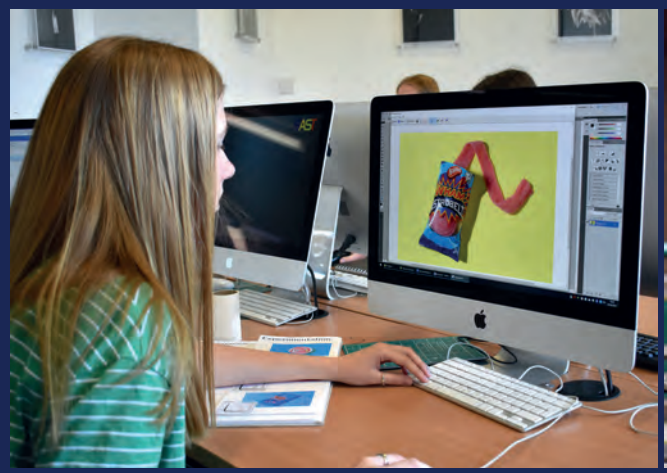
The Gryphon School

Sixth Form Prospectus >









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Welcome >

Thank you for taking the time to read our Sixth Form Prospectus. We know that choosing the right Sixth Form is a significant decision, and we believe that The Gryphon School offers an outstanding environment in which young people can flourish academically, personally, and spiritually. At the heart of our school is the Christian vision of *"living life in all its fullness"* (John 10:10). This vision underpins everything we do and reflects our commitment to helping every student realise their potential, develop their unique talents and embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

We are extremely proud of our Sixth Form, which offers a unique combination of first-class teaching, excellent pastoral support, and expert guidance. Through our Gryphon Christian LIFE values of **Leadership, Integrity, Fellowship and Exploration,** we encourage students to become confident, compassionate, and ambitious young adults who are ready to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

Our inclusive and all-round education combines academic challenge with a rich programme of enrichment opportunities. Students are encouraged to demonstrate **Leadership** by taking responsibility and inspiring others; to act with **Integrity** in their learning and relationships; to build strong **Fellowship** through collaboration, service, and community; and to embrace **Exploration** by pursuing new experiences, ideas, and aspirations. Together, these values help our students grow into independent, resilient, and confident learners.

Our strong partnerships with employers, universities and alumni further enrich the Sixth Form experience, enabling students to explore a wide range of pathways and make informed, confident decisions about their future.



We warmly invite you to visit us and experience first-hand the vibrant, supportive, and aspirational community that makes The Gryphon School such a special place to learn and grow.

Jim Gower

Headteacher

The Gryphon Sixth Form is a large, successful and vibrant community of around 400 students. Students join from across north and west Dorset and south Somerset, making it an inclusive and varied community. We are extremely proud of our record of success and all the wide ranging achievements of our students.

The student is at the heart of everything we do. We provide a supportive, but challenging environment in which our students can aim high, achieve and inspire. We do not just judge success on when the students leave the Sixth Form, but where they are in five to ten years. Our focus is enabling students to put themselves in a position of maximum opportunity, for whatever they want to achieve.

We offer a wide range of courses and subjects, so that students can choose the courses that are right for them and their future aspirations. The enthusiasm, innovation and commitment of our teaching and pastoral staff helps to support and inspire every student, so that they can go on and excel.

Moving into the Sixth Form is an exciting stage in young peoples' lives. There is more independence, greater specialism and greater opportunities for students to grasp hold of. We support students through this transition; all students have their own tutor, their own tailored pathway provision to support them with their next steps post-18, superb teaching and a caring and experienced Sixth Form team.

Students will feel engaged and excited by the opportunities and their learning at the Gryphon Sixth Form. Our students achieve fantastic results, achieve their goals for university, apprenticeships and employment but most importantly develop into independent, confident, outward looking young people.

We look forward to welcoming you.



Laura Rowe

Head of Sixth Form

SAST
SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

COURSES

There are a wide range of subjects and qualifications on offer; more information is available in the Courses section of the prospectus. Throughout your two year course there will be a series of assessments to ensure you are on track and making good progress with support not only from your teachers but your tutor and Head of Year. At the end of the summer term in Year 12 students will sit Mock Exams which will help to provide the baseline for predicted grades going into UCAS and apprenticeship applications.

Students who have not yet achieved a grade 4+ (previously C grade) in GCSE Maths, or one of their English GCSEs, will be required to continue their study of these courses. This will take priority over A level and BTEC choices.

Please note: The school reserves the right to cancel a particular course if an insufficient number of students apply. Courses may also be subject to further change due to Department of Education policy.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our Sixth Form students are role models and leaders for the whole school community. We have a well-established sixth form committee, where students lead charity events, environmental projects and whole school projects, as well as making decisions in relation to the teaching and learning of the school.

The Sixth Form ambassador programme enables students to take on more senior responsibilities within the sixth form and wider school community. This role provides students the opportunity to mentor younger students, support and run whole school events and gain further training and support to diversify their skill set.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Each course has its own grade requirements for enrolling onto it. In order to join the Sixth Form students need to achieve at least 5 good grades (GCSE grades of 4 and above, including any BTEC grades at Level 2 Pass or above) which should include either English or Maths. Students meeting the entry criteria will typically choose 3 A-levels or BTECs to study throughout Years 12 and 13. A small number of students may wish to choose 4 A-levels. Only students achieving at least 5 grades 7 and above will be allowed to do this. When students enrol with their GCSE grades, they will then be put into a Pathways programme to support them with their future plans.



PATHWAYS

We offer a number of different programmes tailored to students' needs and aspirations. When students enrol with their GCSE results we will decide which pathway they are best suited to.

OXBRIDGE PROGRAMME

Students will take 3 or 4 A level courses. They will be part of the Oxbridge Group that meets fortnightly and collaborates with local independent schools. Students will go on Oxbridge visits, receive bespoke support in interview techniques and writing personal statements and preparation for any entrance exams. Students will also take the Extended Project Qualification or Massive Open Online Courses. Students will need to achieve 9 or more grades of 7 and above at GCSE.

RUSSELL GROUP PROGRAMME

Students will take 3 or 4 A level courses. This programme is aimed at students who wish to progress onto a prestigious Russell Group University such as Bristol, Exeter, LSE, Leeds to name but a few. Students will experience university visits and bespoke support in interview techniques and with writing their personal statement. Students will also study the Extended Project Qualification or Massive Open Online Courses. Students will need to achieve 5 or more grades of 7 and above at GCSE.

PROGRESSION PROGRAMME

Students on this course will take at least two BTEC (or equivalent) courses but can do one A level providing they meet the course entry criteria. This programme is aimed at students who are considering university, apprenticeship and employment as options after the Sixth Form. Students on this course will attend careers related visits such as apprenticeship fairs and university conventions. Students will need to achieve at least 5 good grades in Year 11. This can include grades of 4 and above at GCSE or Pass and above from vocational courses such as BTECs.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

Students on this course will take at least two BTEC (or equivalent) courses but can do one A level providing they meet the course entry criteria. This programme is aimed at students who are considering university, apprenticeship and employment as options after the Sixth Form. Students on this course will have the opportunity to do a week's work experience each term and attend careers related visits such as apprenticeship fairs. Students will need to achieve at least 5 good grades in Year 11. This can include grades of 4 and above at GCSE or Pass and above from vocational courses such as BTECs.



Student Support and Welfare >

Pastoral care and guidance remains a crucial part of the support network we offer our students. Allowing students to thrive within their studies and beyond them helps them to develop and shape a future that is full of as many opportunities as possible for each individual student.

OUR SUPPORT

You may be eligible for a 16-19 bursary if you/your parents are in receipt of any of the following:

- Free School Meals
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit
- Jobseekers' Allowance
- Employment Support Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Low annual household income

The bursary fund is to provide help with costs so you can participate in education and we prioritise transport costs. Once enrolled there is an online form to complete so this can be accessed.

RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

The Learning Hub is built on two levels and the upper mezzanine is for Sixth Form use only. This area consists of two wings allowing plenty of space for students to work individually. The Learning Hub has over 15,000 resources to help students with their studies. Students can access national daily newspapers, magazines, DVDs and enjoy a wide range of fictional material. The centre is open between 8:30 and 4:30pm Monday to Friday. There are 60 PCs on the upper floor and access to WiFi for students who wish to bring their own laptops and devices. Students are actively encouraged to use laptops, tablets and phones for educational purposes. Teachers make learning resources available digitally and all homeworks are set online. Students get Microsoft Office for free and you can print wirelessly to any printer in the school.

The Sixth Form have a great range of their own facilities: a large common room, their own area of the canteen plus a snack bar, dedicated working areas, with space for charging electronic devices and quiet work rooms.

We have fantastic sporting facilities as well. The Leisure Centre provides access to a newly-equipped gym, sports hall, a dance studio and indoor courts, all available for students to use. We also have extensive outside space providing tennis and netball courts, football, rugby and cricket pitches.

We are very proud of our facilities throughout the school from 3D printers to ceramic kilns, but we are also continually looking to see how they could be improved through discussions with students and parents.

The Careers office is located in the Learning Hub and students can arrange to speak with the Careers Advisor to talk about future routes; University entry, Apprenticeships and job applications.

CARE AND SUPPORT

The growth in awareness of mental health issues in young people has been a long time coming nationally, however it is something that we have put at the forefront in our approach to our students for many years. At the heart of this is a real knowledge of each individual student which is why all our students have a tutor, who they see each day, giving students time to reflect alongside a supportive structure.

We do give students a lot more freedom and independence at Sixth Form, in terms of what they wear, their use of free periods and a more mature relationship with teachers. However, we are very proactive in addressing issues when we feel a student is struggling, to support them in the best way forward. Equally we feel that our enrichment and pathways sessions give a great level of support in providing a personalised programme for students in their next steps.

We have a dedicated Sixth Form counsellor as well for those students needing more support in school.

ENRICHMENT

Whilst the main focus of our efforts must be on students' academic studies, an important feature of our ethos in the Sixth Form is to ensure our students leave us with a broad, diverse and rich experience.

