



Founded in 1888

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GIRLS' SCHOOL

Sixth Form Subject and Admissions Information 2025 Entry



Educating Women of the Future

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Welcome

Welcome to Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Sixth Form where we are very proud of our tradition and heritage of educating women of the future. The choices you make in terms of your Post 16 education is paramount. At QEGS Sixth Form we offer Year 11 students the perfect transition, which is supportive and effective for both our current students and those joining us from outside the school. The ethos of our Sixth Form is one of high achievement and high expectations. This applies to both the academic life of our students as well as to their own personal growth. The environment we provide enables girls to flourish as confident, intelligent, resilient and ambitious young women who are focused and prepared for life beyond Sixth Form.

We offer a wide range of A level subjects and have an excellent record of results, achieved through high quality teaching and learning. Students go on to study at Russell Group, Oxbridge and other institutions as well as entering into high level apprenticeship schemes with top employers. The Sixth Form has its own dedicated areas in the school; a Common Room with a Sixth Form café and study areas. Within the Library there is a silent Sixth Form Study Centre.

All students have an experienced Pastoral Mentor, a specialist in one of their chosen subjects, who provides personalised, individual support, through information, advice and guidance. The school ensures girls follow a coherent pastoral programme of study that will enrich their life and also best support their chosen progression route after Sixth Form. Students are also encouraged to take advantage of the rich educational and social opportunities offered. All students take part in an Enrichment programme and work experience takes place in Year 12.

Sixth Form students are heavily involved in the Lower School and are given leadership roles and responsibilities in the form of mentoring younger girls, running clubs, supporting in lessons and as reading mentors. This ensures the connection between the Sixth Form and main school year groups, providing aspiration and insight to Sixth Form life for younger girls. At the same time there is opportunity to provide service to the school and the wider community, a valuable learning experience for later life.

We believe it is absolutely vital to prepare the girls for the world of work and we are privileged to be involved with the Women of the Future Ambassadors Programme. Throughout the year a variety of students are invited to talks and networking events with inspirational, high achieving women in their chosen field.

Ms Shah
Head of Sixth Form

Admission Process

Current QE Students

We welcome all of our current students who meet the entry criteria on GCSE results day to the Sixth Form at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School.

You will need to:

- Select at least THREE courses you wish to follow
- Complete the online A level choices form
- Closing date for applications is **Friday 6 December 2024.**

External Students

Each year we are pleased to welcome external students to join us in the Sixth Form.

You will need to:

- Select at least THREE courses you wish to follow
- Complete the online application form
- Closing date for applications is **Friday 6 December 2024.**

Study Programmes & Two Entry Criteria Levels, General and Specific (both should be met)

Our students will typically follow a study programme consisting of three main courses at Level 3.

E.g. 3 x A levels (**All external exams are taken at the end of Year 13**)
3 x A levels + EPQ

It may be appropriate for some students to take four courses, for example:

- Those undertaking Mathematics and Further Mathematics, needing to broaden their programme
- Those with grades 8/9 across the board at GCSE

General Entry Criteria

At least three GCSEs at Grade 6 or above in relevant subjects and GCSE English Language and Mathematics at Grade 4 or above.

PLUS Subject Specific Entry Criteria

There are A level subject specific entry requirements which are included in this booklet and specified in the Sixth Form section of the school website.

When you receive a conditional offer of a place for September 2025, you will be invited to an Induction Day which is held just after the final GCSE exams.

Choosing Your Subjects

Prior to choosing A level subjects it is important to complete some research. To find out more about specific university courses you can search on [UCAS.com](https://www.ucas.com) (University and Colleges Admissions Service) for undergraduate courses and check the entry requirements. It may also be helpful to consider careers that might interest you and to investigate if there is a particular requirement to have studied a certain combination of A level subjects.

It is important to choose courses that you enjoy and it is a good idea to consider:

- your interests
- areas that you are currently succeeding in
- specific subjects that are required for specific degree courses or careers
- subjects that compliment each other
- subjects that enable you to keep certain doors open for your Post 18 Choices.

Below are some examples of university courses that may require a particular subject or a suite of subjects to be studied at A level:

- Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary - Must Have: Chemistry. Plus at least one from Biology, Physics or Mathematics.
- Pharmacy - Must Have: Chemistry. Plus at least one from Biology, Mathematics and Physics.
- English Literature or Language - Must have: usually English Literature, maybe English Literature and Language.
- Geology or Earth Sciences - Must have: at least two from Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
- Economics will sometimes require Mathematics.
- Mathematics - You will need to be studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics may be beneficial to your application.
- Law - Some universities will require you to have studied an essay based subject and may provide a list of preferred subjects at A level.

Physics A Level at QEGS - When choosing Physics A Level you are required to study this in conjunction with Mathematics A Level. The reason for this is that the Mathematical content in Physics is extremely high and not studying Mathematics would hamper your ability to access the highest grades in the course.

Proposed Year 12 Option Blocks September 2025—2026

Block A

- Biology
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology (Fashion & Textiles)
- English Lang/Lit
- French
- Geography
- Sociology

Block B

- Chemistry
- Design & Technology (Product Design)
- Mathematics
- RS: Philosophy & Ethics
- Spanish

Block C

- Biology
- History
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Sociology

Block D

- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology

Block E

- Business Studies
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Literature
- Further Mathematics
- Psychology

Selection of 2024 Leavers' University Destinations

Institution	Course
Bath Spa University	Drama
Bournemouth University	Television Production
Buckinghamshire New University	Costume Design and Making
City, University of London	Children's Nursing
City, University of London	Economics with Accounting
Falmouth University	Film
Lithuania	Dentistry
Loughborough University	Fine Art
Middlesex University	Neuroscience
Middlesex University	Business Management (Marketing)
Newcastle University	Architecture
Nottingham Trent University	International Business with Spanish
Oxford Brookes University	Sport, Coaching and Physical Education
Queen Mary University of London	Physics
Queen Mary University of London	Medicine
Ravensbourne University London	Fashion
Royal Agricultural University	Animal Management and Zoology
Royal Holloway, University of London	Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health
Royal Holloway, University of London	English and History
SOAS University of London	Accounting and Finance
St George's, University of London	Paramedic Science
Swansea University	Pharmacy with a Preparatory (Foundation) Year
The University of Law	Law with International Business
UCL (University College London)	Linguistics
UCL (University College London)	BSc Audiology
University of Bath	Biology with professional placement
University of Birmingham	English Literature and Creative Writing
University of Birmingham	Criminology
University of Bristol	Politics and International Relations
University of Chester	Psychology
University of East Anglia UEA	Pharmacology and Drug Discovery with Foundation
University of East London	Biomedical Science
University of Glasgow	English Language & Linguistics
University of Hertfordshire	Initial Year for Extended Degree Science- BIOMEDICAL
University of Hong Kong	Dentistry
University of Kent	Law and Politics
University of Leeds	Philosophy, Ethics and Religion
University of Leicester	Politics and International Relations
University of Lincoln	Psychology
University of Liverpool	Biochemistry
University of Manchester	Psychology
University of Nottingham	History and Politics
University of Portsmouth	International Business
University of Warwick	Philosophy
University of Warwick	Politics
University of Westminster, London	Computer Science with Foundation
University of York	History

Art

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Art.

