



OLDFIELD
SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM

PROSPECTUS





CONTENTS

- 01 – Welcome
- 02 – Our aims
- 04 – Our offer
- 06 – Academic success
- 08 – Student leadership team
- 10 – The experience
- 12 – Facilities
- 14 – Guidance and support
- 16 – Expectations
- 18 – 9 steps into Oldfield Sixth Form
- 20 – Subjects pages
- 47 – Application form

WELCOME

Dear Student,

I look back at my own Sixth Form experience with great fondness. It was a time when I could study subjects I had an interest in and discover a wider academic and social world that served as an essential gateway to the world beyond the school gates. I want all our students to share this enthusiasm and benefit from a vision that places their aspirations at the heart of everything we do.

Expect to have a busy and rewarding time at Oldfield Sixth Form! We look forward to welcoming you.

Graham Nash
Head of Sixth Form



OUR AIMS

At Oldfield we have three key aims for all our Sixth Form students.

1. ACADEMIC SUCCESS

We want to ensure that all students leave Oldfield Sixth Form with the very best results they can achieve. Once again, our results were very pleasing, with over 40% of grades achieved being A* or A. While it is always a pleasure to see students achieving A grades across the board, we are also keen that all students, regardless of their prior attainment, make excellent progress. As such, we are rightly proud that the progress of our students places us in the top 15% of Sixth Forms nationally. This is a strength we will be keen to build on and exceed. Our highly trained, specialist staff are a key pillar to this success.

2. GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

We believe that students prosper and flourish at A level when they receive individual guidance and support from their teachers. This is why we are committed to small class sizes at Oldfield Sixth Form. We will aim to ensure that in 2022 there will be no classes larger than 15 students. We are also aware that Sixth Form studies carry their own pressures and stresses. We strive to ensure that students are well supported, positive and enthusiastic learners. They meet daily with their highly experienced tutors and as Head of Sixth Form I have an open door policy where any student can come to see me to talk through concerns and worries. We also run a well developed career and higher education guidance programme so that whatever you want to do post A levels, there will be events, talks and workshops to answer your questions and meet your needs.

3. THE WIDER COMMUNITY

At Oldfield Sixth Form students are fully involved in the wider school community and have the chance to engage with a wealth of opportunities above and beyond the classroom. Our aim is to foster independence and critical thinking, allowing the student to become that well rounded, educated person who goes on to play a positive role in our society. So whether you want to play an active role in the Sixth Form Committee, take part in sporting, cultural and scientific clubs and events or help to support students throughout the school, we have something to suit all ambitions and interests.

"I believe that our Sixth Form is vital to the success of our school, both academically and in terms of the wider school community. The achievement, effort and attitude of our Sixth Form students is a source of great pride for our school and something we rightly celebrate. Oldfield School's Sixth Form offers every student a fantastic academic education, an engaging enrichment programme and a caring and supportive environment. We look forward to you joining us to experience this for yourself."

Steven Mackay, Headteacher



OUR OFFER

We ask that all students choose three A levels that they will study across a two-year course. End of year examinations ensure students make good progress.

Please look closely at the course descriptions for the subjects we offer at Oldfield Sixth Form at the end of this prospectus. The course descriptions will give you details about examination boards, course content and how the subjects will be assessed.

THE OLDFIELD OFFER

We request that all students select one of the options from the Oldfield Offer below;

The Extended Project Qualification –

an independent research-focused project on a subject the student chooses. An ideal choice for students wishing to tailor a qualification to their future pathway choices, the EPQ is highly regarded by universities and is worth 28 UCAS points (half an A level).

Gold Arts Award – aimed at those students with an interest in the creative or performing Arts but who have chosen not to take Arts-based A levels, this project-based qualification is worth 16 UCAS points.

Further Maths – ideal for high-ability mathematicians considering studying the subject at university. Students must be studying Mathematics at A level to take this option and have achieved a grade 8–9 at GCSE.

Core Maths – ideal for students not taking Mathematics A level but who recognise the importance of continuing to study the subject. As many subjects, from the Sciences to Geography, now have a larger element of Mathematics in their curriculum, Core Maths also serves to support those studies. A grade A is worth 20 UCAS points.

Sports Leadership – This course is ideal for students who are interested in sports coaching, leadership or teaching in the future. You will learn how to lead sports based activities and develop the skills required to work with a wide range of people considering their individual needs. This course includes 30 hours of leadership experience. The course is worth 16 UCAS points.

We ask students to express a preference on their application form about which of these options they would like to take. In keeping with our ethos of tailoring the curriculum closely around the individual student, we will discuss this at the interview stage and ensure an option that best suits the student's future ambitions has been chosen.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To be accepted into Oldfield Sixth Form students must achieve at least three GCSEs at grade 5 or above with a further two GCSEs at grade 4 or better, including at least a grade 4 in Mathematics, English Language and English Literature. For the vast majority of subjects it is an expectation that students will achieve at least a grade 6 in any subject they wish to study at A level and details of course specific entry requirements are detailed at the back of this prospectus and on our website. However, we take the time to know our applicants' strengths and what they can offer our Sixth Form so we look at each application on its own merits.

For those students who meet the entrance requirements but have not achieved a grade 4 in either English or Mathematics, we can arrange for that student to retake that one subject, if we feel that student can make a success of their A level study. Our retake programme is highly successful and 100% of students have achieved the necessary grade in that core subject on retaking their examination.

A Level Subjects on Offer

Art – Fine Art	Geography*
Art – Photography	Health & Social Care
Art Textiles	History*
Biology*	Mathematics*
Business Studies	Further Mathematics
Chemistry*	Music
Computer Science	Physical Education
Dance	Physics*
Drama & Theatre	Product Design
Economics	Psychology
English Language	Religious Studies
English Literature*	Sociology
Film Studies	Spanish*
French*	

*These subjects are facilitating subjects. This means choosing them at advanced level leaves open a wide range of options for university study.



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The cornerstone of every school is its academic success and students at Oldfield School Sixth Form have a long and prestigious history of achieving fantastic results.

We pride ourselves on our small classes, close working relationships between staff and students and the drive and determination of our specialist teachers in ensuring every student reaches their full potential.

Academic progress is monitored closely at Oldfield School, ensuring that subject teachers, Sixth Form tutors and the Head of Sixth Form can intervene promptly if a student is struggling in a particular area. Communication, between staff, students and parents/carers, is key in ensuring students feel well supported and get the best out of their studies.

“Oldfield's student council and wide range of extra-curricular activities, as well as engaging staff, make for an excellent sixth form with an emphasis on the one not the many.”

Oliver Phillips, Deputy Head Student

We are very proud of our students' achievements this year and think they were more than worthy of the Teacher Assessed Grades they were awarded. Here are some examples of the results from this year;

Results 2021

English Literature: 30% A*-A and 79% A*-B

Mathematics: 28% A*-A and 60% A*-B

Biology: 67% A*-A and 100% A*-B

Chemistry: 66% A*-A and 100% A*-B

Fine Art: 47% A*-A and 73% A*-B

History: 25% A*-A and 61% A*-B

Geography: 31% A*-A and 66% A*-B

Sociology: 36% A*-A and 82% A*-B

Photography: 57% A*-A and 100% A*-C

French: 67% A*-A and 83% A*-B



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

There are numerous opportunities for Sixth Formers to play an important role throughout the school.



