

WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



SIXTH FORM COURSE INFORMATION 2015

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WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

6th FORM ACADEMIC ROUTES

There are three academic routes through the 6th Form at Woodbridge High School:

The 6th Form Foundation Course

Students who have not yet gained the minimum requirements to study either a Level 3 course or AS / A Levels can join the one-year 6th Form Foundation Course. This will help them to gain a better GCSE grade in English and Maths, as well as giving them a grounding in skills for life. They will study an applied course in either Business or Health & Social Care at Level 2, giving them the equivalent of two additional GCSEs. They can go on to a Level 3 course after one year, providing they achieve the entry requirement.

One Level 3 Applied Course

Students who wish to study an applied (work-related) curriculum can select a full-time Level 3 course in one of the following:

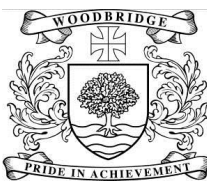
- Art & Design
- Business
- Health & Social Care
- Sport

They may take this route after having achieved the entry requirements at GCSE in year 11 (5 A*-C grades) or having studied the 6th Form Foundation Course and achieved satisfactory grades. A Level 3 course can be studied on its own or combined with one AS Level. Maths and English must be studied if a student does not have a C grade at GCSE.

Four GCE AS / A Levels

Students who have met the entry requirements may study four (or sometimes three) GCE AS / A Levels in a range of subjects. This route usually requires students to have a minimum of B grades in the subjects they wish to study, as well as a GCSE average points score of at least 43. Students should have C grades in English and Maths.

New AS / A Level specifications will be in place for some subjects from September 2015. For these subjects, AS Level exams at the end of year 12 will not count as part of the overall A Level grade in year 13. All students at Woodbridge will still sit these examinations.



WOODBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

6th FORM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The strict entrance requirement for a programme of study consisting of only GCE AS subjects at Woodbridge is **an average GCSE points score of 43 with at least a B grade in the subjects which students wish to study**. Students will normally also have achieved at least a C grade in English and Maths. For Level 3 applied courses, the entry requirement is 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, normally including English and Maths.

The GCSE average points score (APS) is calculated using *GCSE grades only* (no equivalents, such as BTECs are included). Each grade is worth a number of points as below:

A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
58	52	46	40	34	28	22	16

To find your predicted average, add up the points for your predicted grades and divide by the number of grades you have. Some examples:

8 C grades	- average 40.0 points
5 Cs and 3 Bs	- average 42.3 points
4 Cs and 4 Bs	- average 43.0 points
8 B grades	- average 46.0 points

Please refer to the specific entry requirements for courses on the next two pages. A grade B must be achieved at GCSE to study most subjects.

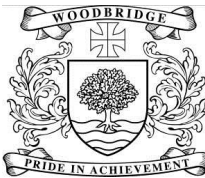
It is a requirement that those students studying GCE AS Levels or Level 3 applied courses who have not yet attained grade C in GCSE English and Maths will continue these subjects and take the exams during Year 12.

All students will have an interview when they apply for the 6th Form. They will only be permitted to apply for courses for which they have the appropriate predicted GCSE grades. The grades predicted by year 11 teachers are a key part of the application process.

Entry requirements are strictly enforced. Students will only be placed on courses in the 6th Form for which they have met the entry requirements. In exceptional circumstances, entry requirements may be waived at the discretion of the Head of 6th Form or Assistant Headteacher.

Throughout the year, progress will be monitored to ensure that students are making adequate progress. Where there are areas of concern, departments will contact parents and discuss issues with students. A clear programme of intervention will be devised to support students in making progress. If no progress is made, Heads of Department and the Head of Sixth Form may deem it appropriate to remove students from a course or from the Sixth Form.

For progression from the AS (year 12) course to A Level (year 13), students must achieve at least a D grade in their AS examinations. This requirement is strictly enforced.



WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6th Form Foundation Course

6th Form Foundation Course	<p>A minimum of 4 D or E grades at GCSE, or slightly lower on negotiation.</p> <p>Students will need to have an interest in either Business or Health & Social Care as one of these is a compulsory part of the course. They will need to be willing to improve their English and Maths GCSE grades.</p>
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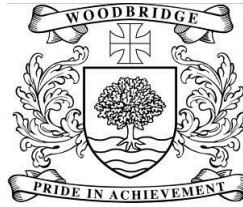
BTEC & Cambridge Technical Level 3

BTEC National Extended Diploma (Level 3) Business	5 A*-C at GCSE, or Merit at BTEC Business Level 2
BTEC National Extended Diploma (Level 3) Sport	5 A*-C at GCSE, or Merit at BTEC Sport Level 2
Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma (Level 3) Art & Design	5 A*-C at GCSE
Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma (Level 3) Health & Social Care	5 A*-C at GCSE, or Merit at H&SC Level 2, GCSE English Grade C

GCE AS / A Level

Art & Design	GCSE Art Grade B, GCSE English Grade B
Biology	GCSE Biology Grade B or Edexcel Certificate in Science Grade AA or GCSE Additional Science Grade A, GCSE Maths Grade B, GCSE English Grade B
Business Studies	GCSE Business Grade B, GCSE English & Maths Grade C.
Chemistry	GCSE Chemistry Grade B or Edexcel Certificate in Science Grade AA or GCSE Additional Science Grade A, GCSE Maths Grade B, GCSE English Grade B.
Community & Other Languages	GCSE Grade B in the language to be studied at AS Level

Computer Science	GCSE Maths Grade B and GCSE English Grade C
Drama & Theatre Studies	GCSE English Grade B and GCSE Drama Grade B
Economics	GCSE Business Studies Grade B if taken, GCSE English Grade B, GCSE Maths Grade B (A is preferred)
English Language	GCSE English Grade B
English Literature	GCSE English <u>and</u> English Literature Grade B
Film Studies	GCSE Media Grade B or GCSE English or English Literature Grade B
French	GCSE French Grade B (A is preferred)
Geography	GCSE Geography Grade B
German	GCSE German Grade B
History	GCSE History Grade B, GCSE English Grade B
ICT	GCSE ICT Grade B, GCSE English & Maths Grade C
Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics Grade B (A is preferred) or Pass in Additional Maths
Mathematics (Further)	GCSE Mathematics Grade A (A* is preferred) or Additional Maths Grade C
Media Studies	GCSE Media Grade B or GCSE English or English Literature Grade B
Music	GCSE Music Grade A (lower grades may be accepted by negotiation)
Physical Education	GCSE PE Grade B
Physics	GCSE Physics Grade B or Edexcel Certificate in Science Grade AA or GCSE Additional Science Grade A, GCSE Maths Grade B and English Grade B
Product Design	GCSE Graphic Products or Product Design Grade B
Psychology	GCSE English Grade B. Also preferred in Maths and Science
Religious Studies	GCSE Religious Studies Grade B or GCSE English Grade B
Russian	GCSE Russian Grade B
Sociology	GCSE English or English Literature Grade B



WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

APPLICATION TIMELINE FOR EXTERNAL STUDENTS

27th November 2014

Sixth Form Open Evening

- Woodbridge High School Sixth Form Open Evening for parents and students
- Woodbridge High School Sixth Form prospectus issued with application form and school reference form

The Sixth Form Open Evening is a chance for you to come and meet and discuss Sixth Form options with our dedicated Heads of Department and gain sufficient information to help when considering pathways at post-16 level.

16th January 2015

Application Deadline

This is the deadline for a completed application, school reference and personal statement to be sent to Woodbridge High School.

February /March 2015

Interviews

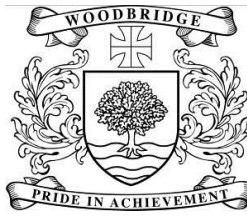
External students will be invited to Woodbridge High School for an interview with either the Head of Sixth Form or an Assistant Headteacher. Then:

- a letter will be sent either offering you a place (you will be requested to reply by beginning April 2015) or advising you that you have been unsuccessful
- you will be invited to reply to our offer to either accept or decline a place
- if you have **firmly accepted** a place, you will be invited to the post-16 Induction Week

July 2015

Post-16 Induction week

This week involves students following a Year 12 timetable for their chosen options and gaining a greater understanding of the level of study, commitment and materials required.



WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
APPLICATION TIMELINE FOR CURRENT YEAR 11
WOODBIDGE STUDENTS

27th November 2014

Sixth Form Open Evening

- Sixth Form Open Evening for parents and students
- Sixth Form prospectus issued with application form

The Sixth Form Open Evening is an opportunity for you to come and meet and discuss Sixth Form options with our dedicated Heads of Department and gain sufficient information to help when considering pathways at post-16 level.

12th December 2014

Application Deadline

This is the deadline for completed Sixth Form Applications to be returned to Mr Hogan, Deputy Headteacher.

19th January 2015

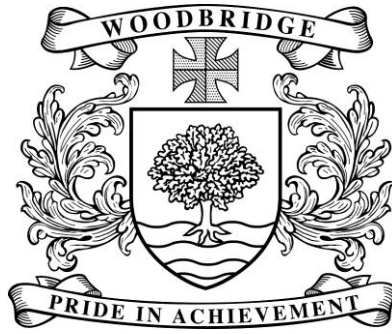
Interviews Begin

After the forms have been completed and handed in, senior staff will talk to the prospective students to help discuss their post-16 plans. Careers guidance will be available during this half term.

July 2015

Post 16 Induction Week

This week involves students following a Year 12 timetable for their chosen options and gaining a greater understanding of the level of study, commitment and materials required.



COURSE INFORMATION

6th FORM FOUNDATION COURSE

- This is a full-time one year course for students who have not yet achieved the entry requirements for Level 3 applied courses or GCE AS / A Levels.
- This course is taught over 30 hours per fortnight. Students study both English and Maths as part of this course, in order to improve their GCSE grade. They also have a Study Support programme to give them skills to apply for employment or courses in the 6th Form or at college.
- This course is not combined with other subjects and is a full-time course. Students have one option as part of this course; EITHER to study for the BTEC First Award in Business OR to study for the Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care.
- These courses are practical and work-based and are assessed chiefly through coursework. Work Experience is a compulsory part of these courses. Please see individual course pages for details.
- If you think that you may not gain 5 A*-C grades at GCSE (the entry requirement for Level 3 courses or GCE AS Levels), then this course is the right option for you. It will give you one year to improve your grades.

6th FORM FOUNDATION COURSE CORE

What will I learn?

The 6th Form Foundation Course is just that – a course which enables you to lay the foundations for study of Level 3 courses or even AS / A Levels in the 6th Form. It is a one-year course and students will learn:

- Skills to improve their GCSE English and Maths Grades to at least grade C
- Skills needed to apply for employment or courses in the 6th Form or at college, including writing CVs
- Skills needed to be able to complete high standard coursework for a range of applied courses
- Skills needed to research given topics, use and reference internet and paper-based sources correctly, draft and redraft their work and give presentations

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students who have not yet achieved the entry requirements for Level 3 applied courses or GCE AS / A Levels. It will lay the foundation for further successful study in the 6th Form or at college.

What is the structure of the course?

This course is a full-time one-year course with 39 hours of timetabled lessons and private study per fortnight. There are five elements:

- GCSE English – 5 hours
- GCSE Maths – 5 hours
- Study Support – 5 hours
- EITHER BTEC Award in Business OR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care (see full details on the following pages) – 15 hours
- Directed private study within the 6th Form – minimum of 9 hours

In addition to this, all students are expected to take part in the whole 6th Form enrichment programme. Students will have a personal tutor and fortnightly tutorials. There is also the opportunity of additional time to spend on English for students for whom English is an additional language.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Maths is assessed entirely by examination – this can take place at various times throughout the year. GCSE English is assessed by controlled assessment and examination. The BTEC and Cambridge Technical courses are assessed by internally and externally marked coursework.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need to have 4 D/E grades from your GCSEs in year 11, or slightly lower grades by negotiation.

