



SIXTH FORM

PROSPECTUS
2026

Creating Futures



Gosforth
Academy
Sixth Form



Contents

Welcome	3
Welcome to our Sixth Form	4-5
Life Outside of the Classroom	6-7
Get Involved	8-9
Dedicated Support Team	10-11
Student Union – Head Girl & Boy	12-13
Destinations	14-15
Curriculum Provision	16-17
Newcastle Red Bulls Ace Programme	18-19
Find Your Course	20-21
Courses	22-93
How to Apply	94
Entry Requirements	95

Contact Us

Contact us to register your interest in our Sixth Form.



gosforthacademy.org.uk/sixthform 0191 285 1000



admin@ga.newcastle.sch.uk

“Routes into university are well-established. Pupils benefit from high-quality careers provision”



Welcome



Gosforth Academy Sixth Form offers you a comprehensive range of choices, specialised support and outstanding opportunities.

As one of the largest and most successful school Sixth Forms in the North East, we offer around 37 different courses that are suitable for all abilities and a wide range of interests that lead our students into various progression routes.

Our team of specialist non-teaching tutors will guide you through every step of your Sixth Form experience, providing support to ensure you achieve your academic ambitions and make the most of your time in our Sixth Form. Whether you want to pursue an Oxbridge or Medical application through UCAS or want to complete an apprenticeship, we have a targeted programme that will meet your needs.

The outstanding range of extra-curricular opportunities aims to develop you beyond the classroom. Students have the chance to become involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and visits overseas, including subject specialist visits. We are extremely proud of the contribution that Sixth Form students make to an extensive Peer Mentoring Programme, which operates as part of the wider school. This plays a key role in Gosforth Academy's Character Education initiative and offers a rewarding experience for those involved. Our vibrant Student Union raises money and awareness for a range of charities and enables students to set up and participate in a wide range of societies.

Our philosophy is that we want to develop you as a worker, a learner and a helper – ready to take your next steps beyond school as a confident and valuable member of society. Although we pride ourselves on the excellent academic results our students achieve each year, we recognise the importance of developing you as a young adult.

We welcome a growing number of students from other schools to our Sixth Form and our location next to a key transport hub makes us easily accessible. Many students say that the transition from their old school to our large and vibrant Sixth Form was the ideal stepping stone to living and studying independently at university.

Whether you are new to our school or come from our Year 11, you will find a friendly, supportive and challenging Sixth Form, where you will be given every opportunity to create your future.

Karen Blackburn
(Deputy Principal, Sixth Form)



Of A Levels graded at A* to A



Of A Levels graded at A* to B



Pass rate across A Levels and BTECS

Stats based upon Year 13 2025 results.

Our choice of facilities enables you to become an independent learner; you can study or socialise your way



Sixth Form Library and IT Suite

The Learning Resource Centre is the focal point for independent study and offers everything you need to prepare for your assessments throughout your time with us and prepare you for future study. You will find subject textbooks and resources, journals, newspapers, foreign language DVDs and over 50 computers with printing and photocopying facilities. The range of LRC Study Guides accessed through the VLE – FROG – will guide you through essential study skills for university, including referencing and citation.



Common rooms and study spaces

The common room is a large area where students can relax, socialise or study. Lockers are available for students and light refreshments are served in the Sport@Gosforth Café over the lunchtime period. For those who need additional support with the independent learning approach that Sixth Form demands, additional supervised study rooms are available. At the start of the day, students are expected to arrive at 8:40am for registration. Afterwards, if free, students are expected to be working silently from 08:55am to 10:35am in either the common room, library or breakout space. This is part of our 'start the day right' ethos.



Sport@Gosforth and Fitness Gym

Sport@Gosforth is a large facility for Sixth Formers to use in their free time. Here there are additional lockers and plenty of seating areas for group work or socialising. It is also a dedicated café for our Sixth Formers, serving hot and cold meals, including vegetarian options. It is a great space for students to catch up with friends over a coffee and snack. Sixth Formers are also given a free membership to our state-of-the-art, air-conditioned fitness suite, with exclusive use at select times of the day.

“Having a dedicated Sixth Form library and free gym membership is amazing”



Being a Sixth Form student isn't all about being in a classroom

Our students are involved in a wide range of activities and societies.



Peer Mentoring

Every year, over 100 Sixth Form students take part in one of the mentoring schemes operating in lower school.

The largest element (Peer Mentoring) involves students working with GCSE Maths, Science and English students who need assistance in reaching their target grades at GCSE. Other types of mentoring include groups with a focus on reading, effort or behaviour. In all cases, full training is provided.



Student Union

This is made up of selected representatives and interested students. They meet regularly with the Sixth Form leadership team to plan improvements for Sixth Form student life in school.

Recently their work has included charity events, developing recycling facilities for the whole school, running a Sixth Form Instagram account, improving support for new Year 12 students and working with the school to improve facilities. The committee is there to represent your interests and is fully involved in the celebrations at the end of your courses, organising the Sixth Form ball and hoodies. Students feel that their views are treated with respect and frequently acted upon. Find out more from our Head Boy and Head Girl on later pages.

"You feel like you're in a positive environment surrounded by good people."



Medicine Society

This was set up originally by successful applicants for medicine degrees at universities.

The society supplements our formal support for exams and interviews by involving alumni to offer informal advice and tips. This includes mini medical mock interviews and counselling sessions to help prepare you for university applications and entry interviews.



Get involved



Duke of Edinburgh Award

We enable students to complete this award at silver level.

You'll find yourself helping people or the community, getting fitter, developing skills, going on an expedition and taking part in residential activities. You choose your programme and along the way you'll pick up experiences, friends and talents that will stay with you for the rest of your life.

"As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others."

Audrey Hepburn (Actress and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador)



Helping and Volunteering

Here at Gosforth Academy there is a real sense of community spirit. Students' efforts in working in the community are rewarded through our Community Award Scheme.

We encourage all students to become involved in helping the lower school and wider community. We also offer a variety of opportunities for the budding volunteer within school.

"I was amazed at how diverse the Sixth Form was when I first came. I haven't looked back since."



World Challenge

Each year our students participate in a World Challenge expedition to countries such as Cambodia, Borneo and Nepal.

While there, our students complete community projects. There is an expectation that students raise the money to fund their expedition, which helps our students to be responsible and resourceful. Completing a World Challenge expedition can be very demanding. Students develop skills in problem solving, teamwork and communication. They need to display understanding, resilience and leadership. On the other hand, it is a very rewarding experience and, for many, a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience different places and cultures.



Dedicated Support Team

A strong system of support and guidance

Students receive outstanding pastoral and educational advice at Gosforth Academy. In addition to supporting your academic ambitions, we are just as committed to supporting your transition into adulthood. This is achieved through our taught tutorial programme, as well as attending scheduled one-to-one meetings with your tutor. Your tutor will take a special interest in your progress and welfare and will be a specialist in Post 16 issues, who will help you to manage the transition to a whole new way of learning.

Your tutor will provide you with the guidance you will need to decide on your future career, and will help you with UCAS applications, mock interviews and will write you a reference for employment or a university application. They will get to know you very well and will be your first port of call should you have any issues.

A caring approach to your progress

We use regular assessments and target setting effectively to help you keep track of your progress, and help departments to identify interventions to improve your performance. The first of these will be used to ensure that the courses you have chosen are suitable for you to succeed and progress at the end of Year 13. These reviews are done through assessment of your work and conferences with you and your parents.

We will set you target minimum grades early in each of your courses. These are based on your GCSE results and will be the minimum grades you should aim to achieve. We hope that you will try your best and do much better. We will always offer you support if you encounter problems at any time throughout the course. Personal tutors are not teaching staff, but are instead specialists in guidance and progression. This means they are readily available should you have any problems.

Professional careers advice

We work with universities and employers to help you decide on your next step after Gosforth Academy. Our Progression Managers provide information, advice and guidance on applying for one of the growing number of Higher Level and Degree Apprenticeships, as well as full time employment. This is a popular service used by many students and parents.



Student support

Support for University Admissions

We aim to widen participation in Higher Education, raising students' aspirations and promoting all the opportunities available to you. We also continue specialist provision for the most able students into Post-16 education.

Examples of the opportunities we organise include:

- Expert one-to-one guidance on issues regarding progression to Higher Education and alternative career paths;
- Summer school places at universities throughout the country, though mainly here in the region;
- Master-classes in many subjects, taught by experts at local universities;
- Support for potential applicants to Oxbridge and to competitive courses such as Medicine, Engineering and Law, including interview practice;
- A Higher Education evening, and trips to conventions and open days;
- Visiting speakers for assemblies;
- Student shadowing placements at local universities;
- Our annual careers convention.

16-19 Bursary Scheme

The 16-19 Bursary scheme offers qualifying students financial support to help with costs associated with Sixth Form study.

For more information and eligibility criteria, please see the information about the 16-19 Bursary on our website:
www.gosforthacademy.org.uk/sixthform

Contact Us

To register your interest in our Sixth Form.



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admin@ga.newcastle.sch.uk

Hi, I'm *Holly* and I'm this year's Head Girl at Gosforth Academy

Currently, I study Maths, Chemistry, and Business, as well as undertaking an EPQ. Next year, I hope to go on to study either Mathematics or Actuarial Science at university.

Joining Gosforth Academy in Year 9 from Gosforth Junior High was the start of a journey that has helped me grow both personally and academically. Moving into Sixth Form after my GCSEs was both exciting and challenging, fostering my independence and responsibility. The demands of A Levels have taught me valuable time management and study skills, while the support and opportunities at Gosforth Academy have enabled me to develop into a more capable individual, ready for university and future endeavours.

A key part of Sixth Form is the pastoral support. Each student has a dedicated tutor for academic and personal guidance, which has been essential for my confidence and adjustment. Heads of Year, alongside personal tutors, help students navigate their next steps for Post-18 options, whether that's university, apprenticeships, work or taking a gap year, ensuring everyone feels prepared for the future.

As Head Girl, alongside Head Boy Alex, I contribute to the Sixth Form Student Union, advocating for our peers and fostering a supportive atmosphere. We hold weekly meetings for students to voice concerns or suggestions and organise events like 'Wear Pink' for Breast Cancer Awareness and the Rugby vs. Football tournament, all promoting inclusivity and community spirit.

Gosforth Academy also offers diverse extracurricular activities, including sports teams and academic societies like MedSoc and EngSoc. Students are encouraged to create clubs based on their interests, developing essential skills for life beyond school.

Reflecting on my time at Gosforth Academy, I am grateful for the experiences and support that have prepared me for my future. I hope others find their journey as fulfilling as mine, taking full advantage of all that this remarkable school offers.



Hi, I'm *Alex* and I'm this year's Head Boy at Gosforth Academy

I am studying Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Physics, and I hope to go on to study Maths at university. I have been at Gosforth Academy since Year 9, and I feel that I have really grown up throughout my time here, mostly down to the exceptional environment that this school has provided me to learn and have fun.

Sixth Form felt like a huge step up from Year 11 and GCSEs for me at first. However, I realised almost immediately that it was just different from the main school; we could wear our own clothes, had free periods, and did lots of independent work. These all took a little time to get used to, but once I did, I felt so at home here.

In my role as Head Boy, along with Holly, we lead the Student Union to represent the student body here at Gosforth Academy. When we became head students, we really wanted to prioritise giving our bit back to the community this year, and we felt the best way to do this was to blend together Sixth Form events with charitable initiatives. This includes organising fundraising events for charities such as MND and Breast Cancer Now, as well as improving sustainability within the school. I am especially proud that we have been able to schedule a Sixth Form sports event every half term thus far, including rounders, football and basketball.

Universities are really focusing on their outreach programmes. However, having those resources available only gets us half of the way; schools also need to engage with them to get the most out of them. This is why I am very impressed with the support on offer to help us in applying to prestigious universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge, as well as medical courses. I have gone on many trips to Cambridge with the school to participate in outreach activities and mock interviews. Coming into Year 12, I had no idea how to write a competitive personal statement, but by the time I submitted my UCAS application, I felt I had a top-quality personal statement that could compete with those from private schools.

I have been so impressed by the variety of clubs and societies available to Sixth Formers here, from sports like football and netball to careers-focused societies like MedSoc, which is very popular with the aspiring medics among us! Alongside these, I have made great use of revision sessions and drop-ins that the incredibly hard-working staff put on.

Whatever students want to do following attending Sixth Form, Gosforth Academy will prepare them for it. We have all different kinds of people here, and I've felt like a part of a thriving community whilst being a student here – and that is thanks to the fantastic environment that Gosforth Academy provides.

University Destinations

Bath Spa University

Cyber Security (professional placement year)

Brunel University of London

Economics and Mathematics with an Integrated Foundation Year with Placement

Coventry University

Aviation Management

Durham University

Accounting and Finance with Foundation, Computer Science, Computer Science and Mathematics, Economics, Engineering (Mechanical), Environmental Geoscience, Geography with Foundation, International Relations,

Edinburgh Napier University

Engineering

Falmouth University

Game Development: Design with Professional Placement

Glasgow School of Art

Product Design

Hartpury University

Sport and Exercise Science

Hull York Medical School

Medicine

Lancaster University

English Literature and Creative Writing, Fine Art, Geography with Economics, Mathematics

Leeds Arts University

Fashion Marketing, Film Making, Mathematics

Leeds Beckett University

Childhood development and playwork, Fashion Marketing, Physical Education, Sociology and Criminology, Sport Business Management, Sport Marketing

Liverpool John Moores University

Business and Marketing

Loughborough University

Civil Engineering, Mathematics and Sport Science, Sport and Exercise Science

Manchester Metropolitan University

Accounting & Finance, Biomedical Science with Integrated Foundation Year, Business and Human Resource Management, English and Language & Linguistics, Environmental Science, Fashion Communication, Fashion Marketing, Mechatronic Engineering with Industrial Experience (5 years), Medicinal and Pharmaceutical, Chemistry, Physiotherapy, Primary Education

Newcastle University

Accountancy, Accounting & Finance, Architecture, Biological Sciences, Biomedical Science, Chemical Engineering (Industrial), Chemistry, Civil Engineering Combined Honours, Computer Science (Software Engineering), Economics, Economics & Finance, Electronics and Computer Engineering (with Industrial Project), Environmental Science, Finance, Geography, History, Law, Marketing and Management, Mathematics, Mathematics and Economics, Mechanical Engineering, Medicine, Medicine and Surgery, Politics and International Relations, Psychology, Sport and Exercise Science

Northumbria University Newcastle

Accounting and Finance with Foundation, Applied Sciences Foundation Year, Architecture, Architecture and Built Environment Foundation Year, Artificial Intelligence, Business and Management, Chemistry, Childhood and Early Years Studies, Computer and Information Technology (with Foundation Year), Computer Science, Criminology, Design Foundation Year, Economics & Finance, Environmental Science, Fashion Communication, Film, Finance and Investment Management, Foundation year in Law, Furniture and Product Design, Geography, Geography and Environmental Sciences Foundation Year, Health and Social Care, Health, Education and Social Care Foundation Year, Law, Law with Foundation Year, Law/MLaw, Marketing, Mechanical and Civil Engineering Foundation Year, Mechanical Engineering with a Foundation Year, Nursing Science Registered Nurse (Child), Occupational Therapy, Primary Education, Product Design, Psychology, Psychology (with Foundation Year), Real Estate, Social Work, Sociology, Sport and Exercise Science, Sport Business Management, Sport Coaching

Nottingham Trent University

English Language and Linguistics, Pharmacology

Queen's University Belfast

English Language and Linguistics (Placement Year), Medicine

Sheffield Hallam University

Nursing (Child Health), Fine Art, Occupational Therapy, Politics and International Relations

Swansea University

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Teesside University

Biomedical Science (with a foundation year), Crime and Investigation

The University of Edinburgh

Computer Science, Performance Costume, Physics, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering

UCL (University College London)

European Social and Political Studies

University Centre Askham Bryan

Animal Science with Management

University of Cambridge

Natural Sciences, History and Modern Languages

University of Chester

Biomedical Science

University of Cumbria

Criminology and Forensic Investigation, Law

University of Glasgow

Biochemistry, Law with History, Politics (SocSci), Product Design Engineering

University of Leeds

Banking and Finance, Biological Sciences, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Computer Science, French, Graphic and Communication Design, Mechanical Engineering, Medicine, Nursing (Child Health), Social and Political Sciences

University of Lincoln

Computer Science, Mathematics

University of Liverpool

Chinese and History, History, History and Politics

University of Manchester

Business Accounting with Industrial/Professional, Management (International Business Economics), Medicine

University of Nottingham

Law (LLB), Medicine with a Foundation Year, Politics and International Relations,

University of Oxford

French and Linguistics, History

University of Sheffield

Chemistry, History, Mechanical Engineering

University of Staffordshire

Automotive & Motorsport Engineering

University of Sunderland

Accounting and Finance (with Professional Exemptions ACCA, CIMA, CPA), Biopharmaceutical Science with Integrated Foundation, Film Production, Forensic Psychology, Pharmacy, Photography, Primary Education

University of Warwick

Economics, History, Mathematics

University of York

Biochemistry, Computer Science, Computer Science with Cyber Security (with a year in industry), Environmental Science, Psychology, Social and Political Sciences

York St. John University

Sport and Exercise Science, Product Design

Our Sixth Form leavers of 2025 have secured places at an impressive range of universities nationwide. Here are the courses and destinations where they will begin the next chapter of their exciting journey...



Curriculum Provision

Which courses should I choose?

This is a very important decision; indeed, it could be the most important you have yet made. Research course options carefully and take the opportunities offered by the school to find out more. Your GCSE results and other Level 2 results will determine which of the following qualifications you can choose to take. There are three types of qualification offered at Gosforth Academy Sixth Form.

1. A Levels (Level 3)

- You need at least four GCSE passes at grade 4 - 9 to study at this level.
- Check individual course entry requirements carefully, as your GCSE grades will determine the courses you may select.
- If you are on A Level 3 programme and have not passed GCSE English and/or GCSE Mathematics with at least a grade 4, then you need to re-sit these qualifications. They are vital for entry to university and employment.
- You will normally study three A Level subjects in Sixth Form at Gosforth Academy.
- If you have a chosen career, or a degree you wish to take, please check that your A Level choices are appropriate for entry. University websites can help you here.
- They can be combined with vocational choices if you have met the entry requirements for these courses.

2. Vocational Qualifications (Level 3)

We are part way through curriculum reform in relation to the Vocational suite of qualifications. This is an ongoing process and is likely to see the Vocational qualifications we offer replaced in time with the new V Levels recently announced by the government. At present, we offer the following Level 3 Vocational courses:

- A BTEC course in Travel and Tourism
- CTEC courses in Business and PE
- AAQ courses in IT, Applied Science and Health and Social Care.

