WOODBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL





Sixth Form

Course Information

September 2027 Cohort

Contents

			Page
Important Information about Qualification Changes			4
Sixth Form Academic Pathways			6
Sixth Form Entry Requirements			7
Subject Entry Requirements			8
Application Process: Woodbridge Students			10
Application Process: Students from Other Schools			11
Woodbridge Edge: Additional Opportunities			12
Extended Project Qualification			14
Maths Studies			15
Sixth Form Level 2 Programme			16
Sixth Form Level 2 Programme Information			17
Business Administration			18
Information Technology			19
A Level, V Level, AAQ and AGQ Qualifications	**A Level**	**Vocational**	20
Accounting & Finance		✓	23
Art & Design	✓		24
Biology	✓		25
Business	✓		26
Business & Marketing		✓	27
Chemistry	✓		29
Computer Science	✓		30
Design and Technology	✓		31
Digital Systems & Data		✓	32
Drama & Theatre Studies	✓		33
Economics	✓		34
English Language	✓		35
English Literature	✓		36
Film Studies	✓		37
French	✓		38
Geography	✓		39
German	✓		40
History	✓		41
Human Biology		✓	42
Mathematics	✓		43
Mathematics (Further)	✓		44
Media Studies	✓		45
Music	✓		46
Physical Education	✓		47
Physics	✓		48
Politics	✓		49
Psychology	✓		50
Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics	✓		51
Russian	✓		52
Sociology	✓		53
Spanish	✓		54
Sport		✓	55

Important Information about Qualification Changes

There are changes to the qualifications system that will be effective from September 2027. Here is a summary of the qualifications offered at Woodbridge High School.

A Levels

A Levels remain a key part of the post-16 qualifications landscape and are unaffected by the current reforms. Students wishing to follow a traditional academic pathway can continue to select A Level courses as normal.

Vocational Qualifications

Alongside A Levels, the government is reforming vocational and technical qualifications. These qualifications now fall into three main categories:

1. **Applied General Qualifications (AGQs)**

Applied General Qualifications are the reformed versions of many traditional vocational qualifications such as BTECs and CTECs. They combine coursework and examined assessment and are designed to support progression to university, apprenticeships and employment.

Woodbridge offers AGQs in:

- Business (Single Award)
- Business & Marketing (Double Award)
- Sport (Single, Double or Triple Awards)

2. **Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs)**

Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) are designed to complement A Level study and are equivalent in size to a single A Level. They combine academic theory with practical application and are often taken alongside two A Levels.

Woodbridge offers AAQs in:

- Human Biology (Single Award)

3. **V Levels**

V Levels are a new generation of vocational qualifications introduced as part of the government's qualification reforms. They are equivalent in size to one A Level and are designed to provide students with a specialist vocational pathway linked to particular industries and career sectors.

V Levels are intended to offer a practical, employment-focused route while also supporting progression to higher education, apprenticeships and skilled employment.

Woodbridge offers V Levels in:

- Accounting & Finance (Single Award)
- Digital Systems & Data (Single Award)

Level 2 Programme

The government is reviewing Level 2 post-16 qualifications. Currently, we offer a one-year programme that includes a Certificate in Business Administration and a Certificate in Information Technology. The aim of this programme is to provide a pathway to Level 3 study for students who do not yet meet the entry requirements for Level 3 courses.

Practical Implications for Applicants
Students applying for A Level programmes will not be affected by these reforms.

For students considering a vocational or technical pathway, it is important to be aware that the national qualifications landscape is changing. Some qualifications are being reformed, some have been replaced by AAQs or V Levels, and others continue as Applied General Qualifications.

If a suitable qualification is not available at Woodbridge, we will provide guidance on alternative pathways and may advise students to consider local sixth forms, colleges or other providers offering the qualifications most appropriate to their intended progression route.

We recognise that these changes can appear complex and that the national picture continues to evolve. If you are considering a pathway that does not consist solely of A Levels, we strongly encourage you to speak with a member of the Sixth Form Team or a Senior Leader for the most up-to-date guidance and advice.

Sixth Form Pathways

Your first decision will be to choose one of the **three pathways** through the Sixth Form.

Route	Curriculum Features	Suitable For	Entry Requirements	Progression Routes
Academic Pathway ***A Levels***	Three courses from the selection of A Levels. One additional opportunity from the Woodbridge Edge programme. Students wishing to study four subjects should contact the Sixth Form team.	Students who have gained grades 5 to 9 in their GCSEs, and at least grade 6 in the subjects they wish to study.	GCSE total points score of at least 50 (65 for four subjects) and grade 5 in Maths and English Language or Literature.	University, including Russell Group and Centres of Excellence. Apprenticeship or work-based study.
Vocational Pathway ***Applied General Subjects, V Levels & AAQs***	A combination of 3 Vocational options including: - Accounting & Finance (Single) - Business (Single) - Business & Marketing (Double) - Digital Systems and Data (Single) - Human Biology (Single) - Sport (Single, Double or Triple) One additional opportunity from the Woodbridge Edge programme.	Students who have gained grade 5s in their GCSEs, or who would prefer a more vocational pathway.	GCSE total points score of at least 45 and grade 5 in Maths and English Language or Literature.	University or higher education in a wide range of fields. Apprenticeship or work-based study.
Mixed Pathway	A combination of A level subjects and vocational subjects. One additional opportunity from the Woodbridge Edge programme.	Students with specific interests in subjects from the academic and vocational offer.	GCSE total points score of at least 50.	University or higher education Apprenticeship or work-based study.
Level 2 Programme	A one-year Level 2 course in Business Administration, together with GCSE English, GCSE Maths, Level 2 IT, Edge Programme and timetabled private study.	Students who want to prepare for a further vocational or technical course, an apprenticeship or work-based training.	GCSE total points score of at least 25.	Students who achieve a merit can apply for apprenticeships, Level 3 courses or T Levels at another institution.

Sixth Form Entry Requirements

A Levels or Combined A Level / Vocational Programme:
Total GCSE points score of **50** with at least a **grade 6** in the subjects which students wish to study. Students will also have achieved at least a **grade 5** in English Language or Literature and Maths.

Vocational Programme (AAQs, V Levels or AGQs):
Total GCSE points score of **45** and a **grade 5** in English Language or Literature and Maths.

Level 2 Programme:
Total GCSE points score of **25**

The GCSE total points score is calculated by adding together the points gained from all GCSE and equivalent qualifications. Every grade counts and is worth a number of points as shown below:

GCSEs:

Grade:	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
Points:	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

OCR Cambridge National Qualifications:

Grade:	**L2 Dist***	**L2 Dist**	**L2 Merit**	**L2 Pass**	**L1 Dist**	**L1 Merit**	**L1 Pass**
Points:	8.5	7	5.5	4	3	2	1.25

Additional Information

It is a requirement that those students who have not yet attained grade 4 in GCSE English Language (or Literature) and Maths will continue these subjects and retake their exams during Year 12. We advise students who achieve grade 4 to consider retaking their GCSE to achieve grade 5, as some universities are likely to require this for entry.

All current Woodbridge students will have a course choice discussion with a senior member of staff. They will only be permitted to choose 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. Students will only be placed on courses for which they have met the entry requirements. In exceptional circumstances, entry requirements may be adjusted at the discretion of senior staff.

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.

Subject Entry Requirements:
A Levels and Vocational Courses

The table below shows all of the available A Level courses and Vocational Qualifications and their subject entry requirements. The course size indicates how much each course is worth in terms of final outcomes. For example, a double course is the equivalent of two A Levels and takes up the same amount of time as two A Levels.

Subject	A Level	AAQ	V Level	AGQ	Course size	Minimum Subject Requirement	English / Maths Requirement
Accounting & Finance			✓				
Art & Design	✓				Single	6 in Art	5 in English Lang or Lit
Biology	✓				Single	6 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics **or** 7:7 in Combined Science	6 in English Lang or Lit 6 in Maths
Business	✓				Single	6 in Business Studies	5 in English Lang or Lit 5 in Maths
Business & Marketing				✓	Single/ Double	Merit in CTEC Business Admin Level 2 (if taken)	5 in English Lang or Lit 5 in Maths
Chemistry	✓				Single	6 in Chemistry, Biology and Physics **or** 7:7 in Combined Science	5 in English Lang or Lit 6 in Maths
Computer Science	✓				Single	6 in Computer Science	5 in English Lang or Lit 6 in Maths
Design & Technology	✓				Single	6 in Design & Technology GCSE (Graphics or Product Design)	5 in English Lang or Lit 6 in Maths
Digital Systems & Data			✓		Single		5 in English Lang or Lit 5 in Maths
Drama & Theatre Studies	✓				Single	6 in Drama	5 in English Lang or Lit
Economics	✓				Single		6 in English Lang or Lit 6 in Maths
English Language	✓				Single	6 in English Language	5 in Maths
English Literature	✓				Single	6 in English Literature	6 in English Language
Film Studies	✓				Single	6 in Media Studies **or** 6 in English Lang or Lit	5 in Maths
French	✓				Single	6 in French	5 in English Literature
Geography	✓				Single	6 in Geography	5 in English Lang or Lit 5 in Maths
German	✓				Single	6 in German	5 in English Literature
History	✓				Single	6 in History	5 in English Lang or Lit

Subject	A Level	AAQ	V Level	AGQ	Course size	Minimum Subject Requirement	English / Maths Requirement
Human Biology		✓			Single	5:5 in Combined Science	5 in English Lang or Lit 5 in Maths
Mathematics	✓				Single	7 in Maths	5 in English Lang or Lit
Mathematics and Further Mathematics	✓				Double	8 in Maths	5 in English Lang or Lit
Mathematical Studies	✓				Single	5 in Maths	5 in English Lang or Lit
Media Studies	✓				Single	6 in Media Studies **or** 6 in English Lang or Lit	5 in Maths
Music	✓				Single	6 in Music	6 in English Lang or Lit
Physical Education	✓				Single	6 in Physical Education 6 in Biology	5 in English Lang or Lit
Physics	✓				Single	6 in Physics, Biology and Chemistry **or** 7:7 in Combined Science	5 in English Lang or Lit 6 in Maths
Politics	✓				Single		6 in English Lang or Lit
Psychology	✓				Single	6 in Psychology	6 in English Lang or Lit 5 in Maths
Religious Studies	✓				Single	6 in Religious Studies **or** 6 in English Lang or Lit	5 in English Lang or Lit
Russian	✓				Single	6 in Russian	5 in English Lang or Lit
Sociology	✓				Single	6 in Sociology	6 in English Lang or Lit
Spanish	✓				Single	6 in Spanish	5 in English Lang or Lit
Sport				✓	Single/ Double/ Triple	5:5 in Combined Science 5 in Physical Education	5 in English Lang or Lit 5 in Maths

Science and Maths A Level Combined Programme

Students wishing to study three Science or Maths subjects must achieve at least 21 points across the three subjects.