Pre-course information required

You will need to decide if you are interested in the Business or Health & Social Care option – talk to teachers of these subjects.

Progression routes

This course will help you to develop the skills and get the grades needed to apply for a Level 3 course in Business, Health & Social Care, or in one of the other Level 3 subjects. You may also be able to study an AS / A Level subject if you meet the entry requirements. You may also go on to employment or to a modern apprenticeship or college course which requires you to have GCSEs in English / Maths and other subjects at grade C or above.

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss C. Iyengar, Head of 6th Form

BTEC FIRST AWARD (LEVEL 2) IN BUSINESS

What will I learn?

The BTEC First Award course is designed to enable you to gain an understanding of how a business operates and the processes that enable it to produce goods and services to satisfy the needs of its customers. You will acquire a broad background of understanding and knowledge of the key fundamentals of operating a business by studying areas such as Business Finance and Key Influences or Pressures on Business Activities.

Much of your learning will be developed in a practical and realistic way as several of the units studied are based on “real-life” business scenarios or are work-related. The skills of communication, ICT, numeracy, presentation, analysis, interpretation, application, problem solving, decision making and evaluation are developed.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who want to gain an understanding of the world of Business. They will have an interest in understanding how a Business operates; enjoy independent research, communication and presenting ideas; enjoy coursework and teamwork and will want to progress to Level 3 courses.

What is the structure of the course?

The BTEC First Award (equivalent to one GCSE at A* - C), is a one year course divided into four units. You must follow the course for the full year to achieve full accreditation. Study areas include:

- Enterprise in the Business World
- Finance for Business (external exam)
- Promoting a brand
- Principles of customer service

How will I be assessed?

There is one external examination. One of the four units will be assessed by a board-set assignment that will be marked by your tutor and moderated externally. The other two units are set and marked internally. You will have to finish all four units to be able to gain full qualification.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need at least 4 D–E grades at GCSE level. An acceptable standard of literacy and numeracy is also required.

Pre-course information required

- To speak to your business teacher to discuss the entry and progression routes.
- Be committed to the route of education, e.g. level 2 then a level 3 course, before you can study at university level.
- It is not necessary to have studied business before you start this course.
- You must be able to work independently and research real-life situations to gather data.

Progression routes

Completion of this course, gaining at least a Merit grade, will entitle the student to apply for a Level 3 course. Many students continue onto a Level 3 applied course, which they study full time, as it is a Triple Award (equivalent to three A Level qualifications). This course will allow you to enter a modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries. Business Studies will equip you with many of the valuable skills required in the modern employment market. Business is the most popular university course and whatever aspect you excel in can be studied at a higher level.

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss S. Aftab, Business BTEC Coordinator and Teacher of Business Education, or Mr J. Hussain, Teacher of Business Education.

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE (LEVEL 2) IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

What will I learn?

This course offers students the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding which will prepare them for entry into employment in the Health & Social Care sector, or into further education. Students will gain an understanding of the key components of the Health & Social Care sector and how they operate to meet the needs of today's clients. The course will allow students to be aware of how health and social care organisations operate through exploration of concepts such as health promotion and care.

Who is the course suitable for?

This subject provides sound preparation for students planning to work in the health care or social care field or with young children. It particularly suits students who prefer doing coursework to taking exams.

What is the structure of the course?

For the award of Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (Level 2), equivalent to two GCSEs at Grade A*-C, students must complete 4 units of study worth 30 credits - two mandatory units worth 5 credits each and two optional units worth 10 credits each.

Mandatory units:

- Unit 1 Communication in Health and Social Care.
- Unit 3 Individual needs in Health and Social Care.

Optional units:

- To be decided depending on the interests of the group.

A period of work experience is also an important component of this course.

How will I be assessed?

There are no exams. All the units are portfolio based. Your teacher will assess your work for all units and this will be moderated by the exam board. Grades awarded are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

What qualifications do I need to have?

A minimum of 4 D / E grades at GCSE of which one should be English Language.

Pre-course information required

The course is designed and delivered using a variety of learning methods and teaching styles. It is not necessary to have any particular knowledge before taking the course, but GCSE Child Development will be very useful. It is essential that if choosing this course you display skills of motivation and commitment.

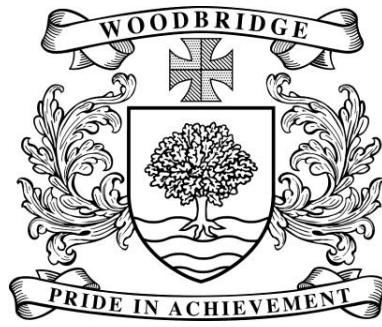
Progression routes

A Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (Level 2) is equivalent to two GCSEs at grades A*-C and if students gain a Merit grade this can then lead to progression to the Level 3 course. You could then go to university to train as a care professional (nurse, occupational therapist, physiotherapist or teacher). You could also use the course as a route into the police, armed forces or ambulance service.

Other progression routes include CACHE, Level 3 National Certificate and those wishing to pursue a career in the caring professions via Apprenticeship in Health, Social Care, or Early Years.

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss J. Kersten, Head of Health & Social Care



COURSE INFORMATION

BTEC & CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL (CTEC) LEVEL 3 COURSES

- These Level 3 courses are available to students who gain 5 A*-C grades or equivalents. Students select one full-time course from the four available:
 - Art& Design
 - Business
 - Health & Social Care
 - Sport
- Level 3 courses are chiefly assessed through coursework, with some exams. They are two-year courses and the assessment takes place throughout the course. If students complete all units during the course, they will gain the equivalent of three full A Levels. These courses attract UCAS points which can be used when applying to university.
- Students may choose one AS Level to combine with a Level 3 course. They must meet the entry requirements for the AS Level course (see pages 4-5).
- These courses are practical and work-based and are assessed chiefly through coursework. Work Experience is a compulsory part of all these courses. Please see individual course pages for details.

BTEC NATIONAL EXTENDED DIPLOMA (LEVEL 3) IN BUSINESS

What will I learn?

The BTEC National Extended Diploma course in Business is designed to give students an understanding of how a business operates and the problems it faces through investigating the principles which govern business decisions and the solution to business problems. You will acquire a broad background of understanding and core knowledge but at the same time study in detail specific areas such as Business Start-Up and Product Promotion.

Much of your learning will be developed in a practical and realistic way as several units of work are linked to trips and visits. The skills of communication, ICT, numeracy, presentation, analysis, interpretation, application, problem-solving, decision-making and evaluation are all developed through the course.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who want to gain a broad understanding of the world of business and industry. They will:

- enjoy communication and presenting ideas through a variety of methods.
- enjoy working independently and in team

The Extended Diploma course is equivalent to 3 A Levels.

What is the structure of the course?

The BTEC National Extended Diploma in Business is a two-year course divided into eighteen units. It leads to the equivalent of 3 A Levels. You must complete all eighteen units to gain the Extended Diploma qualification. The core titles for the Extended Diploma are:

- Exploring Business Activity
- Investigating Business Resources
- Introduction to Marketing
- Effective People & Communication

You will also study fourteen other units for the Extended Diploma.

How will I be assessed?

All units are assessed by portfolio work. You will study for a number of units at once and complete the work required for each of them along the way. Some of the work consists of written work, other assessment is of other skills. The work is internally assessed by your teacher and then checked by an external verifier. The major benefit of the assessment process for the BTEC National courses is that there is no requirement to sit externally set examinations, which differs greatly from any other courses at post-16 level.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will be required to have a minimum of five GCSE's grade C or above OR a Merit or above at BTEC Level 2. A good standard of literacy, numeracy and ICT is also required.

Pre-course information required

The course is designed and delivered using a variety of learning methods and teaching styles. As there is a heavy emphasis on coursework students must be highly organised and able to meet deadlines. Students must be committed, be prepared to work independently and be ready to do lots and lots of business research – both on-line and through visits.

Progression routes

As with all AS / A Level (level 3) subjects, successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries. Business Studies will equip you with many of the valuable skills required in the modern employment market. Successful completion of BTEC National courses attract UCAS points, and as there are so many different themes within the Business Studies field you will have a real insight into a number of areas which you can specialise in if you choose to pursue higher education. Business is the most popular University course and whatever aspect you excel in can be studied at a higher level.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr J. Hussain, teacher of Business Education

BTEC NATIONAL EXTENDED DIPLOMA (LEVEL 3) IN SPORT

What will I learn?

In BTEC Sport you will learn about:

- The sports industry including the organisation of sport and key issues that influence the media in sport.
- Health and safety in sport.
- How to prepare for sport, including anatomy and physiology.
- The body in sport learning about the different energy systems that impact on performance.
- Sports leadership skills including coaching, officiating and performing.
- Factors that affect sports performance and how training can improve performance.
- Practical sport learning skills, tactics and officiating and coaching in chosen sports.

What is the course for?

For students who have desire to follow a career in the sports industry and who have a real interest in a vocational approach to sport. Students may wish to continue on the pathway and seek employment in sport. This course is also suitable for students who wish to study a sport-related course at university.

What is the structure of the course?

- Students will be taught 19 units over the two years and will achieve the BTEC Extended Diploma, worth three A Levels.
- Each unit will take approximately 60 hours of teaching time.
- Students will have 27 hours of lessons over the two week timetable.
- Students will have the opportunity to take the community sports leaders award and use their expertise and coaching qualities in school and at clubs.

How will I be assessed?

Eighteen units of work will be assessed. The assessment is carried out by the PE department and checked by external assessors. Depending on the quality of your work will determine whether you achieve pass, merit or distinction for each unit.

What qualification do I need to have?

- 5 A*-C at GCSE or achieved Merit or above on the BTEC Level 2 course.
- Being a member of a club would be help.
- Some background knowledge of the sports industry.

Pre-course information require

- Be sure that the vocational pathway is right for you.
- Research the course and make an informed decision.
- Check with the PE department that the course will be of interest to you.
- Ask plenty of questions.

Progression routes?

- A career in the sports industry/working for the Sports Council / Governing Body
- A career at a leisure centre
- Management of a leisure centre or sports centre
- Personal trainer or gym instructor.
- Coach of a sporting activity
- Sports physiotherapy / sports injury
- Any other career path in the sports industry.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr S. Jones, Head of Physical Education

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL EXTENDED DIPLOMA (LEVEL 3) IN ART & DESIGN

What will I learn?

This new and exciting applied course will allow students to take a broader look at design. Students will be able to develop and eventually demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding of the design principles and the practicalities of delivering design opportunities to others. Development of these to a high level will enable them to progress within the design field.

Who is the course suitable for?

If you are a creative person and can envisage yourself working in the design field or in a related area, then this is for you. You can also study individual units alongside other qualifications if you want to. Students who have completed the Level 2 course will see this as natural progression.

What is the structure of the course?

1st Year - The course is structured around the completion of nine units (unit one mandatory). Topics will include - Art & Design in Context, -Exploring how artists and designers use 3D materials, techniques and processes, -Branding and Corporate design and - Presenting, displaying, promoting and selling work.

2nd Year - Students will study an additional nine units in their final year. Topics include carving, constructing and modelling 3D artwork, creating 3D art or design work and 3D product design. On successful completion, students will be awarded an OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma in Art and Design.

Throughout the duration of the course, students will also undertake a series of industrial / educational trips.

How will I be assessed?

Each unit within this course is designed around the principle that candidates will build a portfolio of evidence relating to progression towards meeting the unit assessment objectives. The unit assessment objectives reflect the demands of the learning outcomes for each unit. In order for candidates to be able to progress effectively towards meeting the requirements of each assessment objective, they must make sure that they develop their knowledge, understanding and skills requirements for each objective.

Assessment of these qualifications will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate codes of practice:-

- Assessment of all units will take place at school. There are no timetabled exams required.
- Performance at unit level is graded holistically, as Pass, Merit or Distinction, recognising that candidates may perform better in meeting the requirements of some objectives more than others.
- All units are centre-assessed and externally moderated by an OCR Visiting Moderator.

