A high proportion of students leave the school with the highest grades at A Level

Ofsted
Welcome
Village School, Global Outlook

If you are looking for the opportunity to learn in an inspiring and friendly environment with fantastic, supportive staff, then The Willink Sixth Form in Burghfield Common, Reading is perfect for you.

The next two years of your life promise to be an exciting time that will ultimately help shape your future. We look forward to helping you meet the rigorous demands of Sixth Form and achieve your potential through a combination of hard work, determination, independence and fun.

General Entry Requirements for Sixth Form
Students are required to have achieved at least five grade 5s at GCSE, including English and Maths. Please refer to subject pages for specific course requirements.

If you would like to discuss options based on your current predicted grades please do make an appointment with a member of the Sixth Form team. We would be delighted to help you.
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To Apply

External Candidates
Download an application form from the Sixth Form area on our website www.willinkschool.org.uk, call 0118 9832030, or collect an application form from School Reception.

Willink Students
Applications to be made electronically following instructions provided by email.
Five Reasons to Study with Us

1  A supportive working environment
You’ll be studying with like-minded students who want to work hard, do well and get on in life. The step up from GCSEs can be daunting, but our experienced teaching staff and pastoral team will ensure a smooth transition and provide you with the skills you need to succeed at independent study.

2  Excellent teaching that leads to success
Our teachers are experts in their subjects and enjoy excellent working relationships with students. We know students’ strengths and how to get the best out of them. Nearly all students gain entry to their first choice of university including Russell Group and Oxbridge. We are proud of the results all of our students achieve and consistently see top performers with the highest grades going off to the best universities.

3  A rich and fulfilling student life
The Sixth Form has its own unique identity but remains a key part of the wider Willink community. We will offer you opportunities to act as leaders and role models to our younger students and take on responsibilities as senior students. Year 12 students will have time and support dedicated to securing work experience.
Our enrichment programme provides opportunities to learn new skills and try new things. Throughout the year we offer a wide variety of trips, talks, activities, clubs and sporting facilities culminating in our long running, rewarding visit to Moldova.

4  Brand-new common room and computer facilities
Sixth Formers have their own space to study, socialise and take a break from lessons. This year we were excited to launch a brand-new Common Room area with stylish seating that is flexible for work or down-time. Students also have a separate study room with PCs, access to electronic planner ClassCharts, Office 365 and WiFi throughout the Sixth Form.

5  Dedicated guidance to the next step
We offer high quality advice, guidance and support from teachers and staff including a dedicated UCAS co-ordinator and access to Unifrog, a comprehensive destinations planner. Whether it’s university, apprenticeships or work we have the resources and expertise to help you make the right choice. (100% of our yr13 students agreed that they had received helpful support in the application process!)
Life in the Sixth Form

Upon joining the Sixth Form you take on a commitment to attend, to work to the best of your ability and to be involved in the life of the school as leading members of the community. We are confident you will find life in our Sixth Form stimulating, enjoyable and rewarding. Alongside your academic studies we offer a wide range of activities, talks, trips and opportunities to develop your potential and provide an enriching experience.

Trips abroad
We are proud to have sent an annual delegation of students to a partner school in Moldova for the last 13 years where students work on rewarding projects with local children. Recent expeditions have included Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, Iceland, New York, China and Madagascar.

Volunteering and Community Work
We have close links with Brookfields Specialist SEN School and a local Alzheimers Group. Students are also encouraged to seek out other volunteering opportunities.

Working with the wider school
There is an active Sixth Form Council and team of Senior Students who organise charity events, social events and a Sixth Form Yearbook. Sixth Formers are encouraged to mentor lower school students and many volunteer to help out in lower-school lessons.

Academic Enrichment
You will be encouraged to take up an Extended Project Qualification while many Year 12 students use Future Learn to discover new skills via online courses. A fixed weekly tutor programme encourages debates on a wide variety of current affairs.

Outside speakers and industry trips
Our tutor programme also includes regular talks from a range of speakers. In the recent past we have had talks from key figures at companies such as the BBC, Amazon, Britvic and Olympic silver medallist Phil Burgess. Recent trips to industry include banknote designer De La Rue, Glaxo Smithkline and Prudential.

Leadership skills
Our debating team have represented the Thames Valley at the European Youth Parliament UK; Business Students repeatedly reach the finals of the Student Business Challenge. Leadership skills are embedded in a range of tutor activities, regularly led by outside experts.

Student groups and clubs
Recent clubs have included Debate Club, Film Club, Bake Club, the House Band, Christian Union, writing for the school magazine and various sports clubs. Students are encouraged to set up clubs based on their own interests.

Be Active
Students enjoy reduced-rate sessions at our neighbouring gym and swimming pool. Matches are regularly played by the Sixth Form football and netball teams.
The Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an additional qualification that students can choose to undertake alongside their A Level study. The project is designed to inspire, challenge and extend a range of skills through the development and realisation of a free choice topic, taking students beyond the scope of their A Level subjects.

Assessment is based on a portfolio of evidence as well as the final project outcome and as a result of its independent nature, is viewed favourably by many universities and is worth half an A Level in entry points. The final outcome could be a research article, a piece of art with a report, a physical item or “artefact” or a product to demonstrate a certain skill.

Why study an EPQ?

An EPQ is an excellent taster of university-style learning as it is effectively an independent research project which can, but does not have to, relate to an A Level subject that is being studied.

Completing an EPQ in Year 12 will show to Universities that students have the academic interest, rigour and skills to go above and beyond their core A Level studies. It will prove to future employers that you’re a self-motivated character with useful skills in your chosen field.

What could I study?

For example, an aspiring medic could write a research article analysing the difficulties associated with management of the NHS. A Historian who found The Cold War’ in History really interesting could do an EPQ project on the role of nuclear weapons in contemporary international affairs.

When will I study my EPQ?

Students will be taught key skills to help them with their project including project management, research, presentation and referencing. Most students will complete their EPQ in Year 12 in order to have time to focus on their exams in Year 12.

What other students have said

I based my EPQ around my aspiration to become a teacher which has given me greater understanding on issues in Education and helped me confirm my decision on what to study at University. Anaya, Year 13

Completing an EPQ has enabled me to gain vital skills that will aid and prepare me for further education. Elia, Year 13
Helping You Achieve

We have a very strong pastoral system which is different from that of the lower school. It is designed to allow regular individual interviews between tutor and student to discuss progress and to offer help in dealing with any problems. The Head of Sixth Form and subject staff will also discuss your work with you and help you to set targets for the future. In each academic year there is a Sixth Form Parents’ Evening, when you and your parents discuss your academic progress with subject staff.

We aim to give you as much support as you need in order for you to make informed decisions about your future education and career. You will be helped by:

- Regular support and advice from your Tutor and the Sixth Form team.
- Detailed guidance and advice on university entrance procedures (UCAS) plus visits to university open days and Higher Education conferences.
- A careers programme planned to match your needs, including guidance on apprenticeships, work experience and business mentoring.
- Input from former students at 'Oxbridge' and advice from admissions tutors for Oxford University and Cambridge University.

We also offer Year 12 students the opportunity to take up a personal work placement in the summer term.
A Level Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A*/A</th>
<th>A*/B</th>
<th>A*/C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willink School</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Year Average</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Berkshire</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Year Average</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willink School 2019</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willink School 2018</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Destinations Overview

Of our 78 students leaving Year 13 in 2019...

51 went to UK universities

- 10 apprenticeships
- 3 degree apprenticeships
- 5 are in employment or internships

6 are travelling or taking a gap year

3 students have gone to drama school or art college
Destinations 2019 Leavers

University Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Course 1</th>
<th>Course 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABERYSTWYTH</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>NORTHAMPTON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANGOR</td>
<td>Medieval &amp; Early Modern History</td>
<td>Criminal &amp; Corporate Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BATH</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>NOTTINGHAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRMINGHAM</td>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>Advertiser &amp; Digital Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOURNEMOUTH</td>
<td>Events Management</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRIGHTON</td>
<td>Criminology</td>
<td>accountancy &amp; Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applied Psychology &amp; Criminology</td>
<td>NOTTINGHAM T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>PLYMOUTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRISTOL</td>
<td>Mathematics &amp; Philosophy</td>
<td>PORTSMOUTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Product Design &amp; Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARDIFF</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Digital Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Criminology &amp; Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHICHESTER</td>
<td>Early Childhood Studies</td>
<td>READ COLLEGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSEX</td>
<td>English Language &amp; Linguistics</td>
<td>READING COLLEGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</td>
<td>RAU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>ROYAL HOLLOWAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXETER</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>SHEFFIELD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economics &amp; Finance</td>
<td>SOUTHAMPTON S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALMOUTH</td>
<td>Marine &amp; Natural History Photography</td>
<td>SURREY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLASGOW</td>
<td>English Language &amp; Linguistics</td>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>KENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANCASR CENTRAL</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Medieval &amp; Modern History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIVERPOOL</td>
<td>Physiotherapy</td>
<td>Economics &amp; Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LONDON SB</td>
<td>Midwifery</td>
<td>SUSSEX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANCHESTER</td>
<td>Chemical &amp; Industrial Experience</td>
<td>English Language &amp; Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apprenticeships

A number of students have taken up successful placements in employment and apprenticeships including Deloittes, EY, De-Vere, and the Fire Brigade.
Choosing Your Courses

General Entry Requirements for Sixth Form

Students are required to have achieved at least five Grade 5s in at GCSE including English and Maths. Please refer to subject pages for specific course requirements.

If you would like to discuss options based on your current predicted grades please do make an appointment with a member of the Sixth Form team. We would be delighted to help you.

