



# QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL



## SIXTH FORM

### *Course Information Guide*

2024-2026

*Inspiring Individuals • Empowering Minds • Defining Futures*



In 2023 all students who applied to university were successful in securing a place, with over 35% of students going on to study a STEM subject at leading universities

## Course Offer 2024-26

As Year 11 students you will soon be revising for your examinations and already exploring Post 16 options. This is a very important stage of your educational journey if you want to progress and take that next step towards your chosen career. At Queen's Park High School, our Sixth Form provides a wealth of opportunities to further your studies.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive Sixth Form that provides a wide range of courses suited to the needs of our learners.

Inside this booklet you will find detailed information about the courses which are on offer from September 2024. The information will tell you what you need to know about each course including content, structure, number of exams and assessment methods.

Please read all of the information carefully so that you are making informed decisions when selecting the courses you would like to study.

It is also very important to talk to subject specialists who can expand on this information and who can answer any questions you may have. Please take full advantage of the advice and guidance opportunities available to you and have in the forefront of your mind what your next steps beyond Sixth Form might be.

Please ensure you submit your enrolment form by the closing date for applications which is **Friday 16th February 2024**. Any applications received after this date will not be considered in the process of setting option blocks. All enrolment forms are available in this pack, please complete the internal form if you are currently in Year 11 at Queen's Park High School or the external form if you are new to the school.

We are ready to support and nurture your individual skills and talents as a member of a high performing Sixth Form that prides itself on its 'family feel'; **you matter to us!**

We very much look forward to working with you to develop your prospects in life beyond sixth form education.



**Mrs V Prydden**  
Head of Sixth Form

*Inspiring Individuals • Empowering Minds • Defining Futures*



## A message from our Sixth Form Head Students

Dear fellow student,

Thank you for taking an interest in our Sixth Form here at Queen's Park High School. We are immensely proud to be part of the Queen's Park family and are pleased that you are taking the time to look at all the great opportunities our school can offer you.

In case you didn't know, our Sixth Form is a close-knit community where everyone is made to feel welcome. Whether you have been at QPHS in the lower years or are coming from another school, all of us are made to feel welcome and supported in the challenges that lie ahead!

We also have a wide range of courses we can choose from and you'll find this booklet really useful as it includes lots of information on what's on offer. As a small Sixth Form, our class sizes are quite small too which really enables you to receive not only high quality teaching, but teaching that is bespoke to your individual needs. We've really benefitted from our teachers knowing us as individuals as opposed to just a name on a register, and when they say, '*You matter to us*', they really mean it.

Whilst we know achieving the grades we are all capable of is very important, we also know that Sixth Form isn't just about getting the qualifications needed to take the next steps towards our chosen careers (whether that be to university or to do an apprenticeship). The culture of our Sixth Form is such that there are so many enriching opportunities for us to develop other skills too such as: The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, Mental Health First Aid accreditation and a dedicated Enrichment Sixth Form programme. There are a huge range of leadership possibilities too. These are all part of a wider package that aims to 'develop the individual' which we know has really helped us in our applications to posts beyond Year 13.

Did we mention, the teachers here are all fantastic too? Because of their leadership, guidance and support, we all know what we are aiming for and where we'd like to be heading at the end of our time here. Visits to UCAS shows, Apprenticeship fairs, universities and careers events have given us a clear picture of all our options and helped us to 'define our futures'.

We really hope you choose our Sixth Form at Queen's Park High School to continue your studies; it was definitely a decision we would make again.

We look forward to meeting you and good luck with your application!

**Freya, Max, Hannah, Kaitlin and Sienna**

**Sixth Form Student Leadership Team**



## Course Information 2024-26

### *Subjects*

|   |      |  |      |
|---|------|--|------|
| • Art & Design                                  | P 6  | • French                                 | P 20 |
| • 3D Design                                     | P 7  | • Geography                              | P 21 |
| • Biology                                       | P 8  | • History                                | P 22 |
| • Business Studies                              | P 9  | • Further Mathematics                    | P 23 |
| • Chemistry                                     | P 10 | • Mathematics                            | P 24 |
| • Computer Science                              | P 11 | • Mathematical Studies<br>(core maths)   | P 25 |
| • Criminology                                   | P 12 | • Mathematics (GCSE)                     | P 26 |
| • Drama & Theatre Studies                       | P 13 | • Music                                  | P 27 |
| • English Language                              | P 14 | • Photography                            | P 28 |
| • English Language (GCSE)                       | P 15 | • Physics                                | P 29 |
| • English Literature                            | P 16 | • Psychology                             | P 30 |
| • Ethics, Philosophy<br>& The Study of Religion | P 17 | • Spanish                                | P 31 |
| • Film Studies                                  | P 18 | • Sports Studies                         | P 32 |
| • Food Science & Nutrition                      | P 19 | • Uniformed Protective<br>Services (UPS) | P 33 |

Please note all courses will only run dependent upon interest



## Art & Design (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

If you are an ideas person and you like creating things that are useful and visually appealing, then the art and design course could be the option for you. It will help you gain a greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts. We encourage lateral thinkers and creative problem-solvers.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Year 12**

Structured taught units of work to produce a series of sketchbooks and final pieces covering the four assessment objectives. Students will have the opportunity for experimentation and developing their own interests within the subject. This leads students towards establishing confidence for the full A Level in Year 13.

#### **Year 13**

##### **Unit 1**

Personal Investigation - students develop their own interests and produce a sketchbook and final pieces of work covering four assessment objectives. There is also a written research project of up to 3000 words that runs alongside the practical aspect of the course.

##### **Unit 2**

Externally set assignment - students respond to a set question for a 15 hour exam after a period of research and investigation. Students produce a sketchbook and final pieces of work covering the four assessment objectives.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Art and design encourages independent learning and transferable skills. Can you work collaboratively and have excellent communication skills? Draw till you drop. Practice, practice, practice. See as much art and design as you can.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

BA (Hons) degree in the creative arts and careers such as: artist, architect, teacher, designer, graphic arts, fashion, theatre design, film, museum curator, interior designer, animator, textile designer, arts administrator.



## 3D Design (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who enjoy designing and making products.

A Level 3D design helps students take a broad view of design, develop their capacity to research the work of designers in order to design and make products. They develop the awareness and appreciation of the complex relations between design, materials and technological processes.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Year 12**

Structured taught units of work to produce a series of sketchbooks and final pieces covering the four assessment objectives. Students will have the opportunity for experimentation and developing their own interests within the subject. This leads students towards establishing confidence for the full A Level in Year 13.

#### **Year 13**

##### **Unit 1**

Personal investigation - students develop their own interests and produce a sketchbook and final pieces of work covering four assessment objectives. There is also a written research project of up to 3000 words that runs alongside the practical aspect of the course.

##### **Unit 2**

Externally set assignment - students respond to a set question for a 15 hour exam after a period of research and investigation. Students produce a sketchbook and final pieces of work covering the four assessment objectives.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

A keen interest in developing design skills and demonstrating good practical skills in the workshop. An interest in IT skills to help design and be creative about designing and making.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

As a creative and expressive subject, which develops both independent and group learning skills, this subject can assist with students who would like to become designers, engineers, and often move on to university to study engineering or product design further.