Paula Ifrim, Deputy Head Student



Oliver Phillips, Deputy Head Student



Salima Rahman, Student Leadership (Equality)



Ananda Chio Thomas, Student Leadership (Social Events)



Olivia Sayers, School Magazine Editor



Thomas Bilotto, Student Leadership (Student Voice)



Ella Causey, Student Leadership (Charities)



Jack Hobbs, Sports Captain



Ben Gascoyne, Sports Captain



Ruby Pearce, Head Student

"I think Oldfield is special in that the limited class sizes means everyone gets a chance to properly bond with their teacher; they want you to succeed just as much as you do, and this creates that amazing "family" feel."

Ruby Pearce, Head Student

HEAD AND DEPUTY HEAD STUDENTS

Our most prestigious position is Head Student, a role that involves working closely with Mr Nash, the Head of Sixth Form, and playing an important role throughout the school. The Head Students are supported by their Deputy Head Students.

SPORT CAPTAIN

Sport has always played an important part of school life at Oldfield School and this is a tradition that continues into the Sixth Form. Our Sports Captains support the PE department in their clubs, promote sporting competitions between Houses and organise teams within the Sixth Form for a variety of sports.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

All Sixth Form students are expected to engage with school service. This forms the basis for competitions and events, both sporting and academic, support and team building, and charity and fund-raising events. The Sixth Form Leadership Team, working closely with staff, are in charge of coordinating, organising and running these events.

All these students form the Sixth Form Committee that discusses with Mr Nash, Head of Sixth Form, issues relevant to life in our Sixth Form.

THE EXPERIENCE

Sixth Form life is about so much more than just attending your lessons. At Oldfield School we believe that enrichment events and opportunities will make our students more rounded learners, more engaged with the wider community and ensure that their time here in our Sixth Form is one they will remember for the rest of their lives.

The vast majority of subjects offer lunchtime and after-school clubs, ranging from rugby to archaeology. Sixth Form students are also encouraged to run their own clubs, for example the highly popular Sixth Form Film and Book Club.

TRIPS FOR THE SIXTH FORM

As part of the Sixth Form experience, day trips and residential trips can be important in enhancing a student's subject knowledge.

In the past our History students visited both St. Petersburg and Moscow to support their study of Russian history. Our Drama students have had the opportunity to attend a weekend theatre trip to London where they watched a play in the Globe and had a workshop on Elizabethan costume design. In conjunction with Kingswood School, our Drama and English students have visited New York, and our physicists visited the CERN laboratory in Switzerland.

SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Every student in Year 12 will be timetabled one lesson a week in order to provide an opportunity to study or develop a skill outside their A level choices. This year we are offering five choices:

- History of Western Thought: a crash course in 'the best of what has been said and thought' from Plato to Einstein.
- Spanish Conversation: Not taking a Modern Foreign Language but want to impress that university admissions officer with some extra language skills? This could be the one for you.
- Sport & Fitness: A rolling programme of different sporting and fitness activities. Great for re-energising those batteries and offers the opportunity to play for a school team.
- Creative Media: an opportunity to try your hand at video editing, graphic design and other forms of new media.
- Study Skills Plus: the ideal course for building your CV, developing employability skills and learning about finance.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Oldfield School runs a very successful Duke of Edinburgh programme at all levels of the award, whether students are starting afresh at Bronze level or wish to move onto their Silver and Gold award.



SCHOOL SERVICE & COMMUNITY LINKS

All Year 12 and 13 students are encouraged to actively engage with school service. Guided by our Student Leadership Team, students will, throughout the year, be involved in and lead a whole host of school activities and events, such as acting as a learning mentor for Year 11 students in the build-up to their GCSE examinations or providing support for Year 7 students who are new to the school.

Our students are also expected to volunteer and contribute to the wider community, and this can be through supporting students in our local primary schools or visiting local care homes.

KINGSWOOD SCHOOL LINKS

Our thriving partnership with Kingswood School also opens up a range of opportunities for our students, whether that is through access to facilities or programmes of enrichment. Currently we are building upon already successful links in Modern Foreign Languages and Drama to provide more opportunities in other areas such as Physical Education and Humanities.

“Oldfield has multiple opportunities for students to express themselves, from extra-curricular clubs to student forums, such as the Equalities Team; it’s a great school for students to explore their creative side.”

Olivia Sayers, school magazine Editor

FACILITIES

Oldfield Sixth Form is based in Penn House, a magnificent building set apart from the main school. Recently refurbished, our Sixth Form centre boasts a fully equipped kitchen, a common room with both café-style and comfortable lounge seating and a dedicated Sixth Form study room where students have access to computers.

On the top floor of Penn House there are a further two rooms for students to use as quiet study areas. All students are given access to the school's WiFi ensuring they can work from their own devices as well as the school network.

The main computer room in Penn House is primarily for Sixth Form use and the main school has a number of computer suites which Sixth

Form students have access to. The library is open all day and after school for students.

Within the Sixth Form there is also a resources library with subject-specific books and magazines as well as an extensive careers and university prospectus section.





GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

Choosing a Sixth Form is an important step, but equally important is deciding what to do at the end of your Sixth Form studies. At Oldfield School we provide a thorough programme of support for our students, whether they wish to apply to university or consider other options post-18. Whilst the vast majority of our students choose to go on to university, we tailor our programme to meet the individual needs of each and every student, regardless of their plans for the future.

SUPPORT IN SUBJECTS

The most important support any student can receive is from their subject teachers. They need and deserve those one-to-one conversations that deepen knowledge and strengthen skills. They deserve their work to be marked in a timely fashion and in a detailed way. Our efforts to ensure small class sizes with no more than 15 in a class supports this.

CAREERS AND UCAS APPLICATIONS

In collaboration with the University of the West of England, we offer impartial advice to all students through a series of workshop sessions and one-to-one meetings. In addition, throughout the year, we attend events and invite guest speakers into school to cover a range of aspects, from apprenticeships to writing that all important personal statement. Most importantly, our Sixth Form tutors have a wealth of experience in guiding students through the UCAS process.

The school also employs our own dedicated and impartial Careers Advisor. Sixth Form students can book an appointment with the Advisor at any point throughout the year or an appointment can be made on their behalf.

As part of our Enrichment Programme we also encourage all students to complete the Embark employability award. This allows students to keep a reflective record of their experiences and skills. The Embark award can also contribute UCAS points to a student's application if they apply to study at the University of the West of England.

OXBRIDGE PROGRAMME

We run a bespoke Oxbridge Programme in order to support students with an aspiration for studying at Oxford or Cambridge that is highly successful. This begins in the first term of Year 12 where students with the appropriate grades (primarily grades 8/9 or A* at GCSE) are invited to attend a residential visit to Trinity College Cambridge. Later in the year, they attend a series of enrichment talks at Kingswood School, aimed at broadening and deepening their subject knowledge. Finally, they receive one-to-one subject-specific guidance on applications and interviews.