All of the above courses are the equivalent of a single A Level. These courses have a significant coursework element and can be the ideal choice for students who prefer this way of working. External exams are taken during the course and can be retaken before the qualification is awarded.

- You will need at least four GCSE passes at grade 4-9 to study at this level.
- They give you UCAS tariff points for many university courses, in the same way as A Levels.
- Check individual university course entry requirements to see whether they accept Vocational qualifications.
- They can be combined with A Level choices if you have met the entry requirements for these courses.

3. Access for A Level

This is a unique one year programme offered at Gosforth Academy for those students who have had some success at Level 2, but have not gained sufficient grades to access a full Level 3 programme. You will need at least four GCSEs or equivalent at grade 3 to study this course. Students complete the following elements as part of their studies:

- Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate in Business.
- Resit English Language and resit Maths where necessary.
- A weekly placement in one of the schools in Gosforth Group.
- Visits to local businesses and education institutions.
- Opportunity to experience running an enterprise activity.



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

At the end of Year 12, students are offered the opportunity to apply to complete the EPQ, a qualification that runs alongside your A Levels.

If you are accepted, select an area of interest (possibly related to your choice of university course) and carry out independent research to produce a substantial project, using all the skills valued by Higher Education Institutions. Acceptance to the EPQ is subject to the quality of your research proposal and performance in your other A Level subjects.

GCSE Average Points Scores - how are they calculated?

Your average points score is simply the sum of all of your GCSE grade points divided by the number of GCSE courses taken. For example a student who achieves two grade 7s, four grade 6s and three grade 5s would have an average point score of $7+7+6+6+6+6+5+5+5 = 53$ divided by $9 = 5.89$. Grades achieved from Level 2 BTEC or other vocational courses are not included in the calculation.

Course choices and option blocks

The breadth of our curriculum means most students can study their desired combination. Option blocks are released before enrolment and every effort is made to manage any clashes. Please note that any course runs only if a viable class size is achieved.

Assemblies

The Sixth Form Assembly Programme offers students the opportunity to hear from a number of guest speakers. These range from sessions on Gap Years to Student Finance. We also have a number of training providers, most recently hosting a representative from Ernst & Young, to talk about both work experience and apprenticeships.

Registration

Our registration time is not only important as notices are delivered, but also because we have a planned programme of topical issues, learning skills and character education.

The Newcastle Red Bulls Academy Colleges & Education (ACE) Programme

Gosforth Academy Sixth Form and **Newcastle Red Bulls** have enjoyed a strong and robust partnership for over a decade. This relationship has developed to provide a highly successful programme that has various aspects with real benefits in terms of progression and experience for those involved.

Although students are selected and invited to join the ACE Programme, we also welcome students coming from other schools to take part in the wider rugby related activities that take place in the school. The ACE Programme was initially developed by the RFU and Skills Active to provide talented young rugby players with an opportunity to enhance their rugby development whilst continuing in education. The **Newcastle Red Bulls** ACE Programme is based within the Sixth Form at Gosforth Academy.

Recruitment takes place each year during the players' U16 season and the experience shows that the level of value added whilst a player is on the ACE Programme far outweighs any programme in the region, a fact borne out by us having a strong track record of success in developing England Academy Players.

Previous participants in the programme include George McGuigan, Callum Chick and Jamie Blamire, who all became regulars for the Newcastle Falcons, with Callum and Jamie being capped by the senior England team, as well as a host of others achieving scholarship or professional contracts with the club. In the past two seasons this has included Isaac Keller, Reuben Parsons and Rhys Beekmans.

All students who are enrolled onto the ACE Programme enjoy timetabled lessons focused on performance analysis, the development of skills, and various training activities under the management of a dedicated, full-time rugby professional. They also take part in the prestigious RFU ACE League, where the team has reached the National Finals on a number of occasions. Students on the ACE Programme have access to coaching and facilities both at school and at Kingston Park through the **Newcastle Red Bulls**.



Higher Sports Leaders

As part of their development, ACE players are expected to complete the Higher Sports Leaders qualification, which carries 16 UCAS points. Students are required to plan and lead 14 hours of coaching within their community, organise a sporting event and complete written assignments. The qualification is completed within timetabled rugby hours in Year 12, following the completion of the RFU ACE League in December, although some coaching hours are completed outside of school.



Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE)

The Diploma in Sporting Excellence is a qualification specifically designed for learners with an opportunity to be assessed on their ability to work towards and fulfil the role and requirements of an elite sports performer.

The qualification is aimed at talented rugby players identified by the RFU and **Newcastle Red Bulls Academy**, who have joined the ACE Programme in order to compete at the highest level. Within rugby the DiSE is designed and intended for those who are currently within the **Newcastle Red Bulls Academy** structure and identified within their Player Development Group.

The purpose of the DiSE is to confirm competence within the elite sports arena, specifically the training environment, for both the practical and theoretical elements, underpinned by a range of competency based evidence. DiSE recruits players of potential to achieve the stated successful outcomes. Each player will be required to follow a personal rugby development programme, which should include annual planning and include:

- An active playing role;
- Strength/conditioning and recovery;
- Technical and tactical aspects relating to each individual's position;
- Off-field theory sessions;
- Team preparation training & meetings & mental preparation;
- On field coaching and match play.

DiSE is assessed as a Pass or Fail grading scheme with those passing the qualification being awarded 64 UCAS points at those universities that accept the qualification. Students completing DiSE will usually study two other subjects.

"The ACE rugby scheme has given me great experience of an elite sports environment."



“Having a personal tutor who knows my career ambitions really helps.”

Find Your Course

Access for A Levels (OCR Cambridge Technical, Business)	22	Italian	58
Access for A Levels (Work placement)	23	Law	59
Accounting	24	Maths	
Art (Art & Design)	26	Maths (Further)	61
Art (Fine Art)	28	Media Studies	62
Business (OCR Cambridge Technical)	30	Music	64
Business	33	Photography	66
Computer Science	34	Politics	68
Design (3D)	37	Psychology	70
Drama & Theatre	38	Religious Studies	71
Economics	40	Applied Science (AAQ Level 3)	72
English Language	42	Science: Biology	74
English Literature	43	Science: Chemistry	78
Film Studies	45	Science: Physics	80
French	46	Sociology	82
Geography	48	Spanish	84
German	49	Sport: Physical Education	86
Health & Social Care (AAQ Level 3)	52	Sport and Physical Activity (OCR Cambridge Technical)	88
History	54	Textiles	89
ICT (AAQ Level 3)	56	Travel & Tourism (BTEC National)	90
		English Resit	92
		Maths Resit	93

Please note that all courses are dependent upon sufficient and viable student numbers.

A4A - Access for A Level

OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Certificate Business

What interests should I have if I want to study this course?

Business OCR Level 3 is a course that is designed to provide students with an experience of a range of business disciplines with a focus on developing entrepreneurial skills that could be used in a vocational work-based setting. An interest in the world of work, how businesses operate, marketing and entrepreneurial skills would be likely interests of those completing this course. This course will give you an excellent understanding of the functions of a business as well as giving you the opportunity to develop your communication and problem solving skills. It will make you more aware of business in general and could be the start of a successful career in the world of business or even starting your own business as an entrepreneur. Who knows, you could be the next Dragon to sit in the Den!

What will I learn about?

The course gives you the opportunity to learn about the key aspects of how a business operates and the different functions that make up a business. During the course you will learn about the business environment and how businesses need to adapt to changes in the internal and external environment in order to be successful. You will also learn about marketing and market research, making sure a business sells the right products, in the right place, using the most suitable promotional methods.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete 2 Units over the year. Unit 1 The Business Environment is an externally examined Unit and Unit 4 Customer and Communication is an internally assessed piece of coursework.

Unit 1. The Business Environment

This unit is externally assessed by an OCR set and marked examination. In this unit you will develop a solid understanding of how and why businesses operate in the way they do. You will

look at a range of different types of business and business structures and explore how the ownership of a business and its objectives are interrelated. You will learn about the importance of different functions within a business and how they work together.

You will study the legal, financial, ethical and resource constraints under which a business must operate, and how these can affect business behaviour. You will consider the influence different stakeholders can have on a business and you will learn how to assess business performance.

Unit 4 Customers and Communication

This unit is an internally assessed Coursework Unit. In this unit students will learn the purpose, methods and importance of communication in business and the appropriateness of different forms of communication for different situations.

You will develop the skills that will help you create a rapport with customers and have the opportunity to practise and develop your business communication skills.

You will also learn about the legal constraints, ethical and security issues that affect how businesses store, share and use information.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used to enable you to be successful in completing the course.

- Working in a team or independently;
- Completing short task or extended projects;
- Visiting local businesses or working with visiting speakers from the local business community;
- Researching businesses through the Internet;
- Producing and delivering presentations / group feedback.

The staff within the Business & Enterprise department are approachable, supportive and are always willing to provide help and guidance throughout the course.

A4A - Access for A Level

Work Experience Placement

It has been a long-standing part of the Access for A Level programme to give students the opportunity to gain work experience. At present this takes the form of a weekly placement in one of the Gosforth Group schools.

This will provide the opportunity for you to develop important work and life skills, helping you build your confidence with communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills. It will also offer an insight into a real work environment.

Will it be assessed?

Although there is not a specific qualification linked to the placement, you will be expected to keep a record of your time on placement. This is achieved by maintaining a diary that summarises the skills you develop and experiences you undertake during your placement.

What will the work placement be like?

Whilst on placement you will have the chance to get involved in different aspects of the daily running of a busy school. The schools across the Trust are varied and this will bring different opportunities and experiences.

Before you start your placement, you will participate in a full induction and preparation programme, including developing your interview skills. The placement will be once a week during term time, starting in November and running until April.

What other enrichment activities might I participate in?

During the enrichment element of the course, you will have the opportunity to get involved in other activities that will develop a range of work-related skills and enable you to find out about the various options available to you as an alternative to traditional routes of study. This might include visiting local FE colleges, attending enrichment and insight to employment events and setting up and running an enterprise project in school.

Where can I go onto study at the end of the course?

The course is extremely useful as a stepping stone to A Level 3 programme the following year or moving into an apprenticeship or employment. Ultimately, you can progress onto university to study business, management or similar degrees.

Whether you progress to full Level 3 programme, an apprenticeship or employment, not just what you learn but how you learn will prove invaluable in the future.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr Green in the Business & Enterprise Department.



Accounting

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Accounting is a popular A Level, with many universities offering courses and multi-national companies offering school leaver programmes in the financial sector. Therefore an interest in vocational and academic progression would be suitable for students choosing this course.

The focus on the use of financial information to support businesses and stakeholder interests also has links to many other business related subjects, ensuring that this option can be complemented by an interest in Business Studies, Economics, Law or Maths.

What will I learn about?

The specification emphasises both financial accounting and the recording of past events, and management accounting as a means of planning and decision making. Students will learn to appreciate that these are not totally distinct areas of study and that there is an interrelationship between financial accounting and aspects of management accounting.

Students will develop an understanding of the double entry system and accounting principles and concepts as these form the foundation of all financial accounting techniques. They will also need to demonstrate quantitative skills that are relevant to the subject.

Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the formulae used for calculations, carry out computations and use the results to inform judgments, solve problems and make decisions. It is also important that students develop their ability to write effectively so that they can report to stakeholders, make logical arguments and provide sound judgments based on an analysis of available evidence.

The A Level requires students to develop their accounting skills further in relation to both financial and management accounting. Students are encouraged to keep up to date with financial

news, including announcements concerning the performance of leading UK businesses, and are given the opportunity to investigate their published accounts.

The following areas will be covered as part of the course:

- The role of the Accountant in Business;
- Types of Business Organisation;
- The Double Entry Model;
- Verification of Accounting Records;
- Accounting Concepts;
- Preparation of Financial Statements of Sole Traders;
- Limited Company Accounts;
- Analysis and Evaluation of Financial Information;
- Budgeting;
- Marginal Costing;
- Standard Costing and Variance Analysis;
- Absorption and Activity Based Costing;
- Capital Investment Appraisal;
- Accounting for Organisations with Incomplete Records;
- Partnership Accounts;
- Accounting for Limited Companies;
- Interpretation, Analysis and Communication of Accounting Information;
- The Impact of Ethical Considerations.

The course is assessed through two three-hour exams at the end of Year 13. These both include a multiple choice/short response section, structured questions and two extended response questions. They each contribute 50% of the A Level grade.



What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching methods will be used, including working independently or with others, completing short tasks and larger projects. You must be confident with numbers and able to manipulate them. An ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing is also desirable.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

A Level Accounting is ideal preparation for many business related courses such as Finance, Economics, Business Management and of course, Accounting. A sound knowledge of accounting is also useful in many careers.

It is a subject that is attractive to prospective employers and universities and will equip you with life-long skills that will help you manage your personal finance as well as understanding and using important financial information in any field of education or work.

A number of accounting students have also accessed School Leaver Programmes in organisations such as The National Audit Office, Procter and Gamble, Siemens, Deloitte, KPMG and Experion in recent years.

How can I find out more information?

For further information, contact Mr Green or Mr Snowdon in the Business & Enterprise Department.

Art & Design

A Level (EDUQAS)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

The Visual Arts Department at Gosforth Academy offers several specialist A Levels in Art subjects. The courses are not just for those who want to be artists; creativity is an important problem solving skill and design permeates contemporary society. The Arts encourage analysis of our surrounding environment and community and teach valuable life-long skills. The courses are all practical so if you take a course in the Art department you should enjoy making, playing and getting stuck in.

What will I learn about?

During this A Level course, you will begin in Year 12 by working on three smaller projects: one art-based, one craft-based, and one design-based. In art, you will learn how to extend your skills in drawing and painting, collage, and print. In craft, you will learn some textile skills and print and surface patterns. In design, you will learn some digital skills, including typography. Towards the end of the year, you will choose which discipline, art, craft, or design you will work on for your personal project, which will form the basis of your coursework portfolio. In the spring term of Year 13, you will work on your exam project, which is again practical-based work.

How will I be assessed?

The Assessment Criteria is the same as GCSE Art subjects and similar to BTEC Art & Design. You will be expected to research the work of other artists and designers, make some visual research, develop your ideas and produce a final outcome. Each of these Assessment Objectives is equally weighted. There will be regular deadlines throughout the course so that your teachers can assess your work and give you in-depth feedback on how to improve your work.

The coursework unit is worth 60% of the marks and the Exam Unit 40%.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

In year one, you will be given set projects that are designed to introduce you to new skills, techniques and ways of working. The work is mostly practical, with some written work.

You will have at least two Art teachers, who are specialists in their area, and you will be given lots of support, access to materials and to space to work. The department is open to Sixth Form students all day and after school and all staff are regularly on hand to offer guidance and advice.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. All objects around us are designed by someone with a creative qualification. Many of our students go on to study an art subject further, such as graphic design, fashion marketing, architecture, photography, film production, games design, fine art painting, surface pattern design, 3D Engineering and interior design for example.

How can I find out more information?

Any of the Art teachers will be able to provide you with more information or contact Ms Eastwood, Leader of Teaching and Learning in Art.



Fine Art

A Level (EDUQAS)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

The Visual Arts Department at Gosforth Academy offers several specialist A Levels in Arts subjects. The courses are not just for those who want to be artists; creativity is an important problem solving skill and design permeates contemporary society.

The Arts encourage analysis of our surrounding environment and community and teach valuable life-long skills. The courses are all practical so if you take a course in the Art department you should enjoy making, playing and getting stuck in.

What will I learn about?

During this A Level course you will have the opportunity to work with a wide range of techniques and materials; you will learn to draw in a variety of ways, printmaking, painting, photography and digital design skills.

This course focuses on encouraging students to explore and express their ideas through the making of visual imagery. You will study the work of artists and reflect on the importance of art in evidencing life, emotion and events. In year one you will learn lots of new processes and skills as well as learning about how to develop a successful project.

At the end of the year you will begin your Personal Project which will form the basis of your Coursework Portfolio. In the Spring term of year two you will work on your Exam Project, which is again, practical based work.

How will I be assessed?

The Assessment Criteria is the same as GCSE Art subjects. You will be expected to research the work of other artists and designers, make some visual research, develop your ideas and produce a final outcome. Each of these assessment objectives is equally weighted.

There will be regular deadlines throughout the course so that your teachers can assess your work and give you in-depth feedback on how to improve your work. The coursework unit is worth 60% of the marks and the Exam Unit 40%.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

In year one you will be given set projects that are designed to introduce you to new skills, techniques and ways of working. The work is mostly practical with some written work.

You will have at least two Art teachers who are specialists in their area and you will be given lots of support, access to materials and to space to work. The department is open to Sixth Form students all day and after school and all staff are regularly on hand to offer guidance and advice.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. All objects around us are designed by someone with a creative qualification.

Many of our students go on to study an art subject further, such as graphic design, fashion marketing, architecture, photography, film production, games design, fine art painting, surface pattern design, 3D engineering and interior design for example.

How can I find out more information?

Any of the Art teachers will be able to provide you with more information or contact Ms Eastwood, Leader of Teaching and Learning in Art.



“The Art department is unreal; I spend more time there than at home!”

Business

OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Business OCR Level 3 is a course that is designed to provide students with an experience of a range of business disciplines with a focus on developing entrepreneurial skills that could be used in a vocational work-based setting. An interest in the world of work, how businesses operate, marketing and entrepreneurial skills would be likely interests of those completing this course.

This course will give you an excellent understanding of the functions of a business as well as giving you the opportunity to develop your communication and problem solving skills.

It will make you more aware of business in general and could be the start of a successful career in the world of business or even starting your own business as an entrepreneur. Who knows, you could be the next Dragon to sit in the Den!

What will I learn about?

The course gives you the opportunity to learn about the key aspects of how a business operates and the different functions that make up a business. During the course you will learn about the business environment and how businesses need to adapt changes in the internal and external environment in order to be successful.

You will also learn about marketing and market research, making sure a business sells the right products, in the right place, using the most suitable promotional methods, as well as how to develop your entrepreneurial skills.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a combination of coursework and examinations. Examined units are assessed externally and coursework units are internally assessed. Evidence gathered for coursework will include written tasks,

observations and practical tasks. Two units of the course are assessed through examinations and three units are internally assessed coursework.

Unit 1. The Business Environment

This unit is externally assessed by an OCR set and marked examination.