Assessment and Grading

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio (60% of total A level). You will produce one major project with relevant preparatory work evidencing: research, development, contextual work, experimentation, refinement and a final piece. You will also complete a personal study on a related theme. The personal study is a minimum of 1000 words and holds 24 marks.

Unit 2: Externally set task (40% of total A level). You will have a minimum 8 weeks to explore, experiment and develop ideas for a **15 hour exam**. The theme will be set by the examination board.

How will I learn?

You will need to become an independent learner. Most of your learning will be classroom based in the Art Studios which are solely used by Sixth Formers. You will be given regular weekly assignments to help you develop your ideas and skills further, and you will be expected to use the studio in some of your free periods. You will also be expected to visit galleries and museums to develop your knowledge and understanding of Art history. Students are free to pursue artists and genres of personal interest. This research is then used to inform and inspire practical coursework and outcomes.

What can I do at the end of the course?

A one-year Foundation course in Art and Design would be the next stage to studying any visual art-based subject at a higher level. Although nowadays some universities will accept A level students straight onto a degree course. This will give you the opportunity to discover a broad range of disciplines across the arts. From there you will be able to choose your specialism and study Art at degree level. Most degrees are three years.

What will I learn?

The skills you learn will be varied. These include:

- Research using a range of sources.
- Developing a knowledge of different materials and techniques.
- Refining your practical skills.
- How to develop your imaginative, analytical and documenting skills.
- How to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings.
- Learning and using a specialist vocabulary.
- An understanding of Art in history and in contemporary society.

AWARDING BODY	OCR
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Ms Beavis—Head of Art

Biology

What will I need before taking this course?

Two Grades 6 or above in Combined Science. Grade 6 or above in Biology and one other Science if you studied separate Sciences at GCSE. A Grade 6 or above in GCSE English and a Grade 6 or above in Mathematics.

Assessment and Grading

For A level, there are three examined modules;

- Biological processes (Worth 37%) 100 marks (2 hour 15 mins exam)
- Biological diversity (Worth 37%) 100 marks (2 hour 15 mins exam)
- Unified Biology (Worth 26%) 70 marks (1 hour 30 mins exam)
- Practical endorsement in Biology (non exam assessment, reported separately)

All papers are sat in June of Year 13, which count for 100% of the overall grade.

What can I do at the end of the course?

With a qualification in Biology you could go on to Further or Higher Education, studying Biology or one of the other sciences or related subjects. You could work in science-based industry such as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology or organisations which are obliged to have a concern for the environment. It is helpful for a career in the medical field, pharmacy and environmental science. Biology is also a well-respected subject in its own right and suitable for entry into a wide range of professions, as success within this field requires good analytical and data processing skills and the ability to express ideas clearly in written English.

What will I learn?

A Level Course Outline :

The content is split into six teaching modules:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Biology

1.1 Practical skills assessed in a written examination
1.2 Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2 – Foundations in Biology

2.1.1 Cell structure
2.1.2 Biological molecules
2.1.3 Nucleotides and nucleic acids
2.1.4 Enzymes
2.1.5 Biological membranes
2.1.6 Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation

Module 3 – Exchange and transport

3.1.1 Exchange surfaces
3.1.2 Transport in animals
3.1.3 Transport in plants

Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease

4.1.1 Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system
4.2.1 Biodiversity
4.2.2 Classification and evolution

Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy

5.1.1 Communication and homeostasis
5.1.2 Excretion as an example of homeostatic control
5.1.3 Neuronal communication
5.1.4 Hormonal communication
5.1.5 Plant and animal responses
5.2.1 Photosynthesis
5.2.2 Respiration

Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

6.1.1 Cellular control
6.1.2 Patterns of inheritance
6.1.3 Manipulating genomes
6.2.1 Cloning and biotechnology
6.3.1 Ecosystems
6.3.2 Populations and sustainability

How will I learn?

Lessons involve both theoretical and practical activities. A commitment to discussion and study time outside lessons is essential for success in this course. You will be expected to attend the Biology Field Trip over a weekend.

AWARDING BODY	OCR
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Ms Myrtle—Head of Science

Business Studies

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics. A Grade 6 in GCSE English Language is desirable, but not compulsory, as this will assist in achieving a high grade. GCSE Business Studies is not a requirement, however, a keen interest in the subject is.

Assessment and Grading

The reading and analytical writing involved requires a high degree of literacy and fluent writing. The mathematical elements and calculations (eg calculating the percentage increase in sales) require solid numeracy skills. There are three exams at A level, all 100 marks and worth 33% each of the overall grade.

Paper 1: Business 1 – 10 multiple choice questions, short/medium answer questions worth 40 marks and 2 essay questions at 25 marks each.

Paper 2: Business 2 – 3 data response questions worth a total of 100 marks.

Paper 3: Business 3 – 1 compulsory case study followed by 6 questions, worth a total of 100 marks.

How will I learn?

Business Studies will enable candidates to focus on the dynamic nature of the contemporary business world. The course will provide opportunities for research into topical business issues and offer students the opportunities for the development and application of a full range of academic skills.

What can I do at the end of the course?

A level Business can lead to a variety of opportunities. There is a wide choice of Business degrees available at most universities with topics ranging from general Business Studies to specific business areas such as Accountancy, Marketing, Purchasing and Business Administration. Some students can focus on Business with a Joint Honours, for example Business and Law.

What will I learn?

Year 1

Types of businesses, what businesses do, what businesses need to operate, why they operate and how they make a profit.