## Biology (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Have you ever asked the question 'How do living things work?' Biology deals with the fundamentals of life, how animals and plants are made and how they interact with each other to make up our environment.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **First year of A Level**

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with the environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

#### **Second year of A Level**

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities. Your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A Level biology are based on what you learn in your practicals. Many universities ask for a pass in the practical elements.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Good practical skills, numerical skills, problem solving, data interpretation, essay writing skills, independent worker, reflective learner.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Biology links well with most A Level subjects and opens the doors to many university courses including biology, psychology, sports, medicine and biochemistry. Studying A Level biology can lead to exciting careers in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, paramedics and veterinary science.

This is a facilitating subject.





## Business Studies (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

This course is suitable for students who are interested in the dynamic business world. It is designed to give students a wide understanding of many business topics such as entrepreneurship, financial management, economics, human resources, marketing, strategic decision making, motivation and leadership.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

Students study **10** topic areas during the duration of the course. This enables students to develop a wide understanding of the local, national and international economic business environment that impacts upon their daily lives.

Combining business and economic theory to applied business contexts and case studies enables students to develop a breadth and depth of knowledge.

At the end of Year 13, students will be assessed on all **10** topics studied via the completion of **3** externally assessed examinations to gain the A-Level qualification.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Students must have excellent English and mathematical skills (ideally a minimum Grade 5 at GCSE) due to the extended written work and financial elements. Students will be required to undertake and present findings from independent research.

Students should be confident at analysing data and writing essays.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

This subject can lead to students studying a wide range of Higher Education degree courses and apprenticeships. The course also enables students to develop an understanding of the business world and therefore would be useful for those students wanting to gain employment or to start a business of their own.

Studying Business opens the door to many career opportunities.



## Chemistry (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

A Level chemistry attempts to answer the big question ‘*what is the world made of?*’ and it is the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that chemistry provides are endless.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

Throughout the two years you will be taught the three principles of chemistry:

- Physical chemistry - including atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibrium and Le Chatelier’s principle
- Inorganic chemistry - including periodicity, Group 2 the alkaline earth metals, Group 7 the halogens
- Organic chemistry - including introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohol and organic analysis

Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities. Your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A Level chemistry are based on what you learn in your practicals. Many universities ask for a pass in the practical elements.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Good practical skills, numeracy, critical thinker, wider reading around the topics studied data interpretation.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

The top degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in chemistry include: chemistry, biology, pre-clinical medicine, mathematics and pharmacology

Studying an A Level chemistry related degree at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including: analytical chemist, chemical engineer, clinical biochemist, pharmacologist, doctor, research scientist (physical sciences).

This is a facilitating subject.



## Computer Science (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Computer science has computational thinking at its core; thinking that provides solutions to problems, designs systems and recognises the nature of human and machine intelligence. This course is for students with a keen interest in problem solving, who seek a deeper understanding of the inner workings of computers and the programming techniques necessary to solve a myriad of complex problems.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Year 12 content:**

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structures
- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Theory of computation
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Fundamentals of computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture

#### **Year 13 content:**

- Consequences of uses of computing
- Fundamentals of communication and networking
- Fundamentals of databases
- Big Data
- Fundamentals of functional programming
- Systematic approach to problem solving

**Coursework:** The non-exam element of the course involves applying the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem, demonstrating a systematic approach to problem solving. This is worth 20% of the final grade.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Strong maths skills, critical thinking, data interpretation and determination to practice. Prior experience of coding languages is also desired.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Common courses taken by students who have an A Level in computer science include computer science, engineering, economics and the sciences. Studying A Level computer science offers a range of different career options including: IT consultant, cyber security consultant, Information systems manager, database administrator, systems analyst, games developer.



## Criminology (Level 3 Diploma)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who are interested in developing a wide range of skills. Those who are engaged by the following statement/questions:

Not all types of crime are alike. *What different types of crime take place in our society? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What is the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance? How do we explain why people commit crime? What happens to those who commit a crime? Why and how do we punish people? What organisations do we have in our society to control criminality?*

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

The Level 3 Diploma in criminology is made up of four mandatory units:

**Changing Awareness of Crime** - students develop an understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime and why some crimes are unreported.

**Criminological Theories** - enables students to gain an understanding of why people commit crime, drawing on what they have learned in Unit 1. Students explore the difference between criminal behaviour and deviance and the theories behind why people commit crime.

**Crime Scene to Courtroom** - provides students with an understanding of the criminal justice system from the moment a crime has been identified to the verdict. They develop the understanding and skills needed to examine information in order to review the justice of verdicts in criminal cases.

**Crime and Punishment** - students apply their understanding of the awareness of criminality, criminological theories and the process of bringing an accused to court in order to evaluate the effectiveness of social control to deliver criminal justice policy.

The course is assessed through a combination of two written examinations, set and marked by WJEC, and two centre - marked controlled assessments.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Students will need and develop a range of generic and transferable skills including independent learning and development, the ability to solve problems the skills of project-based research, development and presentation, the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment and the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, including police officers, probation and prison officers, and social workers. With their critical thinking, analytical and communication skills, criminology graduates are also attractive to employers outside the criminal justice sector in areas such as social research and politics. The Level 3 Diploma in criminology has elements of psychology, law and sociology that complement studies in humanities and the skills developed are transferable to a wide range of courses and careers.



## Drama and Theatre Studies (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who are interested in drama and theatre in performance, both on stage and backstage. Anyone who is interested in using imagination and creativity inspire, entertain and educate others and, future leaders of teams who wish to develop their leadership skills.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Year 12**

##### **Component 2:** (Preparation):

Exploration and Performance - a group performance of a carefully selected text, presented for an invited audience.

##### **Component 1:**

Devising - a performance based on a studies text and theatre practitioner.

#### **Year 13**

##### **Component 2** (Assessment):

Text in Performance - students will produce a group performance of a text, and a monologue/ duologue.

##### **Component 3:**

A written examination and asks students to write a theatre review and describe a concept for a performance on stage of a set text.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Willingness to push the boundaries of self, challenge perceptions and desire to open up to other cultures, beliefs and ideologies. Creativity, imagination and commitment are an absolute must!

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

As a creative subject this course opens up many opportunities in all sorts of careers. It can, of course, be used to access drama and performance related higher education courses. Alumni working in the performing arts industry and have attended LIPA, the Arden School and other acting colleges.



## English Language (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who are interested in the ways that language works. This subject enables students to understand the mechanics of the English language: from key grammatical concepts to the reasons why children learn to read, write and speak.

This course offers a range of fascinating subjects for exploration.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

Students studying for the A Level will study three units:

**Unit 1:** Language and the Individual - assessed by external examination

**Unit 2:** Language, Diversity and Change - assessed by external examination

**Unit 3:** Coursework unit

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

The key pre-requisite to studying this subject is a passion for language and a thirst to know more about it. Throughout the course you will need to demonstrate the ability to master new concepts and then be able to apply them.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Students who study English language go on to a variety of career paths and higher education routes. The transferable skills that students develop will prepare them for careers in a diverse range of areas from teaching to journalism.



## English Language (GCSE)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who wish to improve their GCSE English grade.  
You should be interested in reading a variety of texts from different time periods, as well as writing for a range of audiences and purposes.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

Two examination papers 50% each.