Unit Aim:

Businesses operate in an environment which is dynamic, competitive, uncertain and frequently hostile. They need to constantly adapt to changes in their internal and external environments in order to be successful. These changes may include anticipating the actions of competitors, reacting to economic or political changes or making use of new technologies. Whether you aspire to be a business professional, manager, charity worker or entrepreneur, understanding the business environment is key to ensuring that the business in which you work reaches its full potential.

In this unit you will develop a solid understanding of how and why businesses operate in the way they do. You will look at a range of different types of business and business structures and explore how the ownership of a business and its objectives are interrelated. You will learn about the importance of different functions within a business and how they work together. You will study the legal, financial, ethical and resource constraints under which a business must operate, and how these can affect business behaviour. You will consider the influence different stakeholders can have on a business and you will learn how to assess business performance.

Unit 2. Working in Business

This unit is externally assessed by an OCR set and marked examination.

Unit Aim:

Businesses today need employees, managers and entrepreneurs who are multi-skilled, independent thinkers. When working in

business you will have to work in accordance with organisational protocols, be able to prioritise work and communicate effectively with others in a meaningful way.

This unit will cover the skills and understanding needed to work effectively within a business environment. This includes arranging meetings, working with business documents, making payments, prioritising business activities and communicating with stakeholders. The way that these activities are dealt with will vary according to the specific business protocols in place. Some of these will be specific to a functional area. However, many are common to almost all job roles.

Unit 4. Customers and Communication

This unit is internally assessed coursework unit.

Customers are vital to the success of any business. It is essential that businesses consider the importance of the customer experience and ensure that they communicate effectively with them, whether internal or external. Repeat business is crucial for future revenue and financial certainty. Businesses depend on customer satisfaction and customer loyalty. To build this, businesses need to know who their customers are and what influences their behaviours.

In this unit students will learn the purpose, methods and importance of communication in business and the appropriateness of different forms of communication for different situations. You will develop the skills that will help you create a rapport with customers and have the opportunity to practise and develop your business communication skills.

You will also learn about the legal constraints, ethical and security issues that affect how businesses store, share and use information.

Unit 5. Marketing and Market Research

This unit is internally assessed and externally moderated by OCR.

Marketing is a function of a business that makes sure a business sells the right products, at the right price, in the right place, using the most suitable promotional methods. Successful marketing is essential if a business is to survive in a very competitive business world. This unit will look at the role of market research and how it helps the business make sensible marketing decisions. Market research is the process by which a business obtains the information it requires to make sound marketing decisions. You will gain an in-depth understanding of primary and secondary market research methods and the business can use these to inform its marketing decisions.

You will also look at any constraints there may be on the marketing activities of the business. You will develop an understanding of the importance of selecting the most appropriate market research methods and you will learn how to carry out effective market research, as well as analysing the findings of the research and presenting these findings in an effective way.

Unit 21. Being Entrepreneurial – evaluating viable opportunities

This unit is internally assessed and externally moderated by OCR.

Entrepreneurs are people who identify opportunities and possess the drive to turn their ideas into reality. They can create wealth and provide employment opportunities for themselves and others. The skills of an entrepreneur are invaluable to individuals, teams and employers and can be applied to various aspects of everyday life.

In this unit you will understand what it takes to be entrepreneurial. You will have the opportunity to assess your entrepreneurial mind and skills set.

Continued...

Business

Continued...

You will critically evaluate the feasibility of potential opportunities to solve a business problem, meet an unmet need or fill a gap in the market, to identify viable options and understand how to overcome potential barriers and risks. You will also develop your skills in working with stakeholders to seek their support for your business proposal.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used to enable you to be successful in completing the course.

- Working in a team or independently;
- Completing short task or extended projects;
- Visiting local businesses or working with visiting speakers from the local business community;
- Researching businesses through the internet and other sources;
- Producing and delivering presentations/ group feedback.

The staff within the Business & Enterprise department are approachable, supportive and are always willingly to provide help and guidance throughout the course.

Where can I go onto study at the end of the course?

The qualification is extremely useful as a stepping stone onto university to study business, management or similar degrees but is equally useful in preparation for business-related employment or higher level apprenticeships. For both directions not just WHAT you learn but HOW you learn will prove invaluable in the future.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr Green in the Business & Enterprise Department.



Business

A Level (OCR)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Students should consider taking this option if they hold an interest in running a business of their own, or in working in a larger organisation.

This course allows students a broad experience of the key business functions, and will allow students to focus on organisations that operate at local, national and international levels.

The range of topics also allows for students who are unsure of which pathway to follow into university an opportunity to sample other potential choices.

What will I learn about?

Have you ever wondered how and why Apple created the iPhone? How do businesses grow to become as successful as Nike or Nissan? Why do some people choose to start their own businesses? This course will give you an understanding of all the main areas of business, from how they are set up and organised to how they manage their finances and motivate their workers.

A Level Business Topics:

All topic areas on the specification are listed below.

- Business Activity
- Marketing
- People
- Operations
- Finance
- External Influences
- Strategy, Risk and Managing Change

Importantly, each of the exams focuses on different topic areas and students will apply their knowledge to a range of case study contexts including small to medium sized businesses up to large national and multi-national businesses.

How will I be assessed?

There are three compulsory units in A Level Business which will be completed at the end of Year 13.

- Business Activity, Marketing and People - 90 marks, 2 hour written paper. 33.33% of total A Level;
- Operations, Finance and External Influences - 90 marks, 2 hour written paper. 33.33% of total A Level;
- Strategy, Risk and Managing Change - 90 marks, 2 hour written paper. 33.33% of total A Level

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching methods will be used to enable you to complete your units. The following are some examples of the methods currently used:

- Working independently and as part of a team;
- Completing short tasks and larger projects;
- Analysing case study material both independently and with others in a group;
- Investigating real examples of local and national businesses and how they operate;
- Researching businesses through the internet and other sources;
- Producing and delivering presentations.

The staff within the Business & Enterprise Department are always supportive and approachable and will willingly provide help and guidance throughout your course.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

This is a useful qualification whatever you want to go on to study. It will give you experience of studying in ways similar to what you will experience at university. It is particularly useful for continuing onto any business, finance or management degree. Equally it will provide you with an excellent foundation if you are looking to go into a business related employment after school or starting your own enterprise!

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Green or Mr Hussain in the Business & Enterprise Department.

Computer Science

A Level (OCR)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

If you are interested in understanding how computer systems and software work, then you should consider taking this course. If you are the kind of person who likes solving puzzles or finding out how things work, then you will probably enjoy it.

What will I learn about?

Module 1

You will study the characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices; software and software development; programming; exchanging data; data types, data structures and algorithms; legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues.

Module 2

You will study elements of computational thinking; problem solving and programming; algorithms.

Module 3

You will be expected to analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language to solve a realistic practical coding problem of your choice. In doing so, you will apply appropriate principles from an agile development approach.

How will I be assessed?

Module 1

A written paper including short answer, longer answer and some higher tariff questions that will test the quality of extended responses.
Time - 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A Level)

Module 2

A written paper including short answer, longer answer and some higher tariff questions that will test the quality of extended responses.
Time - 2 hours 30 minutes (40% of A Level)

Module 3

The project will be internally assessed and externally moderated by OCR.



Time - only limited by internal deadlines (20% of A Level).

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

Wherever possible, teaching/learning strategies are substantially achieved through practical use of ICT resources to perform useful tasks. A variety of other teaching methods are used, including discussions, presentations and teacher-led activities.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

An A Level in Computer Science provides a foundation for studying computing as a single subject or in conjunction with others at degree level. It also provides a starting point for more specialist degree subjects such as Software Engineering, Engineering, Science and Social Science degrees often include the use of computer programs for analysing numerical data, so a background in computing can be useful. Outside higher education, an A Level in Computer Science is a useful starting point for employment in the software design industry.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mrs Middleton in the ICT and Computing Department.





“One of my teachers comes from industry so his passion for the subject is infectious.”

Design (3D)

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

A Level 3-Dimensional Design is a course designed for those with a genuine interest in technology, manufacture, artistic creation and design.

If you are passionate about how things work, how they look and how they impact our lives, then 3D Design is the right course for you. And of course, it's ideal if you have good ideas yourself!

What will I learn about?

A Level 3D Design builds upon and expands the knowledge and skills learned whilst studying GCSE Design Technology, but also opens the door to those who studied Art who want to move toward a more 3-dimensional style or looking to complement traditional Art courses.

The first part of year 12 is set up to hone your skills. You will carry out mini projects in product design, jewellery and metal work, architecture and furniture design. After this you will embark on your personal study where you get to showcase your skills through a project that suits your design style and interest.

This element of the course is worth 60% of the A Level. The other 40% is picked up through the examined unit, where a title is selected, and you design and develop a product to suit this title. This culminates in a practical exam, sat in the DT workshop.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

3D Design is a hands-on course. You will primarily be taught through practical scenarios, which allow you to consider the type of designer you are, alongside exploring a range of design mediums such as sketching, model making, wood and metal work, architectural modelling and the use of software such as Illustrator and Photoshop.

The course is assessed over 4 objectives, seen below, most of which can be obtained through designing, developing and making.

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.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

A Level 3D Design is an ideal stepping stone onto a creative degree course. Many pupils go on to study a wide range of degrees in areas such as product design, industrial design, engineering, architecture, web-design, graphics and many more.

Throughout the course, you will naturally build a portfolio of design-based evidence that can be invaluable when applying for a creative degree or college course.

How can I find out more information?

Come down to rooms 54, 57 or 59 and speak to Mr Bell, Mr Mills or Miss Conway for further advice and information.

Drama & Theatre

A Level (EDUQAS)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

If you are thinking about studying Drama and Theatre you are interested in people, culture, society, performance and creativity. You will want to perform, direct, design, write and appreciate various performances. You will be interested in developing your communication, analytical thinking, acting and design skills through this enjoyable and challenging course.

What will I learn about?

This A Level course is a two year programme with assessment components in Year 13. In Year 12, you establish a theatre company for performance work. You are assessed in three components. They are worth 20%, 40% and 40% of your final mark respectively.

The course is mainly taught through exploring and testing theory in a practical manner and you will learn significant historical and contemporary drama texts, how to de-construct live performances and how to create original ones.

You will be taught specific acting, directing, technical and designing skills through practical workshops as you would in any higher education courses. You will study key drama practitioners and contemporary theatre companies. Your ideas, point of view and contribution is valued. Your input is developed into new pieces of theatre and used in critical analysis.

Component 1: Theatre Workshop. 20% of your total A Level mark

Here you study one extract from a significant drama text and at least one key theatre practitioner or contemporary theatre company.

You study these as if you are an actor, director or designer. Your learning is through a series of practical workshops and your assessment is an original performance that reinterprets the extract and a portfolio that shows the development of your ideas. For the performance, you work in small groups and use the text as

a starting point to create your own piece of theatre in the style of a chosen practitioner or theatre company. This is supported by a portfolio that shows how your ideas have been developed, influenced and structured. This unit is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 2: Text in Action. 40% of your total A Level mark

In this component a given stimulus creates two performances. One is devised from the stimulus in the style of a chosen practitioner or theatre company. The other performance is from a chosen play that links to the stimulus, performed in a different style to the first piece. Your learning comes from a series of practical workshops and your assessment is the two performances and a report explaining your process and evaluating your performance.

The two performances are externally examined and the process and evaluation report is to be completed a week after your performance.

Component 3. Text in Performance. 40% of your total mark.

This component teaches you how to interpret play texts in their theatrical elements and how to direct and perform them.

Here you study two set texts: one pre and one post 1956. This is the summative component of the A Level course. The set texts are answered in two sections: one section is a series of questions asking your understanding of character and design and the other section is an extended essay, where you explore how you might direct elements of the play. You also study an extract from a contemporary text to show how you would stage it.

This component is externally examined.

How will I be assessed?

GCE Drama and Theatre is taught through exploring and testing theory in a practical manner. You will be assessed through your realisation of three performances, your



understanding of two set texts, as well as your analysis of live theatre. This is assessed in three components. The first is worth 20%, the second 40% and the third 40% of your final mark.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

Our main teaching methods use inductive practical exploration of texts to develop independent learning and to promote curiosity in learning.

This secures your learning and shows you how to problem-solve, develop creativity and build group skills. The other part of our teaching is didactic contextual study mixed with teaching sophisticated acting and directing skills. Most learning is in groups but all assessment is individual.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Most students continue their studies in drama and theatre at university in the variety of courses that fuel the United Kingdom's unique strength in the performing and creative arts.

Students then go on to write, act, direct and design in this large sector of UK and international business. Some students go directly to drama school or various academic fields. Our students are successful in these areas because we promote an ensemble approach, which develops resilience, collaboration and independence.

How can I find out more information?

Should you wish to know more about this course please speak to Mrs Foster. There are resources for this course on the school's website for you to examine, along with the exam board 'Eduqas' website.

Economics

A Level (Pearson)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Students looking to complete A Level Economics should be aware of current affairs present in news bulletins and the wider media. Government, politics and specifically economic policy will be examined throughout the course and an awareness and ability to apply theory to current events will enable the successful completion of the four units.

What will I learn about?

Theme 1 - Introduction to markets and market failure

This theme focuses on microeconomic concepts. You will develop an understanding of:

- The nature of economics;
- How markets work;
- Market failure;
- Government intervention.

This unit looks at the basic economic problem of unlimited needs and scarce resources. It considers how markets determine the price of products such as the Apple iPhone or a tin of baked beans. It also investigates when markets fail to operate efficiently and how the government interferes to solve the market failure.

Theme 2 - The UK economy – performance and policies

This theme focuses on macroeconomic concepts. You will develop an understanding of:

- Measures of economic performance;
- Aggregate demand;
- Aggregate supply;
- National income;
- Economic growth;
- Macroeconomic objectives and policy.

This unit looks at how the UK economy operates and how the government attempts to manage it successfully. You will be asked to consider for example why inflation needs to remain low and how the Bank of England can influence house prices, how the UK economy grows and why



interest rates have been lowered so significantly in recent years.

Theme 3 - Business behaviour and the labour market

This theme develops the microeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 1 and focuses on business economics. You will develop an understanding of:

- Business growth;
- Business objectives;
- Revenues;
- Costs and profits;
- Market structures;
- Labour market;
- Government intervention.

The unit will investigate how markets can be structured differently. It explains why some markets are dominated by very few suppliers while other goods are provided by many firms. It examines the behaviour of firms in different markets, for example how traditional supermarkets such as Tesco, ASDA and Sainsbury's are changing their behaviour to fight off the competition from different food retailers such as Aldi and Lidl. It looks at the role the government has in ensuring that firms behave in consumers' interests and how it promotes competition.

Theme 4 - A global perspective

This theme develops the macroeconomic concepts introduced in Theme 2 and applies these concepts in a global context.

You will develop an understanding of:

- International economics;
- Poverty and inequality;
- Emerging and developing economies;
- The financial sector;
- Role of the state in the macro economy.

This unit looks at how the UK fits into the global picture and how it interacts with other economies. It examines the importance of global trade and the rising economic status of countries such as China and India. In addition, it considers why some countries continue to struggle to provide their citizens with basic needs such as food, shelter, sanitation and education.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 - Markets and business behaviour

This will be a written examination and will assess microeconomics. Questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 3. The paper comprises three sections.

You will answer all questions from Sections A and B and one from Section C.

Section A: Comprises a range of multiple-choice and short- answer questions.

Section B: Comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts.

Section C: Comprises extended open-response questions where you will select one from a choice of two.

The examination will last 2 hours and is worth 35% of the A Level.

Paper 2 - The national and global economy

This will be a written examination and will assess macroeconomics. Questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 4. The paper comprises three sections. You will answer all questions from Sections A and B and one from Section C.

Section A: Comprises a range of multiple-choice and short- answer questions.

Section B: Comprises one data response question broken down into a number of parts.

Section C: Comprises extended open-response questions where you will select one from a choice of two.

The examination will last 2 hours and is worth 35% of the A Level.

Paper 3 - Microeconomics and macroeconomics

This will be a written examination and will assess content across all four themes. The paper comprises two sections with each section made up of one data response question with a choice of extended open-response questions (a choice of one from two)

The examination will last 2 hours and is worth 30% of the A Level.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching methods will be used including:

- Working independently or as part of a group;
- Completing short tasks and larger projects;
- Taking part in national conferences and visiting other important economic institutions like the Bank of England;
- Researching current economic issues through the internet, newspapers and other media;
- Playing an active role in class debates;
- Producing and delivering presentations.

The staff are always supportive and they will willingly provide help and guidance throughout your course.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

This is a useful qualification if you are planning to study a degree in economics, business, accountancy or related courses. However, it is a subject which can provide you with an excellent general understanding of economics, something useful whatever your future plans or employment.

Success in Economics will equip you with many important life skills and a sound understanding of how you fit into society as a consumer, employee and perhaps one day as a successful business entrepreneur.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Green or Mr Hussain in the Business & Enterprise Department.

English Language (Linguistics)

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

A Level English Language is the study of linguistics. It is very different to GCSE English Language. Students considering English Language as an advanced level choice must have a developed and inquisitive interest in how language is used within historical and social contexts.

Areas of study cover such things as how gender, ethnicity, occupation and age influence language. Because of this, students must be established, confident and creative readers of texts both in and out of the classroom. A strong ability to write sustained analytical, evaluative and discursive essays in timed conditions is required due to the nature of examinations. In addition, investigative skills are essential for the production of the non-examination assessment module. Students studying Languages, History, Law or Religious Studies would benefit from taking this course.

What will I learn about?

Advanced Level English Language is a course which looks at the origins, development and world significance of English as a language. During advanced level study, you will learn how contexts can produce variations within texts. You will study aspects of language such as gender, power or regional and ethnic language identity. You will also focus on children's language development (0-11 years) and language change from 1600 to the present day.

How will I be assessed?

During A Level study, all of your assessment will occur at the end of the two year course, although centre assessed work NEA will be completed between the end of Year 12 and the beginning of Year 13. Assessment for advanced level English Language involves two examination papers worth 40% each and one piece of non-examination assessment worth 20%.

Paper 1 (2 hours 30 minutes - *Language the Individual and Society*) 100 marks (40% of A Level grade)

Section A

- One question analysing an untaught text (25 marks)

- Another question analysing an untaught text (25 marks)
- A third question comparing the two texts (20 marks)

Section B: Children's Language Development

- One question from a choice of two (30 marks)

Paper 2 (2 hours 30 minutes - *Language Diversity & Change*) 100 marks (40% of A Level grade)

Section A: Language Diversity or Change

- One evaluation question from a choice of two (30 marks)

Section B: Language Discourse

- One question analysing how language is used to present ideas and opinions (40 marks)
- One directed writing task on attitudes to language (30 marks)

Non-examination Assessment 100 marks (20% of A Level grade)

- A language investigation (2,000 words)
- A piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words)

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

Students will be required to work productively in groups, present ideas to audiences of their peers and write regular short and long responses.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

A successfully completed A Level course can lead to a variety of degree choices, including teaching; journalism; advertising, marketing and PR; creative writing; forensic linguistics and law, to name a few.