Subject Entry Requirements: Level 2 Programme

Level 2 Programme	GCSE total points score of 25. Students will need to have an interest in **Business Administration** and **Information Technology** as this is a compulsory part of the course. Students should be willing to improve their English and Maths GCSE grades.

Application Process: Woodbridge Students

Thursday 19th November 2026: Sixth Form Open Evening

The Sixth Form Open Evening is a chance for you to explore your Sixth Form options. This year's event will be on Thursday 19th November. Additional information, activities and resources can be found on our website. You will need to complete an online Sixth Form Choices Form after the open evening. You will receive an invitation to complete this using Admissions +.

Monday 11th January 2027: Application Form Deadline

This is the deadline to complete the online Sixth Form Choices Form. You will receive a link to your form in your school email. You must complete this form electronically.

February 2027: Sixth Form Interviews

After the application forms have been submitted, senior staff will meet all Year 11 students to discuss their post-16 plans. Careers guidance will be available during this half term. Choices made may need to be amended in the light of students' predicted grades.

March / April 2027: Offer Emails and Responses

An email will be sent either offering you a place (you will be requested to reply by the end of April 2027) or advising that you have been unsuccessful. You will be invited to reply to our offer to either accept or decline a place. If you have accepted a place, you will be invited to the Sixth Form Induction.

July 2027: Sixth Form Induction

Sixth Form Induction involves students following a timetable for their subject choices and gaining a greater understanding of the level of study, commitment and materials required.

August 2027: Enrolment

Enrolment starts on GCSE results day and continues on the following days. This will take place remotely for most students using the Admissions + software. If there are any issues with your enrolment then you may be contacted by a member of the enrolment team.

Application Process: Students from Other Schools

Thursday 19th November 2026: Sixth Form Open Evening

The Sixth Form Open Evening is a chance for you to explore your Sixth Form options. This year's event will be on Thursday 19th November. Additional information, activities and resources can be found on our website. You can find the application form on the school's website: Admissions > Sixth Form > Sixth Form Application Process. We will invite you to attend one of our open days to discuss your choices.

Monday 15th February 2027: Application Form Deadline

This is the deadline to complete the online Sixth Form Choices Form. You can access the form by clicking on the link on the school's Sixth Form webpage. We will accept late applications but priority for places will go to those who applied before the deadline.

April/May 2027: Offer Letters and Responses

A letter will be sent either offering you a place (you will be requested to reply by the end of April 2027) or advising that you have been unsuccessful. You will be invited to reply to our offer to either accept or decline a place. If you have accepted a place, you will be invited to the Sixth Form Induction.

July 2027: Sixth Form Induction

Sixth Form Induction involves students following a timetable for their subject choices and gaining a greater understanding of the level of study, commitment and materials required.

August 2027: Enrolment

Enrolment starts on GCSE results day and continues on the following days. This will take place remotely for most students using the Admissions + software. If there are any issues with your enrolment then you may be contacted by a member of the enrolment team.

Woodbridge Edge: Additional Opportunities

- All Year 12 students must complete an enriching additional programme, known as 'The Woodbridge Edge' as part of the Sixth Form package. The aim is that students become more employable and have the edge over students at other providers, develop the need and ability to manage time better and have a greater range of skills. These additional studies and experiences ought to provide stories for students to tell at interviews or to write about in job or university applications.

- All students should choose one of these additional opportunities:
    - Maths Studies – Level 3 qualification
    - Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) - Level 3 qualification
    - Duke of Edinburgh (DoE)
    - Sports Leaders - Level 2 qualification
    - Debating
    - LORIC (Leadership Development)
    - Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Maths Studies

This is a one-year level 3 qualification drawing on and developing the functional maths skills learned at GCSE. It is great for students taking Arts and Humanities A Levels, who would like level 3 accreditation of their good GCSE maths skills for relatively little effort, as well as for those picking other STEM subjects, who will need to keep their maths skills sharp. In short it is great for anyone who has not picked Maths A Level wanting to develop broader maths skills beyond GCSE and is useful for a wide variety of professions and further study. Students must have achieved at least a grade 5 in maths at GCSE and cannot combine with A Level Maths. Universities value this qualification highly and some alter entry requirements for students who achieve at least a Grade B. Maths studies can carry up to 20 UCAS points"

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

This is a level 3 qualification where students undertake a research project based on their interests. Students have three supervised hours a fortnight with a teacher but complete the project independently. This course requires a high level of dedication. Universities value this qualification highly and some alter entry requirements for students who successful complete an EPQ. Students require 60 points to take the EPQ course.

Duke of Edinburgh (DoE)

This is an extra-curricular award that students will complete outside of the timetable. It consists of volunteering, physical activity, demonstrating skills, an expedition or activities taking place on a residential visit. You'll build confidence, resilience, skills and friendship groups and have a brilliant time doing it. It gives you the added benefit of gaining a competitive edge as employers regard a DoE Award highly so it will help open the right doors for you. Many of the skills you gain can be applied to your studies as well as your personal and social development. Many tasks for the DoE could also be used for the LORIC award.

Sports Leaders

This is a Level 2 coaching qualification of particular benefit to students taking Level 3 Sport or A Level PE. This is based on coaching or officiating in a range of sports with a chance to specialise. This is an extra-curricular award that students will complete outside of the timetable.

Debating

This is a programme for those who wish to develop the skill of formal debating. Students will have two timetabled sessions with a teacher each fortnight. The programme will consist of the various skills which aid debating as well as becoming familiar with the format of formal debating. There will be competitions, workshops and a possible visit to Parliament.

LORIC

LORIC stands for the five skills that top employers have identified as the most desired in their best employees, alongside academic qualifications. They are leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication. Students will work on the PIXL Edge award to demonstrate these skills by completing practical tasks. Students will have one timetabled session with a teacher each fortnight to discuss what excellence looks like in each skill and audit students' progress, but students will be expected to work on meeting the core skills through tasks in their own time.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

MOOCs is an opportunity for students to explore a range of online courses to improve their knowledge and skills. A MOOC is a free online course that supports learning in a variety of different subjects and is open to anyone with access to a computer and the internet. MOOCs aim to connect learners from across the globe with educators and with each other.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (Level 3)

What will I learn?

This Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an opportunity for you to complete a project on a subject which interests you. You select the topic, which could follow your own interests either inside or outside of school. Your project can be a dissertation (a long essay), a performance or an artefact. You will learn how to go about researching your topic independently, how to write in an academic style, how to reference your sources, how to keep a log of your activity and how to present your findings.

Who is the course suitable for?

The course is suitable for students who wish to broaden their programme of study and do some independent research. Universities value the EPQ because it equips students for the kind of independent study they will do later on.

What is the structure of the course?

The initial part of the course is taught to enable you to develop the skills to complete your project effectively. After this, you will have regular tutorials. You will not learn the subject knowledge of the topic you have chosen, but rather the skills required to find this out for yourself.

You can choose the subject for your project to link to one of your subjects, to relate directly to something you wish to study at university, or to relate to one of your interests outside of the curriculum.

How will I be assessed?

There is no examination for the EPQ. Your project will be assessed by the school and moderated by the exam board.

You will complete your project and also present your findings to other students and your teacher.

The EPQ Level 3 qualification carries the equivalent UCAS points to half an A Level.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 60. You will need to take three A Levels alongside this.

Pre-course information required

You should have some initial ideas about the broad subject areas which you are interested in.

Progression routes?

The EPQ is valued by universities. Cambridge University says:

We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project and would encourage you to undertake one as it will help you develop independent study and research skills, which will ease the transition from school / college to higher education.

It is also a way to build a portfolio or to demonstrate independent interest in a subject that goes beyond the A Level curriculum. In this way, it can strengthen your appeal in applications for both university and apprenticeships.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr J Lupton, EPQ & Higher Aspirations Coordinator

MATHS STUDIES (Level 3)

What will I learn?

This new qualification is designed to equip learners to develop and apply real-world maths skills to help them progress to university, employment or higher apprenticeships in a wide range of industry sectors. You will learn maths skills which you can apply to subjects across the curriculum, such as the sciences, Psychology, Sociology and Design Technology. You will develop competence in the selection and use of mathematical methods and techniques. You will develop confidence in representing and analysing authentic situations mathematically, and in applying mathematics to address related questions and issues. You will also build your skills in mathematical thinking, reasoning and communication.

Who is the course suitable for?

The course is suitable for students who have achieved a minimum of grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics, and who are studying courses which include an element of maths – these include GCE A level Biology, Business Studies, Economics, Computing, Geography, Psychology, Business and Health and Social Care.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is designed to be taught in one year. You will study:

- Analysis of Data
- Personal Finance
- Modelling and Estimation
- Critical Analysis
- Graphical Methods, Rates of Change, Exponential Functions

How will I be assessed?