Post-16, we offer a mixture of academic and vocational courses. We expect all students to study three or four subjects in Year 12 and 13 with the aim of achieving a minimum of three A levels or the equivalent by the end of Year 13; this may be a mixture of A Levels, AS Levels and/or BTECS.

1. **A Levels** are two year courses. Final examinations will take place at the end of the two year course (end of year 13).

2. **Vocational Level 3** courses are the equivalent of A-level, but with different assessment criteria, focusing mainly on coursework rather than final examinations. We offer a Level 3 Certificate in Applied Science and a Level 3 Extended Certificate in Digital Media.

3. **AS Level** is examined during the first year of study and can be taken in all A Level subjects except Art, Geography, Media Studies and PE. Students can continue their study of the subject into a second year and so gain a full A Level but, as AS is a stand-alone qualification, AS marks do not contribute to the overall grade. Terminal examinations for AS will take place in May or June of Year 12. On some occasions students may wish to pick up an additional AS Level in Year 13 which is also negotiable.

4. **Core Maths AS Level** - Core Maths gives students valuable preparation for the quantitative skills they will need for many degree courses, particularly subjects such as psychology, business-related courses, sports and social sciences, and natural science courses that do not require AS/A Mathematics.

5. **Extended Project Qualification** - a standalone qualification worth half an A Level based on an independent research project decided by the student. An excellent “super-curricular” option studied in conjunction with three A Levels that shows Universities real academic aspiration in a chosen subject area.

Courses offered are subject to suitable group numbers.
Subject Combinations A-C

A rough guide for careers and university

When choosing a course it is essential that you choose subjects which you enjoy and which interest you. This guide is for general advice only and does not replace specific research for the courses in which you are interested. Universities are happy to take calls on queries about course combinations and have detailed information on their websites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Course or Career</th>
<th>Suggested subject combination at A-Level</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accountancy</td>
<td>Maths, Business Studies or Economics with one other, but any combination is permitted.</td>
<td>Accountancy degree course provides exemption from ‘foundation’ accountancy exams, but is not necessary to enter the profession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration, the Civil Service etc.</td>
<td>Almost any combination but subjects include English, History, Economics, Geography, Government and Politics and a Foreign Language, or two languages for overseas work and some diplomatic work, but Sciences for Scientific Branch careers.</td>
<td>Good class of degree needed to enter Diplomatic Service, which has a very competitive entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Agricultural Research, Land Surveyor</td>
<td>Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics, Geography.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>Art usually recommended, though not always vital, but drawing experience and skills necessary. Maths very useful. English or Modern Languages and Physics all valuable. Also Design, History and Business Studies.</td>
<td>Must have GCSE Maths. Compilation of a portfolio is essential for entrance to most Architecture courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking, Finance, Insurance</td>
<td>Business Studies or Economics. Maths and a Language is very useful.</td>
<td>Finance and Banking degree courses available, but not mandatory for careers in this area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry, Zoology, Botany, Marine Biology, Micro-Biology, Biology, Bio-Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Chemistry, Maths and Biology desirable. Some courses emphasise Biology, some Chemistry. The most competitive demand strong mathematics.</td>
<td>Some of the most competitive courses welcome Mathematics at A-Level. For most Maths AS is sufficient but for Oxbridge A-Level is advantageous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>GCSE Maths is essential and A-Level Maths would be an advantage. Languages strongly recommended.</td>
<td>More and more universities are offering combined courses in Business Studies and Languages; in some cases a language at A-Level is a condition of entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartered Surveyor</td>
<td>Geography, Maths, Economics, Art and Design.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Chemistry, Maths, Physics or Biology.</td>
<td>Oxbridge applicants should have Maths at A-Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science, Statistics, Numerical Analysis</td>
<td>Maths, Physics and a science / computer science as a third subject.</td>
<td>Good A-Level grades required for entry to popular degree course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Subject Combinations D-M

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Combinations</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Design Technology, plus Maths, Physics (engineering side) or Maths, Business Studies (commercial management side). Art if committed to a career in ‘artistic’ Design.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Maths, Economics or Business Studies, indeed any combination of Art or science subjects. It is not always essential to have A-Level Economics (many universities now offer introductory courses). Most demand A-Level Maths, or perhaps Maths AS-Level, others require evidence of a strong GCSE performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Physics and Maths essential for the vast majority of universities. Design is useful, so is Economics, Electronics, Business Studies and a Language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English, Drama, English and Drama</td>
<td>English and a Foreign or Classical language or Classical Civilisation or History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Art</td>
<td>Art, English or any combination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography (art emphasis)</td>
<td>Geography, History Economics, Business Studies, English, Language, Art, one Science.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography (science emphasis)</td>
<td>Geography, Maths or Physics, Biology or Chemistry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>Two sciences and/or Maths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>History, Languages, English or Economics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Art</td>
<td>Art, History, English; a modern and/or classical language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>English and a Foreign language, but any combination of subjects will do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Any combination, though History, Maths, English, Government and Politics and/or Economics are useful. For Patent Law add a Science. (Art is not recognised as an entry qualification for Law School).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Studies, Management Science</td>
<td>Maths, Economics or Business Studies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Subject Combinations M-P

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Additional Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materials Science, Metallurgy</strong></td>
<td>Chemistry, Physics and Maths. Design is useful.</td>
<td>Maths at A-Level or Further Maths, especially for Oxbridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maths, Maths with Physics, Theoretical Physics</strong></td>
<td>Maths, Physics and a third.</td>
<td>Successful entry into the very competitive job market of journalism and broadcasting cannot be guaranteed with this qualification. Work experience in this area absolutely essential.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Media and Communication Studies</strong></td>
<td>Any combination but an essay-based subject is useful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry</strong></td>
<td>Chemistry and Biology. Some medical schools like a non-science subject at A-Level.</td>
<td>The minimum standard entry for Medicine depends on the university but is usually AAA* points or more; the same for Dentistry. For Veterinary Science work experience is essential. Interview most important!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modern Languages (degree) not including Oriental Language</strong></td>
<td>French, German Spanish (any two) and English, History, Geography, Business, Art.</td>
<td>One modern language may be enough for a language degree and a single language is often combined with other subjects at university. Business Studies with a language is one of the fastest growing courses at universities. But two languages at A-Level widens the choice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Music</strong></td>
<td>Music A-Level and / or practical music skills (grade 8 on more than one instruments).</td>
<td>Practical music through Academies; Musicology at universities. Many combined courses, e.g. Music with German available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Sciences</strong></td>
<td>Maths and two of Chemistry, Physics and Biology.</td>
<td>Maths or Further Maths A-Level is expected for Oxbridge entry. Physics and Chemistry routes applications must also study Maths A-Level. For the Biological route, Maths AS may suffice, but A-Level is recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nursing / Midwifery</strong></td>
<td>At least one science from Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Sociology, Applied Science</td>
<td>Work experience an advantage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pharmacy</strong></td>
<td>Chemistry, another Science.</td>
<td>Pharmacists must have a degree in Pharmacy from an approved School of Pharmacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physics, Applied Physics, Mathematical Physics</strong></td>
<td>Physics and Maths plus one other (Economics, Business Studies, Chemistry, Biology, Further Maths).</td>
<td>Check universities for whether both are needed. Competitive courses to get on to, work experience an advantage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physiotherapy</strong></td>
<td>A biological science must be studied (Biology or PE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Politics and International Relations</strong></td>
<td>Any combination of social science, humanities or science subjects. Politics at A-Level not a requirement.</td>
<td>Universities often offer joint honours courses including Politics (such as Politics &amp; Law or Politics &amp; Sociology) that sometimes have a slightly lower grade requirement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Subject Combinations (P-T)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psychology</th>
<th>No particular subjects required though the inclusion of a science subject or Maths is advantageous.</th>
<th>Approved Psychology degree recognised by BPS necessary, if wanting a career in Psychology. Competitive entry. Work experience very useful.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sports Science / Therapy / Psychology</td>
<td>Two sciences from Biology, Chemistry, PE, Psychology</td>
<td>Work experience is an advantage and can lead to careers in professional sport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>English, a science, Maths i.e. a National Curriculum subject if interested in primary teaching).</td>
<td>For Secondary teaching a degree the same as or at least containing the teaching subject is necessary, i.e. choose a degree at least some of the content of which is directly relevant to secondary education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology and Religious Studies</td>
<td>Preferably an Arts course including English or History or both,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Subject combinations are essential for Career/Uni progression.
- DateTime - September to July.
Why Study Applied Science

If you enjoy Science and would like to continue developing your scientific practical and research skills this is the course for you. It covers a wide range of topics in all three Sciences. The skills you will develop in the course include organisation, self-assessment, problem-solving and the ability to interpret data—all of which will be needed as you continue your education after school. Students enjoy discovering the connection between the theory and practical and real world applications of what you are learning.

Course Summary

First Year
Unit 1 - combines all three sciences extending your knowledge from GCSE. Topics include: animal and plant cells; tissues; atomic structure and bonding; chemical and physical properties of substances related to their uses; waves and their application in communications.
Unit 2— introduces you to standard laboratory equipment and techniques, including titration, colorimetry, calorimetry, chromatography, calibration procedures and laboratory safety. Through the practical tasks in the unit, you will develop proficiency in the quantitative analytical techniques of titration and colorimetry. You will use measurement of temperature to study cooling curves and be introduced to paper and thin-layer chromatography (TLC).

Second Year
Unit 3—You will develop the essential skills underpinning practical scientific investigations. As well as drawing on Units 1 and 2, these skills will be delivered through subject themes ranging from enzymes and diffusion to energy content of fuels and electrical circuits.