How can I find out more information?

AQA has useful course outline materials and other helpful information on the website. The Academy will be able to provide additional detail. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Cook in the English Department.

English Literature

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Students considering English literature as an advanced level choice will have already studied English Literature as a challenging GCSE. During this process they will have shown an abiding interest in Literature both in and out of the classroom that has translated into a successful grade.

What will I learn about?

Advanced Level English Literature includes the study and analysis of literary texts of different genres, forms and periods. During Advanced Level study you will learn about drama, poetry and prose. You will cover a range of texts from English literature, including Shakespeare, as well as more modern British and American writers.

How will I be assessed?

During the two year course, you will study a wide body of challenging English literature. Assessment comes from two examinations worth 80% of your grade, and two non-examination essays worth 20% of your final grade.

Paper 1 (2 hours 30 minutes - *Literary genres*)
A study of the tragedy genre. 75 marks (40% of Advanced Level)

Section A

- One question analysing a passage from a Shakespeare play that you have studied (25 marks)

Section B

- An essay question on a Shakespeare set text (25 marks)

Section C

- An essay question linking two set texts, one of which must be written before 1900. (25 marks)

Paper 2 (3 hours - *Texts and Genres*) *A study of elements of Crime Writing.*

Study of one post - 2000 prose text, one poetry, and one further text - one of which must have been written pre-1900. 75 marks (40% of Advanced Level)

Section A

- One compulsory question on an unseen passage (25 marks)

Section B

- One essay on a set text (25 marks)

Section C

- One essay question linking two texts (25 marks)

Non-exam assessment: Theory and Independence (20% of Advanced Level grade)

- You will study one poetry and one prose text informed by the study of the Critical Anthology
- You be assessed via two essays of between 1250-1500 words each

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

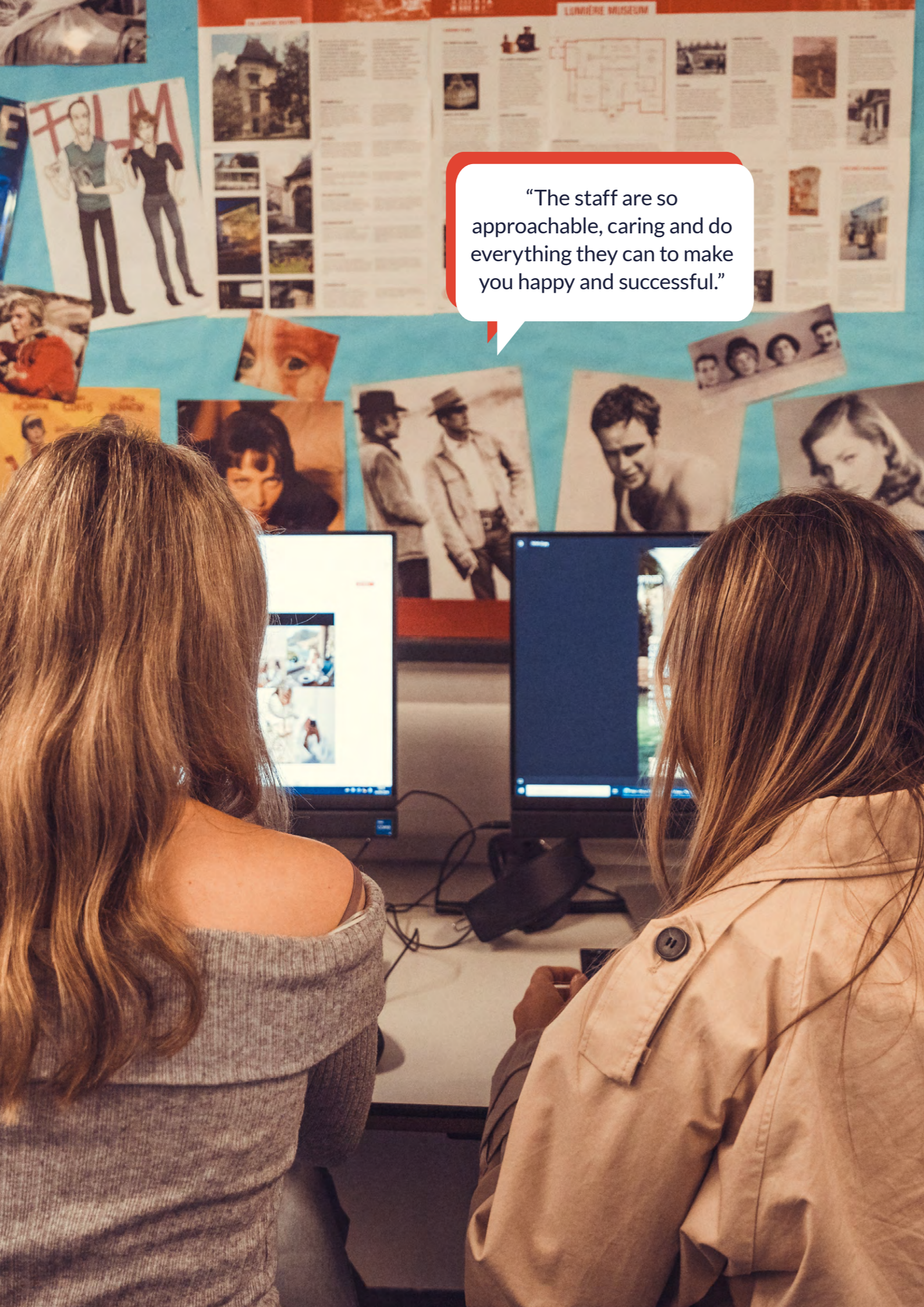
A range of teaching and learning approaches will be used. Students will be required to work productively in groups, present ideas to audiences of their peers and write regular short and long responses.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

A successfully completed A Level course would support a university application across a broad range of disciplines.

How can I find out more information?

AQA have extensive online materials on their site. The Academy will be able to provide greater detail. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Kelsey in the English Department.



“The staff are so approachable, caring and do everything they can to make you happy and successful.”

Film Studies

A Level (EDUQAS)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Students taking this course should have an interest in watching a wide range of films from different genres and eras. They should enjoy the opportunity to work independently to analyse and research films that interest them and be prepared to work creatively to produce their own short screenplays.

They should be interested in examining the social, political and cultural influences that have impacted on film production over the years and be curious about the production and marketing of films in the modern film industry. To get the most out of the course, they must have a genuine enthusiasm and love for film.

What will I learn about?

You will study a wide range of film styles, from the silent comedy of Buster Keaton, through the golden age of Hollywood, to contemporary independent films such as *Get Out*. You will examine film form through close analysis of films as diverse as David Lynch’s *The Grandmother* and Danny Boyle’s *Trainspotting*. You will also be given the opportunity to express your own creativity in the non-examined element of the course.

Component 1 – Investigating the Media

For this component, you will study six feature-length films. In section A, two Hollywood films – from between 1930 & 1990 – will be studied for comparison.

In section B, two contemporary American films – one mainstream film and one contemporary independent film – made after 2005 will be studied. Section C examines two British films made since 1995.

Component 2 – Global film making perspectives

For this component, you will study five feature length films. Section A concentrates on Global Film and you will study two films, one European, one made outside of Europe. Section B focuses you on one Documentary film.

Section C examines a group of short films from the Silent Cinema era, with Section D focusing on one Experimental film made between 1960 and 2000.

Component 3 – Production

This non-examined component assesses one production piece and its evaluative analysis. You will be expected to produce:

- A screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay
- An evaluative analysis (1600-1800 words)

Assessment takes place in school, with marks validated by an external moderator. The component is worth 30% of the qualification.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – Investigating the Media

A 2 hour 30 minute written exam worth 35% of the qualification.

Component 2 – Global film making perspectives

A 2 hour 30 minute written exam worth 35% of the qualification.

Component 3 – Production

Assessment takes place in school, with marks validated by an external moderator. The component is worth 30% of the qualification.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

This course, because of its focus on developing critical, analytical and research skills, is widely accepted by all major institutions but could lead to a career in film, journalism (broadcast and written) or wider media industries; the possibilities are endless.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Scott in the English Department.

French

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

- I enjoy communicating in the foreign language;
- I am open minded and keen to experience the life and culture of other countries, for example through reading foreign literature, watching foreign films and travelling;
- I am sociable and enjoy meeting people of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds;
- I take a keen interest in the world around me, in particular current events and global issues which affect young people in society;
- I am interested in language and in how language works so that I can use it creatively and independently to express myself;
- I want to develop independent study skills so that I will have the necessary attributes to be a successful student at university;
- I want to learn more about French society and culture.

What will I learn about?

The first year of the course will focus on how French-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change.

You will develop your language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a range of contemporary topics such as the changing nature of the family, the cyber-society, the place of voluntary work, culture, contemporary francophone music and cinema.

Your course will include an in-depth study of grammar with translation to and from French. You will also study a French film. You will have the opportunity to participate in group and class discussions on these topics as well as listening to and reading authentic texts. You will write critical and analytical essays about the film that you study.

In the second year of the course further aspects of the social background of French-speaking countries are covered as well as studying aspects of the political landscape.

You will continue to develop your language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a range of topics such as the positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised, the treatment of criminals, political engagement of young people, the role of demonstrations and strikes and politics and immigration. You will also continue to study a French film as well as a literary text in French.

Activities will include listening to a range of spoken texts and reading a wide variety of texts, in-depth study of more advanced grammar with translation to and from French, pair and class discussion as well as writing critical and analytical essays on the film and the text that you have studied.

How will I be assessed?

Paper One will assess listening, reading and writing. For the listening component you will have individual control of the recording.

The reading section will comprise of texts written for different purposes with comprehension questions that will target main points, gist and detail. You will also have to translate a passage into English and another into French.

Paper Two will assess your writing skills and you will be expected to write two critical, analytical essays on the text and the film that you have studied.

Paper Three will assess speaking. There will be a discussion of a sub-theme that you have studied with the discussion based on a stimulus card. You will also present and discuss your individual research project.

In Year 12 your mock exam in reading and listening will be based on the topics covered in



the first year of the course. The speaking exam will just consist of the two stimulus cards and the writing exam will just be based on the film.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

You can take a traditional language course at university or a degree combining language modules with subjects, such as business, law, science, European studies or tourism.

Competence in French is an asset in the workplace. As well as export links, major British firms have partnerships with French companies and welcome graduates with language skills.

Work Experience in French

During the course you will be encouraged to spend some time in France at our partner school in Gap.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Ward in the Modern Foreign Languages Department.

Geography

A Level (Edexcel)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Geography will appeal to you if:

- You are interested in the world's places, peoples and environments;
- You like asking questions and finding answers;
- You are interested in local, regional and global issues;
- You have the ability to think independently;
- You have an interest in exploring human, physical and environmental geographical relationships.

What will I learn about?

The world we live in is changing. Geography allows you to see why and how it is changing. It can enhance communication skills, literacy and numeracy, IT literacy, spatial awareness, team working, problem solving and environmental awareness.

During Year 12 you will study global themes including tectonic processes and hazards and the causes and consequences of globalisation. You will discover how your own actions can relate to a wider world, be it your local area or a country far away.

Area of Study 1 – Dynamic Landscapes (Studied in Year 12)

- Topic 1–Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Topic 2–Coastal Landscapes and Change

In this unit you will study a range of tectonic processes, their causes, effects and the responses to these hazards. You will also study coastal landscapes and the physical and human processes that influence these dynamic areas.

Area of Study 2 – Dynamic Places (Studied in Year 12)

- Topic 3–Globalisation
- Topic 4–Regenerating Places



In this unit you will study globalisation, its causes and consequences for different people and places. You will also focus on regeneration of both urban and rural areas.

Area of study 3 – Physical Systems and Sustainability (Studied in Year 13)

- Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity. This unit explores the water cycle, human and natural factors that impact on water cycling, consequences for water security and future water conflicts.
- Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security. You will study the carbon cycle, human and natural factors impacting on carbon cycling, the consequences for ecosystems and management strategies.

You will also explore the links between the carbon and water cycles through climate change.

Area of study 4 - Human Systems and Geopolitics (Studied in Year 13)

- Topic 8: Superpowers. In this unit you will study the reasons for shifting economic and political power, the impacts of superpowers and influence of superpowers in governing the global commons.
- Topic 9: Health, Human Rights and Intervention. You will investigate the impact of geopolitical interventions on both human health and human rights, something which is both variable and contested.

How will I be assessed?

The Geography A Level qualification is comprised of three examinations and one non-examined assessment (coursework). The examinations are all sat at the end of Year 13. The NEA is completed during the summer term of Year 12 and in the autumn term of Year 13.

Paper 1 – Physical Geography (30% contribution to A Level qualification, total marks 105)

This examination is a 2 hour and 15 minutes. It will assess area of study 1 – Dynamic Landscapes and area of study 3 - Physical Systems and Sustainability.

Paper 2 – Human Geography (30% contribution to A Level qualification, total marks 105)

This examination is 2 hour and 15 minutes. It will assess area of study 2 – Dynamic Places and area of study 4 Human Systems and Geopolitics.

Paper 3 (20% contribution to A Level qualification, total marks 70)

This is a 2 hour and 15 minutes examination. It will include a colour resource booklet and will be a synoptic investigation of a geographical issue. You will use of the knowledge and skills you have gained throughout the course to answer extended questions on this issue.

Non-examined assessment: Independent Investigation (20% contribution to A Level qualification, total marks 70)

This piece of coursework allows you to focus on a geographical issue of your choice, collect data and analyse your findings. The recommended word count is 3000- 4000 words. The NEA is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Fieldwork in A Level Geography

In Year 12, you will participate in a coastal geography visit and will also conduct an investigation into urban regeneration. Fieldwork can be a great experience, which allows you to apply your knowledge and understanding in a practical way.

We will visit the Northumberland coast to study coastal processes and study urban regeneration projects in and around the local area. The purpose of this fieldwork is to provide you with an opportunity to collect data, which will form your independent investigation as well as supporting theory studied in class.

Depending on interest, we also run a visit to Iceland as part of the Geography A Level course. It is a fantastic opportunity to experience the tectonic processes and impacts of globalisation which are studied in the classroom.

We visit geothermal lagoons, glaciers, waterfalls, volcanoes and explore how globalisation is affecting the capital city Reykjavik.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

An A Level in Geography opens doors! You will find that studying Geography is a brilliant step towards a wider range of HE courses or employment opportunities. Geography students gain a wide range of skills which both universities and employers highly value due to their dynamic nature. Being both a science and a humanities subject, Geography provides you with a wide range of options after the completion of your course.

Geographers can go on to study higher level courses, including foundation degrees, undergraduate BA or BSc degrees and/or BTEC Higher Nationals. Geographers can go into a wide range of jobs, including advertising, education, environmental management, law, town planning, management, finance, marketing, sales, health and social services, tourism industries, conservation work, disaster management and travel writing to name a few!

How can I find out more information?

Interested? Speak to the Geography department to find out more information. The Leader of Teaching and Learning in Geography is Miss Todd.

German

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

- I enjoy communicating in the foreign language;
- I am open minded and keen to experience the life and culture of other countries, for example through reading foreign literature, watching foreign films and travelling;
- I am sociable and enjoy meeting people of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds;
- I take a keen interest in the world around me, in particular current events and global issues which affect young people in society;
- I am interested in language and in how language works so that I can use it creatively and independently to express myself;
- I want to develop independent study skills so that I will have the necessary attributes to be a successful student at university;
- I want to learn more about German society and culture;
- I ENJOY German.

What will I learn about?

The first year of the course will focus on how German speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change.

You will develop your language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a range of contemporary topics such as the changing state of the family, the digital world, youth culture, festivals and traditions, art and architecture and cultural life in Berlin.

There will be in-depth study of grammar and translation into both English and German. You will also study a German film. You will have the opportunity to participate in group and class discussions on these topics as well as listening

to and reading authentic texts. You will write critical and analytical essays about the film that you study.

In the second year of the course further aspects of the social background of German speaking society are covered as well as studying aspects of the political landscape.

You will continue to develop your language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a range of topics such as immigration, integration, racism, Germany and the European Union, politics and youth, and German re-unification and its consequences.

You will also continue to study a German film as well as a literary text in German. Activities will include listening to a range of spoken texts and reading a wide variety of texts, in-depth study of grammar with translation to and from German, pair and class discussion as well as writing critical and analytical essays on the film and the text that you have studied.

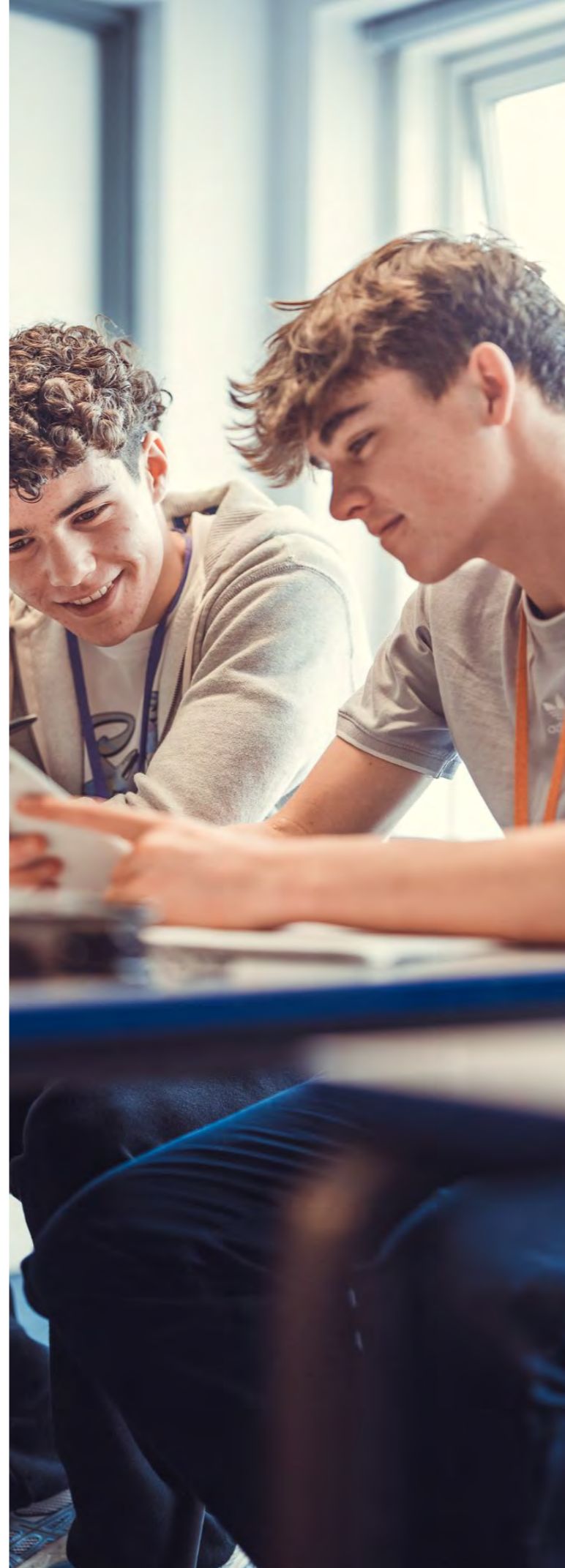
How will I be assessed?