Students study in detail the four functional areas:

- Marketing - the marketing mix including the 4 P's – price, place, promotion and product. Market research, understanding markets and competitive markets.
- Accounting & Finance - calculating costs, revenues and profit, cash-flow forecasts, profit and loss statements, budgets and break-even.
- Human Resources - staff, motivation, leadership styles and methods of dealing with disputes.
- Operations - capacity maximisation, capacity utilisation, quality focus and improving efficiency.

Students will learn in detail how businesses make decisions and the external factors that influence these at the functional level.

Year 2

The study of strategic decision making builds on decision making in the functional areas.

Content will include:

- The impact of technology on strategic decision making.
- The influences of Corporate Social Responsibility, ethical and environmental issues on strategic decisions.
- The difficulties in forecasting future trends.
- The importance of assessing feasibility and risk when making strategic decisions.

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Ms Wong—Teacher in charge of Business Studies

Chemistry

What will I need before taking this course?

Two Grades 6 or above in Combined Science. Grade 6 or above in Chemistry and one other Science if you studied separate Sciences at GCSE. A Grade 6 or above in GCSE English and a Grade 6 or above in Mathematics.

Assessment and Grading

For A level, there are three examined modules;

- Periodic table, elements and physical Chemistry (Worth 37%) 100 marks (2 hour 15 minutes exam)
- Synthesis and analytical techniques (Worth 37%) 100 marks (2 hour 15 minutes exam)
- Unified Chemistry (Worth 26%) 70 marks (1 hour 30 minutes exam)
- Practical endorsement in Chemistry (non exam assessment, reported separately)

All papers are sat in June of Year 13, which count for 100% of the grade.

What can I do at the end of the course?

With a qualification in Chemistry you could go on to Further or Higher Education, studying Chemistry or one of the other sciences or related subjects. You could work in science-based industry such as pharmaceuticals, biotechnology or organisations which are obliged to have a concern for the environment. It is helpful for a career in the medical field, pharmacy and environmental science. Chemistry is also a well-respected subject in its own right and suitable for entry into a wide range of professions, as success within this field requires good analytical and data processing skills and the ability to express ideas clearly in written English.

Before beginning the course in September, you would be well-advised to read up on atomic structure and the mole concept, which you will find in any library A level text. These are concepts which students find challenging in the first term!

What will I learn?

A Level Course Outline :

The content is split into six teaching modules:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Chemistry

- Practical skills assessed in a written examination
- Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2 – Foundations in Chemistry

- Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations
- Amount of substance
- Acid–base and redox reactions
- Electrons, bonding and structure

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

- The periodic table and periodicity
- Group 2 and the halogens
- Qualitative analysis
- Enthalpy changes
- Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative)

Module 4 – Core organic Chemistry

- Basic concepts
- Hydrocarbons
- Alcohols and haloalkanes
- Organic synthesis
- Analytical techniques (IR and MS)

Module 5 – Physical Chemistry and transition elements

- Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative)
- pH and buffers
- Transition elements
- Redox and electrode potentials
- Enthalpy, entropy and free energy

Module 6 – Organic Chemistry and analysis

- Aromatic compounds
- Carbonyl compounds
- Carboxylic acids and esters
- Nitrogen compounds
- Polymers
- Organic synthesis
- Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)

How will I learn?

Lessons involve both theoretical and practical activities. A commitment to discussion and study time outside lessons is essential for success in this course.

AWARDING BODY	OCR
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Ms Myrtle—Head of Science

Computer Science

What will I need before taking this course?

GCSE in Computing at Grade 6 or above, an interest in Mathematics with a Grade 6 or above. Students who have not studied Computing at GCSE Level will be considered on an individual basis but will be required to undertake significant personal study for the programming component.

Assessment and Grading

80% examination

20% programming controlled assessment

This is a 'linear' qualification

How will I learn?

You will start by learning additional programming techniques as these underpin success in Computer Science by enabling us to teach the computational thinking elements of the qualification. There will then be a mixture of 'hands on' and theoretical sections where you will learn in groups and individually, with a focus on investigation and creativity.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It is a very creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and there are many links to other disciplines. Students who have studied Computer Science can progress to further studies to become software engineers, systems analysts, web designers/developers, database administrators or project managers. The skills obtained through Computing, such as independent enquiry, problem solving, organisation and time management are valuable in many careers.

What will I learn?

The three core units are:

Computing Principles (learning how a computer works – the hardware and software required as well as legal, moral and ethical issues).

Algorithms and Programming (computational thinking and problem solving through understanding and analysing algorithms).

Programming project. This is where an unseen programming task is completed during exam conditions in lesson time.

AWARDING BODY	OCR
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mr Ali—Head of Computing

Design and Technology

(Product Design or Fashion & Textiles)

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in GCSE D&T. Students who have not studied D&T at GCSE level will be considered on an individual basis.

Design & Technology is the umbrella term used to describe the subject whatever the material specialism that you choose to design and manufacture with. This course allows you to explore design in the way that simulates design in the real world. You will have access to specialist teachers so that you can develop a product that explores any number of materials. Because the course is set up in this way you are able to decide during the course which area you would like to specialise in. You can choose to follow the Product Design or Fashion and Textiles endorsed specifications.

Assessment and Grading

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

- Written examination: 3 hours (A level)
- 50% of qualification
- The examination includes a mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding.

Component 2: Design and make task

- Non-exam assessment: 80 hours (A level)
- 50% of qualification
- A level students have freedom to investigate and use the process of iteration before deciding upon a final design brief.

How will I learn?

You will learn through a mixture of theory and practical lessons focusing on creativity and innovation. You will work in teams and individually to explore and debate your design challenges.

What can I do at the end of the course?

This course is for you if you are looking toward a career in the creative industry including product design and development, fashion and textiles, Graphic Design, Web Design, Architecture or Engineering.

What will I learn?

You will be taught how to develop a design project from beginning of the design problem through to realisation of your product and advertising it to your target market. You will work much more independently than you did at GCSE but will have full use of the workshops and the Sixth Form D&T room for independent working and study.

AWARDING BODY	WJEC Eduqas
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mr Petrie—Head of Design & Technology

Drama and Theatre Studies

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama and a Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature.

Assessment and Grading

60% - Non Examined Assessment
40% - Examination

This is a two year course with the written examinations at the end of the two years.

The practical elements of this course will be completed at various points over the two years.

How will I learn?