What qualifications do I need to have?

5 A*-C at GCSE.

Pre-course information required

Students will require a good level in ICT and should be willing to work in new materials and learn essential new skills. Students must also have an open mind about the design process. Students will have the opportunity to work on a wide range of projects. Finally, it is extremely important that potential students in this subject area are committed and enthusiastic as the course is focused in students gaining and developing new skills.

Progression routes?

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to progress to further education, e.g. HNDs or University courses. There are also a wide range of Modern Apprenticeship and employment opportunities available in a variety of industries. Skills such as 3D and graphical design are in great demand. This qualification is designed to enable students to enter employment at junior / trainee level within a wide range of design environments. A qualification in this subject area will certainly be viewed as an asset for these candidates.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr S. O'Brien, Acting Head of Design & Technology

CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL EXTENDED DIPLOMA (LEVEL 3) IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

What will I learn?

The Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma is a 2 year course. To achieve this qualification, students must complete 180 credits of work. These qualifications specifically aim to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the health, social care and early years sector and also to develop students' skills, knowledge and understanding in contexts that are directly relevant to employment situations, thereby enhancing their employability within the health, social care and early years sector.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have gained at least a Merit grade in the Level 2 course in Health & Social Care. Students will also be considered if they are preparing for employment in job roles where they will be expected to use their understanding of health and care principles and values and how they are used, communicate effectively and provide active support. This qualification is also suitable for those who want to continue their study in further or higher education. The Extended Diploma course (equivalent to 3 A Levels) counts for three choices and you should choose this if you would like Health & Social Care to be your only subject or if you would like to study it along with one other subject at AS Level.

What is the structure of the course?

To achieve this qualification, students must complete a total of 180 credits. Students must achieve seven mandatory units along with 120 credits from optional units. These are subject to change depending on the needs of the students.

Mandatory units:

- Unit 1. Developing Effective Communication in Health and Social Care
- Unit 2. Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health and Social Care
- Unit 3. Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care
- Unit 4. Development Through the Life stages
- Unit 5. Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care
- Unit 6. Sociological Perspectives for Health and Social Care
- Unit 7. Psychological Perspectives for Health and Social Care

A period of work experience is also an important component of this course.

How will I be assessed?

All units are centre assessed and externally moderated. There are no timetabled exams for this qualification. The full qualification and units from this qualification are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*. Key features of the assessment of these qualifications are:

- Assessment of all units takes place at different times throughout the two years.
- Tutors and assessors can draw on real work-based opportunities for students to generate evidence.
- Performance at unit level is graded holistically, as Pass, Merit or Distinction or Distinction*, recognising that students may perform better in meeting the requirements of some objectives more than others.
- All units are centre-assessed and externally moderated by a Cambridge Visiting Moderator.

What qualifications do I need to have?

5*A-C Grades at GCSE including C in English. Ideally you should have studied Cambridge Nationals Level 2 in H&SC and achieved at least a Merit, although this is not essential.

Pre-course information required

The course is delivered using a variety of learning methods and teaching styles. This qualification is particularly suitable if you wish to study in preparation for employment in job roles where you will be expected to use your understanding of health and care principles and values, how they are used and the operations, activities and functions of care settings.

Progression routes

Many students have gone on to higher education following completion of this course. A student achieving a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health, Social Care and Early Years and wishing to progress to further qualifications in the health, social care or early years sectors may undertake a qualification in one of the following areas: nursing, professions allied to medicine, complementary healthcare, sports health, dietetics, NVQs to become home care organisers, teaching and teaching assistants, working with people with disabilities, counselling, nursery nursing, playgroup leading, teaching and teaching assistants, nursing specialising in the care of children, child minding.

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss J. Kersten, Head of Health & Social Care



COURSE INFORMATION

GCE AS / A LEVELS

- These courses all lead to GCE AS Level qualifications at the end of year 12 and GCE A Levels at the end of year 13.
- Students normally choose four subjects, with a small number choosing three subjects. You should discuss with your teachers and your interviewer whether to opt for three or four subjects.
- Choices must fit into the block diagram which is shown on the application form. Other combinations may not be possible within the timetable. However, if there is a combination which is not possible, please see Mr Hogan to discuss your options. The block diagram may be subject to change.
- In some subjects, there are new specifications beginning September 2015. For these subjects, AS Level exams at the end of year 12 do not count as part of the overall assessment at A Level.
- One AS Level can be studied in combination with a Level 3 course, providing the entry requirements for specific subjects are met.
- Students normally progress from AS Level to A Level in year 13. Students who are studying four subjects in year 12 have the option to continue with three in year 13. Students must get a D grade or higher at AS Level to progress to A Level.

ART AND DESIGN

What will I learn?

Under the umbrella of Art, Craft and Design you will have the opportunity to work in a range of disciplines including Fine Art, Graphic communication, Textile design, Three-dimensional design and Photography. You will have to show evidence that you can work in at least two of these disciplines throughout your portfolio unit and can specialise, if you choose, in the externally set assignment. During the course you will learn how to analyse the work of artists, crafts people and designers, decoding the context, meaning and messages within their work as well as closely studying the materials and processes they have used. You will learn about the context in which art is made and develop a strong understanding of art specialist vocabulary and terminology. You will learn how to identify, select and use appropriate sources in response to a starting point, theme or concept. Throughout the course you will learn how to generate ideas and sustain focused investigations through the experimentation of materials, techniques and processes.

Who is the course suitable for?

The course is for students who want to study Art to an advanced level and are not afraid of hard work. We are looking for passionate, intelligent, creative and open minded students who have a genuine interest in the visual world. You will need to show initiatives and be able to work independently as much of the course is structured around individual ideas.

What is the structure of the course?

AS Units:

Component 1: Portfolio 60%
Component 2: Externally set assignment 40%

NEW SPECIFICATION

A Level Units:

Component 1: Personal investigation 60%
Component 2: Externally set assignment 40%

How will I be assessed?

AS Units

Units 1 is internally set and marked and externally moderated.
Unit 2 is externally set but internally marked and then externally moderated

A Level Units

Units 3 is internally set and marked and externally moderated.
Unit 4 is externally set but internally marked and then externally moderated.

The exam board for this course is AQA.

What qualifications do I need to have?

To be accepted onto the AS course you will need a Grade B or higher in Art GCSE and English at grade 'B'.

Pre-course information required

The standard of work in the Art Department at Woodbridge is incredibly high. We maintain these standards through providing a rigorous course that makes high demands on students. You need to have a genuine passion for Art and not be afraid of hard work.

You will be expected to spend a minimum of four hours a week on Art home learning and provide an A3 spiral bound sketchbook for this purpose. The provision of a basic set of art materials and a folder is desirable.

Progression routes?

This course is excellent preparation for anyone interested not only for a career in Art, but also in a wide range of commercial industries such as industrial design, fashion, textiles, video/ film production, media, publishing, animation, advertising to name a few. Many students take the natural step forward and complete an Art foundation for a year before embarking upon a specialised degree course.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs C. Ward-Mills, Head of Art

BIOLOGY

What will I learn?

The Biology course is designed to give a broad and balanced understanding of both Plant and Animal Biology and the skills and techniques needed to study living organisms. The curriculum is structured to include those areas of Biology that are at the forefront of modern scientific research, including Gene Technology, Transmission and Prevention of Disease, Conservation, Global Climate Change and Epigenetics.

Who is the course suitable for?

A diverse range of students study biology. It is essential for those hoping to go on to study medicine, veterinary science and physiotherapy but also provides useful links with P.E., Psychology, and Geography.

What is the structure of the course?

AS Units:

Paper 1 – Core Cellular Biology and Microbiology (1hr 30min)

Paper 2 – Core Physiology and Ecology (1hr 30 min)

NEW SPECIFICATION

A level Units:

Paper 1 – Advanced Biochemistry, Microbiology and Genetics (1hr 45min)

Paper 2 – Advanced Physiology, Evolution and Ecology (1hr 45min)

Paper 3 – General and Practical Principles in Biology (2 hours 30min)

How will I be assessed?

At the end of each unit of study you will be internally assessed to monitor your progress. You will also be expected to prepare essays and presentations to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding, and write up your practicals. The external examinations will be offered in June of each year and will contain a variety of multiple choice, short answer and longer stretch and challenge questions.

All students will sit the AS qualification in the summer of Year 12, this will determine whether they progress to the second year of the course, however the grade obtained in the AS is not carried forward to A Level and all Y12 content will be re-assessed at the end of the A Level course. The A Level assessment will include synoptic application of all knowledge taught across the 2 years of the course. Your ability to manipulate equipment and analyse experimental results is continually assessed and will be reported separately at the end of the A Level course, it will not contribute to your final grade. The exam board for this course is Edexcel.

What qualifications do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE Biology, Grade AA in Edexcel Certificate in Science (Double Award) or Grade A in Additional Science, Grade B in GCSE Maths and Grade B in GCSE English.

Pre-course information required

Candidates need to have a good understanding of general scientific concepts and a keen interest in Biology. You should get into the habit of reading scientific periodicals and papers. You should read widely about scientific issues in the news.

Progression routes?

Biology is well regarded by all universities and employers as being an academically rigorous subject producing students who are competent in problem-solving, thinking skills and recall skills. These skills are valued irrespective of whether the course or job is linked to Biology and so it is worthwhile to consider taking Biology even if you are certain you wish to pursue an “arts” based route through A-level.

Biology is essential if you wish to work in any area of medicine or veterinary science, it is also beneficial to study Chemistry if you wish to follow these courses.

Studying Biology will also allow you to go on to study a degree or to work in the following areas; Medicine, Radiography, Physiotherapy, Midwifery, Forensic Science, Marine Biology, Sport Science, Environmental Science, Veterinary Medicine and Microbiology.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms C. Tew, Head of Science

BUSINESS STUDIES

What will I learn?

- The diverse nature of business enterprise and its ever-changing character
- The interdependence of the business world and of business itself with society and economics
- A critical understanding of organisations, the market they serve and the process of adding value
- An awareness that business behaviour can be studied from the perspective of a range of stakeholders
- The importance of economic, environmental, ethical, governmental, legal, social and technological issues associated with business activity.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Students who want a broad understanding of the world of business
- Students who enjoy challenges, problem solving, numerical situations.
- Students who want a recognised qualification

What is the structure of the course?

AS Level Paper 1 Business 1
Paper 2 Business 2

A Level Paper 1 Business 1
Paper 2 Business 2
Paper 3 Business 3

NEW SPECIFICATION

How will I be assessed?

The AS course is assessed by two one-and-a-half hour written exams at the end of Year 12.
Paper 1: Two compulsory sections, including multiple choice, short answer questions and data response questions.
Paper 2: One compulsory case study consisting of seven questions.

The A-level is assessed by three two hour written exams at the end of Year 13.
Paper 1: Multiple-choice questions, short answer and two essays.
Paper 2: Three compulsory data response questions.
Paper 3: One compulsory case study consisting of six questions.

What qualifications do I need to have?

At least a Grade B in GCSE Business if studied at GCSE. Grade C in GCSE English and Maths are required.

Pre-course information required

- Talk to your business studies teacher and discuss the course further
- Talk to the careers advisor
- Look at your targets and predicted grades to see if you have the requirements to study the subject

Progression routes?

As with all AS / A Level subjects, successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries. Business Studies will equip you with many of the valuable skills required in the modern employment market.

As there are so many different themes within Business Studies you will have a real insight into a number of areas which you can go on further to high education to specialise in. Business is the most popular University course and whatever aspect you excel in can be studied at a higher level.

Research in the Careers Library – section C, N & O

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr J. Hussain, A Level Co-ordinator, or Miss S. Aftab, Teacher of Business Education

CHEMISTRY

What will I learn?