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

Our tutorial programme is designed to cover a wide range of PSHE topics, including student finance. We also run a study skills session for all new Year 12 students throughout their first two terms. The step up to A level is considerable and so knowing how to keep organised, keep effective notes and manage time are important skills all students need to learn.

SIXTH FORM BURSARY

The fund is made available from the government to provide support towards the most financially disadvantaged 16 – 19 year olds – those that most need help with the costs of staying in further education or training.

Oldfield School will determine the eligibility criteria for discretionary bursaries and the frequency of and conditions of payments for all awards. The 16–19 bursary will only be awarded to a student that is eligible and facing genuine financial barriers to participating in further education or training.

SUPPORTING EACH AND EVERY STUDENT

At Oldfield School, we believe in providing each and every one of our students with the pastoral support they need to make a success of their studies. Aside from our highly experienced tutors, Mr Nash has an open-door policy and students with concerns should email or see him in the Sixth Form Office if they have any concerns. The Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Sixth Form Administrator are always on hand to offer advice and guidance. Similarly, we encourage parents and carers to do the same. Most problems can be resolved by prompt and open dialogue.



EXPECTATIONS

At Oldfield School we try to strike an appropriate balance between allowing our students the freedoms and responsibilities commensurate with being young adults whilst ensuring they meet the high standards of conduct that reflect our school's ethos.



ATTENDANCE AND MEETING DEADLINES

During Term 1 all students in our Sixth Form are expected to attend school from the start of the day at 8.30am until the end of the day at 2.50pm. If, at the end of Term 1, a student's attendance is 98% or better and we are satisfied they are making good progress, we will grant them the privilege of home study. This permits a student to allocate two blocks of time, either in the mornings or afternoons, as home study where they have no lessons or other school commitments. Other school commitments include responsibilities as a member of a House, assemblies and the weekly enrichment period.

We actively encourage students to use the study facilities at the end of the school day and the Sixth Form centre remains open until 5pm each day.

All students are also expected to allocate one period a week per subject for subject-specific work where they are expected to work in the common room.

Attendance at lessons is essential if students are to achieve their true academic potential. To ensure this happens, all attendance is closely monitored. If a student has failed to attend lessons, their home study privileges will be revoked and parents will be contacted in order to help resolve the issue.

Similarly, completing homework and meeting deadlines are equally vital in achieving good grades. If a student is falling behind with work or has failed to meet deadlines, in the first instance they will be expected to remain in school at the end of the school day to complete all outstanding work. If the issue persists their home study will also be revoked and we will work closely with that student to ensure they catch up with all missing assignments and activities.

Student progress is monitored termly by the Head of Sixth Form in order to ensure students are getting the best out of their studies. We also strive to provide open communication between the school, the student and their parents/carers.

DRESS CODE

Students should come to school dressed for a working environment. Students will be provided with more detail on this during our induction process.

STUDY EXPECTATIONS

For Sixth Form students, having periods on their timetable where they have no lesson can be quite a change in mindset. These are not free periods; they are study periods. As a rule of thumb, for every hour of taught lesson time, we would expect students to complete a further two hours of independent study. It is therefore essential that students use study periods productively. Tutors work closely with students in order to help them manage this time. Although subject teachers will set homework, a motivated A level student will read widely around their subject. In order to support students with wider study, every subject has a folder of extension tasks and reading on the school website that students can access both in school and at home. In short, there is always something to do!

"You are treated as an individual in the sixth form. The teachers are super friendly and they help push you to be the best you can be."

Ben Gascoyne, Sports Captain

9 STEPS INTO OLDFIELD SIXTH FORM

01

Research

Research information about Oldfield Sixth Form. Talk to your teachers about what A levels are like in their subjects. Talk to your tutor about how you could benefit from studying in our Sixth Form. Ask to see Mr Nash if you have specific questions.

02

Sixth Form Information Evening 9th November 2021

Attend the Sixth Form Information Evening with your parents. Gather as much information as you can. There will be a subject fair and subject presentations where you can find out important information about the subjects on offer.

04

Experience

There will be virtual opportunities for applicants to discuss Sixth Form life with current students. Subject areas will also provide information about their specific A level subjects, including taster sessions.

05

Attend a Sixth Form consultation meeting

Once you have applied, we will ask you to attend an interview with a senior member of staff. This is your chance to impress us! It also provides an opportunity for us to discuss your choices, your future ambitions and how to help you make the most of your time in the Sixth Form. Interviews will take place **January/February 2022**.

07

Induction Day

Once you have received your offer you will be invited to our Sixth Form Induction Day. As part of the day, you will attend an hour taster lesson in all your A level choices.

08

GCSE results day!

GCSE results are issued on
Thursday 25th August 2022.

03

Apply

Fill in the application form on our website. If you wish to hand in the paper copy at the back of the prospectus, please deliver to;

Oldfield School, Kelston Road, Bath BA1 9AB

**Please return your application form by
17th December 2021.**

06

Receive your offer

All offers will be sent out during **March 2022.**

09

Start of Term 1 – September 2022

Sixth Form registration on the first day of term at 8.30am in the common room: the start of two wonderful years here at **Oldfield School Sixth Form.**

Art – Fine Art

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: A level (H201 and H601)

Teacher Contact: Mrs Vivian

Entry Requirements: You need to have a passion for images and it is important that you like recording in a visual way what you think or what you see. This is a demanding and time-consuming course; students need to be prepared to do at least six hours of unsupervised work per week in addition to allocated lessons. If the subject has been studied at GCSE a grade 5 is required for this course, although 7-9 grades at GCSE would be beneficial.

What will I study?

YEAR 1

During the first part of the course you will explore and learn various techniques and skills that you may have touched on at GCSE level but you will have the chance to extend your knowledge and learn new ways of working. You will produce practical work in the form of drawings, sculptures, paintings and prints. Much of your time will also be spent looking at the work of other artists and sharing your ideas with your fellow students. This work will be given feedback by your teachers but it will not form part of a formal assessment. This learning will prepare you for the externally set task.

Externally Set Task – 100% of the total for Year 1

The examination board sets themes and presents these as a formal examination paper that is published on 1st January. You will choose one theme to work from and then explore it through experimental work in a sketchbook. From this you will plan what your final outcome will look like and then this is produced in a formal 10-hour examination.

YEAR 2

Personal Investigation – 60% of the total A level

You select your own theme and then develop your investigations in an ideas book before planning and creating a final piece. You also submit a written analysis of an artist's work that connects with your practical theme.

Externally Set Task – 40% of the total A level

The examination board sends a set of themes in the form of an examination paper; you select one to work from. The question is explored through a series of ideas' pages and drawings; this work is usually done in an ideas' book. The formal examination time in which the final piece is produced is 15 hours.

How will I be assessed?

Your teacher marks your work using four assessment objectives; the marks are checked by an Examination Board Moderator who comes to the school to look at an exhibition of the work and check that marking is in line with national standards.

Is there anything else that I need to know?

All materials you need for this course will be provided but you may wish to build your own supply. We will expect you to be resourceful and gather and collect things that may help you with your work.