You will work as a director, a deviser, a designer and a performer to develop drama from script and other stimuli. You will take part in practical workshops and rehearsals as well as engaging in regular 'seminar' style lessons where you will contribute to discussions and take notes. Through this style of learning you will get to grips with Theatre as an art form and understand the development and history of different theatrical movements and styles as well as developing your own skills as a performer.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Many pupils go on to study Drama, Theatre Studies or Performing Arts at university or drama school. Many university courses value this subject as it imparts critical and analytical skills as well as contributing to communication skills. Pupils have gone on to study courses as diverse as Law and Medicine after studying this course.

What will I learn?

Content Overview

Component 1 — 40% NEA

- Devise an original performance piece.
- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.
- Centre choice of text and practitioner.
- Performer or designer routes available.

Component 2 — 20% NEA

- A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text.
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text.
- Centre choice of performance texts.

Component 3 — 40% Exam

- Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance.
- Practical exploration and study of a complete text – focusing on how this can be realised for performance.
- Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen practitioner – focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a contemporary audience.

AWARDING BODY	Edexcel
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mrs Ford—Head of Drama and Performing Arts

Economics

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in both GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics. You must be confident about numerical concepts and graphs. You do not have to have studied Business Studies or Economics at GCSE in order to study A level Economics.

Assessment and Grading

Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour

Duration 2 hours, 35% of the total qualification

Paper 2: The National and Global Economy

Duration 2 hours, 35% of the total qualification

Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Duration 2 hours, 30% of the total qualification

How will I learn?

Students will develop their analytical and logical thinking. You will be required to apply economic theories to real life examples. Economics is a demanding but very rewarding subject which should appeal to academic students. You will need to be interested in topical stories about the economy and be prepared to follow articles in the press and media.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Most students taking A level Economics intend to go to university and a significant number continue to study Economics at degree level. It is worth noting that some top universities e.g. the London School of Economics, require students to have A level Mathematics to study Economics at degree level. Some students combine Economics with another subject like Politics or choose from a range of related subjects such as Management, Accounts, PPE (Philosophy, Politics, Economics). Economics graduates are successful in obtaining jobs, for example, in the Government Economic Service, Banking, Insurance and Accountancy and are amongst the highest paid graduates in the country.

What will I learn?

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Economics A

The course is structured into four themes:

Theme 1: Introduction to Markets and Market Failure

Theme 2: The UK Economy—Performance and policies

Theme 3: Business Behaviour and the Labour Market

Theme 4: A Global Perspective

There are then 3 exam papers:

Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour

This will assess Microeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 3.

The paper includes Multiple choice, short answer questions, data response and open response questions from a choice of two.

Paper 2: The National and Global Economy

This paper will assess macroeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 4.

The paper includes Multiple choice, short answer questions, data response and open response questions from a choice of 2.

Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

This will assess content across all 4 Themes.

The paper has two sections and each section comprises one data response question broken up into a number of parts and a open response question from a choice of two.

AWARDING BODY	Edexcel
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Ms Tsang—Teacher in charge of Economics

English Language/Literature

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in both English Language and English Literature GCSEs.

Assessment and Grading

20% Coursework: The coursework will be completed during the two years.

80% Examination: This is a two year course with all examinations at the end of the two years.

How will I learn?

- Class and group discussion
- Collaborative and independent learning
- The acquisition of technical tools with which to analyse language
- Linguistic analysis of non-fiction and literary texts, including spoken texts
- Writing for a variety of purposes and audiences
- Opportunities to explore the relationship of language and literature
- Appreciation of spoken discourse

The course will allow students to develop as confident, independent and reflective readers and writers.

What can I do at the end of the course?

The course can lead to the study of English or any Arts related subject at university.

What will I learn?

The new A level English Language / Literature course will be a two year linear course with terminal exams worth 80% and written coursework assignments worth 20%.

Students will study a range of texts throughout the course which demonstrate language use in a variety of contexts. Texts will include 'The Handmaid's Tale or Frankenstein' and Robert Browning poetry.

Students learn how language choices help to shape the representations of different worlds and perspectives in literary fiction. They apply their knowledge to the following:

- prose fiction that constructs imaginary worlds
- poetry that constructs a strong sense of personal perspective

Students will learn about methods of language analysis.

- Phonetics, phonology and prosodics – for example, the sounds and the patterns of real speech.
- Sound symbolism (rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia) that some writers employ.
- Lexis and semantics – for example, the connotations of words and phrases, metaphor and idiomatic language.
- Grammar – for example, how the use of pronouns can shape narrative viewpoints.
- Pragmatics – for example, the assumptions made about listeners/readers by the speaker's/writer's language choices.
- Discourse – for example, the way different text types use particular features or routines, including aspects of visual design and layout.

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mrs Madigan or Ms Kenney-Dwyer—Joint Head of English

English Literature

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in both English Language and English Literature GCSEs.

Assessment and Grading

20% Coursework: The coursework will be completed during the two years.

80% Examination: This is a two year course with all examinations at the end of the two years.

How will I learn?

- Independent learning
- Collaborative learning
- Individual / paired / group presentations
- Theatre trips and extra curricular activities, lectures, workshops, study day at the Globe Theatre
- Formal essays
- An opportunity to produce creative responses to texts

What can I do at the end of the course?

The course can lead to the study of English or any Arts related subject at university.

What will I learn?

The A level English Literature course is a two year linear course with terminal exams worth 80% and written coursework assignments worth 20%.

Students will study a range of literature texts including:

- A range of poetry, prose and drama including 'A Doll's House', Rossetti poetry, 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' and 'Sense and Sensibility'.
- At least three texts published before 1900, including at least one text by Shakespeare (Hamlet or Twelfth Night).
- At least one work first published or performed after 2000.
- At least one unseen text.

The course will require students to show knowledge and understanding of:

- Ways in which texts are interpreted by different readers, including over time.
- Ways in which texts relate to one another and to literary traditions, movements and genres.
- The significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers.

AWARDING BODY	OCR
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mrs Madigan or Ms Kenney-Dwyer—Joint Head of English

EPQ

Extended Project Qualification

What will I need before taking this course?

The EPQ is a supplementary course taken in conjunction with A levels. As long as a student matches the required grades of those A level courses they wish to study, then they can take the EPQ.

(The decision to take the EPQ is made during Year 12, you do not need to include this in your options on the application form).

Assessment and Grading

The Extended Project Qualification is a Level 3 qualification.

It is a stand-alone qualification aimed to develop and extend an area of personal interest or activity outside your main programme of study. It is based on a topic chosen by you and agreed as appropriate by us.

How will I learn?