There are opportunities to engage in a range of individual and team sports and to take part in music and drama groups. In addition to this, students can participate in activities as diverse as the TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), Ecoclub, National Mathematics Challenge and Biology Olympiads, peer mentoring, Sherborne Radio and Mindfulness to name but a few.

Every Wednesday afternoon, a wide range of sporting activities are offered both in school and offsite. Team sports include rugby, football, cricket, and hockey and there is the opportunity for students to play badminton, tennis, basketball and dodgeball! Students can follow these activities, for fun, to keep fit and healthy or compete at a higher level. There is also a fully equipped strength and conditioning suite.

There is the opportunity to be part of our annual whole school drama/musical productions, both on and behind the stage and Sixth Form students provide the key creative leads in our annual dance leadership project. Curriculum work is supported and enriched by visits to theatres and local businesses. We have a host of both local, national and international trips in the sixth form, with lots being connected with subject areas, but some trips being more holistic. We regularly invite guest speakers into school, including business people, lecturers, authors and leaders in their field. These extra opportunities and challenges, along with everything else on offer provide the chance for our students to develop the transferable skills and experiences that they will need to succeed in the competitive world beyond school.

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NEXT STEPS

Gryphon Sixth Form students have a full programme of support towards their post- Sixth Form transition to university, apprenticeships or employment. All students will learn about the different pathways available to them, advised of the most suitable routes and supported in their applications.

All students will have access to Unifrog which is a really thorough and informative online platform for careers, university courses, apprenticeships and work experience. Students set aside time each week to use this platform and enhance their knowledge and application for their next steps.

In addition we run subject- based discussion groups for those wishing to apply to leading universities, a two-year mentoring programme for Oxbridge and Medical applicants, a Careers and Apprenticeship fair meeting local and national providers, a dedicated professional Pathways Co-ordinator, CV and personal statement writing workshops, work experience and many opportunities for voluntary work. On Progression Day students benefit from workshops, leading local employers and interview technique specialists as well as targeted advice and guidance on making exceptional applications – no matter where the destination.

Through PSHEE students are taken through the practical steps of entering into adulthood with emphasis on safe driving and car maintenance, managing finances and bill paying, cooking on a budget and coping with the transition from the family home into the wider world. There is considerable support and guidance for University applications and careers opportunities. A range of lecturers, alumni and professionals regularly visit to share expertise and to demonstrate future opportunities for students. We have a regular Careers Café as well where students can speak to different professionals about their career and their pathway.

We are currently working with our partner schools delivering a TED youth event, led by our students. We work very closely with our local independent schools in supporting students applying for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine.

TRANSITION

We want to make sure that all students feel welcome in our sixth form. We provide induction days, taster lessons, interviews so we get to know the students and that the students feel comfortable in their new surroundings and can make the best decision for their next steps, post-16. Tutor groups are mixed, and students quickly find that they have friends across previous schools, tutor groups and lessons.



"Students receive useful careers information, advice and guidance. The annual careers fair helps pupils to encounter a range of employers and pupils value the opportunities to visit further education providers"

Ofsted 2023



"Sixth Form study programmes are tailored carefully to pupils' individual needs and aspirations."

Ofsted 2023

Application process >

Applications are made through the school website **https://www.gryphon.dorset.sch.uk/**.

Applications should be submitted by Friday 4th December 2026.

After the applications are all submitted we will invite you in to meet one of the Senior Leadership or Sixth Form Team for a discussion about your application. This will be a great opportunity to ask any further questions and to look around the school.

After collecting your GCSE results on **Thursday 19th August 2027** students can talk through their subject choices, their pathway and any alterations to their application, before enrolling in to the Sixth Form. If you are away on this date we can also enrol you mid morning on **Friday 3rd September 2027**.

The Gryphon School

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ANCIENT HISTORY (CLASSICS)

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR R HARRIS

EXAM BOARD
EDEXCEL

History has been said to work through circular patterns. Investigating the history of Greece and Rome, is both fascinating and rewarding to see how our modern world echoes the politics and attitudes from the distant past. By looking back thousands of years we often illuminate the present. By reading the words of ancient writers we discover them as fresh and insightful as any modern journalism. Ancient history is endlessly provoking and its myriad of tales wonderfully addictive. Every generation has always found new lessons to be learnt from the ancient world.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Greece in conflict: The Persian and Peloponnesian Wars: This unit traces the history of two key conflicts. The Persian wars saw a small united Greece battle the vast armies of the Persian absolute monarchy. Victory was hard won, but merely exacerbated tensions between Sparta and Athens, that would break out into a bitter war that signalled the end of the Golden Age of Greece.

The Julio-Claudian Emperors: The first dynasty of Roman Emperors has given history some of its most infamous characters. From the mighty Augustus, the first Emperor, to the insane divinity of Gaius. From Claudius, part fool and part genius, to the outright megalomania of Nero. The first family of Rome had something for everyone, and this unit delves into how they managed to both keep and suddenly lose power.

Sparta: An in-depth study of a most contradictory society. Obsessed by the values of war, yet the only Greek state to offer some power to women, the Spartans were a unique culture. We examine, through the sources, how Spartan society was seeded by its fierce educational system. We analyse the 'Sparta mirage' which would directly influence people from Plato to the Nazis to the English public schools!

The Invasion of Britain: An examination of how the Emperor Claudius, anxious for glory, ordered the invasion of a land at the edge of the world, populated by painted savages and sea monsters. The unit explores how the Romans overcame rebellions still present in the archaeological record, as Boudica's burnt layer under London attests. We see how the savages were tamed by togas and Latin to become a valued part of the empire.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

All the units are assessed in Year 13 by two exams, one Greek and one Roman. The questions all require the use of evaluated ancient sources to support subject knowledge. The questions are a combination of essays and shorter source-based questions.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Mirroring the modern History course, the study of ancient history emphasises the students' skills at analysis and the manipulation of information. These are vital traits for any profession both now and in the future. The subject helps to create insightful, confident and independent young adults able to adapt to the fluid modern workplace. It helps to form well-rounded individuals ready to take any opportunity they want.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or better in History GCSE or equivalent humanities course.

FINE ART

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR J MALONE

EXAM BOARD
AQA

The Fine Art course offers a stimulating programme of practical, critical and contextual study. Students explore a wide range of traditional and contemporary media, developing technical expertise, visual awareness and a personal artistic style.Through practical projects and independent exploration, students investigate the work of artists, cultures and movements, learning to analyse and evaluate ideas while refining their own creative practice. The course encourages experimentation, problem-solving and independent thinking, resulting in a substantial portfolio of personal work.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This A Level is a two-year course made up of two components:

- Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of the A Level)
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of the A Level)

Students undertake a variety of projects that develop their skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media and other specialist techniques. In the early part of Year 12, students participate in a series of workshops designed to develop their skills and knowledge. These workshops do not form part of the final submission. Throughout the course, students explore a range of themes, responding through recording, research, experimentation and personal enquiry.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Assessment is based on two components: the Personal Investigation (based on a theme, concept, or issue) and the Externally Set Assignment (based on a stimulus provided by AQA). Work is internally assessed by teachers and moderated by the AQA examination board. Students also produce an essay related to their Personal Investigation, which supports their practical work and is between 1,000 and 3,000 words in length. Students undertake a variety of projects designed to develop their skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, and other specialist techniques. In the early part of Year 12, they participate in a series of workshops that develop their skills and knowledge. These workshops do not form part of the final assessment. Throughout the course, students explore a range of themes, responding through recording, research, experimentation, and personal enquiry.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

A Level Fine Art develops creativity, communication, visual literacy and problem-solving skills that are valued across many professions. It can lead directly to careers in architecture, interior design, graphic design, illustration, animation, fashion, photography, film and television, advertising, games design, museum and gallery work, theatre design and teaching.

The course also provides a strong foundation for subjects and careers where observation, analysis and creative thinking are important, including medicine, dentistry, psychology, marketing, business, engineering, product design and the social sciences. Students develop:

- Creative and independent thinking.
- Visual communication and presentation skills.
- Research, analysis and problem-solving abilities.
- Practical and technical artistic skills.
- Project management and organisational skills.
- Critical judgement and self-evaluation.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 4 or above in GCSE Art.

COURSE EXPENSES

The total cost for the first year of the course is £13, covering three A3 spiral-bound sketchbooks and one A1 portfolio folder. Students are also expected to bring drawing pencils, coloured pencils, an eraser or putty rubber, a pencil sharpener and a black biro pen to all lessons.



ART: THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MRS A MARTIN

EXAM BOARD
AQA

This dynamic course has been developed to allow students to actively experience a comprehensive range of three-dimensional art and design processes and contexts. Studying Three-Dimensional Design builds and stretches your practical and theoretical skillset and allows you to work in very different ways compared to traditional subjects. The skills you develop are transferable and the independence and resilience you build will enhance all areas of your learning, all of which is highly sought after by future employers and it is worth noting that the creative industries are the fastest growing economic sector in the UK.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This A Level two-unit award is a two year course.

- Component 1: Portfolio (60% of A-Level)
- Component 2: Externally set assignment (40% of A-Level)

You will take part in practical projects and skill development work. You will learn to carry out independent research from various sources whilst working on assignments, and to work to set questions/ briefs. ICT will be widely used for practical work, portfolio and written assignments.

You are required to work in one or more areas of three-dimensional design and you may explore overlapping and combinations of areas such as:

- Ceramics
- Sculpture
- Exhibition design
- Design for theatre, television and film
- Interior design
- Product design
- Environmental and architectural design
- Jewellery/ body ornament
- 3D digital design

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Unit 1 comprises internally set workshops and assignments. Unit 2 is an externally set project, culminating in a 15 hour examination. Both units are internally assessed by your teachers and moderated by the exam board.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Three-Dimensional Design offers a wide array of career potential. You may be contemplating a career in advertising, media, film and television, publishing, architecture, graphics, museum and exhibition work, theatre design, interior design, art galleries, jewellery, fashion, photography, textiles or teaching Art and Design. This course is an excellent basis for Further/Higher Education courses, leading to a wide variety of careers in the Art and Design sector and will earn UCAS points that contribute to university admission requirements.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 4 in GCSE Three-Dimensional Design or Art, Craft & Design.