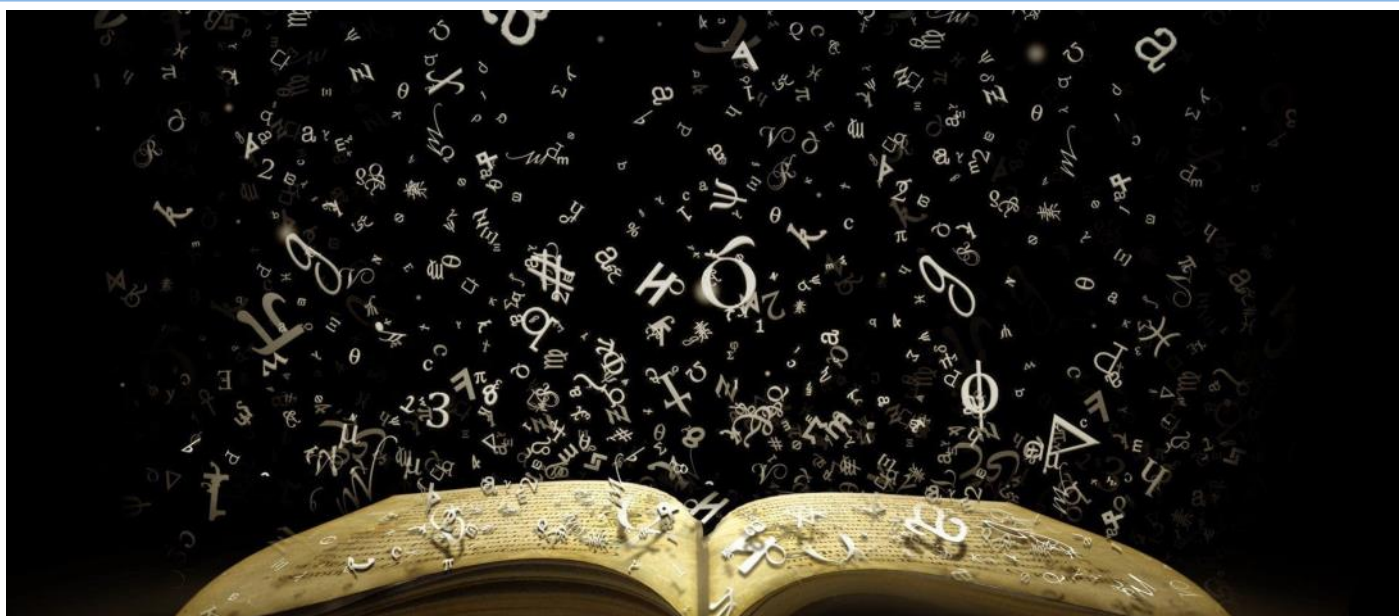
Reading and writing assessed in both.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

A good grasp of reading and writing skills including basic literacy. Full commitment to the course. A willingness to read texts independently. Ability to write creatively and accurately.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

GCSE English is an essential qualification for most careers, college and university courses.



## English Literature (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

This course will suit students who are passionate about literature – poetry, prose and drama – or who have enjoyed their English Literature course at GCSE. A Level Literature provides students with the opportunity to explore texts from a range of different eras, and to discuss what these texts have to say about love, conflict, identity and society. Students will be encouraged to develop their own interpretations, and to sharpen their skills of argumentation and debate, as well as to communicate effectively in writing.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

**Paper 1:** Love through the ages - assessed by external examination (40%)

**Paper 2:** Texts in shared contexts - assessed by external examination (40%)

**Coursework:** Texts across time - Independent critical study (20%)

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

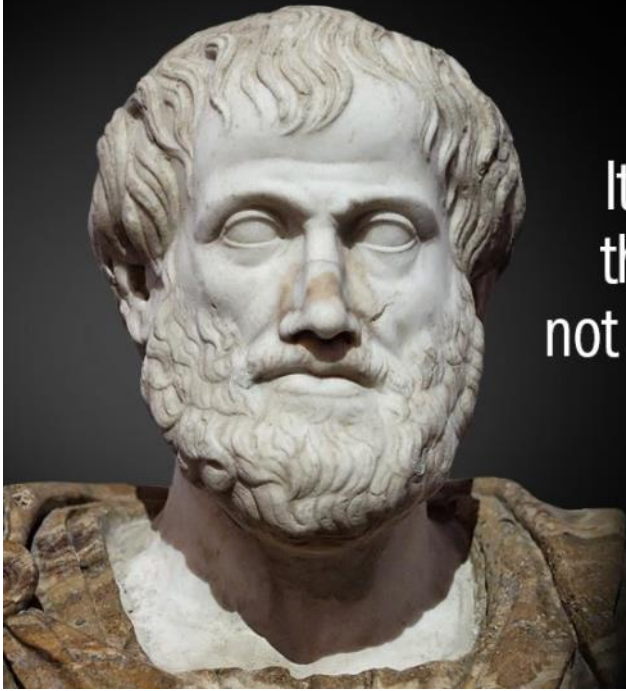
Students will need to be prepared to read extensively – both the set texts and the associated wider reading – and to discuss those texts with their peers. A keen eye for detail, the desire to ask questions, and a willingness to engage in debate are also key skills that will benefit students on this course.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Students who study English literature go on to a variety of career paths and higher education routes. The transferable skills that students develop will prepare them for careers in a diverse range of areas including law, journalism, teaching and marketing.

This is a facilitating subject.





It is our **choice** of good or evil that determines our character, not our **opinion** about good or evil.

– Aristotle

## Ethics, Philosophy and Study of Religion (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who enjoy debating and grappling with 'big issues' including: life, death, animal rights, euthanasia, science, fundamentalism, psychological theories, ethics, religion, life after death, genetics, war, and peace.

We examine ethical theories and why individuals make moral decisions.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

This is a two year A Level course with three, two-hour examinations at the end of Year 13. 100% examination.