There are two exam papers.
Paper 1 – Analysis of Data, Personal Finance and Modelling and Estimation.
Paper 2 – Critical Analysis, Graphical Methods, Rates of Change and Exponential Functions.

The exam board is AQA. Both papers are calculator papers.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.

Pre-course information required

You should have an interest in Maths and its application to other subjects.

Progression routes?

This course provides a foundation for the further study of subjects which have an element of maths within them. It provides a background for working with varies types of statistics – this is a requirement for many university courses. Students studying this course will find that they are able to understand and deal with mathematical problems which occur in everyday life.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms K. Fisher, Key Stage 5 Co-ordinator, or Mr M. Nagra

Sixth Form Level 2 Programme

- This is a full-time, one-year course for students who have not yet achieved the entry requirements for A Levels or Vocational Courses.

- This course is taught over 41 hours per fortnight. Students study both English and Maths as part of this course if needed in order to improve their GCSE grade. They also study level 2 Information Technology and participate in a bespoke Edge programme for Level 2 students. This provides students with the proficiency to apply for employment or courses in the Sixth Form or at college.

- This course is not combined with other subjects and is a full-time course.

- These courses are practical and work-based and are assessed mainly through coursework. Please see individual course pages for details.

- If you think that you may not gain a total of 45 points at GCSE, then this course is the right option for you.

- Students who achieve a merit or higher can go on to apply for Apprenticeships, Vocational courses or T Levels at another institution.

SIXTH FORM LEVEL 2 PROGRAMME

What will I learn?

The Sixth Form Level 2 Programme is a syllabus which enables you to lay the foundations for study of technical and vocational qualifications in the future or to apply for apprenticeships. It is a one-year programme and students will learn:

- Skills to improve their GCSE English and Maths Grades to at least grade 4
- Skills needed to apply for employment or further qualifications and training, including writing CVs
- Skills needed to be able to complete high standard coursework for a range of applied programmes
- 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 programme is suitable for students who have not yet achieved the entry requirements for the academic or Level 3 vocational pathway. It will lay the foundation for further successful study at sixth form colleges, work or training through apprenticeships.

What is the structure of the course?

This course is a full-time one-year course with 38 hours of timetabled lessons and private study per fortnight. There are 6 elements:

- GCSE English – 5 hours
- GCSE Maths – 5 hours
- Level 2 Information Technology (IT) – 10 hours
- Level 2 Edge programme – 4 hours
- Level 2 Business Administration – 12 hours
- Directed private study within the Sixth Form – 5 hours

Students will have a personal tutor and support through a daily structured registration programme. 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 and English are assessed entirely by examination – this can take place at various times throughout the year. The IT and Business elements of the programme are assessed by both examination and internally assessed coursework.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total point score of 25.

Progression routes

This course will help you to develop the skills and get the grades needed to apply for further qualifications or apprenticeships. You may also go on to employment which requires you to have GCSEs in English / Maths and other subjects at grade 4 or above.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr M Beckett, Head of Sixth Form

LEVEL 2 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

What will I learn?

This course offers students the opportunity to develop their understanding and skills that are essential to the business industry. They will gain an insight into the business sector and develop applied knowledge and practical skills in business administration, retail and customer service sectors. Designed in collaboration with industry experts, the qualification focuses on the requirements that today's employers demand.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who want to gain an understanding of the world of Business Administration. 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 AAQ courses.

What is the structure of the course?

The Cambridge National Certificate (equivalent to one GCSE), 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:

- Principles of working in business administration [exam]
- Understand the role of an administrator [exam]
- Use of social media for business purposes [coursework]
- Support the organisation of an event [coursework]

How will I be assessed?

There are two external examinations. Two of the four units will be assessed by a board-set assignment that will be marked by your tutor and moderated externally. You will have to finish all units to be able to gain the full qualification.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 25.

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 AAQ 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 enable the student to apply for a Level 3 course at a Sixth Form College, an apprenticeship or appropriate employment opportunity.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Pazik, Head of Business

LEVEL 2 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

What will I learn?

Students will learn to use a range of software in order to manipulate data and present their findings.

They will follow the project life cycle phases of planning, execution, communication and evaluation, demonstrating the practical skills they have acquired such as carrying out a SWOT analysis, creating GANTT charts, developing online surveys, and presenting data through web-based technologies.

Learners will sit an exam to assess their knowledge and understanding of different technologies (hardware and software applications), and tools and techniques used to select, store, manipulate and present data and information.

Students will also be assessed on what the phases of the project life cycle are, the interaction between the phases.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who enjoy using a range of ICT software with a focus on databases and spreadsheets.
Students who can work independently on a project for a specific purpose.
Those who are reflective and evaluative of their work and understand the importance of clear report writing
Those who want to progress onto other related study, such as qualifications in IT, Digital Media or Computer Science.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is spilt over different type of IT skill. The unit that we will look at are:

- Basic IT Skills
- Hardware and Software
- Networking
- Cyber Security

How will I be assessed?

There are exams which will be taken in June. There are also several portfolio-based units which are initially teacher assessed and then moderated by the exam moderator from the exam board in June. Grades awarded are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 25.

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 IT will be very useful. It is essential that, if choosing this course, you display skills of motivation and commitment.

Progression routes

This course will serve students well as an excellent introduction into ICT at Key Stage 5 or for practical workplace apprenticeships in this field. Students will be given the potential opportunity to enter employment within a wide range of job roles across the Information Technology sector and some aspects of the creative industries, such as Website Content Manager, Computer Animator and Graphic Designer.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Brock-Carey, Head of Computer Science and ICT

A Level and Vocational Courses

A Level and Vocational Courses

- Students are advised to choose three subjects. Students wishing to study four subjects must achieve 65 GCSE points.

- It is possible to study a combination of A Levels and Vocational Courses. You will need to gain at least 50 points and meet the entry requirements for your chosen courses.

- The following Vocational Qualifications are available to students who achieve at least 45 GCSE points:

    - Accounting & Finance (Single)
    - Business (Single)
    - Business & Marketing (Double)
    - Digital Systems and Data (Single)
    - Human Biology (Single)
    - Sport (Single, Double or Triple)

- Vocational Qualifications are assessed through a combination of coursework and exams. They are two-year courses and the assessment takes place throughout the course. If students complete all the required units, they will gain the equivalent of A Levels. These courses attract UCAS points which can be used when applying to university.

- Please see the table on the next page for details of the different subject combinations. If you would like to take a combination that is not available then please speak to the sixth form team or senior staff.

- Subjects have been distributed across the blocks in such a way as to maximise the number of subject combinations, particularly the more popular combinations. However, some subject combinations are not possible. This is the case if subjects are in the same block and there is only one class for each subject. There is also the possibility for combinations not to work if all three subjects are in the same block, even if there is more than one class for those subjects.

- Some subject combinations may result in lesson clashes due to the way that the timetable is constructed. Students who have clashes on their timetable will be offered additional support to ensure that they are able to keep up with the work requirements.

Sixth Form Subject Choices Overview

- Select three subjects in total
- Double courses count as two subjects
- Triple courses count as three subjects
- You cannot pick more than one subject per block.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E
A-Level Courses				
Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
English Literature	Further Maths	Physics	English Literature	Further Maths
Physics	English Language	Economics	Chemistry	Biology
Chemistry	Biology	Computing	Geography	Economics
Psychology	Economics	Film Studies	German	Psychology
Spanish	History	Physical Education	Business	History
Art	Sociology	Religious Education	Politics	French
Music	Theatre Studies	Russian	Product Design	Media Studies
Vocational Courses				
V-Level Accounting & Finance	AGQ Sport (Single Course)	AGQ Business (Single Course)	V-Level Digital Systems & Data	AAQ Human Biology
	AGQ Business & Marketing (Double Course)			
AGQ Sport (Double Course)				
AGQ Sport (Triple Course)				
Edge Subjects				
EPQ	EPQ	EPQ	EPQ	Debating
LORIC	LORIC	LORIC	LORIC	Sports Leaders
Debating	Debating	Debating	Duke of Edinburgh	Maths Studies
MOOCs				

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE V LEVEL

What will I learn?

The accounting and finance departments in businesses play a key role in shaping business strategy. The departments help leaders to understand business performance and make forecasts about future business performance. As such, they play a central role in determining the success of an organisation.

Students will develop the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate financial and accounting information responsibly within UK organisational contexts. The course will enable students to develop an in-depth understanding of key accounting principles, such as liquidity, profitability and the return on investment. Students will be taught to evaluate and use this understanding to inform business decision making in a variety of different contexts.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who want to gain a broad understanding of accounting and finance. They will:

- enjoy investigating different business scenarios and contexts
- enjoy interpreting data to gain an understanding of business performance
- enjoy evaluating risk and uncertainty that businesses face
- enjoy solving practical problems and want skills that link directly to real jobs

What is the structure of the course?

V Levels are new flagship Level 3 qualifications that sit alongside A Levels and T Levels. The V Level in Accounting and Finance is the same size as one A Level (360 guided learning hours) and is studied over two years. It carries UCAS points for entry into higher education.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed through both examinations and non-exam assessments.

- 40% of the assessment will be based on timetabled exam assessments
- 60% of the assessment will be based on work completed outside of examinations, with submission opportunities across the course

Because most of the marks come from applied work completed during the course, you can build up your achievement steadily rather than relying on one set of final exams. You'll still develop the exam skills that university and employers expect

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total point score of 45, or Merit at Business Administration Level 2 from the level 2 programme. You should also have GCSE English and Maths at Grade 5.

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 as well as the externally assessed element 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

V Levels aim to encourage motivation and interest in pursuing careers and further study related to accounting and finance systems and practices, by providing a broad and applied understanding of this, without requiring early occupational specialisation.