Chemistry is the science of materials. Advanced chemistry students learn about atomic and electronic structure and use these ideas to explain the chemistry of particular elements in the Periodic Table. The chemistry of carbon (organic chemistry) is studied specifically and the factors that control chemical change form the basis for a study of physical chemistry. In A Level, quantitative chemistry is developed and students study organic synthesis and analysis methods in further studies of organic chemistry. Chemistry is a laboratory-based subject and throughout the course practical activities are linked to the theory studied and a variety of experimental techniques are learnt.

Who is the course suitable for?

Chemistry is a must if you are interested in any medical career or in biological or environmental studies. It is suitable if you wish to study any area of science, engineering or technology in higher education and can be studied alongside business based courses and will be highly regarded addition to any CV because of the academic skills required.

What is the structure of the course?

AS Paper1 Core Inorganic & Physical Chemistry 1hr 30 min
Paper 2 Core Organic and Physical Chemistry 1hr 30 min

NEW SPECIFICATION

A Paper 1 Advanced Inorganic & Physical Chemistry 1hr 45 min
Paper 2 Advanced Organic & Physical Chemistry 1hr 45min
Paper 3 General & Practical Principles in Chemistry 2hr 30 min

How will I be assessed?

At the end of each unit of study you will be internally assessed to monitor your progress. You will also be expected to prepare answers to detailed questions on all topics and to prepare presentations to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the work. The external examinations are taken in June of year 12 and year 13 and will contain a variety of multiple choice, short answer and longer stretch and challenge questions. Your ability to manipulate equipment and analyse experimental results is continually assessed and is reported to the exam board for A Level but will not count towards your final grade. Examination questions will test your practical skills. The exam board for this course is Edexcel.

What qualifications do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE Chemistry, Grade AA in Edexcel Certificate in Science (Double Award) or Grade A in Additional Science, Grade B in GCSE Maths and Grade B in GCSE English.

Pre-course information required

Apart from GCSE Science you need to develop the ability to work independently, read widely about current scientific issues and be able to meet deadlines at all times. Manual dexterity is useful for practicals and you must be able to use a calculator! Questions involving the use of mathematical skills in Chemistry will contribute to 20% of the assessment.

Progression routes?

As with all A Level subjects, successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a Modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries. Chemistry is an essential qualification for virtually all careers in the medical and veterinary world. Employment opportunities making use of chemistry qualifications are very diverse - these include jobs in industry, research and in the field. There is currently a shortage of people in the labour market with appropriate qualifications in chemistry. Chemistry qualifications are also well regarded in colleges, universities and by employers as a measure of problem solving ability, recall skills and manual dexterity for those not necessarily intending to continue with science, particularly for careers in business and management.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs P. Pond, Head of Chemistry

COMMUNITY & OTHER LANGUAGES

What will I learn?

Urdu, Chinese (Cantonese or Mandarin), Turkish and Italian are available to AS / A Level. You will consolidate your knowledge of the community language which you already speak, while learning to communicate effectively in a variety of registers and formats. You will learn to write essays, translate from and into English accurately and read texts for gist and detail. You will study the culture of the country or countries where your language is spoken in depth, including literature and films in the language. Other languages may also be available (such as Bengali, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi or Arabic), please check with us for details.

Who is the course suitable for?

The course is for students who speak one of the community languages above at home or with members of their close family. It will give them the opportunity to gain a formal, recognised qualification in that language.

What is the structure of the course?

The structure of the course varies according to the language, but in general you will have between 1 and 2 hours tuition time per week, in small groups. The classes take place in twilight time, between 3.15 and 5.15pm. For Urdu and Italian, the course is split into four units, the first two AS units are taken at the end of the first year and the second two A Level units at the end of the second year. The others have one unit for AS and one unit for A Level.

How will I be assessed?

Urdu and Italian

For AS, you will complete two examinations:

Unit 1 - The Oral Exam,

Unit 2 - Listening, Reading and Writing

For A Level:

Unit 3 - The Oral Exam,

Unit 4 - Research & Written Response

Chinese and Turkish

For Chinese AS, you will complete **Unit 1** Oral exam and **Unit 2** Understanding and Written Response. For A Level there is only one examination **Unit 3** Written response and Research in Chinese.

For Turkish, there are only 2 units **Unit 1** Understanding and Written Response, **Unit 2** Understanding and Written Response and Research

What qualifications do I need to have?

You need at least Grade B at GCSE in the community language which you want to study at AS Level at Woodbridge. It may be possible to take this qualification at Woodbridge in Year 12 and then complete the AS and A units in Year 13.

Pre-course information required

You need to be able to read and write accurately in the language you speak. If you are in doubt about this, you should come and discuss it with us. The GCSE prepares you to this level. You need to be aware of the demands of the course – although you may speak the language already, you will be expected to do a lot of background reading and study of books and texts to prepare yourself for the exams. Although you may speak the language fluently, it is not enough to turn up on the day of the exam. You need to be prepared to work independently on preparing for the exams.

Progression routes?

AS and A Levels in community languages are recognised qualifications at the same academic level as AS or A Levels in any other subject. They are recognised by universities and employers and count towards your points score for university entrance. Students who have studied the community language which they speak often go on to use it in employment. There is a huge demand for speakers of community languages in the health and social care sectors, the police service, the courts, education as well as in local government administration. Many educated speakers of community languages who also have a good command of English use their knowledge of the community language to do freelance translation or interpreting work. This can be very highly paid. There is also a growing demand for speakers of community languages amongst charities and in the voluntary sector. Many organisations work closely with communities for whom English is a second language and they are in need of well-qualified people who have a background in these communities and speak the language as well as they speak English. Those who wish to delve deeper into the culture of the country where their language is spoken can go on to study it at university, for example, at the School of Oriental and African Studies, part of the University of London

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss K. Riddell, Community Languages Co-ordinator

COMPUTER SCIENCE

What will I learn?

The course is much more than just training in a programming language. The emphasis is on computational thinking. Computational thinking is a kind of reasoning used by both humans and machines. Thinking computationally means using abstraction and decomposition. The study of computation is about what can be computed and how to compute it. Computer Science involves questions that have the potential to change how we view the world. Computer Science is about designing new algorithms to solve new problems. In this sense Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes. This course, with its emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, scientific and engineering-based thinking, is a good foundation for understanding these future challenges.

Who is the course suitable for?

The course is aimed at students who wish to develop a logical approach to solving problems and understanding the ways in which computer systems are developed. Students should be able to work independently applying their own analytical reasoning to solve both abstract and specific problems. The pre-release practical exam requires high levels of students preparation.

What is the structure of the course?

Year 12

Logical problem solving and computer programming accounts for 50% of the course.

As students advance in their programming, increasingly difficult problems are presented for them to solve, building up to solve a complex problem scenario released in advance of the practical onscreen programming examination.

Computer Science theory accounts for the remaining 50% of the course, where students learn theory of computation, how the internet works as a global network of computers and the impact that computer use has upon our lives.

Year 13

Students' knowledge of theoretical computer science is deepened, exploring emerging areas such as Big Data, functional programming and advanced data structures used in programming. In Year 13 students complete an extensive independent programming project creating software to solve a real world problem or a scientific simulation.

NEW SPECIFICATION

How will I be assessed?

AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 1: tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical Computer Science knowledge of algorithms, data structures and computation – 50% of total AS Level mark – 1½ Hour on-screen examination• Paper 2: Theory Topics: fundamentals of computer systems, data representation, computer organisation and architecture, networking & communication – 50% of total AS Level marks – 1½ Hour Written Examination <p>Please note: marks gained at AS level do not count towards A2 qualification</p>
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 1: tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical Computer Science knowledge of algorithms, data structures and computation – 40% of total A2 Level mark – 2½ Hour on-screen examination• Paper 2: Theory Topics: fundamentals of computer systems, data representation, networking, databases, Big Data and functional programming – 40% of total A2 Level marks – 2½ Hour Written Examination• Practical Programming Project - 20% of total A2 Level marks – Coursework Project

What qualifications do I need to have?

GCSE Maths Grade B and GCSE English grade C and GCSE average points score of 43+

Pre-course information required

Whilst we do not require previous study of ICT/Computing a good mathematical ability (at least GCSE grade B) is essential for this course, along with a GCSE grade C in English, and average points score of 43+

Progression routes?

This course is very well respected academically and will be a strong support to students intending to study medicine, law, engineering, computing, foreign languages, physical sciences or maths based courses at university. As computing pervades all aspects of study and contemporary research, this course supports a very wide range of career paths at university in addition to those listed above.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr P. Martin, Head of ICT and Computer Science

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

What will I learn?

On the course we explore and develop your skills as an actor and director in breathing life into a play. You will be shown the wonderful diversity in theatre and will learn to analyse, interpret and create imaginative, stylish and effective theatre, whilst increasingly becoming a competent theatre practitioner. While this A level is rigorously academic, it is essentially practical and offers a unique approach to learning. It is an active and creative course which aims to nurture your enthusiasm for and interest in theatre, both as an audience member and as a participant. Through the study of different play texts, practitioners and the history of theatre, you will gain the theoretical knowledge and practical understanding to take the page to the stage. You will produce explorative notes analysing the process and demonstrating your theoretical understanding. Drama and Theatre Studies develops your ability to analyse situations, read people, build your confidence and improve your ability to present to an audience. The course demands practical, creative and communication skills in equal measure Drama gives you the freedom to be creative and experiment working with others to expand ideas, make new discoveries and taking risks to create effective and original performance.

Who is the course suitable for?

Theatre Studies is designed for students with a keen interest in acting, directing and performing. The course is for those who want a deeper understanding of drama, interested in studying plays, looking at the work of influential theatre practitioners, analysing live theatre performance and creating performance work of their own. It is useful to have taken Drama or Expressive Arts at GCSE level but not essential. It is important that you are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre and plays work, and that you are keen to be involved in performances.

What is the structure of the course?

Theatre studies focuses on the study of plays from the perspective of a director, designer, performer and critic. The course will involve taking part in performance, studying plays, playwrights and practitioners exploring their theories developing practical responses. You will review professional performances and acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre. The qualification is split into 4 units over the 2 years.

The AS year is essentially about taking a play from the page to performance. Over the year you complete 2 units. Within unit 1 we explore two contrasting play and recognised theatre practitioner. The approach is mostly practical with a high level of analysis. Through written and practical coursework assessment, you will demonstrate your understanding, practical skills and ideas. We will also visit the theatre to review plays and here you will learn to critique all aspects of the production with skill. Unit 2 focuses on you as a performer. We will develop your skills and prepare you for an externally assessed performance of a monologue or duologue and a group performance of a scripted play directed by your teacher.

A Level draws all of your experience, research and ideas to develop original pieces of theatre and understanding of the process of taking the page to the stage. You will also write a critique of a historic play you have seen, drawing comparisons with the plays original performance context and the performance seen. Again over the year we study 2 units.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: 40% of AS (20% of GCE) written & practical cwk
Unit 2: 60% of AS (30% of GCE) practical externally

Unit 3: 40% of A Level (20% of GCE) Written & practical cwk
Unit 4: 60% of A Level (30% of GCE) written exam based on

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a Grade B in GCSE English and in Drama or Expressive Arts, although outside experience or interest in Drama will be considered.

Pre-course information required

You will also be expected to attend organised trips to the theatre with the school and extra-curricular rehearsals. You will need to be prepared to express yourself and overcome any fears of performing, so approach the course with an open mind and a positive attitude.

Progression routes?

The course is excellent preparation for a degree in Drama or Drama School training; however, the skills developed through this course are relevant to many different academic and professional areas. It combines well with other Arts, Humanities and English. Drama offers the opportunity to acquire and develop skills many universities and employers look for. It can give you the edge and setting you apart from other candidates by demonstrating you have a diverse range of skills.

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss L. Cranwell, Head of Drama

ECONOMICS

What will I learn?