**Three** components:

- Philosophy
- Ethics
- An in-depth study of a religion

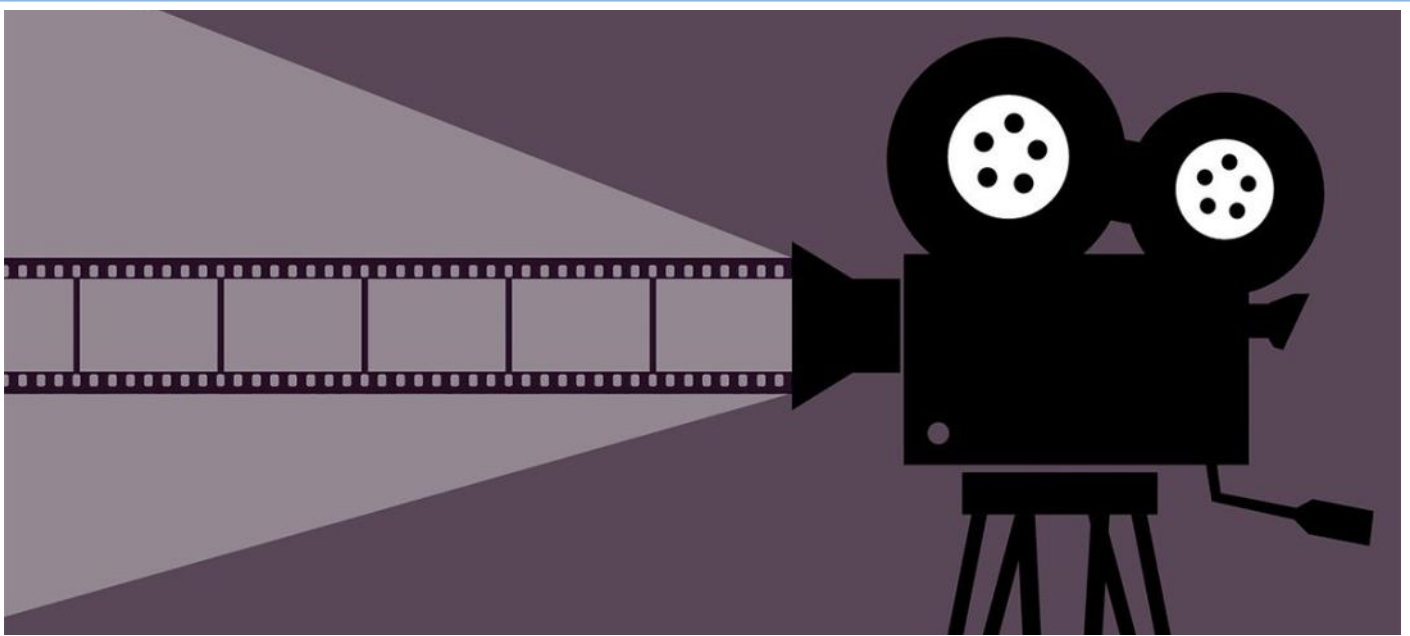
### *What skills are needed/involved?*

The main requirement is the ability to consider difficult, thought-provoking questions about human existence. A willingness to think deeply and argue is essential. Having a grade 5 in RE full course and/or a grade 5 in English is desirable.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Ethics is a key component of many medical and scientific careers such as medicine, nursing and pharmacology.

Many of our students also go on to the following sectors: financial and legal services, journalism, social work, politics and many more.



## Film Studies (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

The course is designed to ignite a passion for film and encourage a broader critical perspective of this academic area of study. It supports students to develop an appreciation of film from both audience and industry perspectives. Students look at all the processes involved from initial idea to point of production and final consumption. The course encourages them to consider a broad range of films and gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding creatively in practical productions. Learners will develop analytical, discursive writing skills and become confident readers of film. They will develop research, investigative and practical skills.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Content:**

Hollywood 1930 - 1990 (two-film study)  
American film since 2005 (two-film study)  
British film since 1995 (two-film study)  
Global film (two-film study including one European and one outside of Europe)  
Documentary film  
Film movements - Silent cinema  
Film movements - Experimental film (1960-2000)

#### **Assessment:**

**Paper 1 35% Paper 2 35%**

**Coursework 30%:**

Option 1: Short Film (4 - 5 minutes) **or** Option 2: Screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words)

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

- Develop the skills to analyse, interpret and compare films critically
- Synthesise complex areas of knowledge
- Show how knowledge of the ways in which films reflect their social, cultural, political, historical and institutional contexts informs analysis and understanding of set films.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

The subject can lead you towards further academic study of film, journalism, screenwriting, film production, the television industry, advertising, photography, games design, web content production and many other progression routes. It can also lead directly into employment in all areas of these industries.



## Food Science and Nutrition (WJEC Level 3 - equivalent to 1 x A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition qualification allows students to gain a wealth of knowledge about the food and nutrition industry. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food as well as advanced practical skills for cooking and preparing food.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Unit 1: Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups (Compulsory)**

Internally assessed project: The purpose of the internal assessment is for learners to develop an understanding of the nutritional needs of specific target groups and plan and cook complex dishes to meet their nutritional needs.

External examination: 90 minute examination; plus 15 minutes reading time

#### **Unit 2: Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat**

External written exam (Compulsory)

It is an eight hour timed, supervised assessment which will involve the learner in bringing together and making connections between the knowledge, understanding and skills learned throughout the unit and applying these by responding to information provided in a scenario. The scenario will relate to a food safety situation. It will require learners to analyse the information and make judgements regarding the potential food safety risk

**Choice of either:**

#### **Unit 3: Experimenting to Solve Food or**

#### **Unit 4: Current Issues in Food Science & Nutrition**

This is an internally assessed project.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

The qualification has been designed around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning. There is a strong emphasis on practical work, making this an ideal choice for students who prefer to learn by doing. The qualification mirrors many work activities in the food and nutrition industry and facilitates learning in a range of contexts.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Hospitality and Catering industry, Product Development, Nutritionist, Care Industry, Environmental health, Teaching, Social Work, Medicine, Nutritional Science, Food Retail and Manufacture.



## French (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

French is spoken by 74 million people across the world, notably in France and former French territories. Being able to speak French can provide you with travel and work opportunities. With a projected 750 million speakers by 2050, being able to speak the French language is a powerful skill to have. French can provide you with a number of career opportunities. Studying French at A Level not only widens opportunities, but it provides you with insights into France's history and culture. If you do plan on travelling after school, this knowledge will truly enhance your experience.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Paper 1: Listening , Reading, Writing**

*What is assessed?*

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

#### **Paper 2: Writing**

*What is assessed?*

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

#### **Paper 3: Speaking**

*What is assessed?*

Individual research project - One of four themes (aspects of French-speaking society - current trends, aspects of French-speaking society - current issues, artistic culture in the French-speaking world, aspects of political life in the French-speaking world) .

*How is it assessed?*

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes - total of 100 marks, 50% of A Level
- Written exam: 2 hours - total of 80 marks, 20% of A Level
- Oral exam: 23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) - total of 60 marks, 30% of A Level

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

When studying any language, there are four main skills that you will acquire. These are: speaking, listening, reading, writing

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

French is a widely respected academic choice that gives access to almost all professions. Journalism, engineering and manufacturing, politics, law, business, entertainment, and finance are just a few examples. Any job where you need to read, write and communicate will appreciate these skills. This is a facilitating subject and fast becoming increasingly valued in the era of post-Brexit.



## Geography (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who want to learn more about the world's people, places and environments. If you enjoy discussion, extended research tasks, independent thinking and practical fieldwork then this will be for you. Students will use maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, up-to-date case studies and group work.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

The course covers both physical topics such as coastal landscapes, hazards, and water and carbon cycles, and human topics such as population and environment, changing places, global systems and governance.

This is a two year course where students have two exams on **all** the units covered: one physical and one human.

There will be a mix of short and extended questions using a range of geographical skills covering both human and physical topics.

There is also an NEA (Non Examined Assessment) where students choose a topic to investigate.

This is an opportunity for students to explore their own areas of interest within their preferred discipline. This will involve independent data collection, further reading and extended writing opportunities.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Fieldwork and working collaboratively will be an essential part. You will need competent numerical skills and be able to write essay styled answers based on real world examples and concepts within geography.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

A degree in geography or geography-related courses leads to careers in sustainability, green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing natural hazards, climate change, town planning, coastal environmental science and various other dynamic and adaptive careers.

This is a facilitating subject.