This combination of theory and practice and the transferable skills students develop should effectively prepare them to access a wide range of related higher-level study and training across multiple sectors. This may include accounting, finance, business, economics and related disciplines, as well as higher and degree apprenticeships where accounting and finance knowledge underpins occupational roles.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Pazik, Head of Business

ART AND DESIGN A LEVEL

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 personal investigation 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 initiative and be able to work independently, as much of the course is structured around individual ideas.

What is the structure of the course?

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

The A level will run over the course of two years, with both units externally moderated at the end of the course.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 is internally set and marked and externally moderated.
Component 2 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?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Art and a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature. Those who have previously studied GCSE Textiles, Graphic Communication or 3D Design may be accepted onto the course with an interview and portfolio review. We will need to assess if you have the skill set required to be successful in Art, Craft and design A level.

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 six hours a week on Art PPR and provide an A4 and A3 spiral bound sketchbook for this purpose.

Progression routes?

A Level Art is your creative springboard into the future. Whether you're into **fashion, animation, architecture**, or **digital design**, this course builds the skills and portfolio to take you there. It's perfect preparation for careers in everything from **graphic design, film, and advertising** to **UX/UI design, game art and social media content creation**. 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 A LEVEL

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.
The topics learned over 2 years are: 1.Biological Molecules; 2. Cells; 3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment; 4. Genetic Information, Variation and Relationships between Organisms; 5. Energy Transfers in and between Organisms; 6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; 7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems; 8. The control of gene expression.

Who is the course suitable for?

A diverse range of students study biology. It is essential for those hoping to go on to study Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy and Scientific research but also supports career pathways that link to P.E., Psychology and Geography.

What is the structure of the course?

There are 3 externally assessed papers. All 3 papers will be sat at the end of the 2-year course.
Paper 1 – Content from topics 1-4, including relevant practical skills (2 hours, 91 marks)
Paper 2 – Content from topics 5-8, including relevant practical skills (2 hours, 91 marks)
Paper 3 – Any content from topics 1-8, including relevant practical skills & 1 essay from a choice of 2 titles worth 25 marks

How will I be assessed?

Throughout the course you will be exposed in lessons to exam questions which will be self-assessed/peer assessed. There are low stakes learning checks which are completed at key points throughout each topic. In addition, routinely, throughout each topic you will reflect on the specification statements covered in class. You will have an opportunity to RAG your understanding of each specification point and identify areas for development. At the end of each topic you will complete an end of unit test. You will also be required to write up your core practicals as evidence that you have met the key skills required for the course. Candidates will receive a pass or fail for the practical elements of the course which will be assessed internally. In Year 12 you will complete 2 AS mock exams covering the AS content. In Year 13 you will sit 3 mock exams testing you on Year 12 and Year 13 content. **The exam board for this course is AQA**.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics, a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature and a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. If you have studied Combined Science you will need a Grade 7:7. To study three science or maths subjects, students must achieve at least 21 points across these three subjects.

Pre-course information required

Candidates need to have a good understanding of general scientific concepts and a keen interest in Biology. Candidates should be aware that A-level Biology includes “maths for Biologists” and this accounts for a minimum of 10% of the marks available across the three papers. Requirements for this include being able to calculate percentage change, working out the magnification or size of an object from an image and being able to calculate averages.

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; Dentistry, Medicine, Radiography, Physiotherapy, Midwifery, Forensic Science, Marine Biology, Sport Science, Environmental Science, Veterinary Medicine and Microbiology to name a few.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms H. Bartlett, Head of Biology

BUSINESS A LEVEL

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 prospective 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?

Students will spend Year 1 learning about businesses across a variety of contexts and about the key decisions that are made to improve the performance of businesses across the main functional areas of marketing, human resources, operations management and finance. In Year 2, students will build upon this knowledge and learn about business in a global context and strategic decision making.

How will I be assessed?

The A Level is assessed by three two hour written exams at the end of the course. The papers consist of a mix of short-mark and essay-based questions on:

Paper 1: Marketing, people and global business
Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Business (if taken), a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature and a Grade 5 in Maths.

Pre-course information required

- Talk to your business 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 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 Pazik, Head of Business

BUSINESS SINGLE AGQ

What will I learn?

Students will learn how a business might evolve from a small start-up business to a large multinational organisation, and will consider a range of different business types gaining an understanding of how the choice of business type might affect the objectives that are set. They will also look at the internal workings of businesses, including their internal structure and how different functional areas work together. By looking at the external constraints under which a business must operate, students will gain an understanding of the legal, financial and ethical factors that have an impact. Students also explore ways in which businesses respond to changes in their economic, social and technological environment; and gain an appreciation of the influence different stakeholders can have upon a business.

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 a team

The Extended Certificate course is equivalent to 1 A Level and the Diploma course is equivalent to 2 A Levels. You should choose either of these if you would like to study Business alongside other courses.

What is the structure of the course?

Extended Certificate (single):
Two-year course divided into five units. Equivalent to 1 A Level. You must complete all units to gain the Extended Certificate. You will complete two mandatory, externally-assessed units and three internally, coursework assessed units.

How will I be assessed?

Units 1 and 2 are assessed by exam and marked by OCR. Our department staff will internally assess all the other units and OCR will moderate them. Examined units are graded Near-Pass, Pass, Merit and Distinction. Internally assessed units are graded Pass, Merit and Distinction.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total point score of 45, or Merit at Business Administration Level 2 from the level 2 programme.
You should also have GCSE English and Maths at Grade 5.

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 as well as the externally assessed element 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

This qualification will provide learners with a comprehensive understanding of business and will help them to progress onto a qualification in the same subject area in Higher Education (HE). Progression could be onto University through a Business degree, for example Business Management or a non-related degree programme. It also prepares them to take up employment in business where they could continue to study.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Pazik, Head of Business

BUSINESS & MARKETING DOUBLE AGQ

What will I learn?

Students will learn how a business might evolve from a small start-up business to a large multinational organisation, and will consider a range of different business types gaining an understanding of how the choice of business type might affect the objectives that are set. They will also look at the internal workings of businesses, including their internal structure and how different functional areas work together. By looking at the external constraints under which a business must operate, students will gain an understanding of the legal, financial and ethical factors that have an impact.

The Business & Marketing Double qualification means that students specialise in a marketing pathway. They will learn about

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 a team

The Diploma course is equivalent to 2 A Levels. Study of the Diploma could be combined with the V Level in Accounting and Finance, which would provide students with a holistic understanding of how businesses operate.

What is the structure of the course?

The Diploma (double award) is a two-year course divided into 10 units. It is equivalent to 2 A Levels. You must complete all units to gain the Diploma.

How will I be assessed?

Units 1, 2, 3, and 15 are assessed by exam and marked by OCR. Our department staff will internally assess all the other units and OCR will moderate them. Examined units are graded Near-Pass, Pass, Merit and Distinction. Internally assessed units are graded Pass, Merit and Distinction.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total point score of 45, or Merit at Business Administration Level 2 from the level 2 programme.
You should also have GCSE English and Maths at Grade 5.

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 as well as the externally assessed element 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

This qualification will provide learners with a comprehensive understanding of business and will help them to progress onto a qualification in the same subject area in Higher Education (HE). Progression could be onto University through a Business degree, for example Business Management or a non-related degree programme. It also prepares them to take up employment in business where they could continue to study.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr A Pazik, Head of Business

CHEMISTRY A LEVEL

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. 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?

There are 3 externally assessed papers:
Paper 1 Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry 1hr 45 min
Paper 2 Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry 1hr 45min
Paper 3 General & Practical Principles in Chemistry 2hr 30 min
Candidates will also receive an Internally assessed 'Pass' or 'Fail' grade for the compulsory practical skills requirement.

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 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 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?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry, Biology and Physics, a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature and a Grade 6 in Maths. If you have studied Combined Science you will need a Grade 7:7. To study three science or maths subjects, students must achieve at least 21 points across these three subjects.

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?

Mr U Esop, Head of Chemistry

COMPUTER SCIENCE A LEVEL

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 and 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.

How will I be assessed?

- 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 A Level mark – 2½ Hour written examination
- Paper 2: Theory Topics: fundamentals of computer systems, data representation, networking, databases, Big Data and functional programming – 40% of total A Level marks – 2½ Hour Written Examination
- Practical Programming Project – 20% of total A Level marks – Coursework Project

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science, a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature and a Grade 6 in Maths.

Pre-course information required

It is an advantage to have a good knowledge of the technical terms used in Computer Science, which can be gained as part of a preparatory study during the summer before commencing the course. Also, learning a programming language to a good level would be of benefit to you as an A Level student.

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 Brock-Carey, Head of Computing and ICT

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY A LEVEL

What will I learn?

Students develop skills in recognising and responding to design needs and develop an understanding of how current global issues, including technology, impacts today's world. At A level students will develop the confidence to be innovative and produce creative design solutions as they develop their own design brief with a client/end user. Students will design and make a fully functioning, high-quality prototype product of their own choosing.
Students will enhance and develop their design and communication skills, work with a wide range of materials, become confident in a range of Computer Aided Design (CAD) programmes such as Adobe Photoshop, Google Sketch-up and 2D Design. They will have use of fully equipped workshops and our dedicated CAD suite complete with 3D Printer, CNC Router, and Laser Cutter.

Who is the course suitable for?

The course is aimed at all creative and innovative students with a real interest in designing and making high quality, fully functioning products. Students should have an inquisitive mind, enjoy problem solving and have a love of design.

What is the structure of the course?

The course is structured around two units of work, which consists of one controlled assessment unit (50%) and one written exam (50%):

- Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology 2.5 hour written exam
- Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project (NEA) 40 hours, centre marked, externally moderated

The exam board for this course is Edexcel.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Design and Technology (with either a Graphic Products or Product Design/Resistant Materials specialism – note this **must** be the **GCSE** that consists of 50% NEA **and** 50% written exam). A minimum of Grade 6 in GCSE Maths as there is 15 % maths content in the Design and Technology A Level exam and minimum Grade 5 in English Language or Literature is also a requirement for the course. A Grade 6 or above in English is beneficial as students require a high level of literacy for the NEA and the written exam paper.