COURSE MATERIALS

It is expected that all Three-Dimensional Design students will bring a set of drawing pencils, coloured pencils, eraser/putty rubber, pencil sharpener and black biro to all lessons.

BIOLOGY

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR L MOORE

EXAM BOARD
OCR

Understanding the living world is crucial in the 21st century and Biology is a fascinating and absorbing subject that is highly respected by employers and universities. During A level Biology you will study interlinking mechanisms that explain how different organisms interact on both the cellular level and how this impacts life around us.

We strive to nurture a curiosity, interest and passion for the subject, to make complex concepts understandable and to support students in achieving their full potential.

Ultimately, study Biology because YOU ENJOY IT!

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students will study three components for the qualification: Biological processes (01), Biological diversity (02) and Unified Biology (03).

Content is split into six teaching modules:

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in biology
- Module 2 – Foundations in biology
- Module 3 – Exchange and transport
- Module 4 – Biodiversity, evolution and disease
- Module 5 – Communication, homeostasis and energy
- Module 6 – Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

ASSESSMENT METHOD

- Biological processes (01) – 100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper (37%). Content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.
- Biological diversity (02) – 100 marks 2 hour 15 minutes written paper (37%). Content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6
- Unified biology (03) – 70 marks 1 hour 30 minutes written paper (26%). Synoptic paper covering all modules.
- Practical endorsement in biology (04) – non examined assessment – reported separately, Pass or Fail.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Our Biology course gives students a balanced and relevant grounding in modern biology, equipping them for a wide range of careers and courses, for example in medicine, veterinary science, agriculture and biotechnology. It also helps students planning on studying analytical subjects ranging from law to accountancy to history, due to the observational and interpretational skills.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6-6 or better in Combined Science OR 6 or better in Biology GCSE, Maths GCSE and English Language at grade 5.

COURSE EXPENSES

We are encouraging all students to purchase a course text, costing approximately £40, to support the course. Additional texts may be recommended on an individual basis to support their study.

BUSINESS STUDIES

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR T CRASSWELLER

EXAM BOARD
AQA

Business Studies is happening all day, every day. It impacts the way that we live our lives. Any future job that you have will mean that you play a part in business activity. In the UK, there are 5.7 million private sector businesses, an increase of more than 2.2 million since the Year 2000. Business Studies investigates the different elements that the managers of these businesses are having to tackle/consider/overcome to try to become successful. Our lessons will refer to any of these businesses (from the 99.9% that are small or medium enterprises to the hugely successful multinational brands), giving understanding of how they operate, and the impact this has.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The A Level Business Studies course focuses on how businesses work internally and how they are influenced by external factors. You will look at the variety of strategies that can be implemented that would help a business to successfully meet their objectives. During the delivery of the course we will be using a variety of different business contexts that include large/small, UK based/international, service based/manufacturing. Studies will include:

- the importance of the context of business in relation to decision making
- the interrelated nature of business activities and how they affect competitiveness
- key business functions: marketing, finance, human resources and production
- the competitive environment and the markets in which businesses operate
- the influences on functional decisions and plans including ethical and environmental issues
- the factors that might determine whether a decision is successful e.g. the quality of data and the degree of uncertainty
- how technology is changing the way decisions are made and how businesses operate and compete
- the impact on stakeholders of functional decisions and their response to such decisions
- use of non-quantitative and quantitative data in decision making (including the interpretation of index numbers and calculations such as ratios and percentages).

ASSESSMENT METHOD

There are three 2-hour exams, each focusing of different sections of the specification. These exams with include 2 different case studies (5 questions on each) with only 3 different command words used. Every single question will need to be applied to the context given through use of supporting evidence from the case studies.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Business Studies is a subject that offers enormous scope for future opportunities, relevant to students with any future ambitions. There are a wide range of university based Business Studies courses that develop your understanding of the whole subject, or just specific elements (marketing, finance, human resources) further. The transferable skills developed would be widely used studying other degree options. Some students will look at Business Studies apprenticeship opportunities, allowing them to develop their knowledge in specific work environments.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 4 in English Language GCSE.

COURSE EXPENSES

There are no compulsory costs, but the lesson delivery method will be based on the sharing of digital resources, so all students are encouraged to have access to a suitable device (laptop or tablet) that can be used during lessons.







CHEMISTRY

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MISS A UPTON

EXAM BOARD
OCR

Chemistry is known as the "central science" because it helps to connect physical sciences, like maths and physics, with applied sciences, like biology, medicine and engineering. Chemistry helps you to develop research, problem solving and analytical skills. It helps you to challenge ideas and to solve problems through logic and step by step reasoning. Chemistry often requires teamwork and communication skills too, which is great for building your confidence as well as preparing you for life beyond school. Our practical results can be ground-breaking, colourful, explosive, or almost impossible to see; anything is possible with an A level in chemistry.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Foundations in chemistry – Amount of substance, electrons, bonding and structure.
- Periodic table and energy – Periodicity, qualitative analysis and enthalpy changes.
- Core organic chemistry – Hydrocarbons, alcohols, haloalkanes and organic synthesis.
- Physical chemistry and transition elements – Reaction rates, equilibrium, pH, electrode potentials and transition elements.
- Organic chemistry and analysis – Aromatic compounds, Nitrogen compounds, synthesis and analytical techniques.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The course is assessed by three papers:

Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry (worth 37%)

Paper 2: Synthesis and Analytical Techniques (worth 37%)

Paper 3: Unified Chemistry (worth 26%)

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Chemistry is a highly regarded A level subject, it is essential for a number of careers including; medicine, veterinary, dentistry and pharmacology. It can also lead to an extensive range of other careers such as; chemistry, biochemistry, food science/nutrition, forensic science, biological/engineering careers, optical management, optometry, microbiology, natural sciences, software engineering and physiology, nursing, physiotherapy, radiography, paramedical courses, law and zoology.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6-6 or better in Combined Science OR 6 or better in Chemistry GCSE

6 or better in Maths GCSE

COURSE EXPENSES

Students will be expected to purchase the year 1 and year 2 textbooks.
There are some textbooks available for students to borrow if they are not able to buy them - please talk to staff about support available.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR P WILLIAMS

EXAM BOARD
OCR

Computer science is the study of computer systems, including: hardware and software components, algorithms and programming. You will learn the necessary skills to be a proficient programmer and solve real world problems using creative and innovative high-tech solutions. You will be taught logical thinking skills that will benefit your future studies at university and beyond, and you will also be better prepared for the increasing number of new and lucrative careers within the IT industry. If you want to work with cutting edge technology and be part of the digital revolution, then computer science is the right course for you.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Computer Systems:
Includes: the characteristics of processors, input, output and storage devices, software and software development, exchanging data, data types, data structures and legal, moral, ethical and cultural issues.

Algorithms and Programming:
Relates principally to problem solving skills and includes: understanding algorithms, elements of computational thinking and programming.

Programming Project:
A practical assessment involving a task that is chosen by the student and their teacher and is produced in a programming language of their choice. Students will work through their project according to the guidance in the specification and complete the following tasks: analysis of the problem, design of the solution, development of the solution and evaluation of the solution.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Two written exam papers

- **Paper 1:** Computer Systems – worth 40%
- **Paper 2:** Algorithms and Programming – worth 40%

One piece of coursework

- Programming Project – worth 20%

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

This qualification could aid progression onto a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) based degree courses. Computer Science combines well with subjects that benefit from a logical and systematic approach, and those with analytical, scientific & technological aspects.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

5 or better in Maths and IT GCSE.

COURSE EXPENSES

OCR AS and A Level Computer Science Textbook by PM Heathcote and RSU Heathcote (£30 RRP).

CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

QUALIFICATION
BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR P WILLIAMS

EXAM BOARD
PEARSON

If you are interested in a career in the media industry such as journalism, web design or digital content production, this varied and creative course is for you! Creative Digital Media balances the creativity and design of Media Studies with the technological construction and interactivity of Computing.

You will learn how to design and build a range of digital media products for the 21st century and develop skills that will make you a fantastic candidate for employment or higher education in the field of digital content production.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This qualification was developed in consultation with employers to ensure that it is closely linked to the skills you will need to work in the media industry. The content also prepares you for higher education by developing the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in a media or computing related degree course. You will complete five different units, which includes one practical exam and four coursework units. Each unit will introduce you to specialist areas of the industry and link with different jobs in the fields of computing and digital media. Within these units you will cover a variety of topics such as:

- Website design and production
- 2D digital graphics
- Digital photography and image manipulation
- Working with styles and creating layouts.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

- Unit 3 - Digital Media Skills. (20-hour practical examination)
- Unit 12 – Website Production. (60-hour Internally assessed controlled assessment)
- Unit 14 – Digital Magazine Production. (60-hour Internally assessed controlled assessment)
- Unit 27 – Digital Photography. (60-hour Internally assessed controlled assessment)
- Unit 28 – Image Manipulation. (60-hour Internally assessed controlled assessment)

You will produce a portfolio of work for each unit. In all cases, the portfolios will include phases of research, planning, production and evaluation/reflection.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

This qualification is perfectly designed to lead into an apprenticeship, employment or higher education in the media or digital content production industries. For example, potential careers could include:

- content producer
- designer
- researcher
- web co-ordinator
- photographer
- digital assistant
- games designer
- journalist

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Its desirable, but not a necessity to have a Grade 4 in English Language GCSE or 4 in Media Studies GCSE or 4 in a IT GCSE.

COURSE EXPENSES

There are no essential expenses in Creative Digital Media Production. All resources and equipment will be provided.