## History (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

This course would be suitable for students with a love of history. You do not necessarily need to have studied history at GCSE, you will just need high level literacy skills as you will need to be able to read and write complex and lengthy texts. You will love this course if you enjoy understanding people and events from the past and debating issues using evidence and interpretations.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

There are **three** units.

Each unit is externally assessed at the end of Year 13.

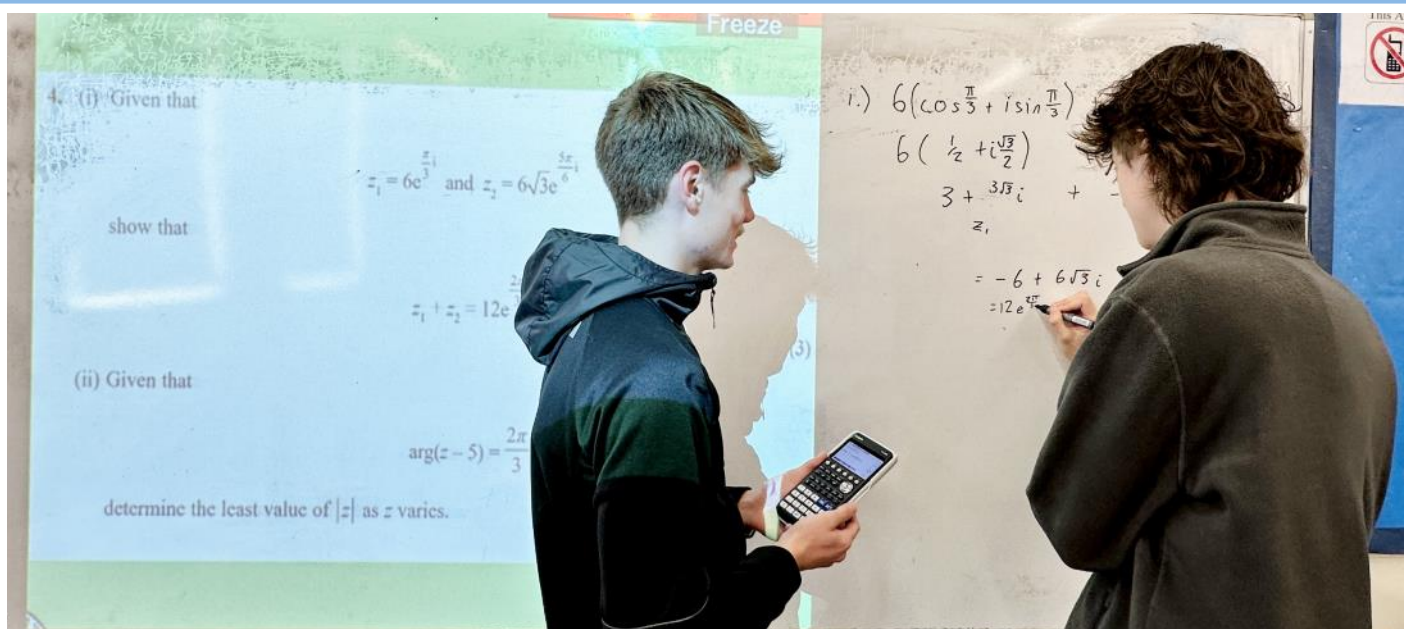
- **Paper 1** – The Tudors: England, 1485 -1603  
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. 80 marks. 40% of A Level
- **Paper 2** – The American Dream: Reality and Illusion 1945 -1980  
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. 80 marks. 40% of A Level
- **Historical Investigation:** Independent Coursework  
3500–4500 word coursework. Marked by teachers. 40 marks. 20% of A Level

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

You will develop your interest in, and enthusiasm for, history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance. You will improve as an effective and independent learner and reflective thinker, with the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and to research them. You will need to be able to organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding in different ways, arguing a case and reaching substantiated judgements. You will need to make links and draw comparisons within and/or across different periods and aspects of the past using your understanding of historical terms, concepts and skills.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

History is a widely respected academic choice that gives access to almost all professions. Journalism, writing, politics, law, business, entertainment, and finance are just a few examples. Any job where you need to read, write, analyse and communicate will appreciate these skills. History is well known for being a facilitating subject.



## Further Mathematics (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who have a passion and natural ability for mathematics. Students who are intending on pursuing a mathematical degree or who love mathematics and wish to expand upon the principles met whilst studying the higher GCSE syllabus.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Year 12**

Students will study two applied options:

**Core Pure 1** maths involves matrices, complex numbers, further calculus and further vectors. Please ask your maths teacher for information on the options for the further topics on offer.

Assessments are in the form of two papers – 1 hour 30 minutes each. These exams are only sat if students do not intend to continue to Year 13.

#### **Year 13**

The topics in Year 12 are developed and the work is more detailed and applied. Please ask your maths teacher for information on the options the further maths topics offer.

Assessments are in the form of four papers – 1 hour 30 minutes each.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

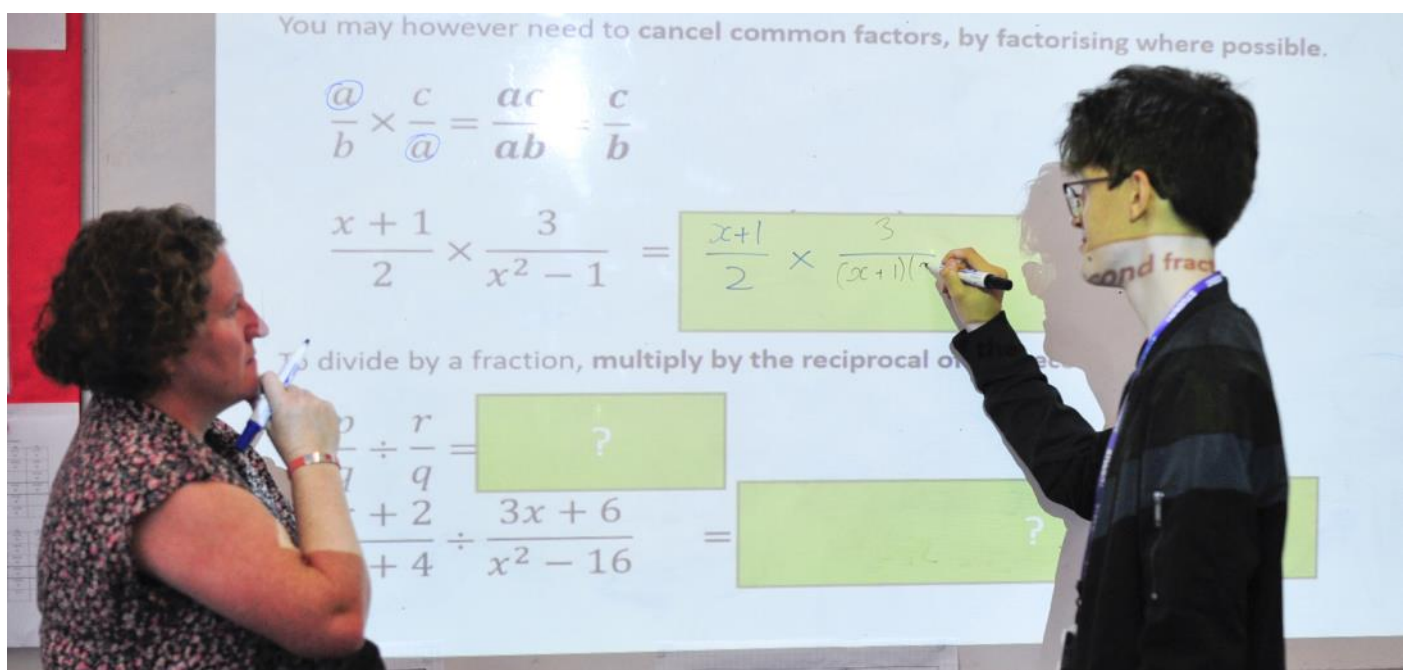
A keen interest in mathematics and a logical mind.