Am I suited to this course?

You will be well suited to this course if you are;

- interested in looking at images and recording special or unusual things
- keen to learn to develop your practical skills with paint, print, 3D materials, and drawing tools
- interested in making statements using images.

What other subjects does it complement?

Art links well with all subjects as it encourages you to look at things in a much more analytical way. It complements subjects such as History, Media and Photography especially well.

Where can it lead?

You may wish to pursue a career in fashion, graphics, illustration, animation, ceramics, theatre design, product design, architecture, interior design, painting or printmaking.

Art – Photography

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level (7246 and 7206)

Teacher Contact: Mrs Vivian

Entry Requirements: You need to have a passion for images and showing people things in an interesting way. It would be an advantage if you had access to a 35mm film camera and a digital camera. It is a demanding and time-consuming course; students must be prepared to do six hours unsupervised work per week in addition to lessons. Students who have studied GCSE Photography require a grade 5 or above to study at A level.

What will I study?

YEAR 1

Portfolio 60% of the total for Year 1

You will learn various techniques and skills that are evidenced through a given theme in a work book and then you will produce a set of final black and white and final digital prints.

Externally Set Assignment 40% of the total for Year 1

The examination board sets questions; you select one to work from. This is explored through photography and evidenced as a series of theme, planning boards and final photographs. The formal examination time in which the final prints are developed is 10 hours.

YEAR 2

Personal Investigation

You select your own theme and then extend your understanding of photographic skills through the development of ideas. The work is presented as a work book, through a written analysis of a photographer's work, and a set of final prints.

Externally Set Assignment

The examination board sets questions; you select one to work from. This is explored through photography and evidenced as a series of theme and planning boards and final photographs. The formal examination time in which the final prints are developed is 15 hours.

How will I be assessed?

Your teacher marks your work using four assessment objectives; the marks are checked by an Examination Board Moderator who comes to the school to look at an exhibition of the work and check that marking is in line with national standards.

Is there anything else that I need to know?

The Art department will provide the materials you need but it helps if you have your own cameras. We will expect you to be resourceful and gather and collect things that may help you with your work.

Am I suited to this course?

You will be well suited to this course if you are;

- interested in looking at images and recording special or unusual things
- keen to learn how to use a camera and how to take impressive photographs
- interested in making statements using images
- interested in looking at the work of other photographers.

What other subjects does it complement?

Photography links well with all subjects as it is about presentation of ideas and learning to look at images and learn from them. It complements Art, History and Media particularly well.

Where can it lead?

Photography will support further studies in Media and Film. You may wish to pursue a career in fashion photography or in journalism. It is a valued qualification because it teaches you to communicate using imagery and analyse what is seen or shown. Many students go on to study for a degree in Photography and this can lead to employment as a photographer.

Art Textiles

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: A level (H604)

Teacher Contact: Miss Evans and Miss Noakes

Entry Requirements: You must be passionate about fashion and textiles and able to be pro-active and innovative in your approach to design. You should have experience of sewing garments and working with fashion and textiles equipment and fabrics. This is a demanding and time-consuming course and you need to be prepared to do at least six hours of unsupervised work per week in addition to allocated lessons. If the subject has been studied at GCSE, at least a grade 5 is required and 7-9 grades at GCSE would be beneficial.

What will I study?

This course encourages you to take a broad view of fashion and textiles, to develop your ability to make innovative products and to learn skills of pattern cutting and garment construction, to learn about creative approaches to design and build-up an extensive fashion and textiles portfolio.

YEAR 1

The first part of the course is designed to broaden your skills and knowledge of textiles techniques through workshops and practical activities. You will produce practical work in the form of embroidery and stitching, adding surface pattern and decoration to fabric and fabric manipulation. You will also be improving your recording and presenting skills through using a sketchbook and developing your fashion drawing skills. You will look at the work of other fashion and textile designers and you will share your ideas with fellow students. You will receive feedback on this work but it will not form part of the formal assessment. This learning will prepare you for the personal investigation element of the course that you will start in the summer term.

During the first year you will be required to show your ability to work independently. You will choose a fashion/textile designer that links directly with your personal investigation and demonstrate your ability to research and develop your findings into an artist research board, which you will produce in a formal exam environment.

YEAR 2

Personal Investigation – 60% of the total A level

Summer Term – Year 1

You select your own theme and then develop your investigations in an ideas' book before planning and creating a final piece. You will also submit a written analysis of an artist's work that connects with your practical theme.

Externally Set Task – 40% of the total A level

Pre-released material 1st January – Year 2

The examination board sends a set of themes in the form of an examination paper; you select one to work from. The question is explored through a series of ideas' pages and experiments with materials and techniques; this work is usually done in an ideas' book. The formal examination time in which the final piece is produced is 15 hours.

How will I be assessed?

Your teacher marks your work using four assessment objectives; the marks are checked by an Examination Board Moderator who comes to the school to look at an exhibition of the work and check that marking is in line with national standards.

Is there anything else that I need to know?

Most of the materials you need for this course will be provided but you will be encouraged to build your own supply. We will expect you to be resourceful and gather and collect things that may help you with your work.

Am I suited to this course?

You will be well suited to this course if you are:

- creative and interested in fashion and textiles
- keen to learn to develop your practical skills with pattern cutting and garment construction
- keen to learn about printing and decorating fabrics.

What other subjects does it complement?

Fashion and textiles links well with all subjects as it encourages you to look at things in a much more analytical way. It complements subjects such as History, Media and Photography especially well.

Where can it lead?

This course prepares you to enter a variety of degree level courses related to fashion, textiles and design by equipping you with the necessary skills and helping you to develop your portfolio, which is usually required at interviews. You could then pursue a career in fashion design, costume design, printed textiles, illustration or any other design or fashion based career.

Biology

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mrs Cornelius

Entry Requirements: At least a grade 6 in Trilogy Science GCSE or a grade 6 in GCSE Biology and a grade 6 in Mathematics.

An exciting and innovative approach to Biology, Salters Nuffield Advanced Biology known as 'SNAB,' is taught through real-life biology. This course aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding about the world around them in a context based curriculum. Biological principles are introduced as required in each situation, building on ideas to consolidate and extend learning to provide a thorough understanding of the concepts that underpin biology today.

What will I study?

Year 12:

Unit 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk

Unit 2: Genes and Health

Unit 3: Voice of the Genome

Unit 4: Biodiversity and Natural Resources

Year 13:

Unit 5: On the Wild Side

Unit 6: Immunity, Infection and Forensics

Unit 7: Run for your Life

Unit 3: Grey Matter

How will I be assessed?

The A level is assessed by three written examinations (2 hours each), each worth 33.33% in May/June of Year 13. Overall, a minimum of 10% of the marks across the three papers will be awarded for Mathematics at level 2 or above. Science Practical Endorsement is internally assessed and externally moderated through 18 practical activities over the two years. This is reported separately on students' certificates alongside their overall grade for the A level qualification.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Biology at A level if:

- you have enjoyed Biology at GCSE and are interested in furthering your knowledge of living things
- you can think logically and scientifically in order to understand new concepts
- are well organised and self-motivated
- you are interested in learning how technology, including information technology is furthering this science
- you show an attention to detail in your work.