Paper One will assess listening, reading and writing. For the listening component you will have individual control of the recording.

The reading section will comprise of texts written for different purposes with comprehension questions that will target main points, gist and detail. You will also have to translate a passage into English and another into German.

Paper Two will assess your writing skills and you will be expected to write two critical, analytical essays on the text and the film that you have studied.

Paper Three will assess speaking. There will be a discussion of a sub-theme that you have studied with the discussion based on a stimulus card. You will also present and discuss your individual research project.



In Year 12 your mock exam in reading and listening will be based on the topics covered in the first year of the course. The speaking exam will just consist of the two stimulus cards and the writing exam will just be based on the film.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching methods is used, including whole-class teaching, group and pair work activities and small group individual presentations. We also arrange visits to university study days and other events, including theatre and cinema visits. You will have the chance to participate in the exchange for a week to Heidelberg.

By the end of this course, you will have developed the skills of:

- Comprehension of spoken and written German;
- Written communication both in English and German;
- Oral communication.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

You can take a traditional language course at university or a combined course with any one of a range of subjects including business or law. Often such courses include a year spent studying overseas. Competence in German is an asset in the workplace. As well as export links, some major British firms have partnerships with German ones.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Ward in the Modern Foreign Languages Department.

Health & Social Care

AAQ Level 3

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

You should have an interest in working with people, helping and caring for others. This course offers a broad basis of study of the health and social care sector, including:

- Human development;
- Working in the health and social care sector;
- Caring for individuals and meeting their needs;
- Disease and illness and the impact on the human body systems;
- Health promotion.

What will I learn about?

The qualification has three mandatory units covering the following topics:

- Human Lifespan and Development – which covers areas of development and factors affecting growth and development, interventions and the different professionals providing care and treatment.
- Human Biology and Health – has a focus on human body structure and systems, normal physiological functioning and the impact of common disorders.
- Health and Social Care Practice – studies core care principles, values and legislation that underpin and influence health and social care, and the effect of social determinants on an individual's health status.

Students also study an additional unit that relates to the importance of health promotion. The unit includes:

- Promoting Health Education – this has a focus on education, its purpose and use of different approaches and models to achieve positive health outcomes.

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed externally through examination and internally through non-examined assessment (coursework). Students study 4 units of work. Units are assessed using a grading scale of Distinction (D), Merit (M), Pass (P), Near Pass (N) and Unclassified (U). Students study two non-examined assessment units and two units are assessed externally through examination.

The final grade is calculated using points from each unit achieved. Overall, 50% of the final grade is obtained from examined units and 50% from coursework units.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching methods will be used to enable you to complete each unit studied. For example:

- Working independently and as part of a team;
- Completing short tasks and longer projects;
- Trips to health and social care settings;
- Researching relevant topics using the internet and text books;
- Applying theory learned in class to relevant case;
- Practical tasks, such as taking blood pressure.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many relevant courses.

When studied alongside other A Level or Level 3 courses, students may wish to go on to study Nursing, Primary Education, Social Work or similar courses at university.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Ms Johnston in The Social Sciences Department.

“The staff are knowledgeable and know their subject inside out. They are also generous with their time.”



History

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

History is a challenging subject so a fascination with the past is an essential requirement for success. You should be interested in the social, political, economic and cultural changes which took place in both Germany and Britain during the specified periods.

You should also be prepared to research an area of particular interest to you so you can produce the Non Examined Assessment which you will pick from a range of topics.

What will I learn about?

Component 1: Breadth Study: The quest for political stability: Germany, 1871–1991

Students will study issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence through the following key questions:

- How was Germany governed and how did political authority change and develop?
- How effective was opposition?
- How and with what results did the economy develop and change?
- What was the extent of social and cultural change?
- How important were ideas and ideology?
- How important was the role of key individuals and groups and how were they affected by developments?

In the first year students will learn about the Kaiserreich under Wilhelm I and Wilhelm II and the transition to democracy after World War 1.

In the second year of the course students will learn about the fate of Germany under Hitler and the Nazis and the development of West Germany from World War 2 until the reunification with East Germany.

Component 2: Depth Study: The Making of Modern Britain, 1951–2007

Students will have the opportunity to study this fascinating period of modern British history. They will focus on political and economic developments, British foreign policy, issues in Northern Ireland and social and cultural changes. The course is split into six sections:

- The Affluent Society, 1951–1964
- The Sixties, 1964–1970
- The End of Post-War Consensus, 1970–1979
- The Impact of Thatcherism, 1979–1987
- Towards a new Consensus, 1987–1997
- The Era of New Labour, 1997–2007.

Component 3: Non-Examined Assessment

You will complete an historical enquiry, based on an investigation of a one hundred year time period. After you have completed the research you will then write up your work into an essay of around 4500 words.

This is an independent piece of work so it is essential that you have the self-discipline to be able to produce something substantial, with the minimal amount of supervision.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1

- 2 hours 30 minutes written exam
- Three questions (one compulsory)
- 80 marks
- 40% of A Level

Component 2

- 2 hours 30 minutes written exam
- Three questions (one compulsory)
- 80 marks
- 40% of A Level

Component 3

- 4500 words
- 40 marks
- 20% of A Level.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

History A Level is taught using a very similar style to History GCSE. You can expect to spend time in lessons doing a variety of different activities such as working in groups on presentations or debating the key questions.

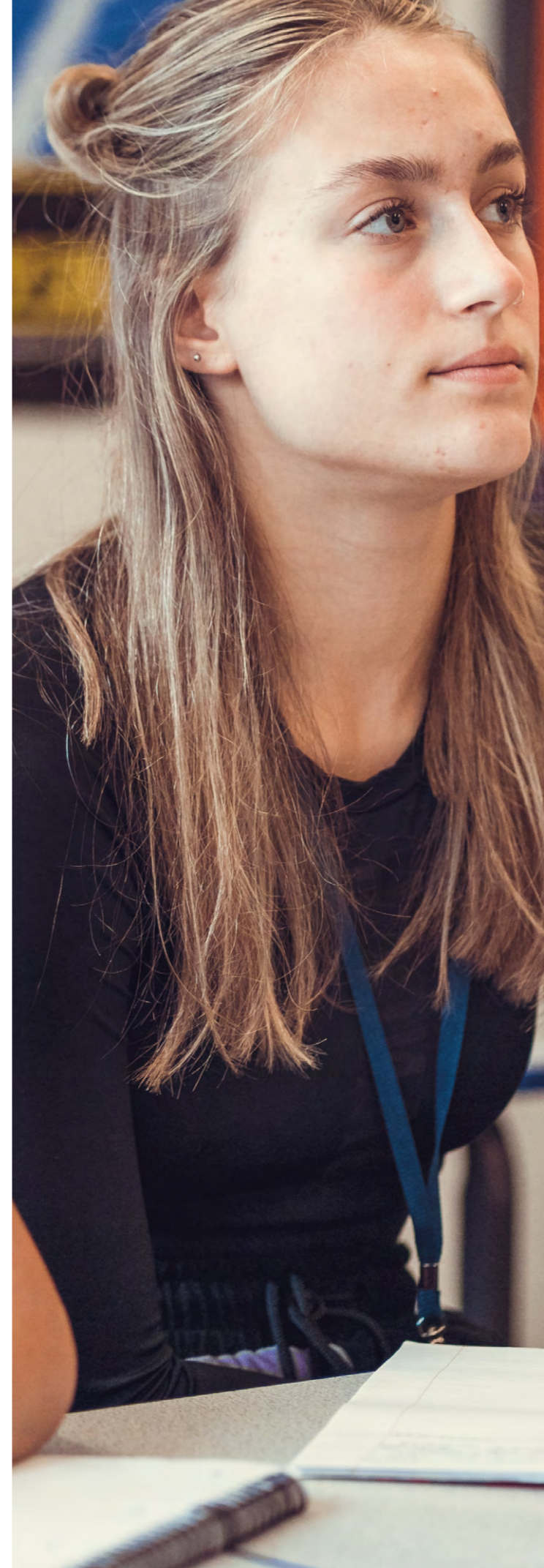
What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

History A Level is a very well regarded qualification because it requires an analytical writing style and the ability to remember large amounts of information. As a result it is a well regarded subject that is accepted by the Russell Group universities for access to their courses.

Obviously an A Level in History is necessary to apply for a degree in the subject but it is often very important to have an essay based subject if you are considering a Law degree.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Ms Brown in the History Department.



AAQ Level 3

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

If you're interested in discovering how IT is used in the real world and want to develop your skills in using a range of software applications, then you should take this course. You should have a genuine curiosity about how technology supports modern business operations and a willingness to explore new digital tools and software. If you enjoy working with computers, designing digital products such as websites, and learning through practical, hands-on projects, you'll find this course especially rewarding. You may also be interested in emerging technologies like cloud computing and cybersecurity, which play an increasingly vital role in today's connected world.

What will I learn about?

This qualification will allow you to learn about:

- Digital technologies and how organisations plan digital projects and follow a project life cycle
- Organisation structures and processes
- How to embed cybersecurity within an organisation to keep data and assets secure
- Technical skills to design and build a website to meet user requirements
- Technical skills to follow a design methodology to create and develop a database system to meet user requirements
- Transferable skills such as creativity and innovation, written communication and critical thinking.

How will I be assessed?

If you study the Extended Certificate, you will be assessed on 4 units in total which consist of external and internal assessment. Two units are externally assessed in the form of written examinations. These consist of a range of short and long answer questions. Internal assessment will be assignment-based. Assignments are set by the exam board and are completed and assessed within school.



What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

There will be a variety of learning methods including:

- Collaborative working with others;
- Practical skills building;
- Researching;
- Using IT to produce a solution;
- Strategies to learn theoretical aspects of the units.

Year 12 Course Content

The following units will be delivered in Year 12 for the Extended Certificate course.

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (externally assessed)

In this unit, you will study the role of Information Technology (IT) system and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations. You will gain knowledge and understanding of issues relating to the use of IT in personal and professional situations. You will:

- Explore the use of hardware and software that forms IT systems
- Examine the way in which data is transmitted within and between IT systems
- Investigate the impact on individuals and organisations of using online IT systems
- Explore the issues and implications of storing and transmitting data in digital form
- Examine the features of online services and how they are used to meet the needs of individuals and organisations
- Develop an awareness of the moral, ethical and legal issues relating to the use of IT systems

Unit 3: Website Development

In this unit, you will investigate fundamental principles in website development. You will design and develop a website in response to a client brief. You will:

- Develop an understanding of the principles of website development used to create effective websites
- Explore website design skills and techniques used to meet client requirements
- Develop a website to meet client requirements

Year 13 Course Content

The following units will be taught in Year 13 for the Extended Certificate course.

Unit 2: Cyber Security and Incident Management (externally assessed)

In this unit, you will study cyber security threats and vulnerabilities, the methods used to protect organisations against threats and how to manage security incidents. You will:

- Develop an understanding of cybersecurity threats and system vulnerabilities
- Develop an awareness of legal responsibilities in relation to cybersecurity
- Explore the security measures used by organisations to protect systems
- Examine the issues associated with protecting networked systems and how to secure them

- Investigate the governance policies and documents needed to establish and maintain security on an ongoing basis
- Examine the methods used to collect forensic evidence for analysis following a security incident

Unit 4: Relational Database Development

In this unit, you will examine relational database development principles to understand the importance of data storage and normalisation techniques. You will apply your skills to design and develop data storage solutions to meet a client's requirements. You will:

- Understand how the principles of relational database models, data storage and normalisation are used to create effective relational database solutions
- Design a relational database solution to meet client's requirements
- Develop a relational database solution to meet client's requirements

What can I go on to study at the end of my course?

This qualification provides career opportunities in the Information & Communication Technology industry as well as enabling entry to Further or Higher Education programmes including degrees, degree apprenticeships and further vocational study.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mrs Middleton in the ICT and Computing Department.

Italian

A Level (Pearson)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

- I enjoy communicating in the foreign language;
- I am open minded and keen to experience the life and culture of other countries, for example through reading foreign literature, watching foreign films and travelling;
- I am sociable and enjoy meeting people of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds;
- I take a keen interest in the world around me, in particular current events and global issues;
- I am interested in language and in how language works so that I can use it creatively and independently to express myself;
- I want to develop independent study skills so that I will have the necessary attributes to be a successful student at university;
- I ENJOY Italian.

What will I learn about?

The first year of the course will focus on how Italian speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. You will develop language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a range of contemporary topics such as the evolution of the Italian family, education and student issues in Italy, the changing world of work in the Italian speaking world, music, media and culture. You will also study an Italian film.

In the second year of the course further aspects of the social background of Italian speaking countries are covered as well as studying aspects of the political landscape. You will study the topics of immigration in Italy, the North/South divide, Mussolini and the rise of Fascism, Fascism during World War II and the transition from dictatorship to democracy. You will also study an Italian film as well as a literary text in Italian. Activities will include listening to a range of spoken texts, reading a wide variety of texts, in-depth study of grammar with translation to and from Italian and pair and class discussion. You will write critical and analytical essays on the film and the text that you have studied as well as preparing an individual research project for the final oral exam.

How will I be assessed?

Throughout the first year of the course there will be several assessments. The mock exam in April will consist of three papers testing listening, reading, writing and speaking. Your final exams at the end of Year 13 will consist of three units.

Paper One will assess listening, reading and writing. For the listening component you will have individual control of the recording. The reading section will comprise of texts written for different purposes with comprehension questions that will target main points, gist and detail. You will also have to translate a passage into English.

Paper Two will assess your writing skills and you will be expected to write two critical, analytical essays on the novel and the film that you have studied as well as translate a passage into Italian.

Paper Three will assess speaking. There will be a discussion of a theme that you have studied with the discussion based on a stimulus containing two different statements. You will also present and discuss your individual research project.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching methods will be used, including whole-class teaching, group and pair activities and small group/individual presentations. Your teacher will use the target language for most of the lesson. You will be expected to do the same. Year 12 and Year 13 students are given the opportunity to participate in an exchange with our partner school in Italy. Whilst in Italy students attend lessons, visit areas of local interest and practise the language and skills they have acquired.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

You can take a traditional language degree at university or a combined course with any one of a range of subjects including Business or Law. Often such courses include a year spent studying overseas. Competence in Italian is a real asset in the workplace. As well as export links, many British firms have partnerships with Italian companies.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Ms McKenna or Mr Martin in the Modern Foreign Languages Department.

Law

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

You should have an interest in the role of Law in today's society, including the rights and responsibilities individuals have. You should be interested in learning about how legal rules apply to real life situations.

What will I learn about?

You will study the following topics:

- The nature of law, legal issues and the English legal system;
- The role law plays in society;
- Parliamentary law making;
- Law reforms;
- How the legal system is organised including the civil and criminal courts;
- Criminal law, including murder, theft and robbery;
- Tort law including negligence and occupiers' liability;
- Human rights law, including the right to life.

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Apply techniques of legal method and reasoning in order to offer answers to problems, based on legal principles, legislation and case law;
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate persuasive legal arguments by referencing the appropriate legal authorities.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is 100% exam based. You will sit three papers at the end of the two year course. The papers will include a mixture of multiple choice, short answers and extended response essay questions.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching methods will be used to enable you to access the course requirements. For example:

- Researching relevant topics using the internet and text book;
- Pair and group tasks;
- Individual revision and independent learning;
- Presentations;
- Analysing real cases and applying relevant theories learned in class.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

The aims of the course are to enhance your opportunities for entry and participation in HE and to improve career prospects by:

- Providing the opportunity to study humanities disciplines;
- Shedding light on the more important topics in the study of human affairs;
- Developing important personal qualities such as breadth of imagination, precision in speech and the written word and powers of deduction;
- Cultivating skills of analysis, the ability to organise and master complex ideas, problem solving and the skills required to present and argue a case;
- Familiarising students with a range of teaching and learning methods.

Thus this qualification is useful for a variety of career choices. It is an invaluable introduction for those who hope to pursue a career in the Law itself. A study of Law is also becoming increasingly important and is a useful element in a wide range of courses including medicine, social sciences, business studies and media studies (especially journalism). It can also be an element in such courses as sports studies, catering studies and even beauty therapy!

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Whitaker in the Social Sciences Department.

Mathematics

A Level (Pearson)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

To enrol for A Level Mathematics you must have at least a Grade 7 for GCSE mathematics. However, that alone won't guarantee success. You must have an enquiring mind and enjoy problem solving. Successful students at A Level are prepared to persevere and work independently.

All mathematicians have experienced that feeling of satisfaction when they solve a challenging problem or master a new concept. If you are also likely to study subjects such as Science, Geography and Psychology, which have a mathematical content, then studying A Level Mathematics could well be advantageous.

What will I learn about?

You will cover three areas of Mathematics during the course: Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.

- Pure topics deal mainly with the manipulation of algebraic functions, solving equations, rearranging formulae and looking further into topics such as trigonometry and geometry already encountered at GCSE level.
- Statistics topics deal with the handling and analysing of data in a variety of forms, distribution of data probability, correlation and regression.
- Mechanics topics deal with kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and quantities and units in mechanics.

Pure Mathematics - Year 1

Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequence and series, trigonometry, exponential and logarithms, differentiation, integration and vectors.

Statistics & Mechanics - Year 1

Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distribution, statistical hypothesis testing, quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws.

Pure Mathematics 1 - Year 2

All of the key topics that were taught in Year 12 will make up the element of this assessment but assessed at A2 standard.