An excellent work ethic and an ability to work independently outside the classroom. Students need to have attained a grade 8 in their GCSE mathematics. GCSE Further Maths is desirable.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Having further mathematics A Level will stand students in excellent stead for their future. Russell Group universities are particularly keen on students having studied further mathematics. Many varied degrees find it desirable, such a medicine, physics, engineering, architecture and computer science.

This is a facilitating subject.



## Mathematics (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who have an interest and natural affinity for mathematics. Students who wish to expand upon the principles met whilst studying the higher GCSE syllabus. Students who wish to complement their other subjects, specifically science A Levels. Mathematics A Level is suitable for students achieving GCSE grades 6 or above.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Year 12**

Students will study pure and applied maths topics.

Pure maths involves algebra, coordinate geometry, polynomials, calculus, trigonometry and logarithms.

The applied topics are statistics (handling data, probability and statistical distributions) and mechanics (quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's Laws).

Assessments are in the form of two papers - paper 1 pure maths (2 hours) and paper 2 applied maths (1 hour). These exams are only sat if students do not intend to continue to Year 13.

#### **Year 13**

The topics in Year 12 are developed and the work is more detailed and applied.

In Year 13, there are three exams; all two hours in length. Paper 1 and 2 are pure maths and Paper 3 is applied maths (statistics and mechanics).

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

A keen interest and enjoyment of mathematics and a logical mind. An excellent work ethic and a willingness to work independently outside the classroom. Students need to have attained a grade 6 in their GCSE mathematics.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Having mathematics A Level will stand students in excellent stead for their future, on average earning up to 11% more than their peers who do not possess the qualification. Many varied degrees require maths or find it desirable, such as medicine, physics, engineering, architecture, and computer science.

This is a facilitating subject.





## Mathematical Studies (core maths)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

This course is suitable for students who have achieved a grade 4 or above and who enjoy Maths. It is especially good for students studying A Level sciences, geography or psychology as it supports the statistical elements of those courses.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

Level 3 qualification (equivalent of an AS level)

Key topics include:

- Personal finance
- Critical analysis
- Statistical techniques
- Estimations
- Real life graphs/data

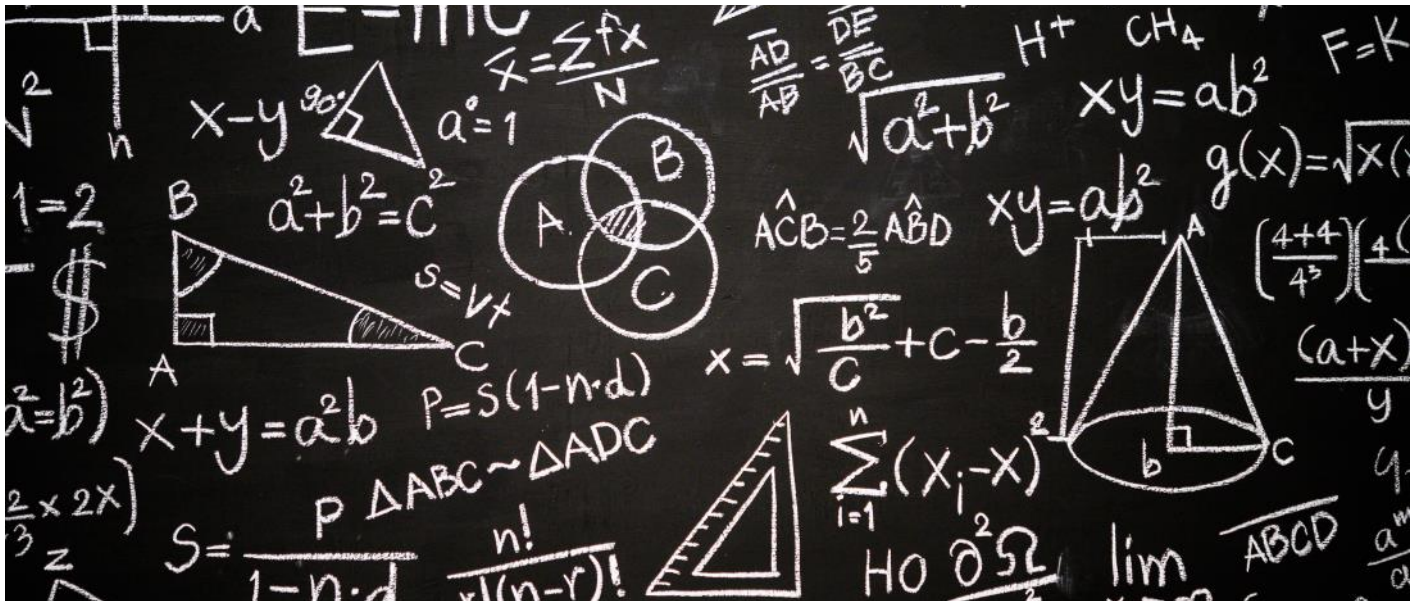
Two terminal examinations of 90 mins

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

The course develops real life and problem solving skills along with statistical techniques.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

This qualification supports students with real life application of maths skills and is therefore a universally useful course.



## Mathematics (GCSE)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

This course is suitable for students who do not have a grade 4 qualification in mathematics GCSE.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

The course is the Edexcel Linear mathematics GCSE and is assessed via three final exams (one non-calculator and two calculator papers).

Each paper assesses the students ability to use and apply the four strands:

- Number
- Algebra
- Shape
- Statistics

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

The key topics are number, algebra, shape and statistics.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Achieving a grade 4 in mathematics GCSE is usually a requirement for further education and preferable when applying for jobs. If students are successful in achieving grades 6 or above then they can go onto study A Level mathematics.



## Music (BTEC equivalent to 1 x A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who are interested in music in all its aspects. Those that have had involvement in school productions whether on stage/backstage/lighting or as a member of the band. Students who enjoy creating music from composition to performing as a soloist, and as part of a group, and those who enjoy learning about music and its development over time.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

Students study four units, over two years; 2 are externally set and marked and 2 are internally marked. 3 units are mandatory and 1 is optional; the optional unit will be chosen to meet the requirements and skills of the cohort.

Mandatory Units are as follows:

- **Practical Music Theory and Harmony** - 90 credits (internal)
- **Professional Practice in the Music Industry** - 90 credits (external)
- **Ensemble Music Performance** - 120 credits (external)

Optional units are worth 60 credits each, internally assessed and include: Composing Music; Music Performance Session Styles; Solo Performance; Improvising Music. Each assessment is taken under specified conditions, then marked by Pearson and a grade awarded. Learners are permitted to re-sit external assessments during their programme. Each assessment is taken under specified conditions, then marked by Pearson and a grade awarded. Learners are permitted to re-sit external assessments during their programme.