- Gain knowledge of the workings of an 'economy' – at both the national and international level
- Study the UK, US and Chinese economies – among others.
- Develop an understanding of a range of economic concepts and acquire an ability to apply them to a variety of situations
- Develop an ability to think like an economist, i.e. take a critical approach to the study of economics
- Understand the role governments, consumers and firms play in our economy
- Learn about inflation, employment, GDP, trading and supply and demand.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Students intrigued by the UK's and the world's current and on-going economic situation
- Students who may be considering a career in finance, trading or investment banking.
- Students with good logic and numeracy skills who enjoy reading
- Students with good problem solving and analytical skills who are able to write clearly
- Pupils who enjoy following current events/news stories

What is The structure of the course?

AS Level Paper 1 – The Operation of Markets and Market Failure Paper 2 – The National Economy	A Level Paper 1 – Markets and Market Failure Paper 2 – The National & International Economy Paper 3 – Economic Principles and Issues	NEW SPECIFICATION
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How will I be assessed?

AS The AS has two one-and-a-half hour written exams, taken at the end of Year 12. Paper 1: Operation of markets and market failure: Multiple choice, data response and extended writing Paper 2: The National Economy: multiple choice, data response and extended writing	A Level The A-level has three, two hour written exams, taken at the end of Year 13. Paper 1: Markets and market failure: data response and extended writing Paper 2: National and international economy: data response and extended writing Paper 3: Economic principles and issues – multiple choice and extended writing
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What qualifications do I need?

A minimum grade B is required in GCSE English and Maths. Grade A in Maths is preferable with new course demands of minimum 20% mathematical assessment. If Business Studies is taken at GCSE - minimum Grade B is required as well.

Pre-course information required

If you would like to know more, please talk to Mr Hussain, Mr Khan or Ms Iyengar to discuss the course further.

Progression routes?

Economics is an extremely academic A level and thus is very well respected by top Universities. Many of our Economics students go on to pursue degrees at top national and international universities in a variety of disciplines. We have had some of our economics pupils interviewed at Oxbridge and go on to secure excellent internships in the City of London. Studying Economics at A level is highly recommended for anyone considering a career in Finance, International Relations, Politics, Philosophy, History and Journalism, among many more. Pupils wishing to study Economics, Maths, Engineering or any other social science at university will benefit greatly from the A level Economics course.

Who do I contact for Further information?

Mr J. Hussain – Teacher of Economics and A Level Coordinator

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

What will I learn?

You should have an interest in and enjoyment of the way English is used. This course teaches you about the structures and functions of the language and the way it has changed with time and use. You will learn to express yourself in speech and creative writing with increasing competence and sophistication. You will be encouraged to read widely and develop skills in listening critically and attentively to spoken English, as well as analyse all modes of language critically.

You will find out about language through four 'frameworks': what it means (semantics), how it is constructed (grammar); what words are chosen (lexis) and how it sounds (phonology).

Who is the course suitable for?

You must be passionate about being a language scientist who critically examines the technical make-up of words, sentences and texts. Also, are you ready to be a language sleuth- investigating language with a microscope? If so, then please do not hesitate to approach a member of the department for more information.

What is the structure of the course?

In Year 12 and Year 13 you will cover the following topics: Language and the Individual (and Society -Y13) and Language Diversity (and Change- Y13).

How will I be assessed?

AS Level

Two one-and-a-half hour written exams, taken at the end of Year 12.

NEW SPECIFICATION

A Level

Two two-and-a-half hour written exams (80%) and coursework (20%), taken at the end of Year 13.

The exam board for this course is AQA.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You need to have Grade B in GCSE English (or higher).

Pre-course information required

You should talk to the teachers of the English Department and students currently studying AS and A level Language.

Progression routes

As with all A Level subjects, successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a Modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries. A qualification in English is highly valued in many industries, especially where analytical written and communication skills play an important role. Don't just think of journalism or law, either English qualification will open doorways to future career development.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs M Amihere, Head of English, or Ms V. Geary, Mr S. Wingfield, Ms V. Hughes and Ms L. Neuburger

ENGLISH LITERATURE

What will I learn?

This course will broaden your knowledge and understanding of both modern and traditional literature and aims to encourage you to read as widely as possible. You will study texts closely and gain an understanding of how cultural and historical influences affect both readers and writers. You will learn how to analyse novels, plays and poetry and write essays about them. However, there is also a lot of emphasis placed on discussion work in this course and you are encouraged to engage fully in debate about the set texts in class.

Who is the suitable course for?

Reading for pleasure is important if you wish to take this course. However, you must be interested in studying texts closely, analysing language and writing essays. It is imperative for all pupils to consider how much wider reading is required to complete this course successfully. English Literature is not for the faint hearted and will require excellent skills of managing class reading and independent enquiry. If you are up for this challenge, then this course is for you.

What is the structure of the course?

In Year 12 and Year 13 you will study the prose, poetry and drama covering the topic of Love Through The Ages and Texts In Shared Contexts: WW1 and its Aftermath or Modern Times Literature from 1945 to the present day
In Year 13 you will study the prose, poetry and drama of love through the ages.

How will I be assessed?

AS Level

Two one-and-a-half hour written exams, taken at the end of Year 12.

NEW SPECIFICATION

A Level

One three hour and one two-and-a-half hour written exams (80%) and coursework (20%), taken at the end of Year 13.

The exam board for this course is AQA.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You need to have Grade B (or preferably higher) in GCSE English or English Literature.

Pre-course information required

You should talk to teachers of the English Department and students currently studying AS/A level Literature.

Progression routes

As with all A Level subjects, successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a Modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries. A qualification in English is highly valued in many industries, especially where analytical written and communication skills play an important role. Don't just think of journalism or law, either English qualification will open doorways to future career development.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs M. Amihere, Head of English, or Mrs P. Colman, Mrs H. Dipple, Ms V. Geary, Mrs A. Rendell, Miss R. Ruzane and Mr S. Wingfield

FILM STUDIES

What will I learn?

Film Studies AS / A Level is designed to deepen students' understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film, the major art form of the twentieth century. You will study film from a variety of approaches: the history of film; the film industry; film in social context, film as an art form and the close study and analysis of how the language of film generates meaning and audience responses. You will acquire transferrable skills in essay writing, research, and presentation as well as creative skills in photography, film-making and screenwriting. Studying film will also broaden your understanding of modern history and politics and give you a wider appreciation of different cultures through the world cinema modules.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who love film and are open to explore new and unfamiliar topics. As well as getting to study films, film-makers and aspects of the film industry that interest you personally, you will engage with a wide range of different kinds of films from different eras, countries and in different styles, developing skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection. Assessment is through a combination of essays and creative work with the intention of producing imaginative, active learners so you will need to be a confident writer as well as creative and enthusiastic.

What is the structure of the course?

Two units are studied each year through the WJEC exam board: coursework (40%) and exam (60%).

At AS, the coursework unit (**Exploring Film Form**) focuses on the way meaning is constructed in film through a close study of mise-en-scene, sound, cinematography and editing.

The exam unit (**British and American Film**) focuses on two national cinemas, the UK and the USA. You will learn about the history of production, distribution, exhibition and messages and values across these national cinemas as well as learning about the relationship between producers and audiences.

At A Level, the coursework is an extended research project on a topic of your choosing and a creative unit on screenwriting. The exam unit covers World cinema (Spanish, German and Soviet) and spectatorship topics (shocking cinema, film and emotional response).

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through exam (60%) and coursework (40%). At AS, the exam is a 2 ½ hr written paper consisting of 3 essay questions. The coursework includes a 1500 word written analysis of a film extract and a 25 shot photographic storyboard of a film sequence of your own creative design.

At A Level, the exam is a 2 ¾ hr written paper consisting of 3 essay questions. The coursework is an extended research project on a topic of your choosing and an 1800 word screenplay for a film sequence of your own creative design.

What qualifications do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE Media Studies or GCSE English if you have not studied Media. An interest in Art, Business, History, ICT, Drama, Design or English will be advantageous but not vital.

Pre-course information required

The specification builds on the cine-literacy learners have developed informally since childhood. They will study film and industry deriving from a variety of production contexts and experienced in a variety of viewing situations; it is much more than just watching films.

Progression routes?

There are a wide range of Film- or Film-related university degrees. Students have gone on to study academic subjects such as Film Studies, Film Theory or History of Art as well Film production and many other practical courses such as directing and screenwriting. You can also combine your study of film with such related humanities courses as History, English, Modern Foreign Languages, Sociology, Psychology, Politics, Philosophy and Drama. Some students will go on to work in the media and film industries.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms A. Gold, Head of Media Studies

FRENCH

What will I learn?

The French Advanced level course is a progression from French GCSE. You will study grammar in detail, do prose translations, have discussions and debates in French as well as use the internet for research and study purposes. The cultural aspect is also explored in order to provide an insight into the lifestyle of French speaking countries. A range of topics will be studied, including; contemporary issues such as new family structures, individual rights and responsibilities, the education system and employment, the media, youth concern, the environment, racism and religion. You also gain a range of transferable skills, which are highly valued by employers and universities.

Who is the course suitable for?

If you are keen to develop the invaluable language skills you acquired for GCSE, have a lively interest in contemporary issues, have a willingness to listen to a range of opinions and to express your own views as well as an open attitude to exploring other cultures then this is the right course for you. It would also suit you if you are interested in the business world, history, travel, tourism, media or journalism.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is structured to develop the language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing – through the study of various aspects of French contemporary society. Grammar will be taught in one main block, then intermittently revisited over the course period, independent modules of listening and reading will be undertaken on a fortnightly basis. You will work from two course books supplemented by a range of materials: TV, magazine and newspaper articles, French websites, books and films. Work experience in France is a possible aspect of the course, as too are conferences run by native speakers. You will be expected to use one private study period per fortnight to take part in oral sessions run by our FLA (Foreign Language Assistant). These sessions are compulsory.

How will I be assessed?

The Edexcel AS French comprises two units:

Unit 1 – Spoken Expression and Response in French – 10 mins, 30% of AS marks

Unit 2 – Understanding and Written Response in French – 2½ hours, 70% of AS marks

For Edexcel A Level French, you need the two AS units plus two further units:

Unit 3 – Understanding and Spoken Response in French – 12 mins, 35% of A Level marks

Unit 4 – Research, Understanding and Written Response in French – 2½ hours, 65% of A Level

The exam board for this course is Edexcel.

What qualifications do I need to have?

It is essential to have achieved at least a grade 'B' at GCSE in French but preferably an A grade.

Pre-course information required

It is advisable to revise GCSE work and to practise particularly presenting oral work. This will help when providing opinions, organising arguments and analysing ideas. Taster sessions should also be attended, during which time transition work will be set to complete over the Summer holiday. It is ideal to spend some time in a French speaking country before the course commences, but this is not compulsory. Between now and the start of your A Level course, you are encouraged to keep practising grammar. Interested students, both internal and external, may request a transition pack and a grammar pack to fully prepare.

Progression routes?

As with all AS/ A Level subjects, successful completion of this course will enable progression onto further and higher education, a Modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries. As we live in a global economy, with the European Union being the UK's biggest trading partner, proficiency in a language such as French will be a much prized qualification. Qualifications in modern languages are a requirement in many areas in the travel industry and are likely to increase your chance of employment in the business world. It is becoming increasingly prudent to study a language such as French alongside another subject or purely on its own. More and more Joint Honours courses are available involving the study of French, all of which will open up the workplace for students/ prospective employees.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms S. Gape, Head of French

GEOGRAPHY

What will I learn?

- What are the forces influencing our natural environment?
- What are the issues affecting people and the places where they live?
- How are people affecting the environment we all live in?
- What are the economic forces that drive the world economy, and how are they changing?
- What decisions are being made about the use and management of resources, and who makes these decisions?
- How to plan a fieldwork investigation – the collection of primary and secondary evidence and how to analyse it.

Who is the course suitable for?

This course will appeal to those students who:

- have an interest in and concern for the environment
- are interested in current affairs
- want the opportunity to carry out practical work outdoors as well as class work
- enjoy travel and finding out about new people, places, landscapes and events.