4th Unit (Unit 8) - focuses on three body systems: musculoskeletal, lymphatic and digestive. You will examine each of the systems as a functioning unit, identifying their structure and function. By exploring the anatomy of these systems, through experimentation and use of simulations, you will develop your knowledge and understanding of their role in the human body.

What happens in Lessons?
You will be taught by experienced teachers who are subject experts. We do a lot of practical work in lessons introducing you to a variety of different scientific equipment.

Course Assessment

Year 12
Unit 1: Exam - three 40 minute papers, in Biology, Chemistry & Physics worth 30 marks each. The papers include a range of question types, including multiple choice, calculations, short answer and open response.
Unit 2: Portfolio of practical investigations

Year 13
Unit 3: Assessed through an external practical exam worth 60 marks.
Unit 8: Portfolio of research assignments

What to do Afterwards
Studying Applied Science opens up several different exciting career pathways for you. The structure of the course allows you to keep adding units to build your qualification to a National Extended Diploma. The qualification is recognised and accepted to help you gain entry into university or apprenticeships.

Reading Around the Subject
You will have access to two textbooks and online digital resources. There is a wealth of current research available online.

Entry Requirements: You will need at least two grade 5s in Trilogy Science or three grade 5s for those taking Triple Science. You should be taking the Higher paper in Science.

“Why Study Applied Science

If you enjoy Science and would like to continue developing your scientific practical and research skills this is the course for you. It covers a wide range of topics in all three Sciences. The skills you will develop in the course include organisation, self-assessment, problem-solving and the ability to interpret data—all of which will be needed as you continue your education after school. Students enjoy discovering the connection between the theory and practical and real world applications of what you are learning.

Course Summary

First Year
Unit 1 - combines all three sciences extending your knowledge from GCSE. Topics include: animal and plant cells; tissues; atomic structure and bonding; chemical and physical properties of substances related to their uses; waves and their application in communications.
Unit 2— introduces you to standard laboratory equipment and techniques, including titration, colorimetry, calorimetry, chromatography, calibration procedures and laboratory safety. Through the practical tasks in the unit, you will develop proficiency in the quantitative analytical techniques of titration and colorimetry. You will use measurement of temperature to study cooling curves and be introduced to paper and thin-layer chromatography (TLC).

Second Year
Unit 3—You will develop the essential skills underpinning practical scientific investigations. As well as drawing on Units 1 and 2, these skills will be delivered through subject themes ranging from enzymes and diffusion to energy content of fuels and electrical circuits.

4th Unit (Unit 8) - focuses on three body systems: musculoskeletal, lymphatic and digestive. You will examine each of the systems as a functioning unit, identifying their structure and function. By exploring the anatomy of these systems, through experimentation and use of simulations, you will develop your knowledge and understanding of their role in the human body.

What happens in Lessons?
You will be taught by experienced teachers who are subject experts. We do a lot of practical work in lessons introducing you to a variety of different scientific equipment.

Course Assessment

Year 12
Unit 1: Exam - three 40 minute papers, in Biology, Chemistry & Physics worth 30 marks each. The papers include a range of question types, including multiple choice, calculations, short answer and open response.
Unit 2: Portfolio of practical investigations

Year 13
Unit 3: Assessed through an external practical exam worth 60 marks.
Unit 8: Portfolio of research assignments

What to do Afterwards
Studying Applied Science opens up several different exciting career pathways for you. The structure of the course allows you to keep adding units to build your qualification to a National Extended Diploma. The qualification is recognised and accepted to help you gain entry into university or apprenticeships.

Reading Around the Subject
You will have access to two textbooks and online digital resources. There is a wealth of current research available online.

Entry Requirements: You will need at least two grade 5s in Trilogy Science or three grade 5s for those taking Triple Science. You should be taking the Higher paper in Science.

“Why Study Applied Science

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Reading Around the Subject
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Entry Requirements: You will need at least two grade 5s in Trilogy Science or three grade 5s for those taking Triple Science. You should be taking the Higher paper in Science.
Art & Design/Textiles

Course Summary
Students will continue their Art and Design education through the exam board AQA. Students are able to specialise between Art Textiles or Art, Design and Craft at the end of Year 12 and spend Year 13 working towards the A-Level in their chosen area.

Why study this subject?
Art and Design and Art Textiles continues to be a desirable option for students wishing to pursue ‘traditional’ creative careers, such as Architecture, Interior Design, Fashion retail, Fashion buyer or other related professions. However, the internet has seen an explosion of exciting, new roles emerge for digital designers and multimedia artists. The design industry is one of the strongest growing areas for prospective careers but, even if a further education/career choice is non-design specific, the addition of a Design A-level develops a wide skill set which will have an advantage in any chosen career.

What happens in lessons?
The first year of the A Level is exploratory; students will produce a selection of practical coursework, demonstrating evidence of research, the development of ideas, making skills and critical/contextual understanding based on a theme, issue or concept. A series of trips abroad, outings to galleries, museums and lectures in universities will also take place.

Course Assessment
In Year 12 students are assessed at the end of each demonstration week and will complete two independent projects. The second year of the A Level consists of an independent component (coursework 60% of overall grade) and an externally set question (exam 40% of overall grade).

What to do afterwards
Careers include: architect, animator, art therapist, digital consultant, fashion designer, industrial/product designer, medical illustrator, theatre designer, press photographer, jewellery designer, make-up artist…

“Completing A Level Art has allowed me to be accepted at University to study Architecture.”
A Level Student

Reading around the subject
Visit as many galleries, exhibitions and theatres as possible – read about work that interests you.

“Because of the experience I gained at A Level I have been accepted at the Royal Opera House costume design department whilst completing my degree at St Martins.”
A Level Student

Entry Requirements:
You will need a Grade 5 or above in Art GCSE.

“it’s hard work but I’m really enjoying the course: it gives me space to explore my own ideas.”
A Level Student

It's hard work but I'm really enjoying the course: it gives me space to explore my own ideas.”
A Level Student

Completion of A Level Art has allowed me to be accepted at University to study Architecture.”
A Level Student

Completing A Level Art has allowed me to be accepted at University to study Architecture.”
A Level Student

“Completing A Level Art has allowed me to be accepted at University to study Architecture.”
A Level Student

Reading around the subject
Visit as many galleries, exhibitions and theatres as possible – read about work that interests you.

“Because of the experience I gained at A Level I have been accepted at the Royal Opera House costume design department whilst completing my degree at St Martins.”
A Level Student

Entry Requirements:
You will need a Grade 5 or above in Art GCSE.
Why study this subject?
A journey from molecule to ecosystem and everything in between!
You will gain an appreciation of how organisms (including humans) work, how we evolved, the factors that can impact our health and how we can improve it. You will gain many skills such as research, analysis and effective communication. Biology is a varied and interesting course.

What happens in lessons?
You will be taught by experienced teachers who are subject experts. They will help you to cope with the step up from GCSE and encourage you to develop the skills you need to become successful independent learners. We do group work, discussions, exam question practice and it wouldn’t be Biology without lots of cardsorts! We also do practical work which will contribute to your Practical Endorsement Qualification.

Course Assessment
AS Level Biology—2 papers covering:
  • Development of Practical Skills.
  • Foundations in Biology (the cell).
  • Exchange and Transport.
  • Biodiversity, Evolution & Disease.
A Level Biology—3 papers covering:
  • The AS content plus:
  • Communications, Homeostasis & Energy.
  • Genetics, Evolution & Ecosystems.
A Level Practical endorsement (Pass/Fail). There is no coursework for this subject.

Core Maths is available to support students with the numeracy element of this subject.

What to do afterwards
The study of Biology opens up exciting career possibilities. From conservation to cancer research, biologists are tackling important 21st Century challenges. Biology is also an excellent preparation for non-scientific careers, thanks to the skills it provides.

Reading around the subject
You will have access to two textbooks and online digital resources. There is a wealth of current research available online plus access to MOOCS on various topics.

“The lessons have lots of variety which makes the learning enjoyable.”

“We get to do lots of practicals which helps to deepen our understanding.”

“Learning in depth about the ways our bodies work has been really interesting.”

Entry Requirements: You should be working at a minimum of a Grade 7 6 in Trilogy Science or a 7 in Biology if you study Triple Science.
Business Studies

Course Summary
This course gives students the skills and knowledge to understand how businesses are set up and managed. Students learn about how to: research what people want to buy before using land, labour and machines to make goods and provide services; produce these goods and services as efficiently as possible; market the products to the right people, at the right prices and places; employ, train and motivate workers; keep a record of all financial dealings so that the profit or loss of the business can be worked out. Learning about all of these activities makes Business Studies one of the most exciting and relevant subjects.

Why study this subject?
Taking A-level business studies is a great thing to do if you have aspirations of one day becoming self-employed or in a managerial position. A-level business studies can give you the tools and information required to understand how businesses are create, managed and become successful.

What happens in lessons?
Students will be expected to exhibit their knowledge and understanding of business principles through group discussions, presentations, role play exercises, investigative research and business games.

Course Assessment
A-Level: You will sit 3 two hour papers (33.3% each), all of which cover the following topics: What is a business? Leadership and decision making. Marketing, operational and financial performance. Human resources. Strategic position, direction and methods, and how to manage strategic change.

Entry Requirements: You will need Grade 5 or above in GCSE English and Maths

Paper 1: Business 1
Multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Paper 2: Business 2
Data Response questions.

Paper 3: Business 3
Case study questions.

What to do afterwards
Higher Education: There are many Business Studies and related degrees offered at a range of universities.
Apprenticeship: An apprenticeship combines work and learning, so you’ll be studying for a qualification while developing real-world experience and earning a wage.