Pure Mathematics 2 - Year 2

Topics include extended understanding of topics covered in Year 1 and additionally numerical methods.

Statistics and Mechanics

Topics include extended understanding of topics covered in Year 1 and additionally moments.

How will be assessed?

Pure Mathematics 1

Time - 2 hours (33% of A Level grade).

Structured questions which become progressively more challenging as you attempt the paper.

Pure Mathematics 2

Time - 2 hours (33% of A Level grade).

Structured questions which become progressively more challenging as you attempt the paper.

Statistics and Mechanics

Time - 2 hours (33% of A Level grade).

Structured questions which become progressively more challenging. Section A (Statistics) and section B (Mechanics)

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

The approach is mainly through solving problems in class and at home interspersed with teacher-led sessions and class discussion. In addition you will be set revision problems which will be a key element of your success in your AS exams. You will also work towards the Senior Maths Challenge Competition.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Many career opportunities open up for someone with an A Level in Mathematics – business, financial services, sciences, engineering, or even as a mathematician. Study to A Level leads naturally to starting degrees in any mathematically based subject.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Hay in the Maths Department.

Mathematics: Further

A Level (Pearson)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Further Mathematics is an excellent choice for those students who believe that they will want to study a Mathematics related course after they leave school. If you enjoy Physics then you should find the Mechanics module interesting and relevant.

In Year 13 Further Maths you will study more Statistics, building upon that which was taught as part of Year 12 Mathematics.

What will I learn about?

The Further Mathematics course will build on the modules studied for A Level Mathematics.

Content Further Pure Mathematics 1 - Year 1

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

Further Mechanics 1 - Year 1

Momentum and impulse, collisions, centre of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs.

Further Statistics 1 - Year 1

Discrete probability distributions, Poisson and Binomial distributions, Chi squared test.

Content Further Pure Mathematics 1 - Year 2 (25%, 1 hour 30 mins exam)

Proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors. Same as AS module but assessed at A2 standard.

Further Pure Mathematics 2 - Year 2 (25%, 1 hour 30 mins exam)

An extension of the understanding from Further Pure 1 and additionally, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.

Further Mechanics 1 - Year 2

(25%, 1 hour 30 mins exam)

Momentum and impulse, collisions, centre of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs.

Further Statistics 1 - Year 2

(25%, 1 hour 30 mins exam)

Linear regression, statistical distributions (discrete), statistical distributions (continuous), correlation, hypothesis testing, Chi squared tests.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

The approach is mainly through solving problems in class and at home interspersed with teacher-led sessions and class discussion.

In addition you will be set revision problems which will be a key element of your success in your AS exams. You will also work towards the Senior Maths Challenge Competition.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Mathematics A Level with either AS level Further Mathematics, or A Level Further Mathematics demonstrates a breadth of understanding in a variety of topics which lends itself to further study.

Degree courses with high mathematical content such as engineering, mathematics, statistics, computing etc. would all benefit from your having studied to this level.

Other candidates will feel they wish to embark on the additional modules to study an interest and further an ability in this subject without any particular course in mind

Additional Information

Further Mathematics is timetabled separately to A Level Mathematics. This means choosing A Level Maths in one option block and Further Maths in another.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Hay in the Maths Department.

Media Studies

A Level (EDUQAS)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Students taking this course should have an interest in investigating the role the media industries have on our lives. They should be interested in developing critical and analytical skills in order to examine how a wide range of media texts influence and entertain us.

They should enjoy learning and using practical skills such as camera work and video editing. They should be willing to take an active role in lessons and to work with others in group situations. They should be regular consumers and audiences of a wide range of media texts, from television to newspapers and magazines, internet sites, radio shows, social networking sites and films.

What will I learn about?

You will develop a thorough and in depth understanding of the media's role in contemporary culture and society, considering its economic and political importance.

You will examine the key media frameworks, including media language, representation, media industries and audiences. You will apply a range of media theories to these frameworks by focusing on a range of contemporary and historic media texts from advertising and marketing, film, newspapers, television, radio and video games.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – Investigating the Media

Section A of this module assesses your knowledge and understanding of media language and representation in relation to: advertising and marketing, music videos or newspapers.

Section B is a stepped question allowing you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework by writing about key products studied in class. This section will focus particularly on industry and audience issues.

A 2 hour 15 minutes written exam – 35% of the total mark for the subject.

Component 2 – Media Forms and Products in Depth

In this component, you will be expected to:

- Analyse how media products construct and communicate meanings;
- Use relevant theories of media studies;
- Debate key questions relating to the social, cultural, political and economic role of the media;
- Construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning in an extended response.

The paper is divided into three sections. Section A is on Television, section B on Magazines and section C is on Online Media.

A 2 hour 30 minutes exam – 35% of the total mark for the qualification.

Component 3 – Media Production

This is the non-exam assessment unit of the course. The exam board will set a number of practical briefs for you to choose from. They will be from the following media forms:

- Television;
- Magazines;
- Music Marketing;
- Film Marketing.

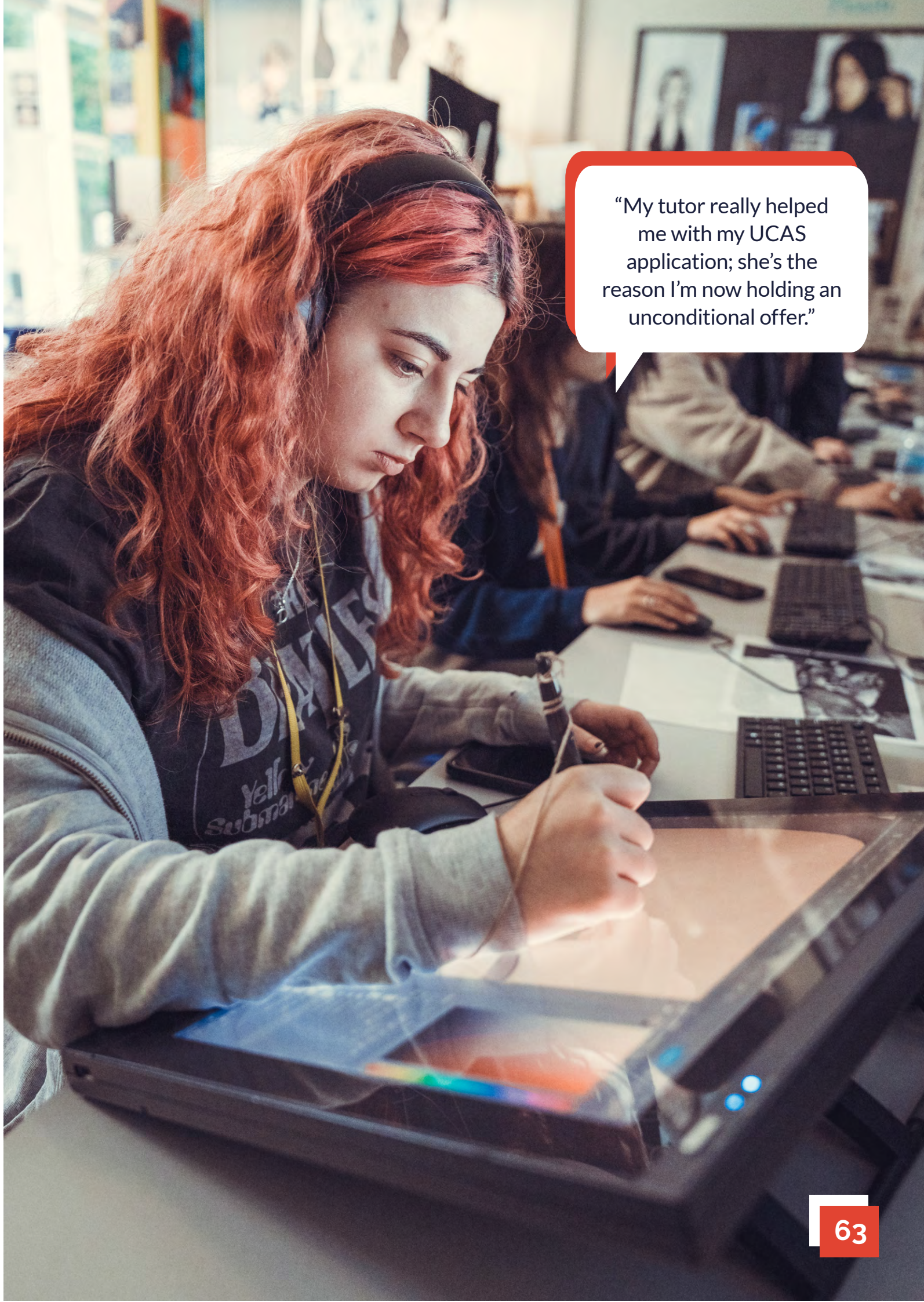
Whichever brief you choose, you will be expected to produce two practical pieces, e.g. a music video and website for a new artist if you choose the music marketing option. *The unit is worth 30% of your overall mark for the A Level.*

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

You will have developed practical, interpersonal and study skills which you can use in employment or academically on other courses. Alternatively, if your leisure pursuits involve media technology, your skills will be enhanced.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr Scott in the English Department.



“My tutor really helped me with my UCAS application; she’s the reason I’m now holding an unconditional offer.”

Music

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

- You should have a passion for music – either playing or singing and you should enjoy demonstrating your performances;
- You should enjoy listening to and learning about different kinds of music;
- You should feel satisfaction in creating your own music;
- You should enjoy expressing yourself either through performing or composing.

A Level Music offers a unique combination of practical, aesthetic and intellectual experiences that can provide a balance and contrast to other A Level subjects.

It develops a number of skills for which employers are always looking, namely research skills, creativity, and an ability to analyse and make judgements and decisions based on evidence.

It aims to give you a life-long enjoyment and understanding of music as a listener or performer.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

There will be a variety of practical (performing and composing) and theory/listening lessons. Sometimes this will include small group performances or improvisation; sometimes one- to-one guidance. You will develop your work using a mixture of instruments and music technology, essay writing and listening exercises.

What will I learn about?

Component 1: Music in Context

In this unit you will learn about music from different times and places (from the 17th century through to Jazz and contemporary Pop Music). You will be taught about the set works and how to understand the context of different styles of music.

Component 2: Performing

You will record a performance lasting 10 – 12 minutes. This can be solo or ensemble as well as the option of using music technology.

Minimum standard needs to be between grade 5 and 6 on your instrument/voice but you will gain extra marks for higher standard pieces if played well.

Your choice of music should give you opportunity to display a range of expressive and technical control. You will be given opportunity to record and listen to yourself during the course before the final programme is recorded in April of the exam year.

Component 3: Composition

You will create two compositions: one in any style of your choice and the other to a choice of briefs set by the exam board (e.g. film music, writing a pop song, harmonising melodies, an instrumental based on a world music scale, etc.) Both compositions must add up to 4 1/2 - 6 minutes.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 - Externally assessed exam

(2 hour 30 minutes) 40% of A Level marks
In the exam you will be given your own headphones and a laptop with audio tracks. You will hear extracts of music and will have a choice of questions to answer.

Section A: Varied music from the areas we have studied (Baroque Concerto, Classical Opera, Romantic Piano, Pop and Jazz Music). Short answers.

Section B: Analysis of a section of score from two of your set works (Baroque Concerto and Romantic Piano). Short and extended answers.

Section C: Essay on one or more of your chosen Pop artists (Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Muse, Beyoncé, Daft Punk, Labrinth) or Jazz artists (Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Pat Metheny and Gwilym Simcock).



Component 2: Recorded and externally assessed. 35% of A Level marks.

Component 3: Scored on Sibelius software or alternative, recorded (either on computer or live) and externally marked. 25% of A Level marks.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

A Level Music can lead to a variety of careers such as performing, recording, composing, music publishing, broadcasting, teaching, music therapy and a wide range of jobs within the creative industries.

Universities are looking for students with wide ranging talents. A Level music indicates to an admission tutor that a student would enrich that university's extra-curricular life.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mrs Elliott in the Music Department.

Photography

A Level (EDUQAS)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

The Visual Arts Department at Gosforth Academy offers several specialist A Levels in Arts subjects. The courses are not just for those who want to be artists; creativity is an important problem solving skill and design permeates contemporary society.

The Arts encourage analysis of our surrounding environment and community and teach valuable life-long skills. The courses are all practical so if you take a course in the Art department you should enjoy making, playing and getting stuck in.

What will I learn about?

During this A Level course you will have the opportunity to work with a wide range of lens based techniques. Firstly you will learn how to use a camera through a series of workshops. You will then learn how to use digital programmes such as Adobe Photoshop to adjust, manipulate and create images.

You will study different genres of photography such as documentary photography, portraiture and still life, as well as more fine art based work using techniques such as collage and installation. In year one you will learn lots of new processes and skills as well as learning about how to develop a successful project.

At the end of the year you will begin your Personal Project which will form the basis of your Coursework Portfolio. In the Spring term of year two you will work on your Exam Project, which is again, practical based work.

How will I be assessed?

The Assessment Criteria is the same as GCSE Art subjects. You will be expected to research the work of other artists and designers, make some visual research, develop your ideas and produce a final outcome. Each of these Assessment

Objectives is equally weighted. There will be regular deadlines throughout the course so that your teachers can assess your work and give you in-depth feedback on how to improve your work.

The coursework unit is worth 60% of the marks and the Exam Unit 40%.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

In year one you will be given set projects that are designed to introduce you to new skills, techniques and ways of working.

The work is mostly practical with some written work. You will have at least two Art teachers who are specialists in their area and you will be given lots of support, access to materials and to space to work. The department is open to sixth form students all day and after school and all staff are regularly on hand to offer guidance and advice.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. All objects around us are designed by someone with a creative qualification.

Many of our students go on to study an Art subject further, such as Graphic Design, Fashion Marketing, Architecture, Photography, Film Production, Games Design, Fine Art Painting, Surface Pattern Design, 3D engineering and Interior Design for example.

How can I find out more information?

Any of the Art teachers will be able to provide you with more information or contact Ms Eastwood, Leader of Teaching and Learning in Art.



Politics

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Politicians make decisions that affect every day of our lives: what time we get up, how we are educated, where we can live, when we can get married, when we can vote.

So it is important to know the political processes that exist to make the laws that impact on our daily lives. We should also be interested in the political relationship Britain has with the USA and how political views are formed. Why do some people support the Conservative Party, while others support the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Green Party or one of the many other political parties? The Politics A Level course will aim to give you an understanding of the political environment of our society today.

What will I learn about?

Politics A Level is split into three areas of academic study.

- Government and politics of the UK
- Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics
- Political ideas

Government and politics of the UK will cover the following elements:

- Government and politics of the UK
- The nature and sources of the British Constitution
- The structure and role of Parliament
- The Prime Minister and cabinet
- The judiciary
- Devolution
- Democracy and participation
- Elections and referendums
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- The European Union

Government and politics of the USA will cover the following elements:

- The constitutional framework of US government
- The legislative branch of government: Congress
- The executive branch of government: President
- The judicial branch of government
- The electoral process and direct democracy
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- Civil rights

Comparative politics:

- Constitutional arrangements
- The executives
- The judiciaries
- Electoral and party systems
- Pressure groups
- Civil Rights

Political ideologies:

You will study the three following political ideas

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism

Plus one of the following five ideologies:

- Feminism
- Nationalism
- Multiculturalism
- Anarchism
- Ecologism



How will I be assessed?

At the end of year 13 you will sit three 2 hour exams:

Paper 1 - Government & politics of the UK

Paper 2 - The government & politics of the USA

Paper 3 - Political ideas

Each paper will be marked out of 77, which will equate to 33.33% of the full A Level. Questions will be a mixture of medium length 'explain' and essay style questions.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

You will engage in class debate, discussion and analysis alongside reading and researching contemporary political issues. There will be a focus on developing your written skills in preparation for the written exam.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Your A Level politics qualification will prepare you for further study on a whole range of degree courses, due to the analytical and evaluation skills you will develop.

Most importantly, it will provide you with knowledge to understand the big issues that affect our society today.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Whitaker in the Social Sciences Department.

Psychology

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

You will need interest, motivation and the ability to illustrate your understanding in a variety of ways. You will be introduced to selected aspects of psychological theory and research, providing an opportunity to develop a sound understanding of methods and approaches in psychology, critical skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation.

You will explore how psychology has contributed to an understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity, gaining an awareness of the ethical responsibilities of psychological researchers. You will learn to use and apply your knowledge to a range of topic areas.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A wide variety of teaching methods will be used and the emphasis will be on student centred learning. You will be required to actively participate in group work as well as working on your own initiative. There will also be opportunities to attend conferences given by leading psychologists and the AQA exam board.

In addition to the study of psychology in Gosforth Academy we have excellent links with professional agencies and local universities. We often make visits to enhance learning or visitors call here.

What will I learn about?

Topics here include the many and varied approaches used to understand psychology; a comparison of such approaches; debates in psychology; methods in psychology, inferential statistics and issues in research.

Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper 2 - Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Psychopathology
- Research Methods

Paper 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology Issues and Debates (compulsory) options Include:

- Relationships
- Stress
- Forensics

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Your A Level psychology qualification will prepare you for further study on a whole range of degree courses, due to the analytical and evaluation skills you will develop. Most importantly, it will provide you with knowledge to understand the big issues that affect our society today.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Ms Johnston in the Social Sciences Department.



Religious Studies

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

If you are interested in exploring theological and philosophical questions about God, human nature, the afterlife, ethical theory and behaviour and the challenges facing religion in 21st century, then this is the course for you. You must enjoy extended writing and in-depth reading to gain the most from this course.

What will I learn about?

Topic 1: Philosophy of religion. You will study:

- Arguments for the existence of God, including cosmological, design and ontological arguments;
- The nature and impact of religious experience, including visions and mysticism, and non-religious responses to these phenomena;
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil and religious responses to this challenge;
- The nature of the soul, mind and body, including Descartes' dualism;
- The possibility of life after death, including Hick's replica theory;
- The nature of God;
- Religious language, including Wittgenstein's language game theory, logical positivism and the via negativa approach;
- Miracles, including criticisms from Hume.

Topic 2: Religion and ethics. You will study:

- Normative ethical theories, including Aquinas' natural law, Fletcher's situation ethics, Aristotle's virtue ethics, Bentham's utilitarianism, Divine Command Theory and Kant's Categorical Imperative;
- The application of ethical theory to contemporary issues of importance, including euthanasia, abortion, cloning, embryo research, capital punishment and treatment of animals;
- Conscience and free will, including determinism, libertarianism and compatibilism;
- Meta-ethics.