What is the structure of the course?

At AS level, all candidates will study core human and physical geography. In each area of study students will consider the values and attitudes of decision makers, consider their own values and attitudes to the issues being studied, and support their learning of ideas through the study of specific case studies. Students will also develop a variety of geographical skills which will broaden and deepen existing knowledge and be employed with a greater degree of independence. Students will study two units which include the study of rivers, floods and management, coastal environments, global population change, and energy issues. The applied geography unit includes basic, investigative, ICT, graphical, cartographical and statistical skills, research skills and fieldwork. Students are expected to attend a 3 day residential field trip in January.

At A Level level, students will continue to study a combination of human and physical geography. Students are required to choose whether to undertake preparatory investigative work in the field in order to be able to produce a fieldwork investigation, or undertake an issue evaluation exercise to extend the content within the specialised context of issue evaluation. Topics include plate tectonics, world cities, development and globalisation.

How will I be assessed?

AS Level

Paper 1 - Human and physical geography
Paper 2 - Geographical skills.
The exam board for this course is AQA.

A Level

Paper 4a - Geography Fieldwork Investigation
Paper 3 - Contemporary Geographical Issues

What qualifications do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE Geography.

Pre-course information required

A keen interest in the world around us. A willingness to avidly follow current affairs and an interest in Sociology, Economics, Politics, Environmental Issues and History are all essential to a full appreciation of the subject.

Progression routes?

An 'A' Level in Geography can lead you to complete a wide variety of degrees which may include

Medicine, Journalism, Law, Teaching, Surveying, Environmental Science/Education, Geology, Leisure Management, Oceanography, Tourism Management, Town Planning, Diplomatic Service, Exploration, Water Resource Management, Zoology, Resource Management.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr J Steacy-Buck, Head of Geography

GERMAN

What will I learn?

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher level in German. You will also learn much more about the society and cultural arena(s) in which German is spoken. You will study a range of topics, for example the world around us, education and employment, youth culture and concerns, customs, traditions, beliefs and religions, national / International events and literature and the arts. Emphasis will be placed on the development of personal and intellectual skills as well as linguistic skills.

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is suitable for those interested in languages and communication and particularly if you enjoy learning about different cultures and ways of life. It is also of value to those students who would like to combine their interest in German with business, history, travel, tourism, media or journalism.

What is the structure of the course?

You will develop the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing – through the study of various aspects of German contemporary society. Grammar will be taught in one main block, then intermittently revisited over the course period, independent modules of listening and reading will be undertaken on a fortnightly basis. You will work with a range of authentic materials such as magazine and newspaper articles, German websites and films as well as the Edexcel German for A Level coursebook. Work experience in Germany is a recommended aspect of the course, as too are conferences run by native speakers. Students are expected to use one private study period per fortnight to take part in oral sessions run by our FLA (Foreign Language Assistant). These sessions are compulsory.

How will I be assessed?

The Edexcel AS German comprises two units:

For Edexcel A Level German, you need the two AS units plus two further units:

Unit 1 – Spoken Expression and Response in German – 10 mins, 30% of AS marks

Unit 3 – Understanding and Spoken Response in German – 12 mins, 35% of A Level marks

Unit 2 – Understanding and Written Response in German – 2½ hours, 70% of AS marks

Unit 4 – Research, Understanding and Written Response in German – 2½ hours, 65% of A Level

What qualifications do I need to have?

It is essential to have achieved at least a Grade B at GCSE German.

Pre-course information required

It is advisable to revise GCSE work and to practise particularly presenting oral work. This will help when providing opinions, organising arguments and analysing ideas. Taster sessions should also be attended, during which time transition work will be set to complete over the Summer holiday. It would of course be wonderful, if students were able to spend some time in a German speaking country before the course commences, but this is not compulsory.

Progression routes?

Languages are proving to be more and more important in an ever expanding Europe and international climate and particular areas of employment could include: International banking and finance, journalism, teaching, translating & interpreting, tourism and hotel industry, international law, or marketing. As far as university courses are concerned it is becoming increasingly prudent to study a language such as German alongside another subject or to study it either alongside another language or purely on its own. More and more Joint Honours courses are available involving the study of German, all of which will open up the workplace for students/prospective employees.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs S. Turner, Head of German

HISTORY

What will I learn?

The A-Level will be made up of three units. These units will be Industrialisation and the People: Britain, c1783–1885, Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-1953, and a coursework unit on Civil Rights in the USA 1899-2009. Through these units you will study how Britain emerged as the leading industrial power in the world, how Britain faced internal unrest after the Napoleonic wars and how the rulers managed to maintain power and avoid a revolution, as well as exploring British foreign policy and the unique relationship with Ireland. You will also look at the setting up of the Communist State in the USSR, and focus on the leadership of both Lenin and Stalin, and assess the impact they had on the USSR. The coursework unit will explore the fascinating campaign for African American Civil Rights in the United States. This unit will explore American society and how African Americans faced discrimination and challenged for equality.

In year 12 you will study half the British unit and the whole of the Soviet Unit. You will then sit the two AS exams at the end of year 12. These will not count towards the full A-Level. In year 13 you will complete the coursework unit, and study the rest of the British unit. You will then recap the year 12 material and sit the two A-Level exams on Britain and the USSR.

Who is the course suitable for?

In the words of the American President Harry S Truman, “There is nothing new in the world, except the History you don’t know”. To those who enjoy studying the past, who relish a challenge and who like to think for themselves, this subject is for you!

What is the structure of the course?

AS Level

Breadth Unit: Industrialisation and the People: Britain, c1783–1832

Depth Unit: Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-1929

NEW SPECIFICATION

A Level

Breadth Unit: Industrialisation and the People: Britain, c1783–1885

Depth Unit: Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-1953

Coursework: Personal Study. African American Civil Rights, 3500 words approximately

How will I be assessed?

AS Level

Breadth Unit is worth 50% of the AS Level. This will be assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute exam, including interpretation work.

Depth Unit is worth 50% of the AS. This will be assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute exam, including source work.

A Level

Breadth unit is worth 40% of the total A Level. This will be assessed by a 2 hour and 30 minute exam.

Depth unit is worth 40% of the total A-Level. This will be assessed by a 2 hour 30 minute exam.

Coursework is worth 20% of the total A Level.

What qualification do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE History and GCSE English.

Pre-course information required

You must be fully aware of the demands of A Level History, by speaking to your History teacher, attending the open evening.

Progress routes?

Advanced Level History is a highly regarded subject by admissions tutors at university. The knowledge and skills that you will develop will be of huge benefit in a variety of further education courses and in a diverse range of employment opportunities.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs C. Bell, Head of History

What will I learn?

The impact of ICT on society is enormous and as the percentage of businesses and households connected to communication networks such as the internet grows, so does the need for individuals who can master and manipulate these new technologies. In this course students gain an understanding of how ICT is used in a range of different areas of society and the impact ICT has in these areas. The emphasis is on business ICT focus where students can gain skills that can be transferred into the business world. This course sees students develop a wide range of ICT skills together with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of ICT. Students are encouraged to become discerning users of ICT.

Who is the course suitable for?

The course is aimed at students who wish to further develop their knowledge of ICT in relation to how ICT affects society and how ICT systems are developed as well as their software skills, usually with the intention of continuing on to a computer or business related degree course. However, it is also suitable for students who wish to gain a more in depth understanding of computer software, web authoring, graphics and network environments while following a different career path.

What is the structure of the course?

There are two units to be covered at AS level:

- **G061: Information, Systems and Applications (External)**
 - Topics covered in this unit include: data, information, knowledge and processing; software and hardware components of an information system; spread sheet concepts; relational database concepts; applications software used for presentation and communication of data;
- **G062: Structured ICT Tasks (Coursework)**
 - Students have the opportunity to explore design, software development, testing and documentation through an exam board issued task.

There are two further units to be covered to achieve the full Advanced level in the second year

- **G063: ICT Systems, Applications and Implications (External)**
 - Students gain an understanding of the systems cycle; designing computer-based information systems; networks and communication; applications of ICT; implementing computer-based information systems
- **G064: ICT Project (Coursework)**
 - Students explore all stages of the systems development life cycle through a client-driven project.

How will I be assessed?

AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G061: Information, Systems and Applications – 60% of total AS marks/30% of total A Level mark – 2 Hour Written Examination • G062: Structured ICT Tasks – 40% of total AS marks/20% of total A Level marks – Coursework tasks
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G063: ICT Systems, Applications and Implications – 30% of total A Level mark – 2 Hour Written Examination • G064: ICT Project –20% of total A Level marks – Coursework tasks

What qualification do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE ICT or Pass in OCR Nationals, and Grade C in GCSE English and Maths

Pre-course information required

It is an advantage to have a good knowledge of the technical terms used in ICT, which can be gained as part of a preparatory study during the summer before commencing the course. Also a keen interest in ICT and new technology would be advantageous.

Progression routes?

GCE ICT could form a basis for progression into further learning, including progression from AS to A Level, university courses, or employment where they can take further training in such areas as programming, computer science, systems analysis, communications, multimedia, software systems, and project management or hardware applications.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr P. Martin, Head of ICT and Computer Science

MATHEMATICS

What will I learn?

Two thirds of the course is the study of Pure Mathematics with the remaining third being the study of Statistics and Mechanics. You will develop many of the ideas and techniques that you learned in your GCSE but at a more advanced level. These topics include simultaneous equations, solving quadratic equations, equations of straight lines, surds and indices. New topics include a very important branch of Mathematics – Calculus. In Statistics you will discover new statistical techniques and in Mechanics you will learn how the movement of particles and how the laws of Physics interact with Mathematics.

Who is the course suitable for?

AS and A Level Mathematics is a challenging yet highly respected qualification. It complements courses in both the Sciences and Business. You need to be accurate, logical and thoughtful. You need to understand that practice makes perfect. You need to enjoy problem solving and appreciate that answers need structure and that 100% is always attainable.

What is the structure of the course?

Year 12 Three modules are studied. Two of these are Pure Mathematics (C1 and C2) with the third being Statistics (S1).

Year 13 A further 3 modules, again, two of these are Pure Mathematics (C3 and C4) with the third being Mechanics (M1).

How will I be assessed?

Each module is assessed by a 90 minute exam. The modular examinations will take place in May/June of Year 12 and Year 13. Re-sits of modules are allowed, but we expect you to do the best you can on the first sitting to ease the work load. There is no coursework element in either AS or A Level Mathematics. The examination board is Edexcel.

What qualifications do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE Maths is essential, but A is preferred. A pass in Additional Maths is also acceptable.

Pre-course information required

You will need to be very good at algebra and enjoy the challenge of this exciting branch of Mathematics. Virtually every topic that we study is linked to algebra. You need to be confident that you can solve equations, factorise and manipulate them by rearranging them to change the subject of the formula. You need to remember formulae and be able to apply the right technique in context to solve problems. Speak to your Mathematics teacher who can advise you about the course and give you more information. Speak to some Year 12 students to see what the demands of the course are. They can give you some invaluable insight into the way the course is structured and both the good and bad points of studying Mathematics at a higher level.

Progression routes?

Successful completion will enable progression on to further and higher education. Mathematics is particularly desirable for Medicine and Engineering as well as for ICT, Accountancy, Economics or any of the Sciences. No employer will ignore an Advanced level qualification in Mathematics – this is a much valued subject and will make you stand out from the crowd. A recent study showed that employees with A Level Mathematics earned, on average, £10K pa more than people with equivalent qualifications in other subjects. Mathematics is well worth the effort!

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr M. Hinds, Head of Mathematics

MATHEMATICS (FURTHER)

What will I learn?