The EPQ allows you to embark on a largely self-directed project. By taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project you will:

- Become more critical, reflective and independent in your learning
- Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Increase your planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- Learn to apply new technologies confidently
- Demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise

What can I do at the end of the course?

The EPQ has proved to be popular with students, teachers and especially universities. It provides an opportunity for you to extend your abilities beyond the A level syllabus and prepare for university or your future career. It can also be used to earn extra UCAS points.

What will I learn?

Students must keep a production log and assessment record. The Product can be either:

- Artefact, model or construction
- CD, DVD or video or performance/ activities
- Journal of activities or events
- PowerPoint presentation
- Photographic record
- Written project

All projects must have a written report at least 5000 words (or 1000 words and an artefact) containing: references, sources, information accessed, background research, methods, conclusion and evaluation.

The project is equivalent to half an A level and is graded A*-E.

The taught element

- 30 hours directed time
- Research skills
- Project management skills
- Format and structure of accepted
- Academic forms of research reports

The project

- 90 hours self directed time
- Meeting with a supervisor fortnightly
- Keep a log and evidence of the whole process as well as writing the report
- Present findings to an audience

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Ms Shah—EPQ Coordinator

French

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 7 or above in GCSE French. Candidates who obtain a Grade 6 may be considered depending on their performance in the listening and speaking components of the GCSE exam.

Assessment and Grading

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing

What's assessed:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
- Grammar

How it's assessed:

2 hours 30 minutes

100 marks

50% of A level

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed:

- One text and one film
- Grammar

How it's assessed: 2 hours

80 marks in total

20% of A level

Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed:

Individual research project

- One of four themes (ie Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends, Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world).

How it's assessed: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

60 marks in total

30% of A level

How will I learn?

Students are expected to follow an independent listening and reading programme that complements the work covered in lessons. All areas of French grammar are covered from scratch and students regularly watch and analyse the French news. In Year 12, students are encouraged to take part in the one week work experience programme in France. Students have found this element of the course very beneficial.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Students studying a language at A level are among the most employable. (Unemployment rate is 5.4%). Future jobs include teaching, translation, interpreting, engineering, travel and tourism, business and marketing but with a language all career paths are open.

There will be a range of opportunities open to you, where you can continue to use and further develop your language skills and knowledge of contemporary society. However, you may just use all the invaluable skills learnt through learning another language such as widening your general knowledge, the ability to discuss topical issues, memory and communication skills amongst others.

What will I learn?

Topics studied include:

- Social Issues and Trends
- Political and Artistic Culture

Students will study one literary text and one film.

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Ms Barral—Head of Languages

Further Mathematics

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics to take Further Mathematics. All pupils are required to attend the "Introduction to A Level Mathematics" lesson, which will take place during the Sixth Form Induction Day at the end of June 2022. All pupils are required to complete the "Head Start to A Level Further Maths" work book as preparation for the course. This strengthens the Grade 8/9 material in the GCSE syllabus which is an essential prerequisite of the course.

This course is taught along side the A-Level course, completing 4 modules over the 2 years

Assessment and Grading

This is a two year course with all examinations at the end of the two years.

Paper 1 - 90 mins (25%)
Paper 2 - 90 mins (25%)
Paper 3 - 90 mins (25%)
Paper 4 - 90 mins (25%)

How will I learn?

Lessons include theory and practice, problem solving and group work. Being able to talk through set questions and solutions with classmates is highly desirable and students should aim to be independent learners and committed to working through practice questions. A formal assessment will be completed after each chapter of work to ensure there is thorough understanding and help identify any misconceptions. You need an ability to think clearly and produce systematic solutions. The work needs to be covered at a regular and steady pace, since the topics are inter-dependent. There is some written work with Statistics but on the whole, the subject provides a good contrast to heavily essay-based subjects.

What will I learn?

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1

Proof, complex numbers, matrices, algebra and functions, calculus, vectors.

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2

Complex numbers, algebra and functions, calculus, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.

Paper 3: Further Mathematics Option 1

Students take one of the following four options:

- **Further Pure Mathematics 1** - Differential equations, coordinate systems, vectors, inequalities.
- **Further Statistics 1** - Linear regression, statistical distributions, correlation, hypothesis testing, chi squared tests.
- **Further Mechanics 1** - Collisions, centres of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs.
- **Decision Mathematics 1** - Algorithms and graph theory, critical path analysis, linear programming.

Paper 4: Further Mathematics Option 2

Students take one of the following four options:

- **Further Pure Mathematics 2** - Groups, further calculus, further matrix algebra, further complex numbers, number theory, further sequences and series.
- **Further Statistics 2** - Probability distributions, combinations of random variables, estimation, confidence intervals and tests using a normal distribution, Other hypothesis tests and confidence intervals, Other hypothesis tests and confidence intervals, probability generating functions, quality of tests and estimators.
- **Further Mechanics 2** - Further kinematics, further dynamics, motion in a circle, statics of rigid bodies, elastic collisions in two dimensions.
- **Decision Mathematics 2** - Transportation problems, allocation (assignment) problems, flows in networks, dynamic programming, game theory, recurrence relations, decision analysis.

AWARDING BODY	Edexcel
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mr Williams—KS5 Coordinator

Geography

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in at least one of the following GCSE subjects – Geography, History or Religious Studies.

Assessment and Grading

Students will be assessed through three written exams and an independent investigation (worth 20%); Paper 1 and Paper 2 are worth 30% each and will be examined through a written 2 hour and 15 minute exam; Paper 3 is worth 20% and will be examined through a 2 hour and 15 minute exam.

How will I learn?

Students will need to have an open, inquiring and critical approach to the subject. The course is demanding and a consistently disciplined approach to study is necessary. Fieldwork is an integral part of the course.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Statistics show that compared with other subjects, Geographers are among the most employable; recent data published by the Higher Education Careers Service Unit show that only 5.8% of geography graduates were still job hunting 6 months after graduating, against an average of 7.3%. Geography unifies the divide between the sciences and the arts and therefore a wide range of career opportunities are available. Examples include law, finance, town planning, teaching and media.

What will I learn?

There are four areas of study:

Dynamic Landscapes

Within this you investigate tectonic process and hazards and landscape systems, processes and change with a focus on coastal landscapes.

Dynamic Places

Within this you will investigate the process of globalisation and shaping places with a focus on how different places can be regenerated.

Physical Systems and Sustainability

Within this you will investigate the water cycle and water insecurity, the carbon cycle and energy security and climate change futures.

Human Systems and Geopolitics

Within this you will investigate superpowers and global development and connections.