Topic 3: Developments in Christian theology and Dialogues. You will study:

- Human nature and purpose of life, including developments in the Christian understanding of God, sin, the self, immortality, the soul, purgatory, heaven and hell;
- Christian beliefs about the nature of Jesus and the role and status of the Bible, including fundamentalism and liberalism;
- Christian practice including baptism, holy communion and missionary work;
- The challenges to Christianity of atheism, pluralism, feminism, gender politics, the politics of sexuality and secularisation. Christian responses to these challenges.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam - No Coursework

Paper 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics
3 hours, (50% of total A Level)

Paper 2: Study of Christianity and Dialogues
3 hours (50% of total A Level)

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

You will participate in a range of activities which include group, paired and individual work. From the first lesson you will undertake timed essay exam practice on a weekly basis and you will be set homework every lesson. You will be expected to undertake significant preparatory reading before lessons.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Use the qualification to support your UCAS application. The communication, analysis and evaluation skills developed are useful across a range of academic disciplines including philosophy, history, law, religious studies, politics and international relations. Former students are currently working across a wide range of careers, including as doctors, nurses, social workers, physiotherapists, charity workers, journalists, teachers, counsellors, lawyers, police officers, graphic artists, probation officers, clinical psychologists and computer programmers.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Ms Whiting in the RE Department.

Science: Applied

AAQ Level 3

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Students who choose to study Applied Science should have a curiosity about how science works in the real world and enjoy practical, hands-on learning. This course is ideal for those interested in studying biology, chemistry, and physics, as well as practical scientific procedures and techniques. You will develop a wide variety of skills and knowledge relating to scientific research and its design, including for example health and safety assessment, planning methodologies and primary data collection. It suits organised students who prefer a mix of external examinations and internally assessed coursework. Applied Science builds on the work covered in GCSE.

What will I learn about?

Year 1

In the first year, you will study three units that cover the fundamental concepts in biology, chemistry and physics. The content for each science is:

Unit 1 Principles and Applications of Biology:

- Structure and Function of Cells
- Structure and Function of Biological Molecules
- Cellular Transport and Enzyme Activity

Unit 2 Principles and Applications of Chemistry:

- Atomic and Electronic Structure
- Bonding and Structure
- Periodicity
- Physical Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry

Unit 3 Principles and Applications of Physics:

- Understanding Waves and Optic Fibres
- Forces in Transportation and Newton Laws of Motions
- Electrical Circuits and Transfer of Energy

Year 2

In the second year, you will utilise the theoretical concepts studied in year 12 and apply them to practical investigations where a range of skills will be developed as part of the completion of two internally assessed assignment-based units.

Unit 4 Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques

- Student will complete a series of assignments with practical applications across the sciences, including chromatography, colorimetry and electrical circuits.

Unit 5 Scientific Investigation Skills

- Students will conduct their own research around an area of science allowing them to plan and carry out their investigation, collecting data and analysing and evaluating their findings.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the first year, you will sit a 60 minute external examination in unit 1, 2 and 3 (50 % external examination). During year 2 you will complete unit 4 and 5; the internally assessed coursework (50 % internal assessment).

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A wide variety of teaching methods will be used, from small group discussions to traditional teacher-led activities. The staff within the Science department are approachable, supportive and are always willingly to provide help and guidance throughout the course.



What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

After completing the Applied Science course, you can progress to a variety of higher education and career pathways. The course provides a strong foundation in scientific knowledge and practical laboratory skills, preparing learners for university degrees, higher apprenticeships, or specialist training in areas such as, Biomedical and Forensic Science, Environmental Science, Nursing and Healthcare and Sports and Exercise Science. This qualification also develops valuable analytical, research, and problem-solving skills that are highly regarded by universities and employers across the science and health sectors.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Dr Havelock in the Science Department.

Science: Biology

A Level (OCR)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

- Do you want to learn more about how the human body works or find out how our DNA makes each of us unique?
- Are you keen to discover more about everyday substances at a molecular level?
- Do you want to discuss the moral and ethical issues involved in new scientific technology and developments?
- Do you want to save the planet or an endangered species?

This is the subject for you if you have a genuine interest in the way living organisms work and how they interact with their environment.

The course develops essential biological knowledge and an understanding of key biological concepts. A Level Biology is valued by universities and employers alike, and opens many doors to wide and varied career choices including medicine, dentistry and physiotherapy.

What will I learn about?

Year 1

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology

The development of practical skills is a fundamental and integral aspect of the study of any scientific subject.

These skills not only enhance learners' understanding of the subject but also serve as a suitable preparation for the demands of studying Biology at a higher level.

- Planning
- Analysis
- Implementing
- Evaluation

Module 2 – Foundations in biology

All living organisms have similarities in cellular structure, biochemistry and function. An understanding of these similarities is fundamental to the study of the subject. This module gives learners the opportunity to use microscopy to study the cell structure of a variety of organisms.

Biologically important molecules such as carbohydrates, proteins, water and nucleic acids are studied with respect to their structure and function. The structure and mode of action of enzymes in catalysing biochemical reactions is studied. Membranes form barriers within and at the surface of cells. This module also considers the way in which the structure of membranes relates to the different methods by which molecules enter and leave cells and organelles. The division and subsequent specialisation of cells is studied, together with the potential for the therapeutic use of stem cells.

- Cell structure
- Enzymes
- Cell diversity
- Cellular organisation
- Biological molecules
- Membranes
- Cell division
- Nucleotides and nucleic acids

Module 3 – Exchange and transport

In this module, learners study the structure and function of gas exchange and transport systems in a range of animals and in terrestrial plants.

- Exchange surfaces
- Transport in animals
- Transport in plants

Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease

In this module the learners study the biodiversity of organisms; how they are classified and the ways in which biodiversity can be measured. It serves as an introduction to ecology, emphasising practical techniques and an appreciation of the need to maintain biodiversity.

The learners also gain an understanding of the variety of organisms that are pathogenic and the



way in which plants and animals have evolved defences to deal with disease. The impact of the evolution of pathogens on the treatment of disease is also considered. The relationships between organisms are studied, considering variation, evolution and phylogeny.

- Communicable diseases, disease prevention and the immune system
- Biodiversity
- Classification and evolution

Year 2

Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy

It is important that organisms, both plants and animals are able to respond to stimuli. This is achieved by communication within the body, which may be chemical and/or electrical.

Both systems are covered in detail in this module. Communication is also fundamental to homeostasis with control of temperature, blood sugar and blood water potential being studied as examples. In this module, the biochemical pathways of photosynthesis and respiration are considered, with an emphasis on the formation and use of ATP as the source of energy for biochemical processes and synthesis of biological molecules.

Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystem

This module covers the role of genes in regulating and controlling cell function and development. Heredity and the mechanisms of evolution and speciation are also covered. Some of the practical techniques used to manipulate DNA such as sequencing and amplification are considered and its therapeutic medical use.

The use of micro-organisms in biotechnology is also covered. Both of these have associated ethical considerations and it is important that learners develop a balanced understanding of such issues. Learners gain an appreciation of the role of micro-organisms in recycling materials within the environment and maintaining balance within ecosystems. The need to conserve environmental resources in a sustainable fashion is considered, whilst appreciating the potential conflict arising from the needs of an increasing human population.

Continued...

Science: Biology

Learners also consider the impacts of human activities on the natural environment and biodiversity.

- Cellular control
- Patterns of inheritance
- Manipulating genomes
- Cloning and biotechnology
- Ecosystems
- Populations and sustainability

How will I be assessed?

Year 1 - Internal Assessments

Paper 1 Breadth in Biology

This component assesses content from modules 1-4.

Section A Multiple choice questions (20 marks)

Section B Structured questions covering theory and practical skills (50 marks) - 1 hour 30 minutes.

Paper 2 Depth in Biology

This component assesses content from modules 1-4.

Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (70 marks) - 1 hour 30 minutes.

Year 2 - Terminal - External Assessments

Paper 1 Biological processes

This component assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Section A contains multiple choice questions (15 marks)

Section B includes short answer question styles (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions (85 marks) - 2 hours 15 minutes written paper

Paper 2: Biological diversity

This component assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Section A contains multiple choice questions (15 marks)

Section B includes short answer question styles (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions (85 marks) - 2 hours 15 minutes written paper

Paper 3 Unified Biology

This component assesses content from across all teaching modules 1 to 6. Question styles include short answer (structured questions, problem solving, calculations, practical) and extended response questions.

70 marks 1 hour 30 minutes written paper

Practical endorsement in Biology (non-exam assessment)

This non exam assessment component rewards the development of practical competency for Biology and is teacher assessed. Learners complete a minimum of 12 assessed experiments throughout the 2 year course in order to develop core and specific techniques alongside investigate skills.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A wide variety of teaching methods will be used, from small group discussions to traditional teacher-led activities. Some parts of the course are taught through supported self-study. We encourage the use of the internet to keep up to date with current developments. You will also learn through practical investigation, including a field study in order to carry out ecological sampling at Cullercoats beach and a workshop at the Centre for Life which allows you to explore genetic technology.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Biology is a desirable qualification for many of the "caring" professions such as nursing, physiotherapy and speech therapy. It is also one of the A Levels which is acceptable for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine. This is an interesting and stimulating science A Level to study and one which is directly relevant to everyday life.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Miss Dennison in the Biology Department.



"The stations practice with medical experts definitely helped me secure a place at medical school."

Science: Chemistry

A Level (OCR)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Understanding chemistry helps you to understand the world around you. Cooking is chemistry; everything you can touch or taste or smell is a chemical.

To study chemistry you should be interested in finding out how things work on the atomic and molecular level. Qualities a successful chemist possesses are a good grasp of mathematics, excellent practical skill and an enquiring mind.

What will I learn about?

Year 1

Module 1 – Development of practical skills

Skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation. Examples of the practical in this module include:

- Determination of a formula by gravimetric methods;
- Determination of the concentration of an acid by titration;
- Calculating the enthalpy change of a chemical reaction.

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry, includes:

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

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy, includes:

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

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry, includes:

- Basic concepts;
- Hydrocarbons;
- Alcohols and halo alkanes;
- Organic synthesis and Analytical techniques (IR,MS).

Year 2

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements, includes:

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

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis, includes:

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

How will I be assessed?

The entire content Year 12 and Year 13 is assessed at the end of the course in order to gain a full A Level qualification. There will be three assessments in the forms of examinations.

Paper One - Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (37% of A Level)

This consists of some multiple choice questions and some structured, extended response questions covering theory and practical skills.

Paper Two - Synthesis and analytical techniques (37% of A Level)

This consists of some multiple choice questions and some structured, extended response questions covering theory and practical skills.

Paper Three - Unified Chemistry (26% of A Level)

Consists of structured questions and extended response questions, covering theory and practical skills.

Students must also complete the practical endorsement for Chemistry. This internally



teacher assessed component is where students complete 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. Performance in this area will be reported separately to the A Level grade.

Examples of these activities include:

- Determination of a formula by gravimetric methods;
- Determination of the concentration of an acid by titration;
- Calculating the enthalpy change of a chemical reaction;
- Synthesis of organic compounds;
- Preparation and oxidation of organic compounds;
- Identification of unknown compounds and functional groups;
- Investigating cell potentials;
- Finding the order and rate constant for a reaction;
- Identifying unknown solutions via pH measurements.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A wide variety of teaching methods will be used, from small group discussions to traditional teacher led activities. Some parts of the course are taught through supported self-study sessions and a proportion of the course is practical based. This mirrors the theory that is taught throughout the course, in preparation for the examinations and practical endorsement activities.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

An understanding of chemistry is important in many careers and can lead into almost any profession. You will also learn a variety of transferable skills throughout the year, including: experimental skills-observing, recording; analysing evidence and drawing conclusions; written communication and problem solving skills. A Level Chemistry is essential if you wish to study medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary science, chemical engineering and many other courses. It is also highly desirable in many careers such as food technology or any scientific studies.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Miss Pringle in the science department.

Science: Physics

A Level (OCR)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

If you like mathematical problem solving and looking at the world analytically, Physics is probably a subject that will interest you. Interests in how things work from electronic circuits or car crashes to the fundamental nature of the universe are important. In addition researching and explaining complex ideas are important in Physics.

An enjoyment of and competency in mathematics is essential to allow you to use these skills in answering those fundamental questions about the universe.

If you are the type of person that likes to question things and find out why and how things work, Physics is a good subject choice.

What will I learn about?

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

How will I be assessed?

Terminal assessments at the end of Year 13

Paper 1 - Modelling Physics
(2 hours 15 mins) 37% weighting

Paper 2 - Exploring Physics
(2 hours 15 mins) 37% weighting

Paper 3 – Unified Physics
(1 hour 30 mins) 26% weighting

Practical Endorsement for Physics
Pass/Fail

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

Teaching Physics involves a wide variety of techniques to help all students of all abilities gain the necessary skills. We deliver a comprehensive practical endorsement programme, where pupils learn about managing uncertainties in experiments and methodologies of improving experiments to yield accurate and precise results.

This is delivered via regular practical work, supported by staff who provide guidance.



Mathematical skills are built on at a pace that is appropriate for everyone. You do not have to study Mathematics at A Level to be successful at Physics.

Theory is delivered in a variety of ways, including lecturing, videos, demonstrations and enquiry based learning activities. The theory is then supported in acquisition by providing opportunities for pupils to discuss their understanding and apply these principles to problem solving questions.

Group work, paired work and individual work are used when appropriate to allow pupils to progress through the work.

We offer a comprehensive support programme for pupils who are finding the content difficult and we give training and opportunity to develop independent learning and research skills – essential pre-university skills.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

There is a shortage of people in the UK going into jobs which require physics skills. As such there are a lot of opportunities for those people that are interested in this area. Employers are looking for people who can think rationally and objectively, with technical knowledge and practical skills.

Higher Education opportunities include degrees in physics, natural sciences, engineering, design, medicine, archaeology, geophysics, forensics, banking, accounting, theoretical physics, mathematics, astrophysics, cosmology, economics, to name but a few.

How can I find out more information?

If you want to research more about physics opportunities post university a good place to start is the Institute of Physics Website – this is the Physics Professional Body and they offer free membership for A Level students studying Physics.

If you have any further questions please contact Miss Robertson in the Physics Department.

Sociology

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Choosing Sociology will mean you have an interest in contemporary issues that affect our society nationally and globally. You will be wanting to know why people commit crime and why international organisations are able to get away with their crimes.

You will have an interest in finding out the reasons for inequality in the UK, why women still earn less than men and why white working class boys are more likely to fail to achieve high levels of educational attainment. If you want to know how sociologists can predict the future of a child when it is still in the womb, then Sociology is for you.

What will I learn about?

Year 12 Compulsory Content

- Education with Research Methods

Optional Topics in Sociology

- Culture and Identity
- Families and Households
- Health
- Work, Poverty and Welfare

Year 13 Compulsory Content

- Education with Theory and Methods
- Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

Optional Topics in Sociology Option 1

- Culture and Identity
- Families and Households
- Health
- Work, Poverty and Welfare

Option 2

- Beliefs in Society
- Global Development
- The Media
- Stratification and Differentiation

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1 (2 hours, 80 marks, 33.3% of A Level Content: Education with Research Methods).
- Paper 2 (2 hours, 80 marks, 33.3% of A Level Content: One topic from option 1 and one topic from option 2).
- Paper 3 (2 hour, 80 marks, 33.3% of A Level Content: Crime and Deviance with Research Methods).

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

You will use the higher order skills that enable you to recognise, analyse and evaluate key sociological concepts. You will become a critically engaged young adult. This will happen through a variety of teaching methods. There will be discussion and group work that focus on events in today's society. You will undertake directed research on your own and you will have the opportunity to attend visits that show how Sociology is relevant to our understanding of society.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

You will have developed analytical and evaluative skills which you can use in future study or employment.

These will include:

- Communication
- Working with others
- Problem solving



- IT
- Critical analysis
- Criminal justice system

Sociologists, those who understand and can apply research techniques, are in demand in a number of areas of employment, e.g. media, marketing and public relations (see A Level information for future educational and career options).

A Level Sociology is accepted by universities for a wide range of degree courses. It provides an excellent foundation for those wishing to pursue careers in lecturing, social work, police work, law and criminology, media and advertising, public service and administration, probation work etc. Recent students have gone on to study the following courses at university: English, International Linguistics, Criminology, Law, Drama, Anthropology and Sociology.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Miss Brady in the Social Sciences Department.

Spanish

A Level (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

- I enjoy communicating in the foreign language;
- I am open minded and keen to experience the life and culture of other countries, for example through reading foreign literature, watching foreign films and travelling;
- I am sociable and enjoy meeting people of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds;
- I take a keen interest in the world around me, in particular current events and global issues which affect young people in society;
- I am interested in language and in how language works so that I can use it creatively and independently to express myself;
- I want to develop independent study skills so that I will have the necessary attributes to be a successful student at university;
- I want to learn more about Spanish society and culture;
- I ENJOY Spanish.

What will I learn about?

The first year of the course will focus on how Spanish speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change.

You will develop your language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a range of contemporary topics such as modern and traditional values, cyberspace, equal rights, modern day idols, Spanish regional identity and cultural heritage. You will also study a Spanish film.

In the second year of the course further aspects of the social background of Spanish speaking countries are covered as well as studying aspects of the political landscape. You will study the topics of immigration, racism, integration, political engagement of young people, monarchies, republics and dictatorships and popular movements.

You will also continue to study a Spanish film as well as a literary text in Spanish. Activities will include listening to a range of spoken texts and reading a wide variety of texts, in-depth study of grammar with translation to and from Spanish and pair and class discussion.

You will also write critical and analytical essays on the film and the text that you have studied as well as preparing an individual research project for the final oral exam.

How will I be assessed?

Throughout the first year of the course there will be several assessments and the mock exam in April will consist of three papers testing listening, reading, writing and speaking. Your final exams at the end of Year 13 will consist of three units.