CRIMINOLOGY

QUALIFICATION
APPLIED LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MRS R BURRELL

EXAM BOARD
EDUQUAS

The study of Criminology is fascinating and is becoming increasingly popular. This course looks at the types of crime that take place within our society, how we decide which behaviour is criminal, how we explain why some people commit crime and how we can use different theories of criminality to explain this behaviour. You will study real life cases in order to gain an understanding of the criminal justice system from the crime scene all the way to the courtroom and look at how social control is achieved within our society.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

During the first year you will study two Certificate units. Within these units you will look at different types of crime and public perceptions of crime, gaining an understanding of why some crimes go unreported to the police and media. The second Certificate unit, through its focus on a series of criminological theories, also allows learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crimes.

During the second year of the course, the Diploma units will foster a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system and you will develop the skills needed to examine criminal cases and review verdicts. You'll look at the roles of personnel and processes involved from the moment a crime takes place until the verdict itself is passed. In the final unit, you will apply your knowledge of criminological theories to understand how and why we use punishment within the criminal justice system in order to achieve social control. You will learn how to evaluate the effectiveness of social control agencies, such as the police and prisons, in achieving their aims.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Unit 1 – Changing awareness of crime (internally assessed through 8-hour controlled assessment)

Unit 2 – Criminological theories (1 hour 30 minutes external examination)

Unit 3 – Crime scene to court room (internally assessed through 8-hour controlled assessment)

Unit 4 – Crime and punishment (1 hour 30 minutes external examination)

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Criminology can open the door to an array of career paths that require understanding of the criminal justice sector. These may include careers in the police force or in police support roles, the field of forensic psychology, social and probation work or the prison services.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

4 or better in English GCSE

COURSE EXPENSES

There is **no requirement** to purchase any books/revision guides as materials will be provided by your teacher, however if you do wish to buy something for your own personal use, speak to us so we can recommend the most up-to-date resources.).



DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MISS Z GABBIDON

EXAM BOARD
EDUQUAS

Drama centres around how we get our message or ideas across to others. Its principles apply far beyond the confines of a theatre to nearly every aspect of our lives. In Drama and Theatre Studies you will explore practice from leading practitioners as well as the greatest and most influential thinkers and creators of the last hundred years such as Stanislavski and Artaud and apply them to your own creative projects. Drama is creative, dynamic and challenging, making an ideal combination with a range of subjects from English to History to Media and Art, or as a mind-expanding contrasting discipline to Maths and science-based subjects.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course consists of three components: Theatre Workshop (20%), Text in Action (40%) and Text in Performance (40%).

You will cover a range of topics, exploring how others have developed and shaped ways to present theatre to an audience. This will be through practical exploration in the drama studios as well as written theory; you will develop a deep knowledge and understanding of more conventional styles such as naturalism and physical theatre as well as the exciting, sometimes bizarre and often hugely engrossing approaches of Artaud's 'Theatre of Cruelty' and hybrid styles such as those of Steven Berkoff. Some of the work will involve creating your own pieces of theatre; some will be about reading and interpreting plays by leading writers.

Studying this work will help you to see how theatre mirrors life in its complexity and the sheer wonder of the possibilities open to us. You will develop many of the skills you have learned through the study of Drama and English Literature GCSE but there is scope to bring in ideas and thinking from a wide range of other areas.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Component 1: Theatre Workshop (20%) is internally assessed, externally moderated and is completed at the end of Year 12.

Component 2: Text in Action (40%) is examined by an external examiner and is completed January of Year 13.

Component 3: Text in Performance (40%) is a written exam completed at the end of Year 13.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Studying Drama will open a range of opportunities and transferable skills for a variety of different careers including: actor, theatre director, lighting designer, costume designer, set designer, sound engineer, make-up artist, drama teacher, dancer, musical theatre performer, broadcast presenter, playwright, theatre critic, journalist, film director; as well as helping with business directors and managers as drama demands excellent communication and management skills.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

4 or better in Drama GCSE.

COURSE EXPENSES

There will be a number of theatre visits throughout the course. These visits are part of the course and will be the material on which critical appreciation responses are based for the written coursework in Component 2 and the written exam in Component 3. The price per visit will range, according to venue, from £12 to £35 and it is expected there will be at least two visits throughout the two years.

ECONOMICS

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR T CRASSWELLER

EXAM BOARD
AQA

Many of the highest paid careers – including Investment Banking, Business Consultancy and Finance in the City of London – are based on Economics. The Gryphon has sent many students to prestigious universities such as Cambridge and Bristol to do Economics. The subject will enable you to understand issues on the news such as the high price of vintage toys, our trade with Europe and why unemployment is at its lowest for decades. Economics values mathematical skills and written skills and so goes with a wide range of subjects; the two most popular choices with Economics are Maths and History but you could literally do it alongside either Arts like English or Sciences like Physics.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Microeconomics teaches you how to think analytically and use diagrams to illustrate issues. You might look at what determines house prices, how we could get people to use public transport more and how the government can nudge people into becoming organ donors! Macroeonomics covers the issues on the news like inflation, unemployment, economic growth and trade with other countries. An understanding of the economy like this is valuable in a wide range of careers from marketing to finance to journalism.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

There are three 2 hour exams. These include some multiple choice questions, some data response questions based on snippets of text and graphs and some open-ended essay questions.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

An article on the BBC website says "To earn more, study Economics or Medicine". Economists can go into well paid careers like Investment Banking, Stockbroking and Foreign exchange dealing. However, you also go into accountancy and finance, environmental consultancy, journalism or teaching at university or school.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students will need 6 or better in Maths GCSE and a 5 or better in English Language GCSE.

COURSE EXPENSES

There is nothing that students have to buy but many choose to buy textbooks costing up to £50. Lesson delivery methods will be based on the sharing of digital resources, so all students are encouraged to have access to a suitable device (laptop or tablet) that can be used during lessons.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MRS P BENDELL

EXAM BOARD
AQA

English Language is the study of how and why we communicate effectively. Our specification offers opportunities for students to develop their subject knowledge by exploring key language concepts and engaging with a range of different texts. The specification explores the study of English language both as a medium of communication, as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on the ability of students to explore existing research, analyse texts produced by others, and debate different views. Topic areas include language development; language and gender and how English has changed over the last 400 years.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Paper 1 (Language, the individual and society): two sections.

- Section A: Textual variations and representations - two questions on unseen texts (one contemporary and one older) and one question comparing the two texts.
- Section B: Language Development - a discursive essay on children's language development.

Paper 2 (Language diversity and change): two sections.

- Section A: Diversity and change – choice of two evaluative essays on either language diversity (gender, occupation, regional variation etc) or language change.
- Section B: Language discourses – two texts linked to diversity/change topic, one analysis question and one directed writing task linked to the same topic.

Non-exam assessment – a language investigation (2000 words) and a piece of original writing with a commentary totalling (1500 words in total – 750 words each).

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Paper 1: 2 hours 30 minutes each = 40% of A Level

Paper 2: 2 hours 30 minutes each = 40% of A Level

Language investigation & creative writing = 20% of A Level.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Studying English Language can lead to a wide variety of careers, including teaching, speech and language therapy, journalism, writing, marketing, PR, script writing, law, politics, research and the civil service. It can also indirectly support other careers by improving written and verbal communication, as well as referencing/research skills.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or better in English Language GCSE.

COURSE EXPENSES

There are no set texts for this course and there is no requirement to purchase any additional materials. However, a list of useful texts relating to the course - including suggestions for student textbooks, websites and wider reading - will be shared with students.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MRS P BENDELL

COURSE LEAD
MR R GLOSSOP

EXAM BOARD
AQA

This course encourages you to develop an enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender. It is an accessible and stimulating course in which you will engage with spoken and written texts from the 1500s through to modern literature. You will be challenged to produce and support your own arguments, both verbally and in your writing, developing transferable skills much valued by universities and employers. The texts we study have helped shape thought and culture; you will leave the course with a rich understanding of how literature has contributed to human identity.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

AQA Specification A's historicist approach to the study of literature rests upon reading texts within a shared context. Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, Specification A encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. Studying texts within a shared context enables students to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives. The process of making autonomous meaning, encouraging students to debate and challenge the interpretations of other readers as they develop their own informed personal responses. The course comprises three units:

1.) Love Through the Ages - One prose text – either Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë, The Great Gatsby, by F. Scott Fitzgerald or Atonement, by Ian McEwan; a Shakespeare play – Othello; Love through the Ages poetry anthology – pre or post 1900.

2.) Modern Literature - One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, by Ken Kesey; Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, by Tennessee Williams; Feminine Gospels, by Carol Ann Duffy.

3.) Texts Across Time - An extended comparative critical essay of 2500 words based on two texts of the student's own choosing.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

- **Paper 1** (40%): Love Through The Ages. Three questions based on Shakespeare, unseen poetry and comparing texts. The Shakespeare question will be a passage-based question with a linked essay. The unseen poetry question will be on two unseen poems. The comparison question will require the linking of two texts.
- **Paper 2** (40%): Modern Literature. Three questions based on a set text, an unseen extract and an essay question linking two texts.
- Non-exam assessment (20%): an extended essay of 2500 words.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Employers value English Literature at A Level and degree level as a rigorous academic course which proves graduates are good communicators, who can think and write analytically. English Literature graduates end up in careers as diverse as law, finance, psychology, human resources, sales and a huge range of public sector jobs, as well as the more obvious careers in writing, publishing, teaching/lecturing, media, advertising and public relations. Ultimately, any role which requires strong communication skills and a good understanding of people will be a possibility for an English graduate.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in English Literature (and ideally also in Language).

COURSE EXPENSES

Texts are not provided at A level, and the approximate cost of these will be £35. We will offer theatre trips, when available, and recommend all students to take advantage of these.



EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

QUALIFICATION
LEVEL 3 QUALIFICATION

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR C SMITH

EXAM BOARD
AQA

The Extended Project Qualification is offered to students in the spring term of Year 12. It is an independent project carried out on a topic completely of your own choice

IT WILL HELP YOU:

- Develop and improve your own learning and performance as a critical, reflective and independent learner.
- Develop and apply decision-making and, where appropriate, problem-solving skills.
- Extend your planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills.
- Develop, where appropriate, as an e-confident learner and apply new technologies in your studies.
- Develop and apply skills creatively, demonstrating initiative and enterprise.
- Use your learning experiences to support your personal aspirations for higher education and career development.