You will also undertake an independent investigation that involves fieldwork used to produce a written report. The investigation will be related to an aspect of one of the four areas of study detailed above, incorporating fieldwork and your own research and/or secondary data. The written report will evidence independent analysis and evaluation of data, presentation of data findings and extended writing.

AWARDING BODY	Edexcel
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Miss Deen—Head of Geography

History

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in GCSE History and a Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language. If you have not studied GCSE History then a Grade 6 in another Humanities subject; RS or Geography as well as a Grade 6 in English Language.

Assessment and Grading

The new A level course is linear and exams are taken only at the end of Year 13. There will be no AS component but there will be mock exams and practice questions in Year 12.

The A level consists of three examined units taken at the end of Year 13.

Unit 1 consists of a 2hr 15 minutes exam and is worth 30% of the qualification.

Unit 2 consists of a 1hr 30 minutes exam and is worth 20% of the qualification.

Unit 3 is once again a 2hr 15 minutes exam which is worth 30% of the A level.

There is additionally a coursework unit **Unit 4** worth 20% of the overall A level grade.

All four units will be taught across Years 12 and 13.

How will I learn?

Typical lessons may involve:

- Discussion
- Debate/Argument
- Investigating controversy
- Group-work
- Making notes
- Looking at sources
- Empathy / Role-Play
- Presentations

What can I do at the end of the course?

- It helps us understand the world in which we live.
- It develops skills of understanding, analysis, comprehension, synthesis and presentation and it is a well respected academic subject.
- It is a good launching point for reading Humanities, Arts and Law degrees at university.
- It is useful for a career in Law, Journalism, Leisure & Tourism, Administration, Research, Teaching, Media, the Civil Service, Local Government and elsewhere.

What will I learn?

Across your A level studies you will study a 200 year period of British, European and World History.

- Year 12 & 13 (A level) - Paper 1 – 1H: Britain transformed 1918-97 (30%) Unit 1 is a breadth study assessed by two extended writing essays which test breadth of understanding, as well as a compulsory source question.
- Year 12 & 13 (A level) - Paper 2 – 2H.1: The USA c1920-55: Boom, Bust and Recovery (20%) Unit 2 is a depth study and comprises of a two part source based question and an essay question.
- Year 13 (A level) - Paper 3 – 36.2: Ireland and the Union c1774-1923 (Depth & Breadth study). (30%) Unit 3 is an examined unit which comprises of a source based question, an essay assessing understanding of the period in breadth and an essay assessing understanding of the period in depth.
- Year 13 (A level) - Paper 4 coursework task.

AWARDING BODY	Edexcel
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mr Clarkson—Head of History or any other member of the History department.

Mathematics

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics. All pupils are required to attend the "Introduction to A Level Mathematics" lesson, which will take place during the Sixth Form Induction Day in June. All pupils are required to complete the "Head Start to A Level Maths" work book in preparation for the course.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Students studying A level Maths are widely recognised as going on to earn a higher than average salary. Career opportunities include engineering, teaching, accountancy, insurance, actuarial work and business. However, the skills developed in Maths lend themselves very well to many and varied jobs; analytical skills, problem solving skills, communication skills, etc.

Assessment and Grading

This is a two year course with all examinations at the end of the two years.

Paper 1 - 2 hours (33%)

Paper 2 - 2 hours (33%)

Paper 3 - 2 hours (33%)

How will I learn?

Lessons include theory and practice, problem solving and group work. Being able to talk through set questions and solutions with classmates is highly desirable and students should aim to be independent learners and committed to working through practice questions. A formal assessment will be completed after each chapter of work to ensure there is thorough understanding and help identify any misconceptions. You need an ability to think clearly and produce systematic solutions. The work needs to be covered at a regular and steady pace, since the topics are inter-dependent. There is some written work with Statistics but on the whole, the subject provides a good contrast to heavily essay-based subjects.

What will I learn?

Paper 1

Pure Mathematics - proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, vectors.

Paper 2

Pure Mathematics - proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, numerical methods.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content

Paper 3

Statistics - sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing.

Calculator requirements—FX991EX Classwiz

Mechanics - quantities and units, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, moments.

AWARDING BODY	Edexcel
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mr Williams—KS5 Coordinator

Media Studies

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language.

Assessment and Grading

There are 2 examinable units and a non examinable assessment.

1. Media Messages - 35% of the A level
A two hour exam
The exam consist of two units:
Section A: News (Print and on-line media)
45 marks
Section B: Media Language and Representation (the three units of study involve advertising, magazines and music videos)
2. Evolving Media – 35% of the A level
A two hour exam
The exam consists of two sections:
Section A: Media Industries and Audiences (30 marks)
Section B: Long Form Television Drama (40 marks)
3. Making Media - Non-exam assessment - 30% of the A level. This will be released in the March of Year 12. The format will be a music video and web page design for the artist with a particular music genre and a target audience.

How will I learn?

Typical lessons may involve:

- Independent learning
- Collaborative learning - there is the opportunity for this with the foundation and advanced portfolio
- Individual / paired presentations
- BFI study days
- An opportunity to deconstruct media texts
- Practical skills – filming and editing involving final cut express and garageband. Plus still image work using photoshop for image manipulation and illustrator for text manipulation.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Past students have gone on to study, Media, Film, English, Politics, Arts Foundation, Sociology, Design and other Arts related subjects. Some students may want to pursue more practical film courses and careers in media production and post production.

What will I learn?

Students will develop a knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework of media. They will study the contexts of media (ie Social, Political, Cultural) and their influence on media products and processes. Students will apply their knowledge and understanding to analyse media products. There will also be specific Media Theories to apply. Students will also be required to evaluate academic ideas and arguments, make judgements and draw conclusions. Students will also develop their practical skills for the "Making Media" coursework assessment.

Examples of the Texts to be studied:

- Mainstream and alternative/Independent Music Videos (comparative studies including music videos for Emile Sande, Radiohead and David Guetta)
- Broadsheet and Tabloid Newspapers (print and on-line)
- Long Form TV dramas—texts to be studied—Stranger Things and Deutschland 83"
- Magazines such as " The Big Issue"
- Advertising Campaigns including those for Lucozade , Old Spice and the Charity Shelter
- Computer Games eg Minecraft.

AWARDING BODY	OCR
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mr Alam or Miss Lawson-Neill—Joint Head of Media Studies

Music

What will I need before taking this course?

