of Assessment	Weight of Component
1	Theatre Workshop	Creative log and performance	20%
2	Text in Action	2 performances and a process and evaluation report	40%
3	Text in Performance	Written exam	40%

ASSESSMENT

Theatre Workshop	This is assessed in two parts. Firstly, Learners are required to create a piece of theatre based on an extract from a text, using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. The second assessment is in the form of a written creative process log.
Text In Action	This component requires learners to engage with a stimulus to create two pieces of live theatre: One devised piece using the working methods and techniques of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company and One extract from a text in a different style to the devised piece. Learners will also write one process and evaluation report on both pieces.
Text in Performance	A formal written examination where learners are required to study two complete texts and one extract from a third contrasting text to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in interpreting texts for performance.

PROGRESSION AND CAREERS

This course would be beneficial to any student who is looking to develop their cultural horizons, their communication skills and their confidence; essential to ALL fields of employment. It would be of particular interest for students looking for careers in the Performing Arts, Television, Broadcasting, Advertising and Journalism.

EXAM BOARD

WJEC Eduqas

CONTACT NAME

Mr Nolan - Head of Drama.