Further Mathematics is a challenging yet interesting course. It builds on work that you have already met at GCSE and supports many other subjects. While studying this course you will use mathematical skills and knowledge as well as logic to solve problems. You will simplify real life situations so that you can use mathematics to show what is happening and what might happen in different circumstances. The course covers three modules of Pure Mathematics which includes topics such as Complex numbers, Numerical solutions, Matrices, Proof, Differential Equations, Series, Integration and Vectors. The remaining three modules (that will make up the full A level in Further Mathematics) cover Statistics, Mechanics and Decision Mathematics. Statistics and Mechanics will build on the work done in the 'normal' A level. Decision Mathematics is a branch of mathematics that considers algorithms to carry out a sort or search, analysing networks and linear programming.

Who is the course suitable for?

A Level Further Mathematics is an extension and advancement of A Level Mathematics. The love of Mathematics is essential, particularly the branches of Algebra and Trigonometry. An essential part of mathematical study is the challenge of analysing and solving a problem and the satisfaction and confidence gained from achieving a 'correct answer'. You will not have to write essays, but you will need to be able to communicate accurately and logically in written work to explain your solutions.

What is the structure of the course?

Year 12 Three modules are studied. Further Pure Mathematics (FP1), Decision Mathematics (D1) and Statistics (S2)

Year 13 A further three modules are studied, Further Pure Mathematics 2 (FP2), Further Pure Mathematics 3 (FP3) and Mechanics 2 (M2).

How will I be assessed?

Each module is assessed by a 90 minute exam. The modular examinations will take place in May/June of Year 12 and Year 13. Re-sits of modules are allowed, but we expect you to do the best you can on the first sitting to ease the work load. There is no coursework element in either AS or A Level Further Mathematics.

What qualifications do I need to have?

Grade A in GCSE Mathematics is essential, but A* is preferred. A Grade C in Additional Maths is also acceptable. This course runs in conjunction with the A Level Mathematics course and both courses rely on the content and therefore the understanding of the other.

Pre-course information required

The skills required for Further Mathematics are exactly the same as that required for Mathematics. However, the accuracy and understanding of all topics needs to be more highly tuned. This course is very focused on learning new mathematics skills and knowledge and is not for the faint hearted. The knowledge gap between GCSE and 'A' Level Mathematics is large and all pupils who offer for this course will be challenged at the higher level.

Progression routes?

Higher Education courses or careers that require 'A' Level Mathematics include Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Physics and Computing. The acquisition of Further Mathematics will be especially noted on any CV or application form as only approximately 8,000 people across the country gain this qualification every year. People entering today's most lucrative industries such as IT, banking and the stock market, need to be confident using mathematics on a daily basis. Even in areas where pure mathematics is not required, other skills learned at AS and A Level, such as logical thinking, problem solving and statistical analysis, are often very desirable in the workplace.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr M. Hinds, Head of Mathematics

MEDIA STUDIES

What will I learn?

The course is designed to give you a broad understanding of Media: communication and Production, whilst allowing scope to focus on selected platforms within the industry, e.g. Print, Broadcasting and E-media. You will study the relationship between media products, their meanings, their producers and their audiences. You will be encouraged to develop a critical awareness of the media in society and will examine the moral and cultural implications of media texts and industry. You will acquire practical production skills and there will be the opportunity to research and produce your own media product using video and editing equipment and desktop publishing software.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Students who want to gain an understanding of key pathways in the media industry, or who are hoping to carry on with related subjects at university.
- Students who have an interest in culture & society and in critically examining the effects of the media on our everyday lives.
- Students who are creative & enjoy coursework & discussion.

What is the structure of the course?

Two units are studied in each year through the WJEC exam board: coursework (50%) and exam (50%). At AS, the coursework unit (**Media Production Processes**) is a practical production involving research, planning and production of 2 media texts, one desk-top published and the other filmed/edited. For the exam unit (**Media Representations and Responses**), you will study the key concepts of media language, representation and audience in the contemporary media landscape. At A Level, the coursework is a research essay on a topic of your choosing accompanied by a practical production which supports your research findings. The exam is based on media theories around text, industry and audience. You will learn about three media industries in depth: the TV industry, the Film Industry and Advertising.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through exam (50%) and coursework (50%). At AS, the exam is a 2 ½ hour written paper consisting of 3 questions, including one based on an unseen media text. The coursework is a practical production (desk-top published and filmed/edited) accompanied by a 1600 word production report. At A Level, the exam is a 2 ½ hour written paper consisting of 3 questions. The coursework is a 2000 word research essay accompanied by a practical production of your own choosing (can be filmed, print-media or e-media).

What qualifications do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE Media Studies or Grade B in English if you have not studied Media. An interest in Art, Business, Graphics, ICT, Drama, Design or English will be advantageous but not vital.

Pre-course information required

The course is designed and delivered using a variety of learning methods and teaching styles. There is an emphasis on coursework and creativity. Students must be committed and prepared to work independently. You will need to do some filming and research outside school. If you enjoy discussion and are open to new ideas and challenges, this could be the course for you. You must be a confident writer as detailed written analysis is important to all aspects of the course. You should have a keen interest in the media generally by being interested in film, television, advertising, magazines or music. You should be aware of current social trends and current affairs.

Progression routes?

The Media is one of the fastest growing areas in higher education, with a high employment rate for media graduates. As well as a degree in Media Studies, other popular courses include Marketing, Events Management, Film Studies, Communications, Cultural Studies, Public Relations, Advertising, TV, Film and Radio Production and Web Design. Some students go straight out to work in the Media industry; previous students have gone on to work for News International, The BBC, The Times, Ant & Dec and Richard & Judy!. As well as continuing education and an introduction to the industry, a Media Studies A level will give you a mixture of skills that can be applied to many different occupations.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms A. Gold, Head of Media Studies

MUSIC

What will I learn?

The Edexcel AS and A Level extend the GCSE skills of Performing, Composing and Appraising in ways that emphasise their interdependence. There are increased opportunities for the development of skills and understanding in performing, listening and appraisal. There are no limits on the instruments or voices and type of repertoire which may be presented and the study of the widest possible range of music. Both specifications offer scope to develop creatively using music technology.

Who is the course suitable for?

This specification encourages students to:

- Extend the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to communicate through and to take part in making music.
- Engage in and extend their appreciation of the diverse and dynamic heritage of music, promoting spiritual and culture development.

What is the structure of the course?

The Edexcel AS is made up of three mandatory units and three mandatory units at A Level.

AS Units

Unit 1 – MU01

Performing Music
30% of the AS – 5-6 minutes performance - Internally Assessed

Unit 2 – MU02

Composing
30% of the AS - Coursework 3 minute composition and CD sleeve note

Unit 3 – MU03

Developing Musical Understanding
40% of the AS – 2 hour written exam paper

A Level Units

Unit 4 – MU04

Extended Performance
30% of the A Level – 12-15 minute performance – Internally Assessed

Unit 5 – MU05

Composition and Technical Study
30% of the A Level – Coursework – one composition and one Bach chorale

Unit 6 – MU06

Further Musical Understanding
40% of the A Level – 2 hour written exam paper

How will I be assessed?

AS Music

Performing – Recital assessed internally
Composing – One free composition assessed externally by an examiner
Developing Musical Understanding – written exam marked by the examiner

A Music

Performing – Recital assessed internally
Composing - externally assessed by an examiner
Further Musical Understanding - 2 hour 15 minute written exam , marked by an examiner

What qualifications do I need to have?

Grade A at GCSE Music (B grade by negotiation)

Pre-course information required

Good instrumental and /or vocal skills (equivalent to Grade 4/5)

Progression routes?

Music offers progression to a University or Music College to study for a degree in music, employment in Music related industries such as arts administration, theatre, TV and journalism, and is also a strong academic subject which can extend numerous analytical and critical skills. It is accepted by top Russell Group universities as an A Level subject.

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss O. Furse, Head of Music

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What will I learn?

AS Level

- **PHYSIOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE** – in depth study of Anatomy and Physiology including knowledge of bones, muscles, circulation, respiration and movement analysis.
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE** – the study of skill acquisition (how we learn to perform)
- **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION** – the study of Participation in Sport and the effect of healthy Lifestyles
- **ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** – as a performer or an official.

A Level

- **EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY** – how our body works during exercise
- **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES** – performance pathways and sports funding
- **OPTIMISING PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE** – analysis of improvement of performance
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDIES** – how our minds affect physical performance including personality, motivation, aggression, attitudes and leadership

Who is the course suitable for?

Those interested in developing their knowledge of physical education and sport, and understanding more about their own performance. Also, those who are prepared to question their own point of view regarding sport and look at sport as a global industry.

What is the structure of the course?

AS Level - Candidates will develop knowledge and skills to help understand the opportunities for and effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle. Candidates will be given the opportunity to build on their experience and improve their personal skills/techniques across a variety of roles in a sport of their choice to improve performance.

A Level – Candidates will further develop their understanding of physiological, psychological and biomechanical aspects that optimise performance. Candidates will be given the opportunity to utilise the knowledge and understanding developed during the course to improve their own personal performance, as a practical performer, coach/leader or official.

How will I be assessed?

Your theoretical knowledge is assessed in the form of four written exam papers. Your practical work is assessed internally by teachers at the school and is moderated externally by the exam board and throughout the course. Both your classwork and home learning will support your learning and allow teachers to monitor your progress and continually assess your performance.

Unit 1: Opportunities for and the effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle (2 hour exam)

Unit 2: Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as performer and/or an adopted role/s (Practical)

Unit 3: Optimising performance and evaluating contemporary issues within sport (2 hour exam)

Unit 4: Optimising practical performance in a competitive situation (Practical)

The exam board for this course is AQA.

What qualification do I need to have?

B Grade in GCSE PE. It is desirable to have achieved 100/150 marks on the GCSE written paper as A Level is primarily theory. Pupils without GCSE PE will be considered but must recognise that extra work will be necessary. Distinction in BTEC Sport Level 2.

Pre-course information required

Talk to your PE teacher and find out if the course is suitable for you and talk to pupils who are currently taking the course for advice. Find out if your practical activity is allowed by the exam board (most are).

Progression routes?

As with all AS/A Level (Level 3) subjects, successful completion of this course will enable progression onto both further and higher education, a Modern Apprenticeship or employment in a range of industries. Studying sport and the leisure industry at university is becoming increasingly popular.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr S. Jones, Head of Physical Education

PHYSICS

What will I learn?

You will learn about how objects move, how mechanical systems operate, how light, waves and sub-atomic particles behave, how electric and gravitational fields affect the world around us and how Physics applications shape the world of the future. You will be expected to solve numerical problems and to describe and discuss your understanding of physical concepts. You will have the opportunity to develop your practical skills and will perform experiments that illustrate scientific theory.

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is for students interested in a detailed study of Physics, who can think logically, are mathematically able, have an enquiring mind, enjoy challenges and testing theory by experimentation.

What is the structure of the course?

Each topic is designed to develop an excellent understanding of important concepts in the subject. These ideas include from modern day physics like antiparticles and the quark model. You will develop your understanding of astrophysics and cosmology and in radioactivity you will be able to explain why your body is made from nuclear waste of long dead stars. Each topic will be linked to practical applications of the physics involved in order to aid learning. These applications could range from designing sports equipment, medical physics, technology in space, space part surgery and the construction of buildings in earthquake zones. Physics is a practical subject and experimentation and investigation will play an important role at AS and A level. Students will be expected to carry out experiments, go on physics based visits and to complete case studies on the applications of physics.

NEW SPECIFICATION

How will I be assessed?

At the end of each unit of study you will be internally assessed to monitor your progress. You will also be expected to prepare presentations and to apply your knowledge different situations to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the work.

The external examinations will be offered at the end of Year 13 and they will contain a variety of short answer and longer stretch and challenge questions. Your ability to manipulate equipment and analyse experimental results is continually assessed.

What qualification do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE Physics, Grade AA in Edexcel Certificate in Science (Double Award) or Grade A in Additional Science, Grade B in GCSE Maths and Grade B in GCSE English.