What do I do?

- Choose a topic to study
- Complete a production log to document the project process
- Plan, research and carry out your project
- Prepare a presentation

ASSESSMENT METHOD

You will start the process (devising a question in May of Year 12) and complete your research over the summer holidays and early part of Year 13, producing the final document and presentation by the February half term of Year 13 at the latest

- You will have regular timetable meetings with your supervisor to discuss your progress and development.
- You will be in a small group with an allocated teacher, who will guide and supervise you through the process. The format is as above but the presentation will probably be in front of your peers in your teaching group
- You have to produce a written report on your findings of 5000 words or create an artefact and 1000 word written report. This report/artefact is then assessed by your supervisor who grades it.
- You will also present your findings to a non-specialist group and take questions on your project. Assessed again by your supervisor.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal entry requirements for this course. You will be invited to submit a proposal form in the spring term.

COURSE EXPENSES

There are no expenses associated with this qualification.

FILM STUDIES

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MISS M BARNES

EXAM BOARD
EDUQUAS

Film is a primary source of entertainment but also a mirror that reflects the way society evolves. It is constantly changing, both in terms of how it is made and how we access it. Understanding film will help you to understand the world around you (people, places, cultures, time periods, technology and more); through analysing the construction of films, you will learn to look at and respond to films differently. If you love watching films, analysing texts and challenging yourself, this is the course for you. It balances academic challenge, creativity and genuinely fascinating content to develop a range of skills required to succeed in any career path.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course is based on an understanding of the core elements of film; film form, aesthetics, meanings and responses, contexts, as well as looking at specialist film areas such as spectatorship, ideology, narrative and auteur.

You will cover a range of topics related to different film industries from around the world. You will explore the history of Hollywood and compare this with American independent films as well as historical and contemporary British films. You will also study a number of cinematic 'new waves', including the silent era and European film, as well as short and documentary films. This work will consist of in-depth, analytical and often comparative case studies. Having watched a film, we will research, discuss, analyse, compare and write about it. This work develops many of the skills that you will have learned through the study of English Literature and English Language GCSE as you will need to explore each film text in detail in the exams.

The coursework is an opportunity for you to flex your creative muscles by applying what you have learned about different types of film to a project of your own. You will write an original screenplay for a short film as well as produce a digital storyboard to accompany it. This work will test your technical skills as well as your imaginative ideas. Your practical work will also be accompanied by a detailed analytical evaluation.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Two exam papers:

- Varieties of Film and Filmmaking (35%)
- Global Filmmaking Perspectives (35%)

Coursework:

- A screenplay and storyboard plus an evaluative analysis (30%)

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Filmmaking, Film Production, Costume & Set Design, Screenwriting, Photography, Theatre & Performing Arts, Journalism, Marketing, Public Relations, Events, Advertising.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.

COURSE EXPENSES

There are no essential expenses in Film Studies. However, we do run trips and encourage students to watch as many films as possible.

FRENCH

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR L LAUNO

EXAM BOARD
AQA

French is the first or second language in more than 40 countries and is spoken by 175 million people around the world. Studying French at A Level is the natural way to further your knowledge enabling you to use it in its spoken and written form and acquire an insight into how language is learnt. You will also gain considerable contacts with and insight into the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of the countries where French is spoken.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Aspects of French speaking society – current trends: the changing nature of family, the 'cyber-society', the place of voluntary work

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world: cultural heritage, contemporary Francophone music, cinema: the 7th art form

Aspects of French speaking society – current issues: positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised, how criminals are treated

Aspects of political life in the French speaking world: teenagers – the right to vote and political engagement, demonstrations and strikes – who holds the power?, politics and immigration

Film Study – La Haine

Book Study – No et Moi

The film and book study are subject to change depending on teaching staff.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Two written papers and an oral exam.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing – 50%

Paper 2: Essay Writing based on the study of a book and a film – 20%

Paper 3: Speaking exam based on an Independent Research Project – 30 %

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

There are a wide range of occupations in which students can use French for example; journalism, business, tourism, government services, teaching, engineering, marketing, law and the Armed Forces. A language A Level can be a fantastic asset in any job, it can open up the opportunity to travel with work and make you more employable!

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE French.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR A SHAW

EXAM BOARD
EDEXCEL

Students hoping to follow a university course in mathematics or any mathematically related subject should seriously consider taking Further Mathematics. Some universities are now making this a requirement for entry on to their mathematics courses. Studying mathematics to a higher level will prove hugely beneficial in any case, even if it is not a requirement. Further Mathematics students are able to experience all the applied branches of mathematics. Further Mathematics A-Level is a qualification for students with a real passion to study Mathematics at a higher level or to support other mathematically heavy courses such as Physics, Engineering or Economics.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The Further Maths course must be studied in addition to the Mathematics A-Level course, as such it is generally accepted as a fourth option choice if you wish.

The content of the course includes:

Further Pure Mathematics
Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions and Differential equations

Even More Further Pure Mathematics
Further calculus, Further differential equations, Coordinate systems, Further vectors, Further numerical methods, Inequalities

Further Statistics
Linear regression, Statistical distributions (discrete), Statistical distributions (continuous), Correlation, Hypothesis testing, Chi squared tests

Further Mechanics
Momentum and impulse, Collisions, Centres of mass, Work and energy, Elastic strings and springs

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The course is assessed entirely at the end of year 13, with four exam papers in total.

Paper 1 – Core Pure Mathematics 1 (1hr 30 paper, 75marks)

Paper 2 – Core Pure Mathematics 2 (1hr 30 paper, 75marks)

Paper 3 – Further Mathematics Option 1 (1hr 30 paper, 75marks)

Paper 4 – Further Mathematics Option 2 (1hr 30 paper, 75marks)

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Further mathematics and mathematics are versatile qualifications, well respected by employers and are facilitating subjects for entry to higher education. Careers for men and women with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also highly interesting and rewarding. People who have studied further mathematics are in the fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career. Whilst the number of young people studying A level and Further Mathematics is increasing, there is still a huge demand from science, engineering and manufacturing employers.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The entry requirement for the Further Maths A Level course is a grade 7 at GCSE; students are expected to be particularly competent at algebra.

COURSE EXPENSES

Students can place a £40 deposit to order the syllabus textbooks.

GEOGRAPHY

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR N WOODVILLE

EXAM BOARD
EDEXCEL

Geography is the study of the world and the numerous interactions between physical and human processes. There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degredation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most contemporary and relevant courses you could choose to study. Whatever your passion for the world – fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality – geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you towards a breadth of opportunities in further education and employment.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Physical geography
Dynamic landscapes; tectonic processes and hazards and coastal landscapes
Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
Carbon Cycle

Human geography
Dynamic places; globalisation and shaping places, and a study of how places are regenerated.
Energy Security, Global Development and Migration, Identity and Sovereignty.
Superpowers

Part of the work on coastal landscapes and regenerating places will involve Geographical investigations where fieldwork is essential. You will also have to complete an Independent Investigation using fieldwork data collected during our compulsory fieldtrip in the summer of Year 12.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Three written papers

Paper 1: Physical Geography – worth 30%

Paper 2: Human Geography – worth 30%

Paper 3: Synoptic paper investigating about a geographical issue with a resource booklet – worth 20%

You will complete a piece of coursework which is worth 20%; based upon an Independent Investigation of a topic from the Units we have covered.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Geography offers a range of transferable skills and Geography or related studies at University can lead to a wide variety of careers including: Coastal engineer, Expedition leader, GIS specialist, Travel writer, Conservation work, Architect, Weather forecasting, Management consultant, Cartographer, Aid worker, Surveyor, Hazard management, Environmental consultant, Journalist, Researcher, Pollution analyst

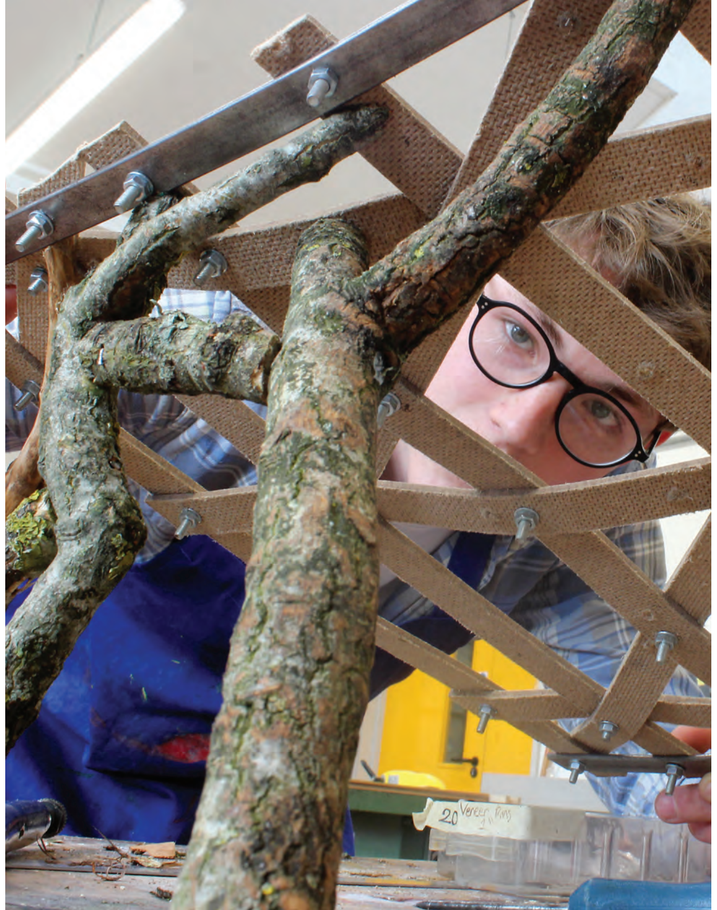
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in Geography.