Pre-course information required

Competent drawings skills, confident making skills, good levels of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills are essential. It is important for students to have an open mind about the design process and be willing to work independently to fully research chosen design contexts. Students will have the opportunity to design a range of varied products. Students should enjoy a challenge and solving complex problems.

Progression routes?

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to progress on to a range of university courses. Alongside Degree courses, there are 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 supported by Product Design include engineering, architecture, animation, product design, teaching, interior design, construction, robotics, illustration 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 and students use their NEA portfolio at interviews to showcase their talents.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms M. Rivers, Head of Design Technology

DIGITAL SYSTEMS AND DATA V LEVEL

What will I learn?

Digital Technology and data are behind almost every organisation, from the NHS and banks to retailers and streaming services. This course shows you how they work and how to use them to solve real problems. You will learn practical skills that employers and universities value, and you'll apply them in realistic, work-based situations.
You will learn to:

- Understand digital systems, security and support.
- Work with data to support decision making.
- Protect digital systems and information.
- Design and develop digital solutions.
- Use technology responsibly.

You will also build specialist skills in one of two areas: **configuring digital systems** (setting up, testing, maintaining and securing systems) or **developing digital solutions** (designing, creating, testing and refining digital products and services).

Who is the course suitable for?

This course suits students who are curious about technology and want to learn by doing, not just by revising theory. It's a strong choice if you:

- enjoy solving practical problems and want skills that link directly to real jobs
- are interested in a digital career but don't want to specialise too early
- are aiming for university, a higher or degree apprenticeship, or employment, and want a qualification that keeps all three routes open
- like a mix of project work and exams, rather than being assessed only on final exams.

What is the structure of the course?

The course has two parts:

- **Core content**, studied by everyone. This covers digital systems and support, working with data, cyber security, solution design, and the responsible use of technology.
- **A specialist pathway**, chosen from either *Configuring Digital Systems* or *Developing Digital Solutions*. This lets you go deeper into the area that suits your interests and future plans.

How will I be assessed?

The course uses a balance of practical work and exams:

- **60% non-exam assessment (NEA):** practical, coursework-style tasks set in realistic scenarios. You'll show what you can do, for example by analysing data, configuring or securing systems, or designing and testing digital solutions.
- **40% examination:** written assessment of your knowledge and understanding of the core content.

Because most of the marks come from applied work completed during the course, you can build up your achievement steadily rather than relying on one set of final exams. You'll still develop the exam skills that university and employers expect.

What qualifications do I need to have?

While we do not require previous study of ICT/Computing, a good grade in Maths and English is essential for this course. Both of these need to be grade 5 at GCSE.

Pre-course information required

It is an advantage to have a good knowledge of the technical terms used in IT, which can be gained as part of a preparatory study during the summer before commencing the course.

Progression routes?

This course could form the basis for progression into further learning, university courses, or employment where you can train in programming, computer science, systems analysis, communications, multimedia, software systems, and project management or hardware applications.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Brock-Carey, Head of Computing and ICT

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES A LEVEL

What will I learn?

Drama offers a practical and challenging course of study which encourages learners to develop their creative ability to build, analyse and interpret theatre. Throughout the course you will be explore a wide range of play texts, practitioners and become spectator to a diverse range of theatrical experiences. These will allow you to explore the impact that theatre can have on past, present and future audiences. Students will make their own impact on audiences in devising original performances utilising their imaginative, sophisticated and resonant ideas. While this A level is rigorously academic, it is essentially practical and offers a unique and independent 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 a participant. Throughout the course you will develop your ability to reflect and evaluate your ideas recording the process of making and discovering. You will produce a creative log and report that analyses the process of developing theatre from the role of the director, actor, designer and audience. An A Level in Drama and Theatre studies will also develop your oracy, confidence, ability to use multi-dimensional communication and work with others. The course demands practical, creative and communication skills in equal measure. Drama gives you the freedom to be innovative and experiment with your ideas as you work with others to expand these and make new discoveries taking risks to create original performances.

Who is the course suitable for?

Drama and Theatre Studies is designed for students that are creative, innovative and have a keen interest in theatre. Students will be expected to devise, present, act, and direct. These skills in turn require learners to be open-minded, critical and have excellent levels of oracy. The course is for those who want a deeper understanding of drama, that are interested in studying plays, looking at the work of influential theatre practitioners, analysing live theatre performance re-interpreting text and creating original work. It is useful to have taken Drama at GCSE but not essential.

What is the structure of the course?

Drama focuses on the study of theatre from the perspective of a creator, director, designer, performer and critic. Throughout you will use the theories of the practitioners to re-interpret and create new pieces of theatre.

The course is made up of 3 components:

Component 1: Theatre Workshop 60 marks (20%). Internally assessed. A practical component with a written creative log. One devised piece.

Component 2: Text in Action 120 marks (40%). Externally assessed by a visiting examiner. A practical component with a written process report. One devised piece one scripted piece.

How will I be assessed?

Drama will be assessed through a combination of a written examination and non-examined practical assessment with coursework. Component 1 and 2 assessments will entail practical performances and written reflections. Component 3 is a written exam. Regular feedback on presentation and written work will track progress.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Drama and a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature. Students without GCSE Drama will be considered for this course.

Pre-course information required

You will also be expected to attend organised trips to the theatre and to workshops 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?

A level Drama and Theatre Studies is listed on the preferred subjects by all universities. The diversity of the course makes it an excellent choice for many career paths not only in preparation for a degree in Drama or Drama School training. 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 your application to university, to an apprenticeship or job the edge that sets you apart from other candidates by demonstrating you have a diverse range of transferable skills. Over 50% of students who have taken this

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss H Farr, Head of Drama

ECONOMICS A LEVEL

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?

Students will learn about the operation of markets and market failure as well as the national economy in Year 1 of the course, with a focus on how markets function, and firms compete, as well as government policies and intervention in the economy. Year 2 will build upon the knowledge gained in Year 1, and includes further development in the theory of the firm, behavioural economics, labour markets, inequality, financial markets and the international economy.

How will I be assessed?

The A Level has three, two hour written exams, taken at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour – multiple choice, short answer, data response and extended writing.
Paper 2: The national and global economy – multiple choice, short answer, data response and extended writing.
Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics - data response and extended writing.

What qualifications do I need?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature and a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.

Pre-course information required

If you would like more information, please feel free to come talk to the teachers of the Business & Economics department and students currently studying A Level Economics.

Progression routes?

Economics is an extremely academic A level and 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' interview 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 as a facilitating subject.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Ahmed, Teacher in Charge of Economics

ENGLISH LANGUAGE A LEVEL

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 be encouraged to read widely and develop skills in analytical and critical thinking as well as making independent notes and writing evaluative discursive essays under timed conditions. You will also be required to engage in debates and make presentations to the class.

You will find out about language through seven key 'linguistic methods and levels': what it means (semantics), how it is constructed (grammar); what words are chosen (lexis) and how it sounds (phonology). Implied meanings (pragmatics), how texts are structured (discourse structure), what it looks like (graphology). You will study topics such as Language Change and Global English, and also how gender, social groups, occupations affect the language we use. Furthermore, you will study how children acquire language and develop skills in speaking, reading and writing.

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 you will study topics such as Language change, Child Language Development, Social groups – Language and Ethnicity, Dialects, Gender, Occupations and Global English. In Year 13, you will complete a coursework piece – Investigation and Original Writing and revise all the studied topics for the exams.

How will I be assessed?

Two two-and-a-half hour written exams (80%) and the NEA (non-examined assessment) coursework (20%) – completed by the end of the Autumn term in Year 13. The exams are taken at the end of Year 13.

There are interim assessments and learning checks, and mock exams throughout the two-year course.

The exam board for this course is AQA.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

Pre-course information required

You should talk to the teachers of the English Department and students currently studying 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?

Ms J.Theodorou, Head of English

ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL

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.
In Year 13 you will study the prose, poetry and drama of Love Through The Ages and complete the Non-Examined Assessment(coursework) based on two texts.

How will I be assessed?

One three hour and one two-and-a-half hour written exams (80%) and NEA (coursework-20%), taken at the end of Year 13. The exam board for this course is AQA. The specification is AQA A.

There are interim assessments and learning checks, and mock exams throughout the two-year course.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

Pre-course information required

You should talk to teachers of the English Department and students currently studying 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?

Ms J Theodorou, Head of English

FILM STUDIES A LEVEL

What will I learn?

Film Studies 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 critical thinking, essay writing, research, and presentation as well as creative skills in photography, filmmaking 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, filmmakers 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?

3 units are covered across the 2-year course.

Unit 1 focuses on **American and British** film, covering Classical Hollywood (the 40s and 50s), Hollywood since the 60s, Contemporary American Independent Film and British film, past and present.

Unit 2 focuses on **Varieties of Film**, covering silent film, documentaries, global film and experimental film.

Unit 3 is the **Production** element of practical coursework. Students study the short film form and will choose between either making their own short film or writing a screenplay for a short film with a photographic storyboard of a section of the screenplay. The practical unit is accompanied by a 1600-word evaluative analysis.

How will I be assessed?

The exam board is Eduqas. Assessment is through exams (70%) and coursework (30%).

Two 2.5 hr written exams at the end of the course are each worth 35%.
The production work (30%) is assessed independently - there is no group work option, although students can use other people as cast and crew to help them produce their film.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Media Studies OR a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature. There is **no requirement** to have taken a GCSE in Media Studies.

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; you study films in the same depth as you study novels, plays and poetry in English Literature.

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 as 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. Film Studies is a good multi-disciplinary basis to progress to any humanities or language study.