Getting a job: If you choose to go straight into work, your A Level will be useful to show potential employers your skills and abilities.

“Studying Business gives me a true understanding of the business world that we will be entering when we leave school and lets me build knowledge of how to succeed in that world.”

Reading around the subject
Business Studies textbooks, business magazines and daily news.

"Business has been a really useful subject in broadening my knowledge about the business world. The teachers are very helpful and there are many useful resources." Aneesa studying Business, English Literature & Geography
Why study this subject?
Atoms, molecules and the manufacture of absolutely everything!!
You will gain an appreciation of how molecules are made up, work, and interact with each other. You will explore a huge variety of chemical reactions from coating glass with a silver mirror to separating amino acids by chromatography. You will identify unknown substances by chemical analysis and synthesise organic molecules such as esters and aspirin. You will gain many skills such as research, analysis and effective communication.

What happens in lessons?
You will be taught by experienced teachers who are subject experts. They will help you to cope with the step up from GCSE and encourage you to develop the skills you need to become successful independent learners. We do group work, discussions, exam question practice, treasure hunts, competitions and lots of practical work, which will contribute to your Practical Endorsement Qualification.

“Really encouraged me to take a wider interest in different chemical techniques.”

Entry Requirements: You should be working at a minimum of a Grade 7 6 in Trilogy Science or a 7 in Chemistry if you study Triple Science.

“A Level - three papers:
Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements and Physical chemistry (37%)
Paper 2: Synthesis and Analytical Techniques (37%)
Paper 3: Unified Chemistry (26%)
A-level Practical endorsement (Pass/ Fail). There is no coursework for this subject.

Core Maths is available to support students with the numeracy element of this subject.

What to do afterwards
As with other science A Levels, Chemistry is highly valued by universities and employers. It can lead to a variety of careers and university courses, including Medicine, Medical Sciences, Dentistry, Forensics, Scientific Research, etc…

Reading around the subject
You will have access to two textbooks and online digital resources. There is a wealth of current research available online plus access to MOOCS on various topics.

Course Assessment
AS—Two papers (50% each) covering:
Foundation Chemistry
Periodic Table and Energy
Core Organic Chemistry
Course Summary
We follow the OCR specification – AS (H046) and A Level (H446). The aim of this qualification is to develop an understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science. Students will develop the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so. There is the opportunity to enhance your capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

Why study this subject?
Computer Science explores an ever-developing area, focusing on discovering how the technology we use every day works, as well as creating your own software. The key features are problem solving using computers, programming, algorithms, and mathematical skills used to express computational laws and processes. Although the A Level builds upon skills developed during GCSE, newcomers are welcome to begin their journey into the world of Computer Science!

What happens in lessons?
During Year 12, you develop your coding skills, creating programs that are challenging, as well as learning about devices, software development, networks, and binary. In Year 13, you complete a project for a client, creating an application to meet their needs.

There are three components in the A Level and two for AS.

COMPONENT 1 – Computer Systems
This component looks at: the characteristics of processors, input, output and storage devices, software and software development, exchanging data, data types, data structures and algorithms, and legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.

COMPONENT 2 – Algorithms and programming
This component looks at: elements of computational thinking, problem solving and programming, algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.

COMPONENT 3 – Programming project
(A Level only) In Year 13 students create a piece of software for a client of their choice, with the project including a written explanation of the process.

Course Assessment
There are two examinations (AS and A Level) and a non-exam assessment (A Level only).

COMPONENT 1 – Computer Systems
(40% of A Level, 50% of AS, exam)

COMPONENT 2 – Algorithms and programming
(40% of A Level, 50% of AS, exam)

COMPONENT 3 – Programming project
(20% of A Level)

What to do afterwards
Career opportunities include: Web designer, computer games designer, software development, network engineering, systems analyst, Business IT, artificial intelligence.

“By the time you're an adult, you won't be able to escape the world of technology. An A Level in Computer Science will not only equip you with the knowledge to face the future, but will provide a valuable asset for your search for employment.” Michali

Reading around the subject
There is a textbook in class, and Youtube channels that focus on the content in the course. There are news articles all the time about the world of Computing too.
Why study this subject?
Drama and Theatre at AS and A Level build on skills developed over the GCSE course and aim to broaden students’ experience of plays, playwrights and practitioners. The course naturally develops group skills and problem solving through the creative nature of the tasks set.

What happens in lessons?
We deliver two styles of lessons, practical workshops and seminar style theory lessons based in a classroom. Throughout the courses there will be an emphasis on the individual to be reflective about activities completed in class, whether workshops led by teachers or rehearsals for devised performances. There is also the expectation for additional rehearsal outside of lessons when preparing performances.

Course Assessment
You will be assessed through a combination of performance, portfolios of evidence, and written exams. The performances will include devised and scripted pieces. The portfolios will focus on the exploration of texts, practitioners and the analysis of the rehearsal process. The questions in written exams focus on set texts and the review of live performances seen.

What to do afterwards
There are many universities offering courses in Drama and Performing Arts for those who want to pursue a career in performance. An alternative is to apply directly to Drama Schools and go through an audition process. We regularly support this process by directing monologues and creating mock-interviews for students. Drama and Theatre A Level is also accepted in combination with other subjects towards other qualifications. The nature of the course means it develops a sense of confidence in public speaking and the ability to work effectively as part of a group—skills which can be applied to many jobs.

Reading around the subject
It is expected that Drama students look for opportunities to see live theatre in order to deepen their understanding of the subject. Reading a variety of play-scripts and theatre reviews will also be beneficial.

What students say:
“An engaging subject that has increased my creative talent and propensity for self-expression.” Eliot, studying Drama, English Literature & History.

“The process of work-shopping ideas in Drama has influenced my abilities to find alternative solutions to problems.” Georgia, studying Drama, English Literature & History.
Why study this subject?
In AS and A Level Economics you’ll look at the fundamental forces which affect our lives, such as employment, prices, international trade and poverty. Economists are often in healthy debate with each other over these issues. It is this controversy which makes Economics lively and interesting and which allows you the opportunity to make your own judgements and form your own opinions.

What happens in lessons?
Economics is taught both by sharing well established economic theories in the classroom, and also by then applying those theories to the world around us. It is a fantastic subject to study if you are curious about what is happening in the news, and why.

Course Assessment
AS
Paper 1: The operation of markets and market failure. Assessed by written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 70 marks, 50% of AS
Paper 2: The national economy in a global context. Assessed by written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 70 marks, 50% of AS
A Level
Paper 1: Markets and market failure. Assessed by written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks, 33.3% of A-level
Paper 2: National and international economy. Assessed by written exam: 2 hours, 80 marks, 33.3% of A Level
Paper 3: Economic principles and issues

What to do afterwards
Higher Education: There are many Economics and related degrees offered at a range of universities
Apprenticeship: It combines work and learning, so you’ll be studying for a qualification while developing real world experience and earning a wage
Getting a job: If you choose to go straight into work, your A Level will be useful to show potential employers your skills and abilities

Reading around the subject
Economics textbooks, business/economics magazines and daily news.

Entry Requirements:
New GCSE Grading 5 and above in GCSE English and Maths

“Economics is a really tricky but interesting subject, and improves your understanding of financing and our economy in great details.”

"Economics is a really tricky but interesting subject, and improves your understanding of financing and our economy in great details.”
English Language (Linguistics)

Why study this subject?
Want to understand why Shakespearean English is so different to how we speak today? If it is “to boldly go” or “boldly to go”? Or why babies often say “Dada” before “Mama”? English Language is a fantastic subject for any students considering careers in social sciences, education or communications as well as those who simply have a fascination with understanding the development of language, both historically and physically.

Course Summary
At AS Level:
Component 1 looks at textual variations and representations in language. This involves consolidating and refining your understanding of English grammar; looking at different modes of written English and considering how language is used in areas such as gender, occupation and social groups.
Component 2 focuses on language diversity including sociolects, dialects and the language used to represent these groups.
Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities across both components.
At A Level:
Component 1 of the A Level course follows much of the same content as the AS; however, it also builds upon the knowledge acquired by studying language development in children from 0-10 years, comprising of spoken and written language.
Similarly, Component 2, language diversity, develops the subject further by also examining language change in society. This involves the study of a range of texts from different periods ranging from 1600 through to present day. Furthermore, Component 2 of the A Level adds a further module on language discourses. This scrutinises differing attitudes to language issues in today’s society, featuring enquiry along the lines of whether or not there is a right or wrong way of speaking; whether language should change and more besides.

Course Assessment
AS Level – Two 90 minute written examinations.
A Level – Two 2.5 hour written examinations (80%), a 2,000 word assignment, an original piece of writing of 500 words with a 1000 word commentary of 1,000 words (20%).

What to do afterwards
There are many English Language degrees offered at a range of universities while the subject at A Level is well respected for entry onto many other courses. English Language develops students’ ability to analyse and communicate effectively, two key areas that are required for many careers.

Reading around the subject
Considering this subject? Take a look on YouTube at “English Language” or anything by David Crystal.

Entry Requirements: You need to have achieved a Grade 5 in English Language GCSE

"I'm taking English Language because I find the history of ours and other languages extremely interesting. Learning about diversity in English fascinates me and so far the study of RP is my favourite topic. This course also links really well into my other A-levels." Poppy studying Drama, English Language & German

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English Literature

Why study this subject?
English Literature is a traditional A-level subject, equipping students with skills needed to become critical thinkers. Society needs critical thinkers to ensure compassion, diligence and success. Being well read is a highly regarded social attribute and our A-level course is a natural next step for students who enjoyed the challenge and reward of GCSE.