COURSE EXPENSES

Students will be required to purchase a textbook costing approximately **£23**. We also recommend optional workbooks and revision guides, each priced at **£6**.
there will be a 2 single **day trips to Swanage and Studland**, including an **evening meal**, at a total cost of **£40**.
We **strongly recommend** that students use their **own device**, such as a **tablet with stylus** or a **laptop**, to support learning through **OneNote** and **Microsoft Teams**.









QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR R HARRIS

EXAM BOARD
EDEXCEL

HISTORY

History is an exploration of the past in which the lessons and themes discovered can be applied to situations both today and the future as well. It is the narrative of epic struggles; of influencial individuals; of pressure from the masses. History is understanding the complex interactions that have created the world we have inherited. By examining this light from within the distant darkness, not only does our knowledge of the past grow but so does the knowledge of ourselves. It may be an academic discipline, but it is a fascinating tale as well; a story worth learning.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Russia from Lenin to Yeltsin: A thematic look at the government; economy; social impact and cultural significance from the October Revolution to the collapse of the Soviet Union. The module charts the process by which the hope of a new society is relentlessly supressed, controlled and terrorised. A special section explores the reasons for its eventual disintegration.

The GDR: Echoing the themes of the Russian module, this is an examination of the life of East Germany during the Cold War period. Students will cover the detail of how the state was created, before studying how its totalitarian nature dictated every aspect of life in an artifical country which needed to build a wall to keep its own citizens in.

America 1918-1970: An individual piece of coursework in which the student investigates a topic on America, by analysing three historians' views on it. With topics ranging from Prohibition to McCarthyism; or the New Deal to Civil Rights, there is a real opportunity to focus on your own particular interests. It is a study in which the very nature of history is evaluated.

Britain : Losing and Gaining an Empire 1789-1914: A topic that looks both thematically and in depth studies how Britain almost lost its Empire in the American War of Independence, but through its navy and trade links managed to retain control in countries as diverse as Australia and Egypt; Canada and India. It enlightens the student on a controversial but integral part of Britain's history.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Three written papers are taken at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Russia – worth 30%

Paper 2: GDR – worth 20%

Paper 3: Britain : Losing and Gaining an Empire – worth 30%

The coursework on America, completed in Year13, is worth 20% and is written independently by the student under their own circumstances.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

The study of history can lead directly to careers in many professional fields such as law, academia, politics, business, or journalism. More importantly the skills developed, such as analysis, evaluation and the ability to comprehend and manipulate complex information, help create confident independent learners able to adapt to any career options, or even invent their own.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 5 at GCSE History.

LAW

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MRS R BURRELL

EXAM BOARD
AQA

Studying Law gives students an understanding of the role of Law in today's society and raises their awareness of the rights and responsibilities of individuals. By learning about legal rules and how and why they apply to real life, students also develop their analytical ability, decision making, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. All these skills are highly sought after by higher education and employers. This course has been created with help from teachers and subject experts and includes new and interesting case studies and theories to keep content fresh, relevant and engaging.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course focuses on three substantive areas of law in addition to a focus on the English legal system and concepts of law.

Criminal Law:
Usually a firm favourite of our students, this substantive area of law gives an in depth look at the criminal law in the UK. It focuses on elements of liability, fatal and non-fatal offences against the person, property offences, preliminary offences and defences to crimes.

Tort Law:
Tort law is a complex area of law and students will learn about the rules and principles concerning liability and fault in actions for negligence, occupier's liability, nuisance and vicarious liability.

Contract Law:
This is a topic that helps you to understand your rights in any contractual situation – it supports understanding of the essential requirements of a legally binding contract, contractual terms, vitiating factors, discharge of a contract and remedies for a successful claim.

The Nature of Law and the English Legal System:
This is a topic that appears across all three papers and involves understanding the important differences between criminal and civil law. It also focuses on the role law plays in society, the distinction between law and morality, the meaning of justice and the extent to which justice is achieved through law.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The full course title is AQA A Level Law (7162) which is comprised of three separate units. The exam for each unit will be worth 100 marks and represents 33.3% of the total marks for A Level. These exams will take the form of externally assessed written papers lasting 2 hours each.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Law can lead to a number of exciting career opportunities, most often within the legal profession. However this course also supports students who wish to access legal apprenticeships or complete the CILEX route into law. This course provides students with many transferrable skills that can support them in a multitude of different career paths.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in English Language.



MATHEMATICS

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR A SHAW

EXAM BOARD
EDEXCEL

Just look around. Some of civilisation's most prized and proud achievements are wholly reliant on mathematics. Planes flying seamlessly through the air, high availability of complex medicines, even the computer you use: all of these increasingly vital commodities rely on the use and study of numbers. If you are to stop and think for just a few minutes it becomes inescapably clear that mathematics is pretty well inseparable from life as we know it.

Mathematics A-Level is a qualification for students who wish to study Mathematics to a higher level or to support other mathematically heavy courses such as Physics, Engineering or Economics and Social Sciences.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The content of the course is:

Pure Mathematics
Proof
Algebra and functions
Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane
Sequences and series
Trigonometry
Exponentials and logarithms
Differentiation
Integration
Vectors
Numerical methods

Statistics
Statistical sampling
Data presentation and interpretation
Probability
Statistical distributions
Statistical hypothesis testing

Mechanics
Quantities and units in mechanics
Kinematics
Forces and Newton's laws
Moments

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The course is assessed entirely at the end of year 13, with three exam papers in total. Two thirds of the content is pure mathematics, with the remaining one third of the content being Applied Mathematics (Statistics AND Mechanics)

Paper 1 – Pure Mathematics 1
(2hr paper, 100marks)

Paper 2 – Pure Mathematics 2
(2hr paper, 100marks)

Paper 3 – Statistics and Mechanics
(2hr paper, 100 marks)

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Mathematics is a versatile qualification, well respected by employers and a facilitating subject for entry to higher education. Careers for men and women with good mathematics skills and qualifications are not only well paid, but they are also highly interesting and rewarding. People who have studied mathematics are in the fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career. Whilst the number of young people studying A level Mathematics is increasing, there is still a huge demand from science, engineering and manufacturing employers.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

COURSE EXPENSES

Students can place a £40 deposit to order the syllabus textbooks.

MATHS LEVEL 3 AWARD

QUALIFICATION
LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR A SHAW

EXAM BOARD
OCR

"Why do I need to know this?"

Have you ever asked that in a Maths lesson?

Do you want to learn the maths that people use every day in businesses and universities around the world?
Study Core Maths!

The NEW Level 3 Certificate in Quantitative Problem Solving is designed to enable learners to strengthen and develop the mathematical knowledge and skills they have learnt at GCSE so that they can apply them to the problems that they will encounter in their other Level 3 courses, further study, life and employment.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

All students will study some Quantitative Reasoning and Statistical Problem Solving.

In Quantitative Reasoning, learners are taught to use a modelling cycle, a statistical problem solving cycle and a financial problem solving cycle. They are also taught to use spreadsheets to work on a variety of problems.

Quantitative Reasoning includes the following content:

- Use of spreadsheets
- Modelling and estimation
- Statistical problem solving - mainly with GCSE techniques
- Financial problem solving - including percentages and foreign exchange
- Exponential growth, standard form, logarithmic scales on graphs
- Graphs and gradient as rate of change
- Probability and risk

Statistical Problem Solving is particularly suitable for future students of psychology, geography and other subjects which make extensive use of statistical techniques. By extending your understanding of statistical problem solving, you will develop a powerful and confident approach to working with real data and interpreting your results.

In Statistical Problem Solving, learners use spreadsheets and the statistical problem solving cycle to analyse authentic statistical problems arising from a variety of work, life and study related contexts. They are introduced to more sophisticated statistical techniques and so are able to address a wider range of problems. Learners are expected to work with large, real data sets during the course and familiarity with the contexts involved in one such data set will be expected in the examination.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Core Maths is taught over 1 year and is assessed in May of Year 12.

The course will be assessed through two equally weighted examinations at the end of Year 12. Each examination is 2 hours long and a calculator may be used.

Paper 1: (72 marks) will assess
QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Paper 2: (60 marks) will assess
STATISTICAL PROBLEM SOLVING

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Being the same size as an old AS level qualification, you do achieve UCAS points equivalent to half an A Level. However, the true value of this course lies in the skills you learn. Being able to competently use a spreadsheet, interpret statistics and do some maths that your peers have forgotten from GCSE will make you more attractive to both universities and employers.

It marries perfectly with the study of any physical, natural or social science at A Level and beyond.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

4 or better in Maths GCSE.

MUSIC

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR V MIZEN

EXAM BOARD
EDUQUAS

If you have a long-established love of music then you would enjoy studying Music at A level. A level Music will let you access a variety of higher-education options: the practical performance & composition elements of the course open up opportunities for studying at music college or university (such as jazz, classical, performing arts: musical theatre / opera). The study & analysis of the stylistic conventions & historical contexts of a wide variety of engaging A level Set Works & their related Areas of Study opens up opportunities for studying musicology at university.

WHAT WILL I STUDY? THREE COMPONENTS IN ALL

Component 1 Performing:
You will develop your skills as either a soloist, within an ensemble or both in relation to at least two Areas from: Western Classical Tradition, Rock & Pop, Musical Theatre, Jazz, Into the 20th Century, Into the 21st Century.

Component 2 Composing:
You will use music technology to develop your skills to compose at least two pieces that reflect the stylistic conventions of at least TWO different Areas chosen from: Western Classical Tradition AND ONE of: Rock & Pop, Musical Theatre, Jazz, Into 20th Century, Into 21st Century.