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss D. Tagoe, Head of Film & Media Studies

FRENCH A LEVEL

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 to provide an insight into the lifestyle of French speaking countries. A range of topics will be studied; **new family structures, the education system and employment, the media, youth concerns, integration and multiculturalism, the rise of the extreme right and the Occupation and Resistance during WW2**. You will also study **one film; *La Haine* and one novel; *Un Sac de Billes***. You will gain a range of transferable skills, such as independent research, summarising information and giving presentations of your research, 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 of francophone countries, 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.
You will be working independently to read widely around the topics studied and learn vocabulary routinely, so you should be highly motivated and organised.

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 fortnightly grammar sessions during the course, then intermittently revisited over the course period, independent modules of listening and reading will be undertaken on a fortnightly basis and the speaking aspect will prepare you for the independent research task on a topic of your choice and responding to a statement about an aspect of the course you have covered. You will also have at least one literature lesson per week in which you study the set book or film. You will work from course books supplemented by a range of materials: online news and video articles, French websites, books and films. You will have regular learning checks on content taught.

How will I be assessed?

The Edexcel A level French comprises three units on all 4 themes:

Paper 1: **Listening, reading and translation:** Written examination: 2hours, 80 marks, 40% of the qualification
Paper 2: **Written response to work, grammar and translation:** Written exam: 2hrs 40 mins, 120 marks, 30% of qualification
Paper 3: **Speaking:** 21-23 minutes, Discussion of a stimulus card and presentation of Independent Research Project & subsequent follow-up discussion, 72 marks, 30% of the qualification

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE French and Grade 5 in English Literature.

Pre-course information required

We strongly advise students to revise all the GCSE grammar points in their GCSE revision workbook 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.

Progression routes?

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, proficiency in a language such as French will be a much-prized qualification. Qualifications in languages are a requirement in many areas 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. A Level languages are facilitating subjects as They **develop analytical, communication, and essay-writing skills.** Universities value them highly since relatively fewer students study them compared to sciences or humanities.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs R. Bemath, Head of French

GEOGRAPHY A LEVEL

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
- Have an interested in broadening your knowledge of both the social and physical sciences

What is the structure of the course?

We follow the AQA A-Level specification, which comprises of both human and physical geography topics. Students also complete a Non –Examined assessment, which comprises of an independent fieldwork topic whereby they will attend a residential fieldtrip to help prepare for this. There will be a cost associated with this trip. Please see below the course outline.
Component 1: Physical Geography; Water and Carbon, Natural hazards & coastal systems and Landscapes.
Component 2: Human Geography: Changing Places, Contemporary Urban Environments & Global Systems and Global Governance.
Component 1 and 2 are examined through a 2 hours 30 minutes written exam.
Component 3: Geography fieldwork Investigation Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.
Throughout our two-year course we complete a mix of topics each year and aim to complete the NEA in Year 12. Please see below our current Curriculum plan.
Year 1: Changing places (Human) & Contemporary Urban Environments (Human), Coastal Systems and Landscapes (Physical). and non-examined assessment (20% of your A-Level course).
Year 2: Natural Hazards (Physical), Global systems & Global Governance (Human), Water and Carbon (Physical)

How will I be assessed?

A Level Assessment

Component 1: Physical Geography	[2.5 hours/ 120 Marks/ 40% A Level]
Component 2: Human Geography	[2.5 hours/ 96 Marks/ 40% A Level]
Component 3: Geographical Investigation	[3000-4000 word Fieldwork Report/ 20% A Level]

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total point score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Geography, a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature and a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.

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?

Ms K.Gray, Head of Geography

GERMAN A LEVEL

What will I learn?

The German Advanced level course is a progression from German GCSE. You will study grammar in detail, do prose translations, have discussions and debates in German as well as use the internet for research and study purposes. The cultural aspect is also explored to provide an insight into the lifestyle of German speaking countries. A range of topics will be studied, including contemporary issues such as the environment, the education system and employment, the media, youth culture, integration and multiculturalism, and Germany before and after reunification. You will also study one film and one novel. You will gain a range of transferable skills, which are highly valued by employers and universities.

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, economics, politics, sociology, 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 exam skills will be undertaken on a fortnightly basis. You will work with a range of authentic materials such as magazine and newspaper articles, German websites, German literary texts and films as well as the Edexcel German for A Level course book and A Level Grammar textbook.

How will I be assessed?

The Edexcel A Level German course is a two-year course and comprises three units:

Unit 1 – Listening, reading and translation into English – 1 hour 50 mins, 40% of the marks

Unit 2 – Written response to works and translation into German – 2 hours 40 mins, 30% of the marks

Unit 3 – Speaking – 23 mins, 30% of the marks

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE German and Grade 5 in English Literature.

Pre-course information required

It is advisable to revise GCSE work - in particular grammar and 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 increasingly 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?

Ms. R Tann, Head of German

HISTORY A LEVEL

What will I learn?

Our History A level offers an exciting range of material that allows students to not just study fascinating and significant moments of the past, but it enables the ability to reflect upon modern day current developments, movements and debates by looking at their historical origin. Our A Level is comprised of three modules: The British Empire, Birth of the USA and Civil Rights in Americ

The 'British Empire' module is based around the growth and development of imperialism with a heavy focus on Africa and India and serves as our 'breadth' study. The module is assessed through the use and understanding of historical interpretations based upon this controversial and much debated piece of history, and through students' analysis and evaluation of events.

The Birth of the USA is our 'depth' study, a more concentrated look at the 41 years it took for the original 13 colonies to sever their links with Great Britain and establish their new nation. This study explores the concepts of imperialism, mercantilism and legitimate government; alongside the exciting events that surround the creation of the USA we know today. This module is assessed through the use and understanding of primary sources, and through students' analysis and evaluation of events.

Our final module is our non-examined assessment (NEA), this is an independent historical investigation that students undertake which will be based on Civil Rights in America 1917-2017.

Who is the course suitable for?

This course will appeal to those:

- Who have a curiosity about the past
- Are interested in current affairs and how the past has shaped the modern world
- Want the opportunity to explore history in depth
- Enjoy finding out about the past in different places and time periods.

What is the structure of the course?

We follow the AQA A-Level History Specification. Students study a British and non-British unit. From the start of year 12, you will have 2 different history teachers, one for the breadth unit and the other for the depth unit. From May half-term of year 12, both teachers will teach the non-examined assessment (coursework) content on the Civil Rights Movement. Students will

How will I be assessed?

Breadth unit is worth 40% of the total A Level. This will be assessed by a 2-hour 30-minute exam.
Depth unit is worth 40% of the total A Level. This will be assessed by a 2-hour 30-minute exam.
Non-Examined Assessment is worth 20% of the total A Level and involves writing a 4500 word essay.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of at least 50. Furthermore, you will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE History and a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Pre-course information required

You must have a keen willingness to discover more about the past. You may do this through reading, watching documentaries or listening to podcasts. This inquisitive attitude is essential for the course where you will be expected to do this.

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. History is an academic subject and highly regarded.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms A. Latino, Head of History

HUMAN BIOLOGY AAQ

What will I learn?

During this course you will develop key theoretical knowledge and understanding of the subject, but also apply what you learn to different situations and contexts and practical tasks, such as:

- Researching health and diseases.
- Planning and performing laboratory investigations involving biomedical techniques.
- Creating and delivering presentations to help patients and health care professionals.
- Creating and delivering nutritional information to individuals with specific needs.

The qualification will also help you develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the medical science and that prepare you for progressing to university courses where independent study skills are needed:

- Communicating effectively with individuals or groups.
- Researching topic areas and recording research sources, then using them to interpret findings and present evidence.
- Presenting information, this will involve managing time and identifying aims, purpose, resources, methods.
- Problem solving when matching and analysing data.

Who is the course suitable for?

You might be interested in this qualification if you want to you will develop the necessary knowledge and skills that can support progression to higher education or a career in the **Medical Science sector** in combination with other A-levels.
You are interested in mixed assessment with Applied and Practical 'Non-examination assessed units' as well as exams.
You prefer to be assessed as the course progresses, not just exams at the end of the course.
These A Level subjects might complement this qualification:
Biology / Chemistry / Physical Education / Psychology / Sociology

What is the structure of the course?

There are **2 externally assessed exam papers**, both 1 hour 15 minutes

- Fundamentals of Human Biology / Health & Disease

There are also **4 internally assessed coursework units**

- 2 Mandatory units: Genetics / Biomedical Techniques
- 2 optional units from: Nutrition & Metabolism / Human Reproduction / The Brain / Drug Development

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 complete assignments and prepare presentations to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding and write up any practical element. If students have not performed at their best in the NEA assignments, they can improve their work and submit it again for assessment. The external examinations will be offered in both January and May/June and will contain a variety of multiple choice, short answer and longer stretch and challenge questions.
The internal assessments for each unit will be set to a specific deadline as decided by the teacher of the unit.
The exam board for this course is OCR Cambridge.

What qualifications do I need to have?

If you have studied Combined Science you will need grade 5-5 or above, and a grade 5 or above in Maths and English

Pre-course information required

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

Progression routes?

Human Biology could support progression onto Higher Education courses at university such as:
Biological Sciences / Human Biology / Life Sciences / Biomedical Science

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr M. Williams, Head of Science

MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

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?

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?

In year 12 you will start with both of your teachers on the Pure Maths AS Level content, and then move on to Mechanics with one teacher and Statistics with the other. In year 13 you will study Year 2 A Level Pure Maths content with one teacher, in preparation for Paper 1 and Paper 2. And you will learn with your other teacher the rest of the Statistics and Mechanics syllabus in preparation for Paper 3. Each programme of study will be taught by an excellent Maths teacher who has the specialist knowledge to deliver the course to high standards.

How will I be assessed?