Course Summary
At A-Level:
We are proud to offer A-level English Literature from Edexcel due to the breadth of texts offered. Students study three examined components and one non-examined assessment. Students are expected to read, analyse and critically evaluate Twelfth Night and The Importance of Being Earnest and two novels about childhood. The third component is a selection of poetry, building on the strong skillset already established at GCSE. The NEA provides students with independence to pursue an extended comparative task close to their own interests.

Course Assessment A-level
Three written exams:
Component 1: Drama 2 hours 15 mins (30%)
Section A: Shakespeare – 35marks
One essay question on Twelfth Night
Section B: Other drama – 25 marks
One essay question on The Importance of Being Earnest
Component 2: Prose 1 hour 15 mins (20%)
One comparative essay on the novels studied. – 40 marks
Component 3: Poetry 2 hours 15 mins (30%)
Section A: Contemporary Poetry – 30 marks
One comparative essay
Section B: Poetry Collections – 30 marks
One essay on the collection studied.
NEA: 20% 60 marks 2500-3000 words
One comparative essay.

What to do afterwards
As a ‘traditional subject’, English Literature is well regarded and supportive of entry to a wide range of further education courses and professions including Teaching, Law, Journalism, Media and Social Sciences. For those considering taking the subject to degree, there are many English Literature degrees, offering opportunities to explore an exciting range of literature in all its forms from all periods.

“I want to go on to study French and work internationally as a journalist so English Literature helps me to develop my writing and analytical skills. I have a passion for reading and find the reasoning behind authorial choices fascinating.”
Charlotte, studying English Literature, French & Economics.

Reading around the subject
Any modern or classic best sellers!

Entry Requirements: You need to have achieved a Grade 6 in English Language or Literature GCSE
Why study this subject?
If you have a love of languages or travel and have studied French successfully at GCSE then this is the course for you. It will open doors to university courses and give you the opportunity to study abroad whether you do a pure language course, dual honours or other academic subject at university. Graduates with languages degrees are highly sought after and often have an advantage when it comes to recruitment.

What happens in lessons?
Most of your lessons will take place in our sixth form languages study room. You’ll enjoy more time to practise and perfect your spoken French and accent, to converse and debate with others. You will develop your vocabulary and use it to translate more complex texts into French/English. There will be time to revisit and build on grammar that you studied in Years 10 and 11. You’ll spend time on the computers for listening activities and may have time with French language assistants either by yourself or with a small group of others students to work on spoken fluency and any aspects of grammar you are finding challenging.

Course Assessment
Assessment is either at the end of the first year or at the end of the second year with three papers testing the following skills:
- Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Translation into target language.
- Paper 2: Writing consisting of two essays, one on the film studied and another on the set text.
- Paper 3: Speaking, a photo card, independent research project and discussion.

Please discuss with your teacher if you want to pursue AS. The exams are slightly different.

What to do afterwards
An A Level in French is an asset in your portfolio for your application to study many subjects at degree level. Many students choose to combine a language that they have already studied with a new language ab initio such as Italian, Portuguese or Japanese. A dual honours course, combining a language with another subject, is also popular. Your A Level language will enable you to work or study abroad in the future or, if you choose to, even travel after your A Levels!

Reading around the subject
It would be useful to have watched/researched a selection of the films and books below to give you an idea of what you would study for the film/literature part of the course. It will also develop your listening and reading skills and broaden your vocabulary.

- Films: La Haine; Entre les murs; Un long dimanche de fiançailles; L’auberge espagnole; Les 400 coups; Au revoir les enfants
- Books: Molière - Le Tartuffe; Voltaire - Candide; Guy de Maupassant - Boule de Suif et autres contes de la guerre; Albert Camus - L’étranger; Françoise Sagan - Bonjour tristesse; Claire Etcherelli - Elise ou la vraie vie; Joseph Joffo - Un sac de billes; Faïza Guène - Kiffe kiffe demain; Philippe Grimbert - Un secret; Delphine de Vigan - No et moi

It’s a good idea to travel to France or French-speaking countries. You may even like to arrange work experience abroad – we can help you with that.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in French GCSE

“Learning a language in Year 12 has increased my passion for both language and French culture. It has also helped me understand divisive issues within countries like France which still cause problems to this date.” George

Course Summary
Studying French at A Level encompasses cultural study of French cinema and literature with contemporary society to develop your linguistic knowledge. You will study a film in Year 12 and a book in Year 13. You’ll develop your spoken French to a conversational fluency and have the opportunity to learn more about life in France and French speaking countries.
Course Summary
Your A Level Geography course will cover both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. It will also, importantly, show the applied side of the subject—how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. This is complex and dynamic and varies from place to place depending on people’s resources, technology and culture. There is plenty of room for discussion and extended research which will help you become an independent thinker and learner.

Why study this subject?
So many of the world’s current issues—at a global scale and locally—boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming, food and energy security, the degradation of land and soils, the spread of disease, migration, and the impacts of economic change on places and communities—these are just some of the challenges which geographers must help solve.

What happens in lessons?
You will learn in a wide variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos and videos. This will be undertaken in lessons, through fieldwork, and by yourself in independent study time both in the 6th Form as well as at home. You will be encouraged to read around the subject in relevant news articles and academic journals. You will be use this reading, and your study to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and showing your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing.

Course Assessment
Physical Systems (22%):
Written paper— 1 1/2 hours. The inter-relationships between the land, oceans and atmosphere, understanding the processes, characteristics and impacts of those landscapes.
Human interactions (22%):
Written paper— 1 1/2 hours. Investigate the actions, interactions and spatial patterns of people around the world, looking specifically at Human Rights and Migration as well as the changing shape of the places around us.
Geographical debates (36%):
Written paper - 2 1/2 hours. Exploring the most challenging and fascinating issues facing the 21st century.
Investigative geography (20%):
Coursework project on an area of geography of your choice.

What to do afterwards
Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism and weather forecasting. The army, police, government, research organisations, law and the business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop. Geography can also be useful for jobs in charity and international relations as well as combining element of both arts and science subjects. Geography is a broad-based subject that really fits well for your future progression towards university and other career choices.

Reading around the subject
Newspaper, magazine and internet articles, TV and radio documentaries are a rich source of information about current issues.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above at GCSE. Consideration may be given to pupils who did not take GCSE Geography but who have good GCSE grades across a range of comparable subjects. A bridging course between Y11 & 12 would be necessary for those students.

“Geography encourages awareness of the environment and people all around us.” Beth, studying Geography, Sociology & Business Studies

Geography encourages awareness of the environment and people all around us.” Beth, studying Geography, Sociology & Business Studies
German

Course Summary
The German A Level course is a fantastic opportunity to develop your linguistic knowledge through study of aspects of German society and culture. You will study a film for in Year 12 and a book in Year 13. You’ll develop your spoken German to a conversational fluency and have the opportunity to experience Berlin cultural life and festivals on the Berlin trip – if you haven’t already been.

Why study this subject?
If you have a love of languages or travel and have studied German successfully at GCSE then this is the course for you. It will open doors to university courses and give you the opportunity to study abroad whether you do a pure language course, dual honours or other academic subject at university. Graduates with languages degrees are highly sought after and often have an advantage when it comes to recruitment.

What happens in lessons?
Most of your lessons will take place in our sixth form languages study room. You’ll enjoy more time to practise and perfect your spoken German and accent, to converse and debate with others. You will also develop your vocabulary and use it to translate more complex texts into German/English. There will be time to revisit and build on grammar that you studied in Years 10 and 11. You’ll spend time on the computers for listening activities and may have time with our German language assistant either by yourself or with a small group of others students to work on spoken fluency and any aspects of grammar you are finding challenging.

Course Assessment
The course is assessed either at the end of the first year or at the end of the second year with 3 papers testing the following skills:
- Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Translation into target language.
- Paper 2: Writing consisting of two essays, one on the film studied and another on the set text.
- Paper 3: Speaking, a photo card, independent research project and discussion.

Please discuss with your teacher if you want to pursue AS. The exams are slightly different.

What to do afterwards
An A Level in German is an asset in your portfolio for your application to study many subjects at degree level. Many students choose to combine a language that they have already studied with a new language ab initio e.g. Italian, Portuguese or Japanese. A dual honours course combining a language with another subject is also popular. Your A Level language will enable you to work or study abroad in the future or, if you choose to, travel abroad after your A Levels.

Reading around the subject
It would be useful to have watched/read a selection of the films and books listed below to give you an idea of what you would like to study for the film/literature part of the course. It will help you develop your listening and reading skills and broaden your vocabulary.
- Films: Goodbye Lenin; Das Leben der Anderen; Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei; Almanya; Sophie Scholl; Lola rennt
- Books: Der Vorleser – Bernhard Schlink; Die Verwandlung – Kafka; Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder – Brecht

Also it’s a good idea to find opportunities to travel to Germany or German-speaking countries. You may like to go on the Berlin trip which complements History as a subject choice, or arrange work experience abroad in our partner town of Eichstätt.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in German GCSE

“*I have learned to speak German much more fluently than before - and I wasn’t expecting translation to be so much fun!”* Henry

Please discuss with your teacher if you want to pursue AS. The exams are slightly different.

Reading around the subject
It would be useful to have watched/read a selection of the films and books listed below to give you an idea of what you would like to study for the film/literature part of the course. It will help you develop your listening and reading skills and broaden your vocabulary.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in German GCSE

“*I have learned to speak German much more fluently than before - and I wasn’t expecting translation to be so much fun!”* Henry
Why study this subject?
The History course at A Level allows for an exploration of the past which covers a wide spectrum of Historical issues. It allows students to develop their intrigue in Historical Enquiry and allows students the opportunity to engage in current affairs and political debate.