What other subjects does it complement?

Biology fits well in combination with a variety of other subjects such as Sciences, Geography and PE. For students wishing to apply for a degree in Biological Science, it is advisable to be also studying Chemistry.

Where can it lead?

Biology provides an excellent base to proceed into a range of related higher education courses. These include Nursing, Physiotherapy, Medicine, Sports Science, Veterinary Science, Biochemistry, Ecology and Psychology.

Business Studies

Examination Board: WJEC Eduqas

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Abood, Mrs Britton and Mr Beddow

Entry Requirements: You will need a grade 6 in Business Studies GCSE. If you have not studied the subject at GCSE, you will need to have achieved a 6 in English and Mathematics.

What will I study?

Students will study business in a variety of contexts (e.g. large/small, UK focused/global, service/manufacturing) and consider:

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

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Business Opportunities and Functions.

Written examination; 2 hours 15 minutes, 1/3 of qualification.

Section A – compulsory short-answer questions.

Section B – compulsory data-answer questions.

To assess Business Opportunities and Functions.

Total marks 80

Component 2: Business Analysis and Strategy.

Written examination; 2 hours 15 minutes, 1/3 of qualification.

Compulsory data response and structured questions.

To assess business strategy and analytical techniques used in the business decision-making process. The subject content in Component 1 will underpin the context for Business Analysis and Strategy. Total marks 80

Component 3: Business in a Changing World.

Written examination; 2 hours 15 minutes, 1/3 of qualification.

Section A – compulsory questions based on a case study.

Section B – one synoptic essay from a choice of three.

To assess all of the A level subject content. Total marks 80.

Am I suited to this course?

This course is designed to give you a good grounding in all aspects of business. You will develop a thorough understanding of topical business issues and will think about them in a critical manner, developing the skills of application, analysis and evaluation. Case study research of businesses lies at the heart of the A level course. You are taught business theory and how to apply it to issues, problems and opportunities facing real businesses.

Where can it lead?

A level entry to banking, retail and human resource management, business management and hospitality, accountancy, including apprenticeships. Progression to Higher Education degree courses in Business, Finance and Management.

Chemistry

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Dr Ziegler

Entry Requirements: A grade 6 in Mathematics and a grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Trilogy Science GCSE.

What will I study?

The A level course is comprised of six modules:

Module 1: Development of practical skills

Skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.

Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry

This unit includes the structure of the atom, the importance of atomic masses, formulae and equations and chemical bonding and structure.

Module 3: Periodic table and energy

This unit includes the periodic table, qualitative analysis, enthalpy change and reaction rates.

Module 4: Core organic

This unit includes the basic concepts of organic chemistry, hydrocarbons, alcohols, haloalkanes, the synthesis of organic compounds and analytical techniques.

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements

This module includes reaction rates and equilibrium, entropy, enthalpy, electrode potentials and transition elements.

Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis

This module includes the study of aromatic, carbonyl and nitrogen compounds, as well as acids and esters. In addition, organic synthesis, chromatography and nuclear magnetic resonance will be studied.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by written examinations covering all topics.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Chemistry at A level if you:

- enjoyed studying GCSE Science and are motivated to take your understanding much further
- enjoy a challenge and are willing to persevere
- can apply your knowledge to unfamiliar situations
- enjoy the practical element to Science
- are competent and confident at Mathematics.

What other subjects does it complement?

Chemistry is an excellent course to take with Biology, Physics, Mathematics and/or Geography. If you are considering Biological Sciences, Medicine or Veterinary Science at university, Chemistry is usually a requirement.

Where can it lead?

Chemistry is a passport to a host of careers including the most obvious medicine, veterinary science, teaching, engineering, physiotherapy and psychology. Recognised as a sign of high academic achievement, it is accepted as a valuable qualification for all science-based courses at university and being essential in some cases.

Computer Science

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Eidman

Entry Requirements: Candidates beginning this course do not have to have studied Computer Science before, although a good level of mathematical problem solving ability and resilience is essential, as is an interest in programming. If the student has studied Computer Science at GCSE they will need to have achieved a grade 6. Candidates who have not studied the GCSE will require at least grade 5 in English and Mathematics.

We offer the Advanced GCE in Computer Science which consists of three units of study over two years. It is a mixture of theory and practical programming work.

Aims of the course

Encouraging students to develop:

- an understanding of, and the ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- mathematical skills related to:
 - Boolean algebra
 - comparison and complexity of algorithms
 - number representations and bases
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Computer systems

40% of A Level, 2 ½-hour written paper

Paper 2: Algorithms and Programming

40% of A Level, 2 ½-hour written paper

Programming project

20% of A level, Practical programming problems

Where can it lead?

A level Computer Science provides a suitable foundation for the study of Computer Science, Digital Technologies, Digital Forensics or related courses in higher education. Opportunities for careers in cyber security and encryption are becoming more and more popular. Some practical-style courses are becoming more available after A levels.

Dance

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mrs Smith

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE Dance, or the equivalent dancing experience. Students will also need to be attending at least one dance technique class per week.

What will I study?

YEAR 1

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Choreography and performance of a solo and the performance in a duo/trio.

Component 2: Critical Engagement

Two areas of study – chosen from five (one compulsory area of study) and the reflection and understanding of own choreographic and performance practice.

YEAR 2

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study. Performance in a quartet and Group choreography.

Component 2: Critical Engagement

Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of a compulsory set work and comparative professional dance work.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Dance at A level if you:

- enjoy working independently and collaboratively in performance, choreography and analysis of dance
- like to attend live dance performances and gain experience from professional dance companies
- are interested in studying dance within a social, cultural and historical context
- would like to develop your creative and communication skills.

What other subjects does it complement?

Dance combines well with other subjects such as English, PE, Music, Drama, Media Studies, Art and History where skills of analysis, interpretation and creativity are central elements. The study of Biology alongside Dance will also help to enhance knowledge of anatomy and the human body in action.

Where can it lead?

Dance A level can be very useful for entry into any Performing Arts, PE or Media course.

Design and Technology: Product Design

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Miss Sackett and Miss Fielding

Entry Requirements: Students must have at least a grade 5 at GCSE Product Design or equivalent and a grade 5 in Mathematics.

Aims of the course

The course encourages students to;

- be open to taking design risks, showing innovation and enterprise whilst considering their role as responsible designers and citizens
- develop intellectual curiosity about the design and manufacture of products and systems and their impact on daily life and the wider world
- work collaboratively to develop and refine their ideas, responding to feedback from users, peers, and expert practitioners
- gain insight into the creative, engineering and /or manufacturing industries
- develop knowledge and experience of real world contexts for design and technological activity
- develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of materials, components and processes associated with the creation of products that can be tested and evaluated in use
- be able to make informed design decisions through an in-depth understanding of the management and development of taking a design through to a prototype/product
- be able to create and analyse a design concept and use a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas, including maths and science to inform decisions in design and the application or development of technology

What will I study, and how will I be assessed?