You must be:

- Enthusiastic and passionate about music!
- Open minded.
- Creative.
- Taking weekly lessons on an instrument of your choice/voice.
- Grade 5 standard on your selected instrument.
- At least a grade 5 music theory.

Assessment and Grading

The course will extend on the three areas: Performance, Composition and Listening and Appraising music.

We follow the EDUQAS syllabus due to the flexibility to play to your interests and strengths. You have the option to specialise more in performance or composition depending on your preference.

Performance - 35% or 25% of your overall mark. This is a Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner. You will select a range of pieces to use and perform as a Final Recital at the end of Year 13.

Composition - This is a Non-exam assessment (35%/25%). You will work towards creating a A portfolio of Compositions which will be Submitted at the end of year 13. These include both free choice and set from a brief.

COMPONENT 3: ANALYSIS - This is a written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes which is 40% of qualification and taken at the end of year 13. During the two year course we will explore a range of topics: The Western Classical Tradition, a choice of one of the following: Rock, Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz and finally Twentieth Century music.

What can I do at the end of the course?

At the end of the course you may wish to study Music or Performing Arts in higher education or at University. This may lead to a career in the music industry as a Composer/Performer/Actress. It may also lead you to a career as a teacher or professor. Music A level is a way to develop many transferable skills that can also help with careers outside of the music industry.

What will I learn?

You will develop many transferable skills as A level music involves written, analytical, practical and social/personal skills such as:

- **Independent learning:** having to be disciplined about practise.
- **Team working/leadership:** particularly in musical groups, ensembles, concerts and performances.
- **Performance and presentation skills:** which are useful for any job/career.
- **Listening:** these are highly developed in musicians and it is an important part of the course.
- **Analytical and essay-writing skills**
- **Confidence and self-esteem:** which has a knock-on effect in all areas of life and learning.
- **Creativity and self-expression:** helping you to think differently and creatively develop the power of your imagination.

AWARDING BODY	EDUQAS
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Miss Coy—Teacher in charge of Music

Physical Education

What will I need before taking this course?

Students must have taken GCSE PE achieving a Grade 5 or above in the theory exams and as an overall grade and a Grade 5 or above in Science. Practically, they must compete in one sport outside of school at club level.

Assessment and Grading

3 components

- 2 theory components (70%)
- 1 practical component (30%)

How will I learn?

The course is based on the interaction between the theory and practice of Physical Education. The focus of A level Physical Education is on participation and performance in physical activity as part of a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle.

What can I do at the end of the course?

The course provides an excellent foundation for students who wish to pursue careers as health care professionals e.g. physio or paramedic, teaching secondary or primary education, sports development/leisure and recreation management, sports media, sports journalism and the health and fitness industry.

What will I learn?

Component 1

Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

(35%) 105 marks (2 hour written paper)

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport & society

Component 2

Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity

(35%) 105 marks (2 hour written paper)

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

Component 3

Non-exam assessment practical performance

(30%) 90 marks

- 45 marks player/performer or coach
- 45 marks written or verbal analysis & evaluation of performance

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Miss Kantorowicz—Head of PE

Physics

What will I need before taking this course?

Two Grades 6 or above in Combined Science.
Grade 6 or above in Physics one other Science if you studied separate Sciences at GCSE.

A Grade 6 or above in GCSE English and a Grade 7 or above in Mathematics.

The expectation is that you would also be studying A level Mathematics.

Assessment and Grading

For A level, there are three examined modules;

- Modelling Physics (Worth 37%) 100 marks (2 hour 15 minutes exam)
- Exploring Physics (Worth 37%) 100 marks (2 hour 15 minutes exam)
- Unified Physics (Worth 26%) 70 marks (1 hour 30 minutes exam)
- Practical endorsement in Physics (non exam assessment, reported separately)

All papers are sat in June of Year 13, which count for 100% of the grade.

How will I learn?

Lessons involve theoretical and practical activities. A commitment to discussion and study time outside lessons is essential for success in this course.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Physics lends itself to a wide range of career opportunities including engineering, power generation, medicine, research and development. However, the analytical and problem-solving skills that you will develop will greatly enhance your employment prospects with any organisation.

Before beginning the course in September, you would be well-advised to read: Head Start to A Level Physics by CGP.

What will I learn?

A Level Course Outline :

The content is split into six teaching modules:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in Physics

- 1.1 Practical skills assessed in a written examination
- 1.2 Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2 – Foundations of Physics

- 2.1 Physical quantities and units
- 2.2 Making measurements and analysing data
- 2.3 Nature of quantities

Module 3 – Forces and motion

- 3.1 Motion
- 3.2 Forces in action
- 3.3 Work, energy and power
- 3.4 Materials
- 3.5 Newton's laws of motion and momentum

Module 4 – Electrons, waves and photons

- 4.1 Charge and current
- 4.2 Energy, power and resistance
- 4.3 Electrical circuits
- 4.4 Waves
- 4.5 Quantum physics

Module 5 – Newtonian world and astrophysics

- 5.1 Thermal physics
- 5.2 Circular motion
- 5.3 Oscillations
- 5.4 Gravitational fields
- 5.5 Astrophysics and cosmology

Module 6 – Particles and medical Physics

- 6.1 Capacitors
- 6.2 Electric fields
- 6.3 Electromagnetism
- 6.4 Nuclear and particle physics
- 6.5 Medical imaging

AWARDING BODY	OCR
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Ms Myrtle—Head of Science

Politics

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in either a GCSE Humanities subject or GCSE English. You do not need to have studied Politics previously but must show a passion for the subject.

Assessment and Grading

Students will sit three exam papers at the end of the two year course. This will be 100% of their overall grade.

Component 1:
UK Politics
Written exam, 2 hours—84 marks

Component 2:
UK Government
Written exam, 2 hours—84 marks

Component 3:
Comparative Politics
Written exam, 2 hours—84 marks

How will I learn?

Class based discussion, debate and developing writing and exam skills.

Support available to students both in and out of lessons.

One-on-one tutorials.

Out of school learning will include trips to Parliament and conferences.

What will I learn?

Component 1:

1. **UK Politics**, students will study:
 - Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
2. Core Political Ideas, students will study:
 - Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism.

Component 2:

1. **UK Government**, students will study:
 - The Constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.
2. Non-core political ideas, students will study feminism.

Component 3:

1. **Comparative Politics**, students will study:
 - Sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments, regionalism and the European Union, comparative theories.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Related degree subjects include Politics, Philosophy, Social Policy, Economics and Law. Relevant future careers include Public Affairs, The Civil Service, Parliament and The Law.