What happens in lessons?
Students are often tasked with reading, source exploration and extended writing to draw links between themes which appear on the course. Students are encouraged to create timelines and mind maps in order to draw all of their understanding together.

“Why study this subject?”
The History course at A Level allows for an exploration of the past which covers a wide spectrum of Historical issues. It allows students to develop their intrigue in Historical Enquiry and allows students the opportunity to engage in current affairs and political debate.

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Course Assessment
Paper 1 – The Age of the Crusades
AS Level: 1 hour and 30 minutes/ (50% of AS Level)
A Level: 2 hours and 30 minutes/ (40% of A Level)

Paper 2 – The Making of Modern Britain
AS Level: 1 hour and 30 minutes/ (50% of AS Level)
A Level: 2 hours and 30 minutes/ (40% of A Level)

Coursework: 3000-3500 word essay on The Struggle for Civil Rights in America 1865-1970. Only completed at A Level (20% of A Level)

What to do afterwards
Many historians go on to study law or other related subjects, for example, American Studies, International Relations or Politics. Career opportunities are extensive as historians are valued for their analytical, evaluative and communication skills. Examples include, Business Management, Journalism, Law and Teaching.

Reading around the subject
• A History of Modern Britain by Andrew Marr
• The Crusades by Thomas Asbridge.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 or above in GCSE History. If History has not been studied at GCSE the requirement is English at Grade 6 or above.
Mathematics

Course Summary
We follow Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics (9MA0). Students study pure mathematics and applied units in statistics and mechanics over two years. It encourages and develops a range of mathematical skills and techniques. Inevitably, the increased understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes will promote confidence and provide a strong foundation to progress to further study.

Why study this subject?
Mathematics is a highly respected qualification and is a requirement of all mathematically-based degrees and of many scientific and engineering courses. A very useful qualification that demonstrates core intelligence, a logical mind and excellent problem solving skills.

What happens in lessons?
The A Level Maths teachers are very experienced in their subject areas and deliver well-paced and challenging lessons, which demonstrate a broad range of activities to effectively cater for all learning styles. These include individual and group tasks, class discussions and exam practice. There is no coursework element in the course.

What students say:
“Maths is like a never-ending cookbook of your favourite recipes.”
What students say:
“It’s just beautiful!”
What students say:
“If you’re a fan of algebra then this is the course for you!”

Course Assessment
AS Mathematics:
Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (2 hours, 100 marks) 62.5% of the qualification, covering: Proof, algebra and functions, co-ordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, sequences & series, trigonometry, exponentials & logarithms, differentiation, integration, vectors.

Paper 2: Statistics and Mechanics (1 hour 15 minutes, 60 marks) 37.5% of the qualification.

A level Mathematics
Three papers: Papers 1 and 2 are Pure Maths and Paper 3 is on Statistics & Mechanics.

What to do afterwards
Engineering, Astronomy, Electronics, Technology and Programming, Surveying, Banking, Accountancy, Architecture, Medicine, Teaching, Operational Research, Statistical and Actuarial work… Mathematics is a must for anyone considering a degree in Maths, any of the Sciences or Engineering.

Entry Requirements: To study Mathematics you will need at least a Grade 6 at GCSE.
Further Maths

Course Summary

We follow Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics (9FM0). Students study pure mathematics and applied units in further statistics and further mechanics over two years. The topics covered build on each other lesson by lesson; students must therefore show real commitment to the course with regard to attendance and completion of work.

Why study this subject?
Further Mathematics is an additional A Level qualification taken in addition to the Mathematics A Level. This is a highly challenging and highly regarded course. This qualification both broadens and deepens the mathematics covered in A Level Mathematics and, for someone who enjoys mathematics, it provides a challenge and a chance to explore new and/or more sophisticated mathematical concepts.

What happens in lessons?
The A Level Further Maths teachers are very experienced and passionate about their subject areas and deliver well-paced and challenging lessons, which demonstrate a broad range of activities to effectively cater for all learning styles. These include individual and group tasks, class discussions and exam practice. There is no coursework element in the course.

What students say:
"A somewhat challenging but very rewarding experience."

Entry Requirements:
To study Further Mathematics you will need at least a Grade 7 at GCSE

Course Assessment

AS
Two papers, each 1 hour 40 minutes, 80 marks and represent 50% of the qualification.

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics covers proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors.

Paper 2: Statistics covers discrete probability distributions, Poisson & binomial distributions, chi squared tests, momentum & impulse, work, energy & power, elastic collisions in one dimension.

A Level
Four papers: each 1 hour 30 minutes, 75 marks and represents 25% of the qualification.

Paper 1 and 2: Core Pure Maths
Paper 3: Further Statistics
Paper 4: Further Mechanics

What to do afterwards
Studying Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for University, especially for studying Mathematics related subjects e.g. Engineering, Computing. It can lead on to Engineering, Astronomy, Electronics, Technology and Programming, Surveying, Banking, Accountancy, Architecture, Medicine, Teaching, Operational Research, Statistical and Actuarial work.

“If you really enjoy Maths you’ll love Further Maths.”

“Entry Requirements:
To study Further Mathematics you will need at least a Grade 7 at GCSE”

“If you really enjoy Maths you’ll love Further Maths.”

“Entry Requirements:
To study Further Mathematics you will need at least a Grade 7 at GCSE”

Course Assessment

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Two papers, each 1 hour 40 minutes, 80 marks and represent 50% of the qualification.

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics covers proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors.

Paper 2: Statistics covers discrete probability distributions, Poisson & binomial distributions, chi squared tests, momentum & impulse, work, energy & power, elastic collisions in one dimension.

A Level
Four papers: each 1 hour 30 minutes, 75 marks and represents 25% of the qualification.

Paper 1 and 2: Core Pure Maths
Paper 3: Further Statistics
Paper 4: Further Mechanics

What to do afterwards
Studying Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for University, especially for studying Mathematics related subjects e.g. Engineering, Computing. It can lead on to Engineering, Astronomy, Electronics, Technology and Programming, Surveying, Banking, Accountancy, Architecture, Medicine, Teaching, Operational Research, Statistical and Actuarial work.

“If you really enjoy Maths you’ll love Further Maths.”

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A Level
Four papers: each 1 hour 30 minutes, 75 marks and represents 25% of the qualification.

Paper 1 and 2: Core Pure Maths  
Paper 3: Further Statistics
Paper 4: Further Mechanics

What to do afterwards
Studying Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for University, especially for studying Mathematics related subjects e.g. Engineering, Computing. It can lead on to Engineering, Astronomy, Electronics, Technology and Programming, Surveying, Banking, Accountancy, Architecture, Medicine, Teaching, Operational Research, Statistical and Actuarial work.
Core Maths

Course Summary
Core Maths is an umbrella term for a specific type of level 3 maths qualification. The qualification is equal in size to an AS level qualification and is graded A-E. It has the same number of UCAS tariff points as an AS level qualification, and the course is taught over one year.
Core Maths is intended for students who have passed GCSE Mathematics at grade 5 or better, but who have not chosen to study AS or A-level Mathematics. The course is aimed at students who want to improve their quantitative and problem solving skills.

Why study this subject?
Core Maths gives students valuable preparation for the quantitative skills they will need for many degree courses, particularly subjects such as psychology, business-related courses, sports and social sciences, and natural science courses that do not require AS/A Mathematics.

What happens in lessons?
Core Maths gives students an opportunity use Maths to solve real-life problems you’ll meet when studying other subjects and also in work and life.
An array of data is sourced; enabling discussions, debates and analysis allowing students to explore different ways of tackling problems.
Teachers aim to embrace collaboration between each-other and with students, and to teaching through problem-solving.

Course Assessment
Paper 1: Comprehension (1 hour 40 mins; 40% of total)
Paper 2: Applications (1 hour 40 mins; 60% of total)
Topics covered across both papers:
Applications of statistics – Spearman’s rank, Linear regression, PMC, Variance and Standard Deviation.
Probability – Venn diagrams and risk.
Linear Programming - Graphical solutions.
Sequences and Growth – Graphing exponential and reciprocal functions, gradients of curves, Quadratic and

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths.

Fibonacci sequences, APs and GPs.

What to do afterwards
Core Maths is useful to improve both quantitative and problem solving skills. It helps to develop skills that will support courses and careers in areas such as Psychology, Health and Social Care, Geography, Sociology, Biology, Environmental Sciences, Sports Science and PE.

'I am so glad I studied Core Maths – I had to use skills at my University course such as standard deviation and spearman’s rank for my Psychology qualification.'
Media

Course Summary
Media Studies is designed to enhance your enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the media and its position in your daily life. Media is all around us – from Snapchat to Planet Earth. It's on bus stops, in doctor’s waiting rooms and in your living room. Media Studies is about being more critical of these products and recognising the influence that the media has in today’s society. We follow the Eduqas specification.

Why study this subject?
It’s an opportunity to understand how the media works on you – and create some of your own media products along the way. You’ll understand how prominent theorists view texts and get an insight into how the industry really works.

What happens in lessons?
You’ll have a chance to explore familiar products such as Zoella and products you’ll have never heard of before, including Late Night Women’s Hour. You’ll investigate a range of medium including video games and film marketing. Some lessons could involve research tasks or debates or creating your own texts that engage with the key concepts of audience and representation.

Course Assessment
There are three components – for component one (35%) you’ll sit an examination that includes analysis of unseen texts and exploration of representation, industry and audience. For component two (35%) you’ll sit an examination that is about studying magazines, television and online content in more detail. Component three (30%) is a coursework unit. For this, you’ll be creating your own texts and demonstrate your understanding of conventions.