Component 3 Listening & Understanding
You will develop your ability to identify, analyse, evaluate & compare stylistic musical features & conventions & place these within their historical context through an understanding of the dimensions of music, musical devices & score/notation-reading/dictation skills
You will study the stylistic conventions of THREE contrasting Areas of Study through the in-depth analysis of FOUR specific Set Works & stylistically / contextually representative works for each:

- Area of Study A = Western Classical Tradition 1750-1900 / The 'Development of the Symphony'
- Area of Study D = The Development of JAZZ - 1920-1960
- Area of Study E = Into the 20th Century

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Two choices of assessment weighting / combination on offer for the practical coursework components:

- **Option A: 10-12** mins
  Recital **35%**
  AND **two** *Compositions* **25%**
  (108 & 72 marks)

OR

- **Option B**: **6-8** mins
  Performance **25%**
  AND **three** *Compositions* **35%**
  (72 & 108 marks)

Your understanding of the Areas of Study Set Works & of related stylsitic conventions & historical context will be assessed *externally* via CD-led *listening exam & written paper* in June at the end of year 13.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Careers in music could include: Professional Musician / Performer / Artist (classica/jazz/pop/rock), Professional Composer (film/television/gaming), MD / Conductor, Music Therapist, Sound Engineer, , Musicologist, Arts / Artist / Orchestra / Studio / Record label / Concerts & Events Manager, Sound Recording Engineer, Peripatetic instrumental teacher, record company Talent Scout, Music Agent, Specialist secondary school music teacher , Music Retailer, Record Producer, Club DJ, Song Writer.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or better in Music GCSE.

COURSE EXPENSES

On-going instrumental lessons (internally or externally) are not only highly recommended, but essential at this level, since the performance aspects tend to have a crucial bearing on course results.

- Guide price for such instrumental / vocal lessons is c.£12.00 per 20 minute-lesson & c.£18.00 per 30-minute lesson, of which there are 32 lessons provided over the year.

PHOTOGRAPHY

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR N WHITE

EXAM BOARD
EDUQAS

This course has been developed to allow students to actively experience a range of photographic processes and contexts. You may be contemplating a career in advertising, media, film and television, publishing, architecture, graphics, museum and exhibition work, theatre design, interior design, art galleries, jewelry, fashion, photography, textiles or teaching Art and Design. This course is a good basis for Further/Higher Education leading to a wide variety of careers in the Art and Design sector, specialising in photography and photographic concepts.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

We will present and develop your understanding of a number of areas of photography such as portraiture, landscape photography, still life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, fashion photography, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation and more.

As the course progresses we will develop your ability to explore elements of visual language including line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of Photography, as well as your awareness of intended audience or purpose for your chosen area(s).

We will examine elements such as appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement, appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting, understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

There is synoptic assessment in both components of the A Level that provide stretch and challenge opportunities.

Unit 1: You will develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with contemporary or past practice of artists, designers, photographers or craftspeople and include written work of between 1000 and 2000 words.

Unit 2: You will respond to an exam question provided by Eduqas, producing work that demonstrates your ability to work independently within specified time constraints and develop a personal and meaningful response.

Unit 1: Portfolio (60% of A Level)

Unit 2: Externally set assignment (40% of A Level)

All units are internally assessed by teachers and moderated by the exam board.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Photography can be a launchpad into many career areas including Graphic Designer, Magazine Features Editor, Medical Illustrator, Photographer, Press Photographer, Television Camera Operator, Advertising Art Director, Digital Marketer, Film Director, Film/Video Editor, Media Planner, Multimedia Specialist, Visual Merchandiser, Web Content Manager and Web Designer.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

4 or better in Art GCSE.

COURSE EXPENSES

Students are expected to purchase their own 4GB SD card (minimum recommended size) to bring to photography lessons.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR A CUMMINGS

EXAM BOARD
AQA

Never has the study of sport and exercise science been as important as it is today, especially after the success of Team GB in the Olympics. Sport has now become a major business where there is a demand for sports scientists, experts in biomechanics, sports psychologists, and nutritionists. This is a fascinating and absorbing subject, which will deepen your interest and allow you to explore three different areas surrounding the world of sport.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Over the two-year course students will be taught by three different teachers who focus on Anatomy and Physiology, Skill Acquisition and Sport in Society. Students will be learning in a classroom environment where they will explore how the theory can be applied to a sporting situation.

In addition to this, students will need to undertake a practical role, which they will be assessed on. This will contribute towards the overall A Level qualification allowing students to demonstrate their skills in a chosen activity in a fully competitive situation.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Skill Acquisition
- Sport and Society

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

- Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics
- Sports Psychology
- Sport and Society and Technology in Sport

For both papers the exam length is 2 hours and marks available 105.

It also involves a practical performance and written project – 'Optimising Practical Performance in a Competitive Situation' and then analysing it to suggest improvements. (Practical and Written Coursework)

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Studying Physical Education and Sport at A Level will set you up to study Sports Sciences, Sports Nutrition, Sports Physiotherapy or Sports Development at University, as well as many others. It will also allow you to continue on to employment in the forces or leisure industry.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A merit or better in BTEC Sport exam or 6 in GCSE PE.

5 or better in Combined Science or Biology GCSE.

Currently playing regular sport and performing in competitive competitions/leagues for a club.

COURSE EXPENSES

We are encouraging all students to purchase a revision guide, costing approximately £20, to support the course. There is also an A Level Textbook available which costs approximately £40.00 that students may wish to purchase. This will assist with key theoretical concepts covered in the 3 areas of the course.

PHYSICS

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR C DAVIES

EXAM BOARD
AQA

You might be fascinated by the universe or you might want to understand the ideas that power modern technology and engineering. If you enjoy solving problems and learning how to apply abstract ideas to a wide range of situations, physics has a lot to offer you. And with new discoveries being made on a regular basis, doesn't it sound appealing to be studying a subject that is constantly challenging our views of how our universe functions and our place within it?

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 12:

- Section 1: Measurements and their errors
- Section 2: Particles and radiation
- Section 3: Waves
- Section 4: Mechanics and materials
- Section 5: Electricity.

Year 13:

- Section 6: Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Section 7: Fields and their consequences
- Section 8: Nuclear physics
- Section 9: Astrophysics

ASSESSMENT METHOD

A level Physics is now a 2 year, linear course, where you will be assessed on all material at the end of Year 13.

- **Paper 1** will consist of 85 marks from topics 1-6 and will include 60 marks on long and short answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions. 34% of A level.
- **Paper 2** will consist of 85 marks from topics 6-8 and will include 60 marks on long and short answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions. 34% of A level.
- **Paper 3** will consist of 80 marks with 45 marks based on practical skills and data analysis and 35 marks from the optional topic consisting of long and short answer questions.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Physics A level is a subject that looks very impressive to Universities and employers and it will lead to a wider range of courses and careers. These could be from a Higher National program (HNC and HND) to degree level (BSc and MSc) in courses ranging from Physics, the Sciences and Medicine to Computing and Engineering. Employment could range from Radiography, Biotechnology, Automotive Engineering and the Navy to Computer Design and Alternative Energy.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6-6 or better in Combined Science
OR 6 or better in Physics GCSE
6 or better in Maths GCSE\

COURSE EXPENSES

£11.50 for textbook which is purchased through school.




Sociology



PSYCHOLOGY

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR K SIMMONS

EXAM BOARD
AQA

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. There is huge variety in what we study, and therefore it is a subject that really can cater to anyone, whatever their individual strengths and interests are. Psychology is a unique subject in that is focused exclusively on understanding more about ourselves, and is a fantastic option for students wanting to understand more about themselves and the world around them. Studying Psychology doesn't just give you an in depth understanding of human behaviour, but also allows you to develop skills such as data interpretation, empathy and critical thinking which are essential for the majority of professions. We offer a highly structured course, tailored to ensure students assimilate knowledge, with practical opportunities to conduct real life human research. If you are an inquisitive individual motivated to gain a fuller understanding of human behaviour then this is the course for you.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Throughout your two years on the course you will study a variety of topics, with a foundation of knowledge established at the start of Year 12. We commence with a focus on understanding different Approaches in Psychology, understanding the different ways we can understand human behaviour. This covers a wide range of approaches, including biological approaches, focusing on genetic and neural explanations, to psychodyanmic approaches, focusing on psychosexual development and the issue of unresolved childhood conflicts. Alongside this we focus on Research Methods, gaining a solid foundation of skills and understanding of statistics, the process of conducting human research, and appreciating the importance of ethical guidelines.

Following on from this, and utlising the knowledge and skills developed, we go on to explore key topics such as Memory, Social Influence, Clinical Psychology and Mental Health, Human Attachment, and later in Year 13 also Issues and Debates in Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Human Relationships and in depth exploration of Schizophrenia.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Three written exams:

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (2 hours)

Paper 2: Psychology in Context (2 hours)

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (2 hours)

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Psychology is an A Level appreciated by top Universities including Oxbridge and Russell Group ones. Psychology has relevance to almost all courses and professions that involve any exploration of or interactions with humans, and our students go on to study a variety of subjects, and take up an ecletic mix of jobs utilising the skills and knowledge they have developed during their studies.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics

Grade 4 in GCSE Science/Biology

COURSE EXPENSES

Online Textbook Access provided. Revision Guide optional at a cost of £12.99

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MISS L PITTARD

EXAM BOARD
OCR

Religious Studies is the study of humanity, it examines what motivates us, what influences us and how we understand and make sense of the world around us. It also explores the big questions: Where do we come from? Why are we here? What makes us act the way we do and how should we act in the future?

Studying Religious Studies not only gives you the skills to debate, critically evaluate, construct an argument and to develop university level essay writing skills, it will also change your view on life, society and the world.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

In Ethics we will explore ethical theories such as Utilitarianism and the implications of ethics in the modern world, including business ethics, euthanasia and sexual ethics. Whilst in Philosophy we will explore the concept of knowledge, and question the very nature of God and reality, through ancient greek scholars to modern views on religious experiences. Our third topic, developments in Christian Thought will focus on the sociology and psychology of religion from the origins of belief to feminism and theology.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The full course title is 'OCR A Level Religious Studies (H573) which is comprised of three separate units:

- H573/01 Philosophy of Religion
- H573/02 Religious Ethics
- H573/03 Developments in Christian thought

The exam for each component will be worth 120 marks and represents 33.3% of the total marks for A Level. These exams will take the form of externally assessed written papers lasting 2 hours each.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

This subject will give you an opportunity to develop your analytical thinking. It links well with most subjects because it teaches you transferable skills and is a popular subject particularly for those considering a career in medicine, law, human relations, teaching and working in the charity sector. Students have found that the skills taught help them when applying for courses as far ranging as the Armed Forces and retail.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or better in English Language and (if studied) RE GCSE.