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and aims to provide a coherent course of study covering both performance and the music industry.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

To have a keen interest in music, be able to sing or play a musical instrument and have the ability to develop practical and analytical skills. It is not a pre-requisite to have studied music at Level 2; more important is a passion for the subject and the talent to succeed.

Learners could be given opportunities to: write up the findings of their own research; use case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations; carry out projects for which they have choice over the direction and outcomes; demonstrate practical and technical skills using appropriate instruments and techniques. You will be required to perform with others and to have an interest in developing as a performer and to acquire knowledge of the wider music industry.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

As a creative and expressive subject which develops both independent and group learning skills, the course equips you for a career in all walks of life. Students move onto university courses in music and the expressive arts, with careers in theatre and the music industry as performers, educators and producers. Music is a strong subject that universities look upon favourably as it evidences desirable skills such as motivation, dedication, teamwork, analytical and creative skills.



## Photography (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Are you an ideas person that likes creating images and allows you to take creative control of your camera?

We will help you gain a greater understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the photographic medium. We encourage lateral thinkers and creative problem-solvers.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Year 12**

Structured taught units of work to produce a series of sketchbooks and final pieces covering the four assessment objectives. Students will have the opportunity for experimentation in photography and post editing which will allow them to develop their own interests within the subject.

This leads students towards establishing confidence for the full A Level in Year 13.

#### **Year 13**

##### **Unit 1:** Personal investigation

Students develop their own interests and produce a digital sketchbook and final pieces of work covering four assessment objectives. There is also a written research project of up to 3000 words that runs alongside the practical aspect of the course.

##### **Unit 2:** Externally set assignment

Students respond to a set question for a 15 hour exam after a period of research and investigation. Students produce a sketchbook and final pieces of work covering the four assessment objectives.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

You need to be creative, with a good eye for a picture, have good technical and photographic skills, have good communication and people skills, and have good IT skills, especially with computer programs such as Adobe Photoshop.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

BA (Hons) Degree in photography and careers such as: photographer's assistant, and freelance or full time opportunities in advertising, fashion and editorial work, newspapers and magazines, industrial and commercial, scientific or police and forensic work.



## Physics (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know of. They probe the furthest reaches of the earth to study the smallest pieces of matter. Join them to enter a world deep beneath the surface of normal human experience.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **First year of A Level:**

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and energy
- Electricity

#### **Second year of A Level:**

- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields
- Nuclear physics
- Plus an option (e.g. astrophysics)

Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities. Your performance during practicals will be assessed. There are three exams at the end of the two years for A Level, all of which are two hours long. At least 15% of the marks for A Level physics are based on what you learn in your practicals. Many universities ask for a pass in the practical elements.

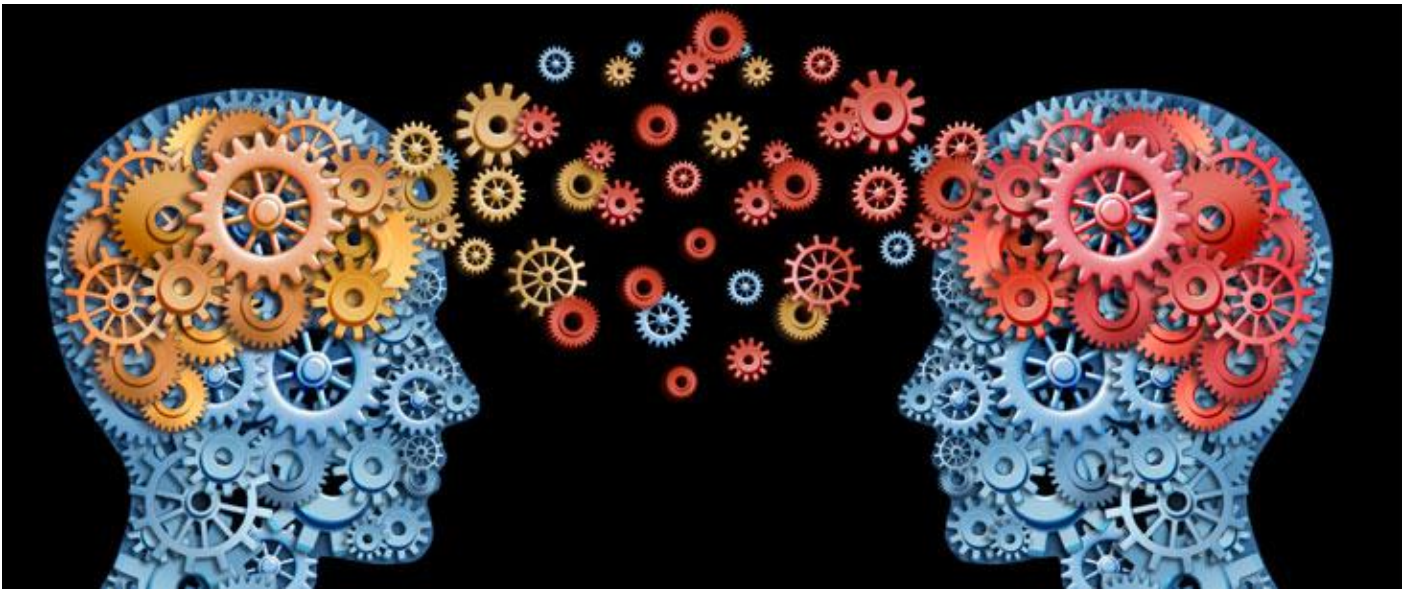
### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Good practical skills, numeracy, critical thinker, data interpretation and wider reading around the topics studied.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

The top degree courses taken by students who have an A Level in physics include: mathematics, physics, mechanical engineering, computer science, civil engineering, economics and business. Studying A Level physics offers an infinite number of amazing career opportunities including: geophysicist/field seismologist, healthcare scientist, medical physics, higher education lecturer, radiation protection practitioner, research scientist (physical sciences).

This is a facilitating subject.



## Psychology (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

If you are interested and curious about exploring various explanations of human behaviour and the role our brains play in our everyday lives, then you will enjoy psychology. The subject is scientific and draws on many different explanations of behaviour including biology and the environment.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

A Level consists of three exams at the end of Year 13.

There is no coursework for psychology.

Topics that are studied include:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Biopsychology
- Schizophrenia
- Research methods
- Approaches in psychology including issues and debates.

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

You need to have a good level of written English. The ability to work independently and work well in groups is essential. You need to be able to think 'outside the box' and discuss a variety of different perspectives.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Psychology A Level can lead to students going to university to study a number of subjects e.g. social sciences, science and humanities. psychology provides useful skills and knowledge relevant to a wide variety of careers including law, social work, marketing, H.R, teaching and nursing to name a few.



## Spanish (A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students who are fascinated not only by the mystery of a modern foreign language but also by its culture, history, social, political and economic standings of past and present, taught through the medium of film, music, technology and first-hand experience of both Spain and Latin America, will love this course.