What to do afterwards
Media Studies lends itself well to university courses in Media, Film, Journalism or Marketing. It has clear links with subjects like Sociology and Psychology. The soft skills involved in the coursework module can be helpful in courses in Events management.

Understanding how the media works could support careers such as social work, law and education.

“Media has taught me new creative skills in video editing and Photoshop. Media Studies works well with the other subjects I am studying, Graphics and Art.” Evan

“I chose Media Studies because I would like to be a magazine editor. My favorite part of the course is studying magazines in particular the history of Vogue. I am also studying English and Art with the hope of going on to study Fashion.” Amaani

Reading around the subject
Students are encouraged to read the Media Guardian, keep an eye out for interesting content on Twitter and access academic sources.

Entry Requirements:
You need Level 5 or above in English as you will need to be able to write analytical essays. A Grade 6 or above in Media Studies GCSE or a Pass in iMedia is ideal preparation for the course, but the department will accept students new to the subject as long as they are committed, motivated and interested in the media.

“I find media really interesting & enjoyable and my favourite areas have been music videos, magazines and the coursework projects. I am also studying Psychology and Sociology and would like to go to University to study Graphic Design.” Anna
Digital Media Extended Cert

Course Summary
Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Digital Media. In this vocational course, equivalent to an A Level, you will develop your practical skills and get a real appreciation for the media industry. We follow the OCR specification.

Why study this subject?
The Digital Media course is designed to give you a grounding in how media institutions work to create products that will appeal to specific target audiences. You’ll develop transferable skills such as planning, communication, adaptability and leadership.

What happens in lessons?
Your lessons will be project based. You’ll go through the process that the industry does – starting from planning ideas through to presenting your final products. You’ll spend time researching and analyzing target audience requirements and develop an appreciation of the legal and regulatory requirements of the media industry.

Course Assessment
This is a modular course with a variety of examinations and coursework modules. You will sit one exam Media Products and Audiences in year 12 and Pre-Production and Planning in Year 13. You will also complete four coursework units; scriptwriting, documentary opening, deliver a pitch and create an advertising campaign.

Entry Requirements:
Students will be expected to have a grade 4 or above in English. While a grade of Pass in iMedia or a 5 in GCSE Media Studies would be advantageous, the department will accept students new to the subject as long as they are committed and interested in the Media.

What to do afterwards
The Digital Media specification has been created with the support of media organisations. That means that this qualification would give you a good grounding for the media industry. It would also provide you with a strong base for progression to university.

“...The Digital Media course is about the current media and its products, such as: the news, movies, video games and television, we look at each of these and go through analyzing them and seeing what makes them tick. We also have 3 specific case studies used for the final exam, the majority of the final mark is coursework. My experience as a student of this course has been fun and interesting, seeing what techniques companies apply to their products. I think it would be brilliant for those who want to get into the media business, whether it be the news or marketing...”

Harry, also studying Politics and Drama.

Reading around the subject
Students are encouraged to read the Media Guardian and keep an eye out for interesting content on Twitter.
Course Summary
The Music A Level course will enable you to develop your skills in analysing, composing and performing. Your time during the course will be spent listening to a variety of music and learning how to identify musical elements and devices within the music you hear. You will be required to perform as a soloist and/or as part of a group, and compose two separate pieces of music.

Why study this subject?
Studying music at A Level gives you the opportunity to deepen and broaden your understanding of music, how it has developed over time and how this has impacted composing and performing.

What happens in lessons?
Lessons are practical and the coursework elements enable students to develop their personal interests for composing and performing.

Course Assessment
Performing – 35%
Composing – 25%
Listening and appraising – 40%
Performing: Students will perform a 10 minute programme of pieces which will be recorded and sent for assessment. Students can choose from the following: Solo performance, Ensemble performance, Music production. Students can choose music in any style, and any instruments or voice are acceptable.
Composing: There are two areas of assessment. Students will compose to a set brief. Students will compose a free composition in their own chosen style. Total composition time must be between 10-12 minutes.
Listening and Analysing: Students will be assessed on their ability to analyse and evaluate music heard in the exam and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the musical elements to make critical judgements. Students will develop the ability to critically analyse a variety of music including Baroque, classical, Romantic, Jazz and Popular styles. They will be required to answer questions related to both familiar and unfamiliar music in these styles, and complete an essay question.

What to do afterwards
Studying music can lead to a variety of interesting careers including: sound production for TV/film/video/gaming, film music composer, professional/session musician, instrumental teaching, band teaching, school teaching, music therapist, theatre stage manager, events manager and many more.

Reading around the subject
Students are encouraged to listen to as much unfamiliar music as possible during the course. Classical FM and BBC Radio 3 are a great choice for analysing music outside of the classroom. There are a variety of music magazines available for different tastes and genres such as BBC music magazine, Sound on Sound and Future music.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 or above in Music.
Grade 5 standard on at least one instrument or voice although you need not have taken a formal exam.
Music Technology

Course Summary

The Music Technology A Level course will enable you to develop your skills in analysing, music production and composing. This is a highly practical course where you will learn through experience how to apply microphone techniques, develop understanding of acoustic recording processes and conventions, and how to integrate and work with MIDI sequencers. You are not required to perform as part of the course, but you should expect to enhance and develop your skills as a musician as part of your music technology learning journey.

Why study this subject?
Just like the A Level Music course, studying music technology gives you the opportunity to deepen and broaden your understanding of music, but with an emphasis on the technology behind the music; how changes in technology influence the music we listen to today.

What happens in lessons?
Lessons are practical and the coursework elements enable students to explore their own musical tastes an interests within the specification framework.

Course Assessment
Recording – 20%
Technology-based composition – 20%
Listening and analysing – 25%
Producing and analysing – 35%

Recording: Students will choose from a list of songs and during allotted time in then recording studio will produce their own reproduction of the chosen song.

Technology-based composition: Working to one of three set briefs, students produce an original composition making use of sequencing, synthesis and sampling techniques. The composition must be three minutes long.

Listening and Analysing: A one and a half hour examination, students listen to recordings independently. Section A has four questions, Section B has two questions to be answered in the form of extended essay responses.

Producing and Analysing: A two hour fifteen minute practical examination. Students work with audio and MIDI sample materials to produce a final mix of a piece of music. There is also an extended essay response element to this exam where students focus on a particular mixing scenario, signal path, effect or item of hardware.

What to do afterwards
Studying music technology can lead to further study in the subject are at university. In combination with specific other subjects, music technology A Level allows entry to industry recognised BA and BSc courses. It gives a thorough grounding in technology that can be adapted to skills in media, lighting and obviously sound production in TV/film and stage. The composition element support students wishing to pursue avenues into new-media such as games design.

Reading around the subject
Students are encouraged to listen to as much unfamiliar contemporary music as possible during the course. Sound on Sound magazine gives a broad and accurate insight into the subject.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 or above in Music and Science is desirable.
Grade 5 standard on at least one instrument or voice although you need not have taken a formal exam.
You should have some existing experience and knowledge of music technology.
Physical Education

Course Summary
The course follows the OCR syllabus. There are three exams at A Level and the course covers applied anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, biomechanics, skill acquisition, sports psychology, sport and society and contemporary issues in sport.
There is a coursework element involving two components:
1. Performance or coaching in one sport
2. Evaluation of performance
The exam is worth 70% and the coursework is worth 30%.

Why study this subject?
The course follows on from GCSE PE and provides greater depth of knowledge in the theory areas. The practical assessment takes into account national standard performances. It is an opportunity to further knowledge in the key areas covered within Physical Education and Sports Science.

What happens in lessons?
There are 8 lessons over 2 weeks in which the theory elements are taught. All the sociological content is taught in Year 12, the rest of the topics are covered in both Years 12 and 13. There will be an opportunity throughout the two years to learn the theoretical concepts in a practical setting. Some lessons will be discussion based, whilst others will involve presenting, researching and exploring new ideas and concepts.

“A fun and intriguing way of looking at sport from different perspectives.” Elliot, studying Physical Education, Psychology & Mathematics

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6, or above, in the PE theory paper is ideal preparation for the course or Grade 6, or above, in the higher tier Biology paper as there is a high physiological content to the course. We will, however, accept students new to the subject as long as they are committed, conscientious and motivated.

Course Assessment
There are four components (the first three are examination based and the fourth is based on your best practical activity).

1) Physiology – 2 hour paper examining Cardiovascular, Respiratory and Skeletal Systems, Injury, Biomechanics, Energy Systems, Diet and Training (30%)
2) Psychology – 1 hour paper examining Classification of Skill, Guidance, Practice Methods, Theories of Learning, Anxiety, Aggression and Goal Setting (20%)
3) Sociology – 1 hour paper examining Modern Sport, Global Sporting Events, Ethics and Deviance, Violence in Sport, Media and Commercialisation (20%)
4) This is coursework based and assesses performance in one sport and evaluation of performance in that sport; each are equally weighted (30%).

What to do afterwards
All sports-related fields including teaching, coaching, management, sports development and sports science. The natural development would be undergraduate Physical Education or Sports Science qualifications leading into Sports Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Physiologist and/or Biomechanist.

Reading around the subject
It is important to read around the topics covered in A Level PE. The following websites are useful:
- EverLearner (access code provided)
- Brianmac.co.uk
- In addition, any relevant articles in newspapers or online could be used
Why study this subject?
From the smallest quark to the largest galaxy, Physics explains it all!
It develops logical, practical, mathematical and technical thinking.
It is one of the facilitating subjects looked on favourably by the top universities. If you have a Physics A Level; “everybody thinks you are clever”.