Paper 1 Technical principles

Written exam; 2 hours and 30 minutes, 120 marks, 30% of A level.

Paper 2 Designing and making principles.

Product analysis and commercial manufacture.

Written exam; 1 hour and 30 minutes, 80 marks 20% of A level.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles. 100 marks, 50% of A level. Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype. All students will learn a variety of CAD techniques to present their designs in the best possible format.

Am I suited to this course?

A level Product Design is an interesting, dynamic course that allows you to choose your own path of study. The course builds upon your experience of GCSE and allows you to further your studies by experiencing Product Design from a more mature perspective, much as you would if you chose to study the subject at degree level.

Undertaking A level Product Design is a commitment from students to meet all deadlines. To this end, students will be expected to do a significant amount of coursework outside of lessons.

In addition to working outside of lessons, students will need to be well organised and plan their time effectively, ensuring that workshop time is factored into their schedule.

What other subjects does it complement?

Students develop the ability to draw on and apply a range of skills and knowledge from other subject areas to inform their decisions in design and the application or development of technology. There are clear links between aspects of the specification content and other subject areas such as Computer Science, Business Studies and Art and Design.

Where can it lead?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning into practice by producing prototypes of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Drama and Theatre

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Ms Bloomfield

Entry Requirements: Students who have studied GCSE Drama should have at least a grade 6 in Drama. Alternatively they should have achieved at least a grade 5 in English.

What will I study?

The A level course is comprised of three components.

Component 1: Drama and Theatre (40%)

For this written exam we will work practically in class exploring two contrasting texts from the perspective of actors, directors and designers. In your exam you will answer one question on each play discussing how you might interpret the play as a whole or a given extract. A third question asks you to evaluate a live production you have seen. You are allowed to take notes into your exam.

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (practical) (30%)

You will work in pairs or small groups to create an original piece of drama from a stimulus of your choice. Your piece will be performed to a live audience and you can choose whether to be examined as an actor, director or designer. You will use the ideas of a recognised theatre practitioner or company to help devise your piece.

You will be assessed on your contribution to the performance and on a detailed working notebook which you will keep throughout the process.

Component 3: Making Theatre (practical) (30%)

This is a practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play. The methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to Extract 3 which is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). You will also complete a Reflective Report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well suited to Drama and Theatre at A level if you:

- are interested in all aspects of performance
- enjoy devising and performing practical work to a range of audiences
- would like to develop your personal skills and powers of analysis
- are willing to work as a team to strict deadlines.

What other subjects does it complement?

Drama and Theatre Studies fits well in combination with a range of subjects, most notably English Language, English Literature, History, Psychology, Dance and Art.

Where can it lead?

A level Drama and Theatre Studies is a valued qualification which will enable students to enter related university courses. The course complements higher education degrees in English Literature and the Arts and equips students for careers in media and the theatre.

Economics

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Fox

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 or above in GCSE

Mathematics and English. It is NOT a requirement to have studied Economics at KS4. Human Geography provides a good training for the macroeconomics modules, but is not essential.

What will I study?

Wages? Brexit? Oil? Efficiency? Interest rates? The price of bread? Economics is chiefly concerned with the behaviour and interactions of people and the machinery of economies to produce, distribute and manage the consumption of resources. Defining economics succinctly is tricky, because it is a discipline that has evolved over centuries since its inception back in ancient Mesopotamian, Greek and Arab civilisations. Keynes, Smith, Friedman, Marx... Economists have debated the roles of politicians, businesses and workers in the dynamics of cash, wealth and capital for generations; the subject tackles problems such as scarcity and inequality – it is a science and a humanity – and is always right at the heart of issues in the news. It has never been a more exciting or interesting time to study Economics. You will learn classic economic theories – but with a critical perspective (there are often no ‘correct’ answers in Economics!) – and build up a rounded perspective in preparation for the exams. There is no coursework. Keeping up to date with current affairs and reading around the subject will be invaluable.

The first year course is comprised of two units:

Unit 1: An introduction to markets and market failure

This theme is one of two in this qualification that focuses on microeconomics. This theme introduces students to the microeconomic nature of economics, looking at economic problems and the ways economists think and work.

Unit 2: The UK economy – performance and policies

This theme is one of two in this qualification that focuses on macroeconomics. This theme introduces the key measures of economic performance and the main instruments of economic policy primarily in a UK context.

The second year course is also comprised of two units:

Unit 3: Business behaviour and the labour market

This theme builds on the content of Unit 1: Introduction to markets and market failure and focuses on business economics.

Unit 4: A global perspective

This theme builds on the knowledge and skills gained in Unit 2: The UK economy – performance and policies, and applies them in a global context.

How will I be assessed?

There are three exams, all at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1: ‘Markets and business behaviour’

assesses units 1 and 3. It is 2 hours long, comprises seven questions, 100 marks and represents 35% of the A level.

Paper 2: ‘The national and global economy’

assesses units 2 and 4. It is 2 hours long, comprises 7 questions, 100 marks and represents 35% of the A level.

Paper 3: ‘Microeconomics and macroeconomics’

assesses units 1, 2, 3 and 4. It is 2 hours long, comprises 2 questions, 100 marks and represents 30% of the A level.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Economics at A level if you:

- have an interest in how resources are managed – people, money and commodities
- are inspired to learn about politics and businesses
- are willing to take on board new ideas and ways of thinking
- want to develop the way you form arguments and take a critical stance on important real-world issues
- want to find out why decisions are made that influence the distribution of wealth around the world
- enjoy testing models and theories using simulations and role play.

What other subjects does it complement?

Economics complements a number of other subjects, but particularly Geography, Maths, History, Psychology and Philosophy.

Where can it lead?

Economics can lead to a career in many fields, including finance, management, politics, law or the civil service. You will develop transferable skills in communication, numeracy, problem-solving and data analysis.

English Language and Linguistics

Examination Board: Eduqas

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Trowell

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in either English Literature or Language.

What will I study?

The A level course covers a broad range of topics, exploring the ways in which language shapes the world around us and is used in everyday life. The course is comprised of four components, studied over two years:

Component 1: Language Concepts and Issues

(2-hour written examination – 30% of qualification)

Section A: Analysis of Spoken Language

In this unit we explore the most frequent way language is used, for verbal communication. You will learn how to analyse transcripts and comment on the effects created by different language features. In the examination you will answer one question requiring the analysis of two transcripts based on real recordings, exploring and analysing the ways in which context affects language use.

Section B: Language Issues

Three language topic areas are the focus of this unit: Standard and Non-Standard English; language and power; and child language acquisition. These cover topics such as how we first learn to speak and communicate, how politicians and institutions use language to obtain or maintain power, and the ways in which language is changing currently.

Component 2: Language Change Over Time

(2 1/4-hour written examination – 30% of qualification)

Section A: Language Change Over Time

This section is based on the study of unseen written texts from different periods, linked by genre. We look at the origins of the English language, how it has evolved over time, and how meaning and genre are inseparable. For the examination there will be one multi-part question and one essay question analysing language change over time.