This course is challenging but the ability to communicate in a foreign language is a priceless skill in an increasingly globalised economy.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

#### **Core content:**

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Options:
- Works - literary texts and films
- Assessments

#### **What is assessed?**

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

#### **How is it assessed?**

- Written exam: 2 hours - total of 80 marks, 20% of A Level
- One writing, listening, reading exam: 2hrs 30 minutes - total 100 marks, 50% of A Level
- Oral exam: 23 minutes - total of 20 marks, 30% of A Level

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

A keen interest in the wider world and its cultures are an intrinsic part of language learning. The subject improves your powers of reasoning and the ability to present explanations, opinions and information across a range of media.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Language studies can be combined with all subjects. MFL graduates are the third most employable after doctors and lawyers. Qualifications can lead to prestigious jobs in multinational companies and organisations as part of an increasingly globalised economy.



## Sports Studies

(BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate - equivalent to 1 x A Level)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

Students should have a keen interest in all aspects of sport as well as a passion for researching the various theoretical aspects of exercise. Candidates should also be competent in producing physical performances in practical sport. This qualification is aimed at learners who are looking to progress to higher education or employment related to a career in sport.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

Level 3 National Extended Certificate (A Level equivalent).

There are four units within this course. These comprise of three mandatory units as well as one additional unit (as listed below).

Mandatory units (83% of the course) include:

- Anatomy and physiology - externally marked exam (1hr 30 minutes)
- Fitness training and programming for health synoptic assessment: externally marked supervised assessment (2 hours 30minutes)
- Professional development in the sports industry: internally marked coursework

Learners will also choose one additional unit such as:

- Sports leadership
- Sports psychology

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Students will need to be thoroughly organised and possess strong extended writing skills. It is important that candidates can analyse and evaluate key topics with the ability to compare and contrast both the practical and theoretical aspects of sport.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

Degree in sports science, sport coaching, sport and business.  
Employment in the fitness and leisure industry.





## Uniformed Protective Services (UPS) (BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma - equivalent to 3 x A Levels)

### *Who would suit or enjoy your course?*

At UPS we understand that an education is more than just about completing a qualification which is why students who opt for this course take part in a bespoke Health & Fitness and Careers & Personal Development Syllabuses throughout their time studying with us. The course is based on the protective services, so an interest in the armed forces, blue light services or criminology/sociology is advised. This course is best described as a look at life with the opportunity to gain the equivalent to three A Levels which will enable students to gain the UCAS points to progress to university. This course is the perfect opportunity to establish a plan for the next phase of life in a safe school environment but with the flexibility of being a sixth former.

### *What is the structure of the modules and methods of assessment?*

There are 7 mandatory units with two specialist units that need to be covered. These include:

#### **Mandatory Units:**

- Unit 1: Citizenship and Diversity (Pearson-set)
- Unit 2: Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services
- Unit 3: Global Affairs, the Media and the Uniformed Protective Services
- Unit 4: Physical Preparation, Health and Wellbeing
- Unit 5: Teamwork, Leadership and Communication in the Uniformed Protective Services
- Unit 6: Government and the Protective Services
- Unit 7: Planning for and responding to Emergency Incidents

#### **Armed Forces Specialised Units:**

- Unit 10: Skills for Outdoor Activities
- Unit 11: Expedition Skills
- Unit 12: Developing Personal Fitness Programmes
- Unit 16: Research Skills
- Unit 17: Understanding the Third Sector
- Unit 19: Professional Development in the Uniformed Protective Services

#### **Blue Light & Security Specialised Units:**

- Unit 8: Custodial Care
- Unit 9: Sociological Perspectives
- Unit 13: Introduction to Criminology
- Unit 15: Police Powers and the Law
- Unit 18: Criminal Investigation Procedures and Practice
- Unit 19: Professional Development in the Uniformed Protective Services

Methods of assessment - external and internal assessment and coursework

### *What skills are needed/involved?*

Students who choose this course need to have 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above, however we will consider students that haven't reached 5 GCSEs as we will provide maths and English in order for students to gain those qualifications.

### *Where can this subject lead me to in the future?*

**Armed forces pathways** designed for those interested in careers in the: British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Royal Marines, Outdoor Education, Fitness instructor, Sports Coaching.

**Blue Light pathways** is designed for those interested in careers in: Crime Investigation, Criminology, Fire and Rescue, Probation Service, Intelligence Agencies, Police, PCSOs, Emergency Services Call handling, Custody and Detention (Prison Service) or Law.

# Minimum Entry Requirements

## Full A Level Package

(3-4\* A Level courses)

- 5+ GCSEs at grades 9 - 4
- \* The option to take four A Level courses will be made only in exceptional circumstances.

## Level 3 Package

(mix of A Level and vocational Level 3 courses)

- 5+ GCSEs at grades 9 - 4

## Uniformed Protective Services

Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Uniformed Services

(equivalent to 3 A Levels)

- 5 GCSEs grades 9 - 3

## Maths

- Grade 6 in Maths entry requirement to study Maths A Level

## Science

- Grade 6 in Science **and** maths **recommended** to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics A Levels. Students must have sat the higher tier papers for Science and Maths.

In addition to student's attendance, punctuality and attitude towards their learning will also be considered for the successful recruitment process.

# Planning life beyond the Sixth Form



The information below has been taken from the '*informed choices*' booklet produced on behalf of the Russell Group universities.

*Three reasons you may want to continue to study a subject at a higher level are:*

- You have enjoyed and been good at the subject in the past, and think you will achieve a high grade in it.
- You need this subject to enter a particular career or course.
- You have not studied the subject before but you have looked into it and think it will suit your strengths.

# Planning life beyond the Sixth Form

## *Three further considerations should be taken into account:*

- Some subjects are distinctly more difficult at an advanced level than at standard level.
- Make sure you get your facts straight. There are many misconceptions about subjects required for courses and careers.
- Don't take an uninformed risk. What is the new subject actually about?

The most important thing that your teachers will be looking for as you make your choices is evidence: either evidence that you are good enough to take the subject at advanced level, or evidence that you are interested enough in a subject to take it at advanced level if you have not studied it before.

It is important to consider which subjects you think you will achieve high grades in. Low grades are as much a barrier to entry to university as choosing unsuitable subjects for your chosen degree can be.

Another factor to consider if you are aiming for incredibly competitive courses at university, such as medicine, is that you may require a very high performance in standard level qualifications. *Does your performance to date match your ambition?*

You should try to find out as much as possible about the post-16 options you are considering. For example, make sure you properly research what you will be studying and speak to teachers or current students to find out more details. It is important that your decisions are taken on the basis of accurate information and clear thinking. Whatever you choose now will commit you to certain directions at university and perhaps rule out certain careers.

As much as you may wish to remain cool about this decision, it does matter.

## *Which subjects can give me the most options?*

Many courses at university level build on knowledge and skills which you will gain while still at school. Where this is the case, universities need to make sure that all the students they admit have prepared themselves in the best way to cope with their chosen course. For this reason, some university courses may require you to have studied a specific subject prior to entry, others may not. However, there are some subjects that are required more often than others. These subjects are sometimes referred to as '*facilitating*' subjects. Look out for these in the course information. For more guidance around post-18 courses and their requirement, visit: <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk>





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