There are three papers in the A level mathematics course. Paper 1 and Paper 2 are Pure Maths Papers each worth one third of the marks. Paper 3 is a Statistics and Mechanics paper and is worth one third of the marks. All three papers are two hours long and marked out of 100 marks. The examinations will take place in May/June of Year 13. There is no coursework element. The examination board is Edexcel. Calculators can be used in all three papers.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 7 in GCSE Maths. To study three science or maths subjects, students must achieve at least 21 points across these three subjects.

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?

Ms K. Fisher, KS5 Mathematics Co-ordinator; Mr D. Blunt, Head of Maths

FURTHER MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

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 four modules of Further Mathematics.
Module 1: (Core Pure 1) Proof, Complex Numbers, Matrices, Further Algebra and Functions, Further Calculus, Vectors.
Module 2: (Core Pure 2) Complex Numbers, Further Algebra and Functions, Further Calculus, Polar Coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions, Differential Equations. Module 3: Further Pure 1. Module 4: Further Mechanics 1.

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?

We only teach A Level Further Maths as a double award over two option blocks combined with A Level Maths. In Year 12, you will study the A level Mathematics course. You will finish the whole course in the year but will not sit the examination until the summer of Year 13, to ensure that you have your best chance with consolidation, practice and using these skills in Further Maths, to achieve a top grade in both qualifications. In Year 13, you will continue to practise A level maths content and use the skills developed from that course to study the Further Maths course. We complete content of Core 1 and Core 2 modules started in Year 12, then move on to Further Pure 1 and Further Mechanics 1 modules.

How will I be assessed?

Further Maths A Level: You will be assessed on the four further maths modules. Each paper is a 90-minute exam and marked out of 75. Maths A Level: There are three papers in the A level mathematics course. Paper 1 and Paper 2 are Pure Maths Papers each worth one third of the marks. Paper 3 is a Statistics and Mechanics paper and is worth one third of the marks. All three papers are two hours long and marked out of 100 marks. All examinations will take place in May/June of Year 13. There is no coursework element in A Level Maths or Further Mathematics. The exam board is Edexcel. Calculators can be used in all papers and we recommend the Casio CG100 Graphical Calculator.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 8 in GCSE Maths. To study three science or maths subjects, students must achieve at least 21 points across these three subjects.

Pre-course information required

The skills required for Further Mathematics are exactly the same as that required for A level 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.

Progression routes?

The best Maths Degree programmes will expect students to have studied Maths and Further Maths at A Level. 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 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 H. Ali, Further Maths Lead; Mr D. Blunt, Head of Maths

MEDIA STUDIES A LEVEL

What will I learn?

The course is designed to give you a broad understanding of Media: communication and Production, across all platforms within the industry, print, moving image 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 cameras and editing 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 and society and in critically examining the effects of the media on our everyday lives
- Students who are creative and enjoy practical work and discussion

What is the structure of the course?

Component 1 **Media Products, Industries and Audience:** how meanings are constructed in media products through media language, how representations are influenced by social, cultural, historical and industry contexts. Various theoretical approaches are considered. Covers advertising, video gaming, music industry, radio, newspapers and film marketing.

Component 2 **Media Forms and Products in Depth**, Case studies on Television in the global age, Media in the online age and Magazines: Alternative and Mainstream media.

Component 3 is the **Production** element of practical coursework. Students will produce an individual production based on 2 media forms (from moving image, print or online) in response to a choice of briefs set by the exam board. This will be accompanied by a 500-word statement of intentions.

How will I be assessed?

The exam board is Eduqas. Assessment is through exam (70%) and coursework (30%).

2 written exams: Component 1 (35%) 2hr15, Component 2 (35%) 2hr30 at the end of the course.
The production work (30%) is assessed independently - there is no group work option, although students can use other people as cast and crew to help with their production.

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Media Studies OR a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature. There is **no requirement** to have taken a GCSE in Media Studies.

Pre-course information required

Students must be committed and prepared to work independently. You must be a confident writer as detailed written analysis and essay writing 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, radio, newspapers, video gaming or music. You should be aware of current social trends and current affairs.

Progression routes?

There is a high employment rate for Media Studies 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 This Morning! 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 and it is a good basis from which to study any humanities subject.

Who do I contact for further information?

Miss D. Tagoe, Head of Film & Media Studies

MUSIC A LEVEL

What will I learn?

The course develops and extends the GCSE skills of Performing, Composing and Appraising. We will focus on all three across the two years of the course. 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. The course offers scope to compose creatively using music technology.

Who is the course suitable for?

- Those who are Grade 5 or above on an instrument and/or vocals
- Those who are confident composing on either Logic, Bandlab or Musescore
- Those who are interested in the study of Music and the History of Music across a range of genres

What is the structure of the course?

Component 1: Performing A - 35% of the qualification

- A public performance of three or more contrasting pieces, performed as a recital
- Performance can be playing or singing solo, in an ensemble, improvising, or realising music using music technology
- The total performance time across all pieces must be a minimum of 10 minute

Component 2: Composing A 25% of the qualification

- Total of two compositions, one to a brief set by the exam board and one free composition

Component 5: Listening & Appraising - 40% of the qualification

- One written paper of 2 hours 15 minutes
- Students will study three areas of study as part of this component:
- AoSC – Musical Theatre – Two unknown extracts from the music of R. Rodgers, L. Bernstein, S. Sondheim, C.M. Schonberg, S. Scwartz & A.L. Webber. Mixture of short and medium length answers (up to 5 marks)
- AoSA – The Development of the Symphony – Unknown listening to a symphony from the year 1750-1900, set work question, and one essay question (15 marks) related to context of entire unit.
- AoSE – Into the Twentieth Century – one set work question, one unfamiliar listening, mixture of short and medium length answers (up to 5 marks)

How will I be assessed?

- Performing – Solo Recital assessed externally by a visiting examiner
- Composing – Two compositions assessed externally by an examiner
- Listening and Appraising – written exam marked by the examiner

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Music and a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature. Ability to play an instrument/voice to Grade 5 ABRSM/Trinity/Rock School standard is highly recommended. Grade 5 Theory is also favourable.

Pre-course information required

Good instrumental and/or vocal skills (equivalent to Grade 5 at the start of the course).

Progression routes?

Music offers progression to a University or Conservatoire to read music, music performance/composition/industry focussed courses, leading to 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 a rigorous A Level subject.
Students have also followed other university pathways such as Geography, Town Planning, Aeronautics and Language studies

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Archer, Head of Music

PHYSICAL EDUCATION A LEVEL

What will I learn?

Applied Anatomy and Physiology – interpretation of data and graphs relating to changes within musculo-skeletal, cardio-respiratory and neuro-muscular systems during different types of physical activity and sport and use of energy systems during different types of physical activity and sport and the recovery process.
Sport and Society: A journey through the centuries in Britain showing how society impacted on sport and sport impacted society. You will also investigate the ever-changing world of sport in 21st century Britain.
Sport Psychology – develop their knowledge and understanding of the psychological factors that can affect performers in physical activity and sport.

Who is the course suitable for?

Students who have a solid foundation and interest in the biology of science as well as a curiosity for how the human brain impacts sporting performance. Students will need to enjoy revisiting history and evaluating how numerous factors have affected the sport we play and watch today. Students must also be playing sport to a strong competitive level outside of school in at least one sport.

What is the structure of the course?

Students will have weekly lessons in each of the examination topics and will also complete an oral assessment for their coursework – based on analysis of sporting performance. The practical element of the course will be completed by students at their respectful training sessions and competitions outside of school.

How will I be assessed?

The exam board for this course is OCR.
Your theoretical knowledge is assessed in the form of three written exam papers.
Unit 1: Physiological Factors Affecting Sports Performance (2-hour exam). 30% of A Level.
Unit 2: Psychological Factors Affecting Sports Performance (1hour exam). 20% of A Level.
Unit 3: Socio-Cultural Issues in Physical Activity (1-hour exam). 20% of A Level.
Unit 5: Performance in Physical Education (Practical). 15% of A Level.
Unit 7: Evaluating and Analysing Performance for Improvement (Speaking Exam). 15% of A Level.
Your practical work is assessed internally by teachers via submission of video evidence of your performance. The coursework is assessed internally via a speaking exam.
All students will attend a practical exam in March / April of Year 13.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a grade 6 in GCSE PE and Biology and a grade 5 in English Language or Literature.

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.

Progression routes?

You can study all sport courses at university by achieving well on the A Level PE course. You can also pursue a career in the sporting industry.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr. D. Mahoney, Head of PE

PHYSICS A LEVEL

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?

There are 3 externally assessed papers:
Paper 1 Advanced Physics I (Mechanics, Circuits, Electric & Magnetic Fields, Nuclear & Particle Physics) 1hr 45 min
Paper 2 Advanced Physics II (Materials, Waves & Particle Nature of Light, Thermodynamics, Space, Radiation, Gravitational Fields, Oscillations) 1hr 45min
Paper 3 General & Practical Principles in Physics 2hr 30 min
Candidates will also receive an Internally assessed 'Pass' or 'Fail' grade for the compulsory practical skills requirement.

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 and also questions about the experiments that you will have done. Your ability to manipulate equipment and analyse experimental results is continually assessed by your teacher.

We follow the Edexcel exam board on this course.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Physics, Biology and Chemistry, a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or Literature and a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. If you have studied GCSE Combined Science you will need a Grade 7:7. To study three science or maths subjects, students must achieve at least 21 points across these three subjects.

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. Overall, a minimum of 40% of the marks across the 3 papers will be awarded for mathematics. You must develop your ability to work independently on solving problems. This requires time, dedication and organisation. It is this commitment and work ethic, which will be a major determiner of whether you will be successful in this subject.

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 B. Sethuraman, Head of Physics

POLITICS A LEVEL

What will I learn?