Section B: English in the 21st century

Section B is based on the study of the ways in which language is used distinctively in the 21st century. You will learn how language is evolving to reflect technological and cultural change in the world today. In the examination you will answer one question based on a variety of short texts, often modern examples of communication such as YouTube comments or tweets.

Component 3: Creative and Critical Use of Language

(1 3/4-hour written examination – 20% of qualification)

In this unit you are given the opportunity to explore a range of fiction and non-fiction forms and genre, practise writing in them and identifying typical features. The examination is based on one question from a choice of two, with two original writing responses and one commentary.

Component 4: Language and Identity

(2,500-3,500 word language investigation coursework – 20% of qualification)

You will conduct a language investigation that fits broadly into one of the following areas: language and self-representation; language and gender; language and culture; or language diversity. Topics have previously included the representation of male and female sports, the language of arguments on the TV show "Love Island" and how parents modify their language depending on which sibling they are talking to.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying English Language at A level if you:

- would like to develop your research and analytical skills
- enjoy investigating the way language and society are linked
- have the commitment to take on a challenging subject
- would like to develop your own writing skills in both fiction and non-fiction writing.

What other subjects does it complement?

English Language goes well with many subjects. Obvious links are with History, Drama, Media Studies, Sociology and Psychology but it can also be studied with Sciences, Art and Geography.

Where can it lead?

Studying English Language can lead directly to degree courses in English and Linguistics, and the essay and formal writing skills students develop are essential across a huge range of disciplines. It is also a useful foundation for those looking at careers in journalism, media and teaching.

English Literature

Examination Board: Eduqas

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Ms Malt

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in English Language and English Literature.

What will I study?

The A level course is comprised of four units over two years, with texts selected according to the group.

Component 1: Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of qualification.

Section A: Pre-1900 Poetry (open-book, clean copy)

One two-part question based on the reading of one pre-1900 poetry text from a prescribed list.

Section B: Post-1900 Poetry (open-book, clean copy)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of two post-1900 poetry texts from a prescribed list.

Component 2: Drama

Written examination: 2 hours, 30% of qualification.

Section A: Shakespeare (closed-book)

One two-part question based on the reading of one Shakespeare play from a prescribed list.

Section B: Drama (closed-book)

One question from a choice of two based on the reading of a pair of plays: one pre-1900 and one post-1900, from a prescribed list.

Component 3: Unseen Texts

Written examination: 2 hours, 20% of qualification.

Section A: Unseen prose

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen passage of prose, taken from one of two prescribed periods for study.

Section B: Unseen poetry

One question from a choice of two, analysing an unseen poem or poetry extract.

Component 4: Prose Study

Non-exam assessment: 2,500–3,500 words, 20% of qualification.

One 2,500–3,500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts from different periods, one pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the centre.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying English Literature at A level if you:

- are willing to discuss ideas and contribute to teamwork
- would like to develop your research skills
- enjoy investigating the social, cultural and historical context of a text
- enjoy reading and analysing novels, plays and poetry.

What other subjects does it complement?

English Literature complements almost all other subjects due to the core skills of reading, discussing, analysing and formal essay writing. There are clear overlaps with English Language, History, Psychology and Drama but it can also be taken in combination with Art, Sciences and Geography. It is a useful choice for many combinations.

Where can it lead?

As well as leading directly to degree courses in English Literature, this course enables a student to keep their options open without narrowing the choice later on. Many universities regard it as a desirable A level for courses as diverse as Law and Medicine. English Literature graduates are highly employable because they have spent several years thinking about communication and have developed skills in presentation, critical thinking and innovation.

Film Studies

Examination Board: Eduqas

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Ms Malt

Entry Requirements: A grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language.

What will I study?

This A level course consists of three components, one of which is practical/creative.

Component 1: Varieties of film and filmmaking

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of six feature-length films.

Section A: Hollywood 1930-1990 (comparative study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two Hollywood films.

Section B: American film since 2005 (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two American films, one mainstream film and one contemporary independent film.

Section C: British film since 1995 (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to two British films.

Current film choices

Some Like it Hot; One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, La La Land; Winter's Bone; Trainspotting; Shaun of the Dead.

Component 2: Global Filmmaking perspectives

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of five feature-length films (or their equivalent).

Section A: Global film (two-film study)

One European and one produced outside Europe.

Section B: Documentary film

Reference to one documentary film.

Section C: Film movements

Silent cinema – group of short silent films.

Section D: Film movements

Experimental film (1960-2000). Reference to one film option

Current film choices

Pan's Labyrinth; Wild Tales; Amy; films of Buster Keaton; Pulp Fiction.

Component 3: Production (internally assessed)

This component assesses one production and its evaluative analysis. Learners produce:

- either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1,600-1,800 words) plus a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay
- an evaluative analysis (1,600-1,800 words).

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Film Studies at A level if you:

- like to work collaboratively and independently
- enjoy films and are interested in their history, construction, production and regulation
- enjoy discussing ideas and developing opinions
- enjoy analysing texts
- enjoy creative tasks and like working with media-related computer software
- are considering a career in the film industry or the related industry of television.

What other subjects does it complement?

Film Studies combines well with Art, Psychology, Sociology, English Literature, English Language, Photography and History. This is both a creative and an analytical subject. Students opt for a wide range of other A level subjects either to complement or contrast with Film Studies.

Where can it lead?

A level Film Studies provides an excellent qualification for university entrance. The skills of investigation, analysis and interpretation will assist many students in a wide range of future careers. As a degree choice it offers a huge range of career paths, including the film industry, animation and other associated media industries.

French

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Miss Heaven and Miss Kovacs

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE French.

Students should have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills required at the Higher Tier of entry at GCSE.

What will I study?

The A level course is comprised of three papers.

Each unit covers a wide range of topics and subtopics on the following themes:

- social issues and trends (modern and traditional values, cyberspace, equal rights etc.)
- political and artistic culture in French-speaking countries (modern day idols, French regional identity, cultural heritage or cultural landscape etc.).

Students will also study one literary text and one film in French.

The A level course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It fosters a range of transferable skills, including communication, critical thinking and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. Students will develop their understanding of themes relating to the society and culture of the countries where French is spoken. They will do so by using authentic spoken and written sources in French.

How will I be assessed?

The final exam will consist of three papers.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (50% of A level)

Paper 2: Writing (20% of A level)

Paper 3: Speaking (30% of A level)

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying French at A level if you:

- enjoy languages and want to develop your skills in a range of contexts
- are interested in French and French-speaking cultures and societies
- are willing to develop your opinions on personal, national and international issues
- are willing to work hard to learn grammatical structures and new vocabulary
- are aiming for an international career
- would like to develop your knowledge of foreign literature and film.

What other subjects does it complement?

French links well with almost any subject as you will study a wide range of life experiences, from a French point of view. Other languages will also complement the study of French, as linguistic skills are highly transferable. A language can also be incredibly useful if applying for any other university or professional field where verbal and written skills are paramount, e.g. Law, Politics, History, English, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology.

Where can it lead?

A level French will provide an excellent qualification from which to proceed to higher education. Languages can be studied at university in combination with many other subjects. Linguists are in high demand in the business world, and many other career paths value language skills highly.