SOCIOLOGY

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MISS L PITTARD

EXAM BOARD
AQA

Sociology is the study of society and its institutions (families, media, educational, criminal, religious and political). It investigates how people create society through their relationships and the ways in which society shapes people's behaviour and ideas.

Sociology is a critical subject because it avoids obvious or common sense explanations of human activity, such as changes in divorce, crime, education, searching instead for explanations at a deeper level using sociological research to form evidence based opinions.

Ever wondered why the world is the way it is? Sociology could be for you.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 1

- Families and Households, Crime and Deviance, Research Methods

Year 2

- Education with Methods in Context, Media, Sociological Theory

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Students will sit three two-hour written examinations.

Paper 1: Education with theory and methods – 2 hours (33% of A level)

Paper 2: Topics in sociology – 2 hours – Families and Media (33% of A level)

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and methods 2 hours (33% of A level)

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Sociology is a very thought-provoking subject whose usefulness covers a wide variety of situations – academic, social, business and welfare. It is a valuable asset in many careers such as personnel, business, marketing, market research, management, politics, advertising, probation, teaching, the police force, nursing, social and welfare services and journalism.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

4 in English Language GCSE.

COURSE EXPENSES

You may want to purchase a course text book in Year 1 and 2.

SPANISH

QUALIFICATION
A LEVEL

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR L LAUNO

EXAM BOARD
AQA

Spanish is the official language in 20 countries and spoken in more than 30. Studying Spanish at A level is the natural way to further your knowledge, enabling you to use it in its spoken and written form and acquire an insight into how language is learnt. You will also gain considerable contacts with and insight into the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of the countries where Spanish is spoken. Spanish is also the perfect companion to a range of other subjects.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Aspects of Spanish speaking society: traditional and modern values, cyberspace, gender equality

Artistic culture in the Spanish-speaking world: the influence of idols, regional identity, cultural heritage

Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society: immigration, racism, integration

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world: today's youth, tomorrow's citizens, monarchies and dictatorships, popular movements

Film Study – Volver

Book Study – Como agua para chocolate – Laura Esquivel

The film and book study are subject to change depending on teaching staff.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Two written papers and an oral exam.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing – 50%

Paper 2: Essay Writing based on the study of a book and a film – 20%

Paper 3: Speaking exam based on an Independent Research Project – 30%

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

There are a wide range of occupations in which students can use Spanish for example; journalism, business, tourism, government services, teaching, engineering, marketing, law and the Armed Forces. A language A Level can be a fantastic asset in any job, it can open up the opportunity to travel with work and make you more employable!

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.

QUALIFICATION
BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
MR A CUMMINGS

EXAM BOARD
PEARSON

SPORT BTEC

The BTEC Sport course is a Level 3 vocational based qualification where students gain knowledge and understanding of the different areas within the sports industry. Pupils will be equipped with the skills to go directly into employment such as sports coaching, fitness training and other sports-based occupations. Students will need to be organised and manage their time effectively as the course involves both coursework and examinations.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Over the two-year course pupils will study four main units.

- Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health and Well Being
- Unit 3 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- Unit 4 – Sports Leadership

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Unit 1 is assessed through a 2-hour written paper, which is set and marked by the exam board. This will take place in the summer exam series.

Unit 2 is assessed through a 2-hour written task, which is set and marked by the exam board. This will take place in the summer exam series.

Unit 3 is assessed through assignments, which are set and marked by the School.

Unit 4 is assessed through assignments, which are set and marked by the School.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

Studying BTEC Sport will set you up to study Sports Sciences, Sports Nutrition, Sports Physiotherapy or Sports Development at University, as well as many others. It will also allow you to continue on to employment in the forces or leisure industry.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no specific requirements for this course but an enthusiastic interest in the subject and a commitment to conscientious study will bring success

Student profiles >



My name is **Anamika** and I'm studying Biology, Psychology and Sport Studies. I've been at the Gryphon since Year 7, and I chose to come to the sixth form as I believed it to be the best school that gave us independence but also support and guidance from the many teachers. The academic success the gryphon has always maintained, combined with their support, gave me the confidence that I would be able to achieve my goals. The wide range of opportunities the Gryphon provides us, in and out the school, has always inspired me to step outside my comfort zone, setting me up for a successful future, not only academically, but also socially. There are countless ways to get involved here, from extracurricular activities to qualifications like DofE, which help many students become more independent and confident in themselves.



My name is **Violet** and I joined from Ansford Academy. I study Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. I chose the Gryphon sixth form due to its reputation for academic success, driven by hard work. The school is deeply committed to supporting personal development inside and outside the classroom; offering a broad variety of super curriculars that empower individuals to pursue their unique academic passions, for me that was Chemistry symposium.

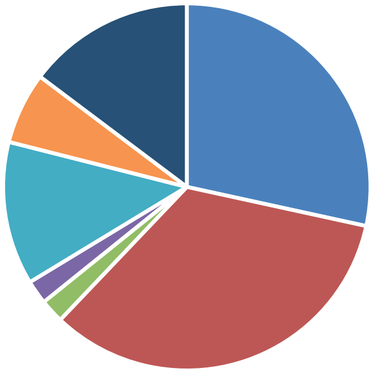


My name is **Jairo** and I joined as an external student from Westfield Academy. I am studying Law, Spanish, and Ancient History. I initially chose Gryphon Sixth Form due to their academic focused working environment, and because of the continuous support given through my A levels in lessons, along with the system assisting in applying to university - a significant factor in contributing to my career ambitions. Other than building strong friendships, I have been able to participate in extracurricular activities too, like Model UN and completing different MOOCs.



My name is **Frederick** and I study Physics, Digital Media and Criminology. I joined the Gryphon in Year 9 and chose to stay in the sixth form because I felt the sixth form helps to prepare me for life outside of school with key skills that enable me to become an independent individual. With support of teachers I feel confident to make decisions and take responsibility for my learning. I have felt encouraged to aim high and have lots of opportunity to develop the skills to be able to do so. The resources and facilities have helped be to grow with my studies and as a person, so far I am really enjoying my time in the Sixth form.

Destinations of leavers>





I'm **Tom**, and during my time at Gryphon Sixth Form I studied Physical Education & Sport, Geography, Biology, and completed an EPQ, achieving A*, A*, A, and A*.

I joined the Gryphon in Year 7 and stayed through to the end of Sixth Form, leaving in 2021. Throughout my time at the school, I felt consistently supported—both academically and personally. It was an environment that encouraged me to stretch myself and grow. When it came to deciding on next steps, the support I received was exceptional, helping me feel confident in the path I chose.

After leaving, I accepted an offer to study Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Bath. My time there has exceeded expectations. The university has deepened my academic passion for sport through its world-leading Sport and Exercise Science programme, while also allowing me to play football at the highest university level, supported by elite facilities. Last year, I completed a professional placement with Southampton Football Club as a Performance Analyst. The role took me around the UK and Europe, delivering tactical analysis for a Premier League club—a demanding but hugely rewarding experience.

I'm now entering my final year at Bath and looking forward to what comes next after graduation in the summer of 2026.



My name is **Liv**. Since I took my economics GCSE at the Gryphon, I had a rough idea I wanted to work in politics or economics. During sixth form, I studied for four A-levels — History, Economics, Geography, and Maths.

The Gryphon really helped me build the skills I'd need for my career - I did a Tedx talk on the gender pay gap, organised a COP conference for local schools, and completed my DofE Gold. This helped me sharpen my public speaking, conquer event organisation, and build resilience. These experiences, combined with my studies, helped set me up for university. Now, I'm in my second year at University College London, studying History, Politics, and Economics. Being in London means opportunities pop up everywhere, whether that be professional, academic, or social. Alongside university, I work for an MP, which has given me real-world workplace experience. I've had some great experiences whilst at university. In January 2025, I went to the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, which sparked my interest in a career in philanthropy. Since then, I've done some consultancy work for multinational companies and foundations. None of that would've been possible without the soft skills I picked up at the Gryphon!



My name is **James**, In the Gryphon Sixth Form I completed A levels in Biology, Music and Sport studies.

After leaving The Gryphon Sixth Form, I started working as a Professional Tennis Coach, a long side completing my Private Pilots Licence. I was grateful for the guidance I received from the sixth form and careers team as I navigated my options. While lots of my cohort went to university I knew it wasn't the route for me. The support I received when exploring alternative options gave me the confidence to utilise my skill set, allowing me to pursue my interests with aspiration rather than choose a route that just followed the crowd. In September of 2022 I accepted a place on the Airline First Officer Programme at Flight Training Europe in Jerez. I obtained both an European pilots licence and UK pilots licence finishing in April 2024. Within a few months I had 3 airline job offers - EasyJet, Ryanair and TUI. I chose Ryanair and I have successfully completed my Type Rating and Line Training on the Boeing 737. I'm now flying passengers all over Europe as a First Officer at Ryanair based out of Bristol.



My name is **Bella** and I joined the Gryphon in Year 7. At A-Level I studied Spanish, Biology, History and the EPQ, achieving A* in all.

My time at the Gryphon left me with a group that have remained my closest friends even through uni, and with whom I even went inter-railing with after first year. I enjoyed my time there, and alongside my studies got involved in DofE, sports and music. I had excellent teachers who supported me throughout my journey from Year 7-13, and I owe a lot to them. If you need support, it's only one question away. My subjects were quite diverse, and in many ways prepared me for reading law at uni.

I've just graduated with a first in BA Jurisprudence from Oxford. My plans are now to do some work experience, and travel before starting a training contract. Eventually, I would like to specialise into medical law/clinical negligence after having qualified as a solicitor.

Images courtesy of Nigel White and sixth form photography students.

www.gryphon.dorset.sch.uk/sixth-form

The Gryphon School

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E: sixthform.support@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk

TheGryphonSchool GryphonSixthForm

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SASST
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