AWARDING BODY	Edexcel
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mr Baxter—Teacher in charge of Politics

Psychology

What will I need before taking this course?

At least a Grade 5 in GCSE Science, English Language and Mathematics. You also need to attain a Grade 6 or above in one of these subjects.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Psychology can lead into almost any degree at university. It is particularly useful for those considering a 'people orientated' and/or Scientific career in the future.

Assessment and Grading

Unit 1 - Introductory topics in psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology.

Written paper 2 hours

Unit 2 - Psychology in context : Approaches, Biopsychology, Research methods.

Written paper 2 hours

Unit 3 - Issues and options in psychology: Issues and debates and three of Relationships, Gender, Cognition and Development, Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour, Stress, Aggression, Forensic Psychology, Addiction.

Written paper 2 hours

What will I learn?

Topics studied include:

- Obedience, conformity and social change.
- Memory, including the multi-store and working memory models.
- Addiction and aggression.
- Offender profiling, causes of crime.
- Schizophrenia, depression, phobias, OCD treatments of mental disorders.
- Case studies, such as CW, HM who had brain damage and amnesia.
- Research methods such as practical investigations, statistics, experiments, observations and questionnaires.
- Debates eg ethics, social control.

How will I learn?

By applying scientific principles when carrying out investigations and analysing psychological research and theory. Class activities e.g. debates, discussions, role-plays. By questioning 'common sense' ideas people have about human behaviour and critically examining psychological evidence.

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Miss St Ledger—Teacher in charge of Psychology

RS: Philosophy & Ethics

What will I need before taking this course?

Either a Grade 6 or above in GCSE RS or a Grade 6 or above in GCSE English.

A level Religious Studies will provide learners with the exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of world religions and explore philosophy of religion, and religion and ethics. Learners engage in relevant topical issues and acquire knowledge and a critical understanding of major issues that are relevant to learners in the twenty-first century.

Assessment and Grading

The course is demanding and a consistently disciplined approach to study is necessary. There will be regular assignments and timed essays throughout the course.

All components are assessed by written examination and the A level is linear so assessment of a student's knowledge and understanding of the whole course takes place at the end of two years of study.

How will I learn?

The course involves discussion, debate, presentations and developing written skills needed for the exam. It also involves extensive reading and note taking, as this is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical theories.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Many subjects go well with Religious Studies: for example English, History, Politics, Sociology, Geography and Psychology. Religious Studies can be a useful complement to science subjects. The skills developed in Religious Studies are particularly useful for careers in law, education, politics, medicine, administration or the media. The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that Religious Studies A level provides 'suitable preparation for university generally'.

What will I learn?

All learners will study three components;

1. Philosophy of Religion (H573/01)

Learners will study:

- ancient philosophical influences
- the nature of the soul, mind and body
- arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- the nature and impact of religious experience
- the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- ideas about the nature of God
- issues in religious language.

2. Religion and Ethics (H573/02)

Learners will study:

- normative ethical theories
- the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- ethical language and thought
- debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

3. Developments in Christian Thought (H573/03)

Learners will study:

- religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- sources of religious wisdom and authority
- practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

AWARDING BODY	OCR
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Miss Manolopoulou—Head of RS

Sociology

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 6 or above in either GCSE English Literature, English Language or Humanities.

Assessment and Grading

Students will sit three exam papers at the end of the two year course. This will be 100% of their overall grade.

Paper 1:

Education with Theory and Methods.
Written exam, 2 hours — 80 marks

Paper 2:

Topics in Sociology (Families and Households followed by Mass Media).
Written exam, 2 hours – 80 marks

Paper 3:

Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.
Written exam, 2 hours – 80 marks

How will I learn?

By applying theoretical principles when carrying out sociological research and theory. Class activities e.g. debates, discussions, role-plays. By questioning 'Common sense' ideas people have about human behaviour and critically examining sociological evidence.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Sociology can lead into almost any degree at university. It is particularly useful for those considering a 'people orientated' career in the future, such careers include education, law, policing, PR and public policy.

What will I learn?

Education

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

- The role and functions of the education system.
- Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity in contemporary society.
- Relationships and processes within schools.
- The significance of educational policies.

4.1.2 Methods in Context

Students must be able to apply sociological research methods to the study of education.

4.1.3 Theory and Methods

Students must examine the following areas:

- Quantitative and qualitative methods of research.
- Sources of data, including questionnaires, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, experiments, documents and official statistics.
- The distinction between primary and secondary data, and between quantitative and qualitative data.
- The relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods; the nature of 'social facts'.
- The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research.
- Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories.

Crime and Deviance

Students are expected to be familiar with sociological explanations of the following content:

- Crime, deviance, social order and social control.
- The social distribution of crime and deviance by ethnicity, gender and social class.
- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society.
- Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims, and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies.

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Mr Blyth—Teacher in charge of Sociology

Spanish

What will I need before taking this course?

A Grade 7 or above in GCSE Spanish. Candidates who obtain a Grade 6 may be considered depending on their performance in the listening and speaking components of the GCSE exam.

Assessment and Grading

Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing

What's assessed:

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- Grammar

How it's assessed: 2 hours 30 minutes
100 marks
50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed:

- One text and one film
- Grammar

How it's assessed: 2 hours
80 marks in total
20% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed:

- Individual research project
- One of four themes (ie Aspects of Hispanic society or Artistic culture in the Hispanic world or Multiculturalism in Hispanic society or Aspects of political life in Hispanic society).

How it's assessed: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
60 marks in total
30% of A Level

How will I learn?

Students are expected to follow an independent listening and reading programme that complements the work covered in lessons. All areas of Spanish grammar are covered from scratch and students regularly watch and analyse the Spanish news. In Year 12, students are encouraged to take part in the one week work experience programme in Spain. Students have found this element of the course very beneficial.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Students studying a language at A level are among the most employable. (Unemployment rate is 5.4%). Future jobs include teaching, translation, interpreting, engineering, travel and tourism, business and marketing but with a language all career paths are open.

There will be a range of opportunities open to you, where you can continue to use and further develop your language skills and knowledge of contemporary society. However, you may just use all the invaluable skills learnt through learning another language such as widening your general knowledge, the ability to discuss topical issues, memory and communication skills amongst others.

What will I learn?

Topics studied include:

- Social Issues and Trends
- Political and Artistic Culture

Students will study one literary text and one film.

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Ms Barral—Head of Languages