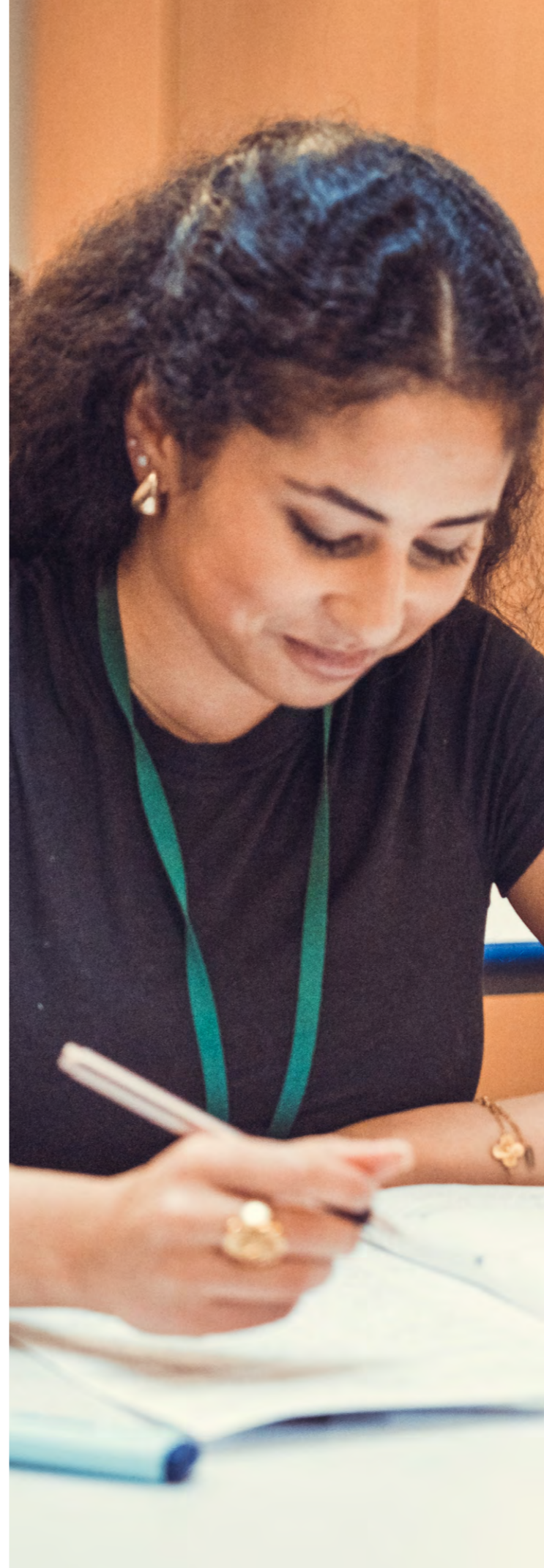
Paper One will assess listening, reading and writing. For the listening component you will have individual control of the recording. The reading section will comprise of texts written for different purposes with comprehension questions that will target main points, gist and detail. You will also have to translate a passage into Spanish and a passage into English.

Paper Two will assess your writing skills and you will be expected to write two critical, analytical essays on the text and the film that you have studied.

Paper Three will assess speaking. There will be a discussion of a sub-theme that you have studied with the discussion based on a stimulus card. You will also present and discuss your individual research project.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching methods will be used, including whole-class teaching, group and pair work activities and small group/individual presentations. Your teachers will be using the target language for most of the lesson.



You will be expected to do the same. Year 12 and Year 13 students are given the opportunity to participate in an exchange with our partner school in Spain. Whilst in Spain students attend lessons, visit areas of local interest and practise the language and skills they have acquired.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

You can take a traditional language course at university or a combined course with any one of a range of subjects including Business or Law. Often such courses include a year spent studying overseas. Competence in Spanish is a real asset in the workplace. As well as export links, many British firms have partnerships with Spanish companies.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Ms McKenna in the Modern Foreign Languages Department.

Sport: Physical Education

A Level (OCR)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

If you want to study sport at college or university or are considering a career in sport this will be an excellent course for you. A Level PE will improve your knowledge and understanding of the physical, psychological, social and technological factors which affect participation and performance in sporting activities.

Furthermore, the knowledge you will gain will make your decision making and overall performance in your chosen sport much more effective.

A Level PE will be a suitable choice for you if you have a keen interest in a variety of sports and topical issues regarding sport and exercise. It is essential you are committed to ONE physical activity. This should involve you training and competing on a weekly basis.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

Practical activities, class discussions, ICT opportunities, independent and group work/presentations.

What will I learn about?

Component 1 Physiological factors affecting performance

Applied anatomy and physiology, Exercise physiology and Biomechanics. 90 marks, 2 hour written paper. 30% of total A Level.

Component 2 Psychological factors affecting performance

Skill acquisition and Sports psychology. 60 marks, 1 hour written paper. 20% of total A Level.

Component 3 Socio-cultural issues in physical activity & Sport

Sport and society, contemporary issues in physical activity and sport. 60 marks, 1 hour written paper. 20% of total A Level.

Component 6 Practical Performances

This component will assess either:

- core and advanced skills in performing one activity or
- core and advanced skills in coaching one activity.

You will receive a mark out of 30 for your ability to perform or coach in ONE of the activities listed above.

Component 7 Evaluating and Analysing Performance for Improvement

This component draws upon the knowledge, understanding and skills a learner has learnt throughout the course and enables them to analyse and evaluate a peer's performance in one activity.

You will receive a mark out of 30 for your ability to observe an individual's live or recorded performance in your chosen activity and then evaluate their performance and propose a viable development plan (GCE) to improve that performance.



Performance in Physical Education

You will study ONE physical activity from the DfES list below:

- Acrobatic Gymnastics
- Amateur Boxing
- Association football
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Blind Cricket
- BMX
- Boccia Camogie
- Canoeing
- Cricket
- Cross Country Running
- Cycling
- Dance
- Diving
- Equestrian
- Figure Skating
- Futsal
- Gaelic football
- Goal Ball
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Handball
- Hockey
- Hurling
- Ice Hockey
- In-line Roller Hockey
- Kayaking
- Lacrosse
- Netball
- Polybat
- Powerchair Football
- Rock Climbing
- Rowing
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Sailing
- Sculling
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Squash
- Swimming
- Table Cricket
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Trampolineing
- Triathlon Sprint only 100
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Wheelchair Basketball
- Wheelchair Rugby
- Windsurfing

What can I go on to study at the end of my course?

With an A Level in PE you will be able to confidently pursue a range of sports degree courses including physiotherapy at university.

You will also be equipped to improve your own and others' practical performances in your chosen sporting activity. This could lead on to a coaching career.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please visit www.ocr.org.uk or speak to one of our PE teachers.

Sport and Physical Activity

OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

Do you want to consider a career working in sport? If you have a keen interest in sport and have studied either GCSE PE or BTEC in sport then this course may be suitable for you. You will develop the knowledge, understanding and essential skills required for gaining employment or to go on to an undergraduate degree or other higher education course.

What will I learn about?

The course comprises of three core units and two optional units which may be studied over two years. Two of these units are assessed via an exam and the other two are assessed via coursework.

Core mandatory units are:

- Body systems and the effects of physical activity (1hr 30mins exam)
- Sports coaching and activity leadership
- Sports organisation and development (1hr exam)

Optional Units Are:

- Organisation of sports events
- Sports Injuries and rehabilitation

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

Assessment is in the form of examinations and completed assignments which take the form of project and portfolio work, posters, leaflets, presentations, reports, research projects and simple tests. There will be a combination of theory and practical work.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

On successful completion of this course you can either move directly into employment or choose to study a degree at college or a degree in higher education. You may look for career opportunities or seek employment in sports coaching, teaching, sports nutrition, gym instructor etc.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please visit www.ocr.org.uk or speak to one of our PE teachers.



Textiles

A Level (EDUQAS)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

The Visual Arts Department at Gosforth Academy offers several specialist A Levels in Arts subjects. The courses are not just for those who want to be artists; creativity is an important problem solving skill and design permeates contemporary society.

The Arts encourage analysis of our surrounding environment and community and teach valuable life-long skills. The courses are all practical so if you take a course in the Art department you should enjoy making, playing and getting stuck in.

What will I learn about?

During this A Level course you will have the opportunity to work with a wide range of techniques and materials. Using traditional drawing and painting skills as a starting point, you will develop your ideas through various techniques that involve textural development and manipulation of fabrics.

Embellishment of paper and fabrics using a wide variety of techniques will involve students in developing their own creative ideas from stimulus photographs and visual research into mini projects with final outcomes throughout Year 12.

Key skills are taught within the project based approach and focus on surface pattern design, fabric embellishment and constructed textiles before culminating in either a textile art piece or fashion design brief. At the end of the year you will begin your Personal Project which will form the basis of your Coursework Portfolio. In the Spring term of year two you will work on your Exam Project, which is again, practical based work.

How will I be assessed?

The Assessment Criteria is the same as GCSE Art subjects. You will be expected to research the work of other artists and designers, make

some visual research, develop your ideas and produce a final outcome. Each of these Assessment Objectives is equally weighted.

There will be regular deadlines throughout the course so that your teachers can assess your work and give you in-depth feedback on how to improve your work.

The coursework unit is worth 60% of the marks and the Exam Unit 40%.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

In year one you will be given set projects that are designed to introduce you to new skills, techniques and ways of working.

The work is mostly practical with some written work. You will have at least two Art teachers who are specialists in their area and you will be given lots of support, access to materials and to space to work. The department is open to sixth form students all day and after school and all staff are regularly on hand to offer guidance and advice.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. All objects around us are designed by someone with a creative qualification.

Many of our students go on to study an art subject further, such as graphic design, fashion marketing, architecture, photography, film production, games design, fine art painting, surface pattern design, 3d engineering and interior design for example.

How can I find out more information?

Any of the Art teachers will be able to provide you with more information or contact Ms Eastwood, Leader of Teaching and Learning in Art.

Travel and Tourism

NQF Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate (Pearson)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

An interest in tourism is vital to the completion of this course. The units cover a range of practical elements of the travel and tourism industry including many business topics which are applied to industry companies.

Students are given the opportunity to investigate global destinations, create their own marketing plans and research different visitor attractions.

What will I learn about?

The course offers a variety of topics covering all the key aspects of the travel and tourism industry. The following are just a few examples:

- Explore the travel and tourism industry including how it is structured, the importance for the economy, the scale of the industry and what internal and external factors affect the industry
- How customer needs are met
- Marketing activities in different organisations including using research to create your own marketing plan
- Planning itineraries for different customer types
- Looking at how destinations have adapted to change

How will I be assessed?

You will complete 2 units in Year 12 and 2 further units in Year 13. In Year 12 Unit 1 is an externally examined unit and Unit 3 is an internally assessed piece of coursework.

In Year 13 Unit 2 is an external assessment where students complete research prior to the exam and can take notes in to help them complete the test. The other Year 13 unit is an internally assessed piece of coursework.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A variety of teaching methods will be used to enable you to complete the units. The following are some examples:

- Visits to organisations and guest speakers from the industry
- Working independently or as part of a team
- Researching businesses through the internet or other sources
- Producing and delivering presentations

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

This is a useful qualification whatever you want to go on to study due to the vast range of transferable skills you will develop. It would also be an excellent introduction to travel and tourism if you are interested in a future in the industry.

What are the units studied in the first year of the course?

Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism

The travel and tourism industry in the UK is growing and of major importance to the economy. In this unit you will develop the skills needed to examine, interpret and analyse the scale of the industry and its importance. You will gain an understanding of the range of products and services organisations offer and how they can work together to fully meet customer needs.

This unit is examined by a 90 minute exam.

Unit 3: Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism

Marketing is an important focus for any successful organisation in travel and tourism where products, services and the expectations of customers are constantly changing. A successful business must have a strategy for understanding its customers and targeting them with a profitable offer. In this unit you



will investigate how two organisations market themselves and then go on to collect data yourself to produce a marketing plan for a new product/ service or global destination.

This unit is assessed through internally assessed coursework.

What are the units studied in the second year of the course?

Unit 2: Global Destinations

Global destinations are a key aspect of travel and tourism and their appeal is strongly influenced by factors such as their location, access and changing trends. In this unit, you will use a range of resources to investigate the location and features of global destinations and explain the features that give appeal to global destinations and support different types of tourism.

You will evaluate how travel plans/routes/ itineraries meet customer needs. You will investigate consumer trends and the reasons the popularity of global destinations may change.

This unit is assessed under supervised conditions. Learners will be given information two weeks before a supervised assessment period to carry out research.

Unit 9: Visitor Attractions

Visitor attractions can draw both domestic and overseas visitors by providing opportunities for relaxation, amusement and education. They are a major source of revenue for the travel and tourism industry as well as for the UK and the global economy. In this unit, you will investigate visitor attractions and the different ways they are funded.

You will explore what is meant by the visitor experience and how visitor attractions develop, diversify and use technology in order to meet the needs of their different types of visitors.

This unit is assessed through internally assessed coursework.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Green, Mr Harrison or Mrs Bradley in the Business and Enterprise Department.

English: Resit

GCSE (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

This is a one-year course for all those who did not achieve grade 4 in the summer. It is a condition of funding and is therefore compulsory.

What will I learn about?

The course will follow a similar pattern to GCSE in Year 11.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

A broad range, as in Year 11. Success in English re-sit demands lots of hard work and self-discipline. A focused revision programme, with resources, will be provided for all students.

How will I be assessed?

Two examinations making 100% of assessment.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

GCSE English is a basic requirement for nearly all walks of life, including most university courses and apprenticeships, as well as many jobs.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Cook in the English Department.

The first re-sit opportunity will occur in November of Year 12. English Re-sit classes will remain on your timetable until you receive a grade 4 result. This will be January at the earliest.



Maths: Resit

GCSE (AQA)

What interests should I have if I want to take this course?

This is a one year course for all those who missed a grade 4 or above in Key Stage 4. When you enter Higher Education or employment you will often need a grade 4 at GCSE.

What will I learn about?

You will cover all the ground that encompasses the Foundation level examination. Most topics will be familiar and need thorough revision, and support from your teachers.

What Teaching and Learning methods will be used?

Teacher-led reinforcement of skills, paired work, group work, regular exam practice will all be used. A focused revision programme, with resources, will be provided for all students.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three examinations in November and, if required, in the summer sitting as well. The course is 100% examined.

What can I do when I complete my qualifications?

When you achieve grade 4 or above you will have one of the most important qualifications which is often necessary to access various Higher Education or employment opportunities.

How can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions please contact Mr Hay in the Maths Department.

The first re-sit opportunity will occur in November of Year 12. English Re-sit classes will remain on your timetable until you receive a grade 4 result. This will be January at the earliest.

Apply now

If you are interested in joining our Sixth Form, we'd love to hear from you.

You can apply to join our Sixth Form online, over the phone or via email. The first step is to register your interest with us.



gosforthacademy.org.uk/sixthform



0191 285 1000



admin@ga.newcastle.sch.uk

As we are a very popular Sixth Form, with a growing number of students joining us from other schools across the city, we recommend that you complete our **Register Your Interest Form Online** as soon as possible. On submission of this form, a member of **our team will contact** you to discuss your options and next steps. **They will send you an Application Form** for you to complete and return to us – **this is your formal application to join our Sixth Form.**

Our current Gosforth Academy students will be invited to join further meetings with our Sixth Form staff to help guide you in your options for Sixth Form, along with an individual interview in the spring term to confirm your choices.

Helpful Tips

- Speak to our Support Team about your career ambitions and goal; they will help you find the right options for you
- Discuss your thoughts and options with family and friends
- Come and visit our Sixth Form Centre
- Get advice from teachers and careers advisors
- Think carefully about what you want to do in the future. Think about what you are good at and what you enjoy
- Visit our website for more information about our Sixth Form and support available to students
- Don't be afraid to ask us questions; contact us via phone or email



Course Entry Requirements

Department	Course	GCSE Entry Requirements: September 2025
Business	A4A-Access for A Level	Four GCSE grade 3s or the equivalent grades on vocational courses
Business	Accounting	4 in English & 5 in Maths & APS 4 & 4 in GCSE Business if taken
Business	Cambridge Technical in Business	4 in English if the subject has not been taken before. Level 2 Pass in a vocational course in the subject if taken
Business	Business Studies	4 in English & Maths & APS 4 & 4 in GCSE Business if taken
Business	Economics	4 in English & 5 in Maths & APS 5 & 4 in GCSE Business if taken
Business	BTEC Level 3 National in Travel & Tourism	4 in English if the subject has not been taken before. Level 2 Pass in a vocational course in the subject if taken
D&T	3D Design	4 in Technology GCSE, 4 in English and APS of 4
English	English Language	4 in English & APS 4
English	English Literature	4 in English Language & 5 in English Literature
English	Film Studies	4 in English & 4 in English Literature
English	Media Studies	4 in English & 4 in English Literature
Humanities	Geography	4 in English & 4 in Geography
Humanities	History	4 in English & 4 in History & APS of 4
ICT	AAQ Level 3 in IT	4 in English if the subject has not been taken before. Level 2 Pass in a vocational course in the subject if taken
ICT	Computer Science	4 in English & 6 in Maths
Maths	Further Maths , Maths	8 in Maths (for Further Maths), 7 in Maths (for Maths)
MFL	French, German, Italian or Spanish	5 in chosen language from higher tier
PE	Sport and PE	4 in English & 5 in Science & APS of 4 & 4 in PE if taken
PE	Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity	4 in English if the subject has not been taken before. Level 2 Pass in a vocational course in the subject if taken
Performing Arts	Drama	4 in English & 4 in Drama if taken or a Pass in A Level 2 vocational course in the subject area
Performing Arts	Music	4 in Music, plus Grade 4 in ABRSM exam
RE	Religious Studies	4 in English and 4 in a Humanity
Science	Physics	7 and 6 in Combined Science & 5 in Maths, or 7 and 6 (minimum of 6 in Physics) in Triple Science & 5 in Maths
Science	Biology	7 and 6 in Combined Science & 5 in Maths, or 7 and 6 (minimum of 6 in Biology) in Triple Science & 5 in Maths
Science	Chemistry	7 and 6 in Combined Science & 5 in Maths, or 7 and 6 (minimum of 6 in Chemistry) in Triple Science & 5 in Maths
Science	AAQ Level 3 in Science	5 and 4 in Combined Science & APS of 4, or 5 and 4 in Triple Science & APS of 4
Social Sciences	Politics	4 in English & APS 4
Social Sciences	Law	5 in English & APS 4
Social Sciences	AAQ Level 3 in Health & Social Care	4 in English if the subject has not been taken before. Level 2 Pass in a vocational course in the subject if taken
Social Sciences	Psychology	5 in English & 5 in Maths
Social Sciences	Sociology	4 in English & APS 4
Visual Arts	Art & Design	4 in Art or Textiles GCSE or a Merit in a vocational course in Art and Design
Visual Arts	Fine Art	4 in Art or Textiles
Visual Arts	Photography	4 in Art or Textiles
Visual Arts	Textiles	4 in Art or Textiles

Please note: You must achieve the entry requirements for each course you wish to study. While we endeavour to meet all the choices through the option blocks, this is not always possible. Courses only run if a viable group size is achieved.



| 6 Gosforth Academy Sixth Form



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Proud to be part of

 **Gosforth
Group**