Pre-course information required

Good mathematical skills are essential if you are to be able to cope with the demands of this course. You must make sure that you have a good basic knowledge of algebra and trigonometry. IT skills, especially the use of spreadsheets, are worth developing. It is important that you can express yourself clearly too, as Physicists need to be able to communicate with other people. You must develop your ability to work independently, read widely about current scientific issues and be able to meet deadlines.

Progression routes?

Physics is essential for those students entering Physical Science, Engineering or Electronics at all levels. Physics is also very useful for those wanting to follow a medical career. Physics qualifications are highly sought after. Students who have achieved a good grade in A level Physics demonstrate the clarity of thought and determination to solve problems which enable them to succeed in many jobs and professions. This academic AS/A Level course is well regarded by employers, colleges and universities as a measure of problem solving ability and thinking skills. The skills developed on this course can be applied just as well to business and management as well as to science. Many companies place a high value of numerate physics students who can demonstrate that they can think logically and imaginatively.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr J. Barry, Head of Physics

PRODUCT DESIGN

What will I learn?

This course emphasises two key factors – creativity and sustainability. There will be opportunities to study, examine and propose high quality solutions that are fit for purpose, satisfy wants and needs, enhance our day-to-day lives and, most importantly, give students the opportunity to demonstrate their design innovation. Each solution will be the result of detailed research and the use of knowledge gained in this subject area.

Who is the course suitable for?

The course is aimed at all creative and innovative students with a real interest in design.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is structured around four units of work, which consists of a combination of coursework and examined sessions based on both Product Design and Graphic Designs. Students will complete various design and make assignments and undertake a series of industrial visits.

Level	Name	Duration	Mode of Assessment	Weighting	
				AS	A2
AS	Unit 1 – Coursework – Portfolio of Creative Skills	40 hours	Centre marked coursework	60	30
AS	Unit 2 – Design and Technology in Practice	1½ hours	Written exam	40	20
A2	Unit 3 – Designing for the future	2 hours	Written exam	-	20
A2	Unit 4 – Commercial Design	40 hours	Centre marked coursework	-	30

What qualifications do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE Graphics Product or Product Design.

Pre-course information required

Students will require knowledge of the design process and good ICT skills are essential. It is important for students to have an open mind about the design process. Students will have the opportunity to design a range of varied products. Finally, it is extremely important that potential students in this subject area are committed and enthusiastic.

Progression routes?

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to progress on to university courses. There are also a wide range of Modern Apprenticeship and employment opportunities available in a variety of industries. Skills such as 3D and graphical design are in great demand. Careers in fields including advertising, product development, architecture, teaching, interior design and other media based areas are on offer to successful students. A qualification in this subject area will certainly be viewed as an asset for these candidates.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr S. O'Brien, Acting Head of Design Technology

PSYCHOLOGY

What will I learn?

Psychology is the study of human behaviour and the mind. It asks three big questions:

Why do I behave the way I do? Why do I think the way I do? Why do I feel the way I do?

This course aims to develop advanced knowledge and understanding of how different perspectives in psychology answer these three big questions. During AS Psychology, students will undertake introductory concepts, such as Social Influence, Psychopathology and Attachment. Students will also learn about the scientific methods, psychologists use to glean information about behaviour.

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is for anyone who wants to improve their psychological literacy. Psychologists are under a duty to “give psychology away “. However, participants must be interested in human behaviour and want to develop that interest through an academic route. The course will develop thinking skills, research skills and improve a Sixth Former’s knowledge base.

What is the structure of the course?

In year 12, there are two exam papers. The first unit is ‘Introductory Topics’. In this unit, students become familiar with the perspectives and issues around published psychological evidence. The second paper, ‘Psychology in Context’, focuses on the application and conduct of Psychology in the real world. The successful completion of these two papers will lead to an AS Level. In Year 13 there are three papers. One paper will focus on advanced Introductory Topics, the second will build upon the AS Psychology in context unit. The third unit will focus on Options and Issues in Psychology. The successful completion of all three papers will lead to an A Level in Psychology.

NEW SPECIFICATION

How will I be assessed?

The AS will be assessed with two exam papers. Each paper will be 90 minutes long and will comprise of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

The A Level will be examined with three exam papers, lasting two hours each. All papers will comprise of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

What qualification do I need to have?

Grade B in GCSE English and Grade B in GCSE Maths and Science are preferred. It is not necessary for students to have GCSE Psychology, but a good grade in that will be a bonus.

Pre-course information required

The pre-requisite for this course is a willingness to learn and to think. In fact it is essential that you are prepared for uncertainty in your learning. Psychology will be delivered using a variety of teaching methods to meet different learning needs. However, the study of psychology involves reading various books and articles and writing essays, therefore literacy skills are crucial. Statistics are used in research and so numeracy is also necessary. Furthermore, Psychology takes place in a historical and political context so an interest in both current affairs and twentieth century history would be advantageous. Finally, the internet is invaluable so ICT skills are preferred.

Progression routes?

If you choose to go onto university, you will find that Psychology complements the sciences as well as the humanities. You may wish to specialise in Psychology at degree level and further .Psychologists find themselves working in all areas of life, in the legal justice system, in health care, in media, in retail, in business, and in education.

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss J. Boakye-Collinson, Head of Psychology

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

What will I learn?
<p>At AS you will explore the foundation of the subject and explore a range of philosophical and ethical questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is there a world beyond that of our physical senses?• Who is God? Does God exist?• What is the problem of evil and how does it challenge religious belief?• Should genetic engineering be used to cure disease?• How do we decide between right and wrong?• Should we be judged on the intention of our action? Or the consequence of our action? <p>At A Level the course takes a more in-depth and critical study of philosophical and ethical questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the meaning and validity of religious language?• What is the relationship between the body and the soul?• Is it possible to have a religious experience?• What is the ethical debate surrounding homosexuality?• What is our moral duty to the environment?• What duty does corporate business have to act ethically?
Who is the course suitable for?
<p>This course is for anyone who is interested in opening their minds to a wide range of philosophical questions. The course will help you to develop highly analytical and critical styles of thinking. Additionally, this course welcomes all those who enjoy getting involved in lively discussions and debates. If you enjoy learning about moral issues and discussing the rightness or wrongness of particular actions. Or if you enjoy thinking about abstract concepts such as the nature of our existence then this course is for you.</p>
What is the structure of the course?
<p>In each year (AS and A Level) there will be a study of Philosophy and Ethical theory. Usually the Philosophy teaching forms the first half of the course with Ethics towards the end of the year.</p>
How will I be assessed?
<p>At both AS-Level and A2-Level there are two exam papers. You will sit a Philosophy Paper and an Ethics Paper. Both exams are 1 hour and 30 minutes. There is no coursework.</p>
What qualification do I need to have?
<p>A GCSE APS of 43 or above, which must include a Grade B or above in GCSE English Language and a Grade B or above in a Humanities subject (RE, Sociology, Psychology, History, Geography).</p>
Pre-course information required
<p>The course is different from the way in which Religious Studies is taught at GCSE. It is more about developing your own ideas and opinions than learning about what others believe. The course involves a lot of class discussion as well as private reading and essay writing. It makes you think about all that you have learnt and causes you to stop and think! There are a large number of resources available for you to use which will help you to achieve the best grade possible.</p>
Progression routes?
<p>Traditionally Religious Studies has only been associated with certain jobs like teaching or social care, yet this is not the case in the modern world. Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics, is currently the fastest growing A-level and is increasingly being seen favourably by admission tutors in degrees such as Philosophy, Law, English, History, Psychology and Medicine. The heavy focus on evaluative and critical thinking skills in the A-Level course are highly sought after and successful completion of the AS/A2 will enable progression onto a wide range of Higher Education courses.</p>
Who do I contact for further information?
<p>Mrs L. Onuegbu, Head of Religious Education Mrs S Stobbart, Teacher of A-Level Philosophy and Ethics</p>

RUSSIAN

What will I learn?
The Edexcel Russian A level course will help you to develop your general transferable skills, but most of all you will learn how to communicate in higher level Russian. You will also gain a deeper insight into Russian history, culture and society.
Who is the course suitable for?
Russian at AS and A Level is suitable for students who are interested in languages and who enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life. This course would suit you if you enjoyed Russian and History at GCSE.
What is the structure of the course?
Reading: You will learn to read, understand and extract information from written passages that are taken from authentic sources, such as newspapers and magazines, reports or books. Listening: You will be able to listen to and understand contemporary spoken language and answer questions on what you have heard. These will be taken from a range of sources such as news reports on radio or TV. Writing: You will learn to write essays and complete task-based assignments. You will learn the appropriate grammar to present information, provide opinions, organise arguments and analyse your ideas. Speaking: You will learn to use the language to communicate your ideas effectively in discussion, argument and debate. You will be taught by two teachers – one of these will lead the grammar and speaking aspects of the course and the other will lead the reading, listening and writing aspects through the study of contemporary topics such as Family, Youth Concerns, Education, Business and Industry, Environment, Politics and Leisure and the Arts.
How will I be assessed?
Unit 1 – Spoken Expression and Response in Russian – 10 minutes, 30% of AS marks In this unit, you will have to respond to a stimulus on a topic chosen by you beforehand. You will answer questions in Russian put to you by the teacher examiner and then engage in a discussion moving away from the stimulus. Unit 2 – Understanding and Written Response in Russian – 2½ hours, 70% of AS marks This unit has 3 sections – listening, reading and writing. For the listening and reading, you will complete a range of exercises based on stimulus material. For the writing, you will write 150 -165 words in Russian based on a stimulus. Unit 3 – Understanding and Spoken Response in Russian – 13 minutes, 35% of A Level marks In this unit, you will choose a stance on a topic which you will defend in the exam and then discuss a further 2 topics. Unit 4 – Research, Understanding and Written Response in Russian – 2½ hours, 65% of A Level This unit has 3 sections – translation from English to Russian, a discursive or creative essay in response to questions on the paper and a prepared research-based essay of 180-200 words.
What qualification do I need to have?
Grade B in GCSE Russian.
Pre-course information required
You should have enjoyed GCSE Russian and be interested in learning more about Russian history and culture.
Progression routes?
This course is particularly suitable for students wishing to continue with Russian language or cultural studies at university. For those applying to university to study any subject, a foreign language, and especially Russian, makes you stand out from the crowd. Any admissions tutor would look at a candidate with Russian AS or A Level with interest. Students interested in pursuing a career in journalism, politics, travel and tourism, or the media will also find Russian an advantage. Similarly, if you are interested in the business world, language skills are more in demand now than ever and Russian is in demand by UK businesses because of expanding markets in Russia.
Who do I contact for further information?
Mrs R. Clark, Head of Russian

SOCIOLOGY

What will I learn?

The aim of sociology is to investigate areas of social importance such as the education system, the family and politics. We also explore how sociologists investigate society, and how common-sense perceptions about what is happening in our world often do not stand up to scientific research.

Who is the course suitable for?

Success on this course will depend on your ability to identify, analyse a variety of sociological sources. If you are interested in issues in the news, and have an enquiring and questioning mind you will find this course important and interesting.

What is the structure of the course?

You will study:

- The family
- Education
- Sociological methods
- Power and Politics
- Sociological research and methods

NEW SPECIFICATION

How will I be assessed?

All of the units are assessed in an examination. For the AS qualification, there are two exams and for the A Level there are three exams. We follow the WJEC exam board for AS and A Level Sociology.

What qualifications do I need to have?

At least a Grade B in English Language or English Literature. It is an advantage to have sound grades in subjects related to Sociology such as History, Religious Studies, Geography and Media Studies.

Pre-course information required

It is necessary to have excellent English Language skills, and a keen interest in current affairs.

Progression routes?

This course provides a foundation for the further study of sociology and related subjects in higher education. Sociology also provides an important grounding for careers in education, the law, media, the caring professions and social services.

It is also a very important general qualification that all employers view favourably as it gives an excellent general knowledge of the world, an ability to understand how society operates and how problems can be addressed. Sociology students go on into a wide variety of jobs.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr S. Shaw, Head of Sociology or Ms Z. Younis, teacher of Sociology