There are three broad areas of study: The government and politics of the UK, the government and politics of the USA, and comparative politics and the ideologies or ideas which shape politics. The course requires in depth study of UK and US government and politics. Comparisons across the two political systems are required in the topic entitled Comparative politics. You will be required to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics and develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, political institutions and political processes. The study of core political ideas will give you an understanding of the three major political ideologies which have shaped the world, Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism. We also study Feminism and look at how feminist theory has shaped the world we live in. During the study of political ideas, you will have the chance to critique and evaluate the theories we study, developing and sharing your own views.

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is for any with an interest in the political events occurring in today's society. Studying Politics gives you the opportunity to discover our own political beliefs and to see in much greater detail the benefits and disadvantages of the vast array of political ideologies that are present in the world today. Being able to express what you believe accurately and concisely is extremely useful, and forces you to really look at yourself. This is a essay-based and content-heavy subject.

What is the structure of the course?

In total there are three papers. You will learn the content and skills required for all three simultaneously as the ideas overlap with each other across the course.

How will I be assessed?

The A Level will be examined with three exam papers, lasting two hours each. All papers will comprise of extended writing essay questions.

Paper 1 will consist of: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas 33% 2hour paper
Paper 2 will consist of: UK Government and Feminism 33% 2-hour paper
Paper 3 will consist of: Comparative Politics - USA 33% 2-hour paper

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Pre-course information required

The pre-requisite for this course is a willingness to learn and to think. Politics will be delivered using a variety of teaching methods to meet different learning needs. However, the study of Politics involves reading various books and articles and writing essays, therefore literacy skills are crucial.

Progression routes?

You will gain many analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication, all of which are invaluable in today's employment market. Some career paths that you can go into if you choose to study Politics at University are Political Assistant, Government Social Research Officer, Roles within the Civil Service, Diplomatic Service Officer, Careers in human rights and Charities, becoming a lawyer, consultant or journalist. The most popular progression route for Woodbridge's Politics students has been to study Law at university.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr. J. Edwards, Head of Politics, or Mr. S. Shaw, Head of Sociology

PSYCHOLOGY A LEVEL

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 the Psychology course, 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 develop an understanding of human behaviour. 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. This is a heavily essay based subject. An interest in Biology is also desirable as the course has some heavily scientific and mathematical content.

What is the structure of the course?

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

How will I be assessed?

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.

Paper 1 will consist of: Social Psychology, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology
Paper 2 will consist of: Approaches, Biopsychology and Research Methods
Paper 3 will consist of: Issues and Debates, Schizophrenia, Aggression and Relationships

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Psychology and a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature and Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. It is desirable to have a grade 6 in Biology and Maths.

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 a necessary requirement. 10% of the Psychology examination will be maths centred. 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?

Ms S. Sohota, Head of Social Sciences

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS) A LEVEL

What will I learn?

The course is broken into three equal components: Religion, Philosophy and Ethics. You will study one religion at length. At WHS we choose to study Islam however we also draw upon other world religions particularly Christianity. Philosophy studies debates around the existence and nature of God in depth, including in-depth looks at challenges to God's existence, and looks at questions on what can be said meaningfully. Ethics studies questions of right and wrong, including if morality exists. We study a range of ethical theories and apply them to real world issues including Euthanasia, Capital Punishment, Animal Testing, Nuclear War, Immigration and Polyamorous Relationships.
Students will also be given opportunities to explore a range of philosophical and ethical questions. An example of some of the content you will cover in RE includes:

- The role of Muhmmad (pbuh) in the development of Islam
- The journey of Islam
- Who is God? Does God exist?
- What is the problem of evil and how does it challenge religious belief?
- Virtue ethics – how personal qualities and morals impact on the ethical system and ethical decisions
- How do we decide between right and wrong?
- Explore the work of major Western Philosophers such as Aquinas, Hume, Dawkins, Ayer and many more

Who is the course suitable for?

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.

What is the structure of the course?

As the course is broken into three components (Islam, Philosophy and Ethics) you will study each strand separately. Lesson time is split evenly between these three components.

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed through 3 exams. Each exam is 2 hours long and contributes towards 33.3% of the course.
We follow the WJEC Eduqas exam board for this course.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies OR a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Pre-course information required

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.

Progression routes?

Recent Religious Studies students have gone on to pursue a wide range of degree courses at top universities. In the last three years students have gone on to study a wide range of courses such as Law, Philosophy, Politics, Economics, Media and Marketing, Biomedical Science and Computing. The need to both understand and evaluate complex ideas makes this an ideal course for people who want to continue studying. Religious Studies is also a fantastic subject for those heading into the world of work as it requires you to understand complex ideas then use critical skills of analysis and evaluation to reach a justified conclusion. You will also develop clear communication skills, which are essential in the workplace.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Edwards, Head of Religious Studies

RUSSIAN A LEVEL

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 Russian. You will also learn much more about the society and cultural arena(s) in which Russian is spoken. You will study a range of themes and topics, for example post-Soviet society, education and the world of work, media, customs, traditions, and the political and artistic culture of Russia and Russian speaking communities. 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 Russian 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 Russian 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, Russian websites, Russian literary texts and films. You will study a Russian book and a film during the course. Lessons 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.

How will I be assessed?

The Edexcel A Level Russian comprises three units:

Unit 1 – Listening, reading and translation 2 hours, 40% of the marks

Unit 2 – Written response to works and translation hours 40 mins, 30% of the marks

Unit 3 – Speaking – 23 mins, 30% of the marks

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Russian and a Grade 5 in English Language and English Literature.

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 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.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs R. Clark, Head of Russian

SOCIOLOGY A LEVEL

What will I learn?

The aim of sociology is to investigate areas of social importance such as the education and political system and the family. 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. The course also looks in depth at the divisions in society in terms of social class, ethnicity and gender.

Who is the course suitable for?

Success on this course will depend on your ability to identify and 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?

In the first year of the course students will study:

- Families and households
- The education system
- Perspectives
- Research methods

In the second year the course explores:

- Beliefs in Society and Crime and Deviance

Over the two years there is a continuing study of methods of sociological enquiry.

How will I be assessed?

All of the units are assessed in an examination at the end of the second year. There are three components; one is an examination of socialisation and culture, the second covers the methods of sociological enquiry and the third covers options in Sociology. We will study AQA A-level Sociology

What qualifications do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 50. You will need a Grade 6 in GCSE Sociology or a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

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

SPANISH A LEVEL

What will I learn?

The Spanish Advanced level course is a progression from Spanish GCSE. You will study grammar in detail, do prose translations, have discussions and debates in Spanish 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 Spanish speaking countries. A range of topics will be studied, including contemporary issues such as: **new family structures and its impact on Spanish society, youth concerns within the education system & workplace, tourism and its impact; the influence of music, media, customs and traditions in the Spanish speaking world; immigration, integration and multiculturalism; the Spanish civil war, the rise and fall of the Franco Regime.** You will also study **the film *Tambien La Lluvia* and the novel *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*.** You will 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 Spanish speaking contemporary societies. Grammar will be taught in fortnightly grammar sessions during the course, and intermittently revisited over the course period, independent modules of listening and reading will be undertaken on a fortnightly basis. You will work from one course book supplemented by a range of materials: TV, magazine and newspaper articles, Spanish websites, books and films. You will study a Spanish book and a film during the course. Lessons will be taught by two teachers – one of these will lead the grammar and speaking aspects of the course and the other will lead writing aspects through the study of contemporary topics. Both will teach the language skills of listening and reading through the study of various aspects of Spanish speaking contemporary societies.

How will I be assessed?

The Edexcel A level Spanish comprises three units on all 4 themes:

Paper 1: **Listening, reading and translation**
Written examination: 2 hours 40% of the qualification

Paper 2: Written response to work and translation
Written examination:2h 40 minutes, 30% of the qualification

Paper 3: Speaking (Internally conducted and externally assessed)
Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, 30% of the qualification

What qualification do I need to have?

You will also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish and a Grade 5 in English Literature.

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 Spanish 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?

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 EU being the UK's biggest trading partner, proficiency in Spanish will be a 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 Spanish alongside another subject or purely on its own. More Joint Honours courses are available involving Spanish, all of which will open up the workplace for students.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms E. Zmirou, Head of Spanish

SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AGQ

What will I learn?

In the Cambridge Technical Sport and Physical Activity qualification you will learn:

- Skills, knowledge and understanding of delivering sport and physical activities to groups and individuals
- Body systems and the effects on these of physical activity
- Sports organisations and development
- Performance analysis within sport
- Organising sports events
- Sports injuries and rehabilitation processes
- Practical sport learning skills, tactics and officiating and coaching in chosen sports
- Working in active leisure facilities and the business of sport

What is the course for?

For students who have a 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 or apprenticeships 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?

- There are three types of course: Extended Certificate, (single), Diploma (double) and Extended Diploma (triple)
- Depending on the chosen course, students will be taught between 6 and 17 units over the two years of which 2 to 4 units are externally assessed
- These are full time, applied general qualifications, equivalent in size to one, two or three A Levels
- Units include the following: Body systems and effects of physical activity; Sports coaching and activity leadership; Sports organisation and development; Working safely in sport; Performance analysis in sport; Physical activity for specific groups; Nutrition and diet; Sports injuries and rehabilitation; Business of sport; Improving fitness for sport and physical activity; Organisation of sports events; Working in active leisure facilities; Practical skills in sport.

How will I be assessed?

All units of work will be assessed. External exams take place in both January and June of each year of study. The remaining units of work will be assessed through internal assignments and external moderation. Externally assessed units will be marked at near pass, pass, merit or distinction. Internally assessed units will be marked at pass, merit or distinction.

What qualification do I need to have?

You will need a GCSE total points score of 45.
You should also have GCSE English, Maths and Physical Education at Grade 5 and Science at Grade 5:5.

Pre-course information require

- Research the course and make an informed decision
- Check with the PE department that the course will be of interest to you

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
- Any other career path in the sports industry

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Mahoney, Head of PE