What happens in lessons?
You will be taught by experienced teachers who are experts in the subject. They will help to ease the transition to the more demanding content required in A Levels by building it up slowly from the knowledge you bring with you from GCSE. Lessons follow an established scheme of work with starters, plenaries, exam question practice, discussions, group work and practical work. There are also a couple of longer projects later in the course. Some of the practical work you do will count towards the OCR practical endorsement.

Course Assessment
AS Level Physics:
Two papers worth 50% each, covering:
Practical skills in physics
Foundations of physics
Forces and motion
Electrons, waves and photons
A Level Physics:
Three papers covering the AS content plus:
The Newtonian World and Astrophysics
Particles and medical physics
A Level Practical endorsement (Pass/Fail). There is no coursework for this subject.

What to do afterwards
As with other science A Levels, Physics is highly valued by universities and employers as one of the ‘facilitating subjects’. It can lead to a variety of careers and university courses and in recent years students have gone on to do Astronomy, Chemical Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Medicine, Maths, Computer Science, Robotics, Natural Sciences, Music Technology etc…

Reading around the subject
You will have access to two textbooks and online digital resources. In addition, many previous students have taken a MOOC in an area of Physics they are interested in.
Some students have also found it useful to watch documentaries by great communicators of Physics such as Jim Al Khalili, Richard Feynman, Brian Cox and Michio Kaku.

Entry Requirements: You should be working at a minimum of a Grade 7 6 in Trilogy Science or a 7 in Physics if you study Triple Science.

“Physics is the best of the sciences; you don’t choose it, it chooses you!”

“The beauty of Physics is that it is all so logical. You don’t have to remember lots of facts, you can just work everything out from what you already know.”

“An understanding of Physics has made me look at the world in a different way and question more.”
Why study this subject?  
The Politics A Level course allows students to develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context, both within the United Kingdom (UK) and globally. It allows students to develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions and processes and possess an informed understanding of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics.

What happens in lessons?  
Politics is taught by Miss E Mace & Miss L Argent. Students are often tasked with reading, source exploration and extended writing to draw links between themes which appear on the course.

In year 12 students will study two components. Component 1—UK Politics—is made up of the following topics: democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media (core ideologies). Component 2—UK Government—is made up of the following topics: the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches (non-core ideologies).

At A Level, students will study the above in addition to linking these concepts to core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism, socialism and feminism. In addition, they will also study Component 3—Comparative Politics—where students will have the opportunity to study Global Politics.

Course Assessment  
Year 12  
UK Politics  
UK Government  
Year 13 A-Level  
Paper 1: UK Politics, Core Ideology—2 hours (33%)  
Paper 2: UK Government, Non-Core Ideology—2 hours (33%)  
Paper 3: Comparative Global Politics—2 hours (33%)

What to do afterwards  
The Politics course offers many transferable skills, for example, critical thinking and decision making and reasoning skills. Students who study Politics could go onto study a range of subjects at university, for example, International Relations, Politics, Journalism or Economics.

Reading around the subject  
- Politics UK (7th edition) by Bill Jones  
- British and European Political Issues (2nd edition) by Neil McNaughton  
- Global Politics: A New Introduction by Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehnfuss
Product Design

Course Summary
Product Design students study a wide range of materials, manufacturing techniques and processes, to develop a good understanding of how designers and makers work in the real world.

Why study this subject?
If you are interested in working in design, engineering, architecture or many other creative areas then Design & Technology will help you to develop the skills you need.

What happens in lessons?
Through the AS and A Level course you will build on the skills developed at GCSE applying these to a real world problem and creating an innovative prototype/model or final product: this is done using hand tools and traditional machines as well as Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing processes including 3D printing and Laser cutting. The lessons will be delivered by Mr Downing and Mrs Jones.

Course Assessment
Exam 50%:
Core Technical Principals (Materials, Processes, Product Development and Digital Technologies)
Non-Examined Assessment (50%)
Substantial Design and Make task (Identifying a project, designing, making and evaluating a prototype)

What to do afterwards
Career Opportunities include:

Reading around the subject
- Making it Manufacturing Techniques for Product Designers. By Chris Lefteri
- Sketching: Drawing Techniques for Product Designers. By Koos Eisen

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 or above in GCSE Design and Technology and Maths is desirable.
Why study this subject? Psychology is an extremely interesting and highly relevant subject. It provides students with an opportunity to explore the intricacies of human behaviour at a deeper level, whilst gaining knowledge of theory and making direct applications to the real world.

“Psychology is a really interesting subject, in which you are able to gain a deeper understanding of human behaviour and apply what you learn to real life.” Anna, studying Psychology, Sociology and Media

What happens in lessons? Psychology is taught by subject specialists in a variety of interactive ways ranging from teacher led presentations, through to group activities, discussion, exam practice and independent study.

During the course, students’ progress will be tracked and monitored via internal assessment.

It is possible to sit an AS in Psychology. Further details can be obtained from Miss Flipping.

What to do afterwards Most universities offer a Psychology degree, as well as related or combination degrees. Psychology is a popular subject to study and psychologists may work in all areas from education and health, to the economy and forensics.

Reading around the subject In order to study Psychology at A Level you do not need to have done so before, but it is advisable to research the subject in order to arrive with a basic idea of what you will be studying.

- www.psychology4a.com
- www.psycholotron.com
- Freud for Beginners - Richard Appignanesi

Entry Requirements: You should be sitting the higher tier paper and should be at a minimum of a 6 5 in Trilogy Science or a 6 in Biology if you study Triple Science. Grade 6 in English and Maths is desirable. Core Maths is available to support the numeracy aspects of Psychology, for those students not taking A level Maths.
Sociology

Course Summary
We will follow the AQA specification. You can visit the exam board’s website at www.aqa.org.uk. In Year 12 you will study the following topics: Education, Theory and Methods, Family and Households as well as Methods in Context. During Year 13 you will study: Beliefs in Society, Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

Why study this subject?
Sociology provides students with a working knowledge of social processes and social change. Students are encouraged to develop their own social awareness through active engagement with the contemporary social world and will gain a wider range and depth of knowledge and understanding as well as highly developed skills of application, analysis, interpretation and evaluation.

What happens in lessons?
Sociology is taught by subject specialists in a variety of interactive ways ranging from teacher led presentations, through to group activities, discussion, exam practice and independent study.

Course Assessment
Sociology is a linear course meaning that students who choose to study the A Level are committing to two years. The exam structure is as follows:
- Paper 1 - 2 hours
- Paper 2 - 2 hours
- Paper 3 - 2 hours
All papers include short answers and extended writing.
As part of the course, students’ progress will be tracked and monitored via internal assessment. It is possible to sit an AS in Sociology. Further details can be obtained from Miss Flipping.

What to do afterwards
Most universities offer a Sociology degree as well as related or combination degrees. The subject provides a good insight into the structure of society and the effects of this on the individual, therefore it is a strong basis for careers in social work, the public sector including education and the police force, as well as journalism and research.

Reading around the subject
It is important to have a grasp of our ever-changing society. To that end, regularly reading a quality newspaper such as The Guardian, The Times or The Independent, will help.

- Social Class in the 21st Century - Mike Savage
- Watching the English - Kate Fox

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in English is desirable due to the written nature of the subject. You do not need to have studied Sociology before, but it is advisable to research the subject to arrive with a basic idea of what you will be studying.

"Fun, interactive and supportive lessons. A good subject to take if you enjoy debating in class, with a wide range of thought provoking topics. Sociology will both expand and challenge your views of the world around you.” Oliver, studying Sociology, Psychology and History.
Spanish

Course Summary
A Spanish A Level is the ideal way to develop your interest in Spanish and the culture and society of Spain. The course includes study of Spanish regional identities which you may already have an insight into if you have travelled to Spain with school, family or friends. Through doing this you'll develop your spoken Spanish to a conversational fluency. You will study a film in Year 12 and a book in Year 13.

Why study this subject?
If you have a love of languages or travel and have studied Spanish successfully at GCSE then this is the course for you. It will open doors to university courses and give you the opportunity to study abroad whether you do a pure language course, dual honours or other academic subject at university. Graduates with languages degrees are highly sought after and often have an advantage when it comes to recruitment.

What happens in lessons?
Most of your lessons will take place in our sixth form languages study room. You'll enjoy more time to practise and perfect your spoken Spanish and accent, to converse and debate with others. You will also develop your vocabulary and use it to translate more complex texts into Spanish/English.

Course Assessment
The course is assessed at the end of the second year with three papers testing the following skills:
- Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Translation into target language.
- Paper 2: Writing consisting of two essays, one on the film studied and another on the set text.
- Paper 3: Speaking, a photo card, independent research project and discussion.

Please discuss with your teacher if you want to pursue AS. The exams are slightly different.

What to do afterwards
An A Level in Spanish is an asset in your portfolio for your application to study many subjects at degree level. Many students choose to combine a language that they have already studied with a new language ab initio that they have always wanted to study but is not available at school. A dual honours course combining a language with another subject is also popular. Your A Level language will enable you to work or study abroad in the future. You may like to work or travel abroad after your A Levels – and knowledge of a foreign language can come in very handy for that!

Reading around the subject
It would be useful to have watched/read a selection of the films and books listed to give you an idea of what you would like to study for the film/literature part of the course. It will help you develop your listening and reading skills and broaden your vocabulary.

- Films: Volver; El laberinto del fauno; Ocho apellidos vascos; María, llena eres de gracia; Abel; Las 13 rosas
- Books: La casa de Bernarda Alba – Federico García Lorca; Como agua para chocolate – Laura Esquivel; Crónica de una muerte anunciada – Gabriel García Márquez;

Also, it's a good idea to find opportunities to travel to Spain or Spanish-speaking countries and to read the Spanish press online.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in Spanish GCSE