Geography

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Peacock

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography is preferred, but the course is also open to students who did not study Geography in years 10 and 11 in which case a minimum grade 5 in English and Mathematics is required.

What will I study?

In Year 1 the course is comprised of four units:

Unit 1: Physical geography

Water and carbon develops understanding of how the physical world operates and the fundamentals of life and energy on Earth. We look at how different parts of the world are dealing with climate change, for example in the Amazon of Ecuador.

Ecosystems under stress looking at a variety of ecosystems around the earth and why they are currently at risk. You will gain an understanding of how small scale ecosystems function alongside biome management and sustainability of ecosystems for the future.

Unit 2: Human geography and fieldwork investigation

In this unit you will develop an understanding of human geography through changing places and fieldwork. This unit will allow you to understand how increased interdependence has transformed the relationships between peoples, states and environments.

Geography **fieldwork investigation** will help you develop the skills people use to answer real-life problems. We will develop these skills through residential trips.

In Year 2 the course is comprised of two further units:

Physical geography: Coastal systems. **Human geography:** Changing places and contemporary urban environments.

Am I suited to this course?

A level Geography covers both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. It will also show how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. There is plenty of room for discussion and extended research which will help you become an independent thinker and learner.

You will learn in a wide variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos, podcasts, as well as attending lectures and study days. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher-level thinking skills and showing your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing.

What other subjects does it complement?

Geography combines well with both Arts and Science subjects.

Where can it lead?

You may already be thinking ahead to potential university and career choices so it is worth bearing in mind that Geography is a broad-based subject that really fits well for your future progression. Geography can lead to a wide range of careers because you will gain a good understanding of the world and the skills needed to interpret it.

Of course many A level students do not yet have a clear idea of what kind of career they might want to pursue so if this is you then remember that Geography as an A level gives you the chance to keep your options open as it covers both arts and science components and is highly regarded by universities and employers.

If you are interested in the world and want to learn more about it then Geography A level is for you.

Health and Social Care Cambridge Technical Level 3

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: Cambridge Technical (Distinction* /Distinction/Merit/Pass) which are all worth UCAS points and are equivalent to A*/A/C and E of A levels.

Teacher Contact: Mrs Clark

A Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care will give you the skills to be able to work within the Health Care sector, for example as a midwife, nursery nurse or carer.

What will I study and how will I be assessed?

COMPULSORY UNITS

Unit 1: Building positive relationships in health and social care (coursework portfolio)

Unit 2: Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care (examination 1 ½-hours)

Unit 3: Health, safety and security in health and social care (examination 1 ½-hours)

Unit 4: Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (examination 2-hours)

OPTIONAL UNITS: 2 FROM –

Infection control

Supporting people with learning difficulties

Nutrition for health

Sexual health

Reproduction and early development stages

Public health

Both optional units are assessed through coursework.

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in Maths and English Language. Candidates need a real passion for learning about ensuring the health and wellbeing of all people and how to act as a professional in the area.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Health and Social Care Cambridge Technical if you:

- want to develop your interest in care and education
- are good at working independently on writing coursework and meeting deadlines
- want to develop skills that will enable you to work with people of all ages
- want to continue with further study and training within the health, social or education sectors.

Is there anything else that I need to know?

This course is the equivalent to an A level and requires a lot of independent research and essay writing as well as preparation for exams. It is modular, so you will have three exams in the January and May of Year 12 and January of Year 13. Coursework units are fitted around these.

What other subjects does it complement?

Health and Social Care complements a range of subjects especially the Sciences and Social Sciences and in particular Biology, Sociology, Psychology and Physical Education.

This course will prepare and equip students who want to go on to study a variety of courses in Health and Social Care and related subjects, e.g. Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Nursing and Midwifery, and Teaching.

History

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Moore

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above at GCSE History. Students who have not taken GCSE History will also be considered but need to consult with Mr Moore and must have at least a grade 5 in English and Mathematics.

What will I study?

Candidates study two units throughout the two years of the course: a **breadth study** and a **depth study**. There will be one exam at the end of Year 13 for each of these units.

Breadth Study

The Tudors: England 1485–1603 (Year 1: 1485–1547)

A look at a crucial period in English history: the consolidation of the Tudor dynasty and its struggles with the Church, foreign powers and internal rebellions.

Depth Study

Russia: Revolution and Dictatorship, 1917–1953 (Year 1: 1917–1929)

We focus on the fascinating experiment that took place in Russia after the Revolution in 1917: the first attempt by a country to make Communism work, and the subsequent descent into bloody dictatorship under Stalin.

Historical Investigation (Year 2)

You choose the question and write an extended essay on an aspect of the British Empire. This will take the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years, and might cover events in Africa, the Caribbean, America, India, Australia or China. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop your understanding of current debates over the impact Britain has had on the rest of the world, and is great preparation for writing and researching essays at university level.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying History at A level if you:

- enjoy learning about key events using a rich variety of learning resources and stimuli including film, literature, personal memoirs and original 16th century sources
- are interested in studying and comparing developments in both Britain and the wider world
- like finding out about individuals in the past, and how they changed people's lives
- enjoy expressing yourself with the written word, and reading around the subject.

What other subjects does it complement?

English, Sociology, Law and Psychology combine particularly well with A level History. The skills required in Biology, Mathematics and Geography also support the study of History in Year 1.

Where can it lead?

History A level is an extremely desirable qualification for higher education and for a range of careers. It encourages independent study skills and you will learn the skills of evaluation, analysis and interpretation, which are invaluable to any employer. It can be used as a point of entry to study History or a related degree course at university.

Mathematics

Entry Requirements: Grade 7 at GCSE.

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Brooke

What will I study?

The first year course is comprised of two elements, Pure Mathematics and Applied Content in the ratio 2:1.

Pure Mathematics

Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration and vectors.

Statistics and Mechanics

Statistics: Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.

Mechanics: Quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics and forces and Newton's laws.

The second year course is comprised of two elements, Pure Mathematics and Applied Content in the ratio 2:1 up to an A level standard.

Pure Mathematics

The Year 1 Pure Mathematics content plus additional content: proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, trigonometry, differentiation, integration and numerical methods.

Statistics and Mechanics:

Statistics: The Year 1 Mathematics Statistics content plus additional content: statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.

Mechanics: The Year 1 Mathematics Mechanics content plus additional content: quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and moments.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the second year, Mathematics is assessed in three examinations. A 2-hour Pure Mathematics exam that covers the Year 1 content, a 2-hour exam on the remaining Pure content which builds on and incorporates Year 1 content and a 2-hour exam on Statistics and Mechanics.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Mathematics at A level if you:

- have a logical mind and enjoy using Mathematics to solve problems in real-life situations
- want to develop your problem-solving techniques.

What other subjects does it complement?

Mathematics complements a wide range of subjects. The pure elements of the course combine well with Chemistry and Physics. There are also links to other subjects including Biology, Geography, Psychology and Sociology.

Where can it lead?

Mathematics A level leads to the study of Mathematics in its own right or as a support to many other courses, such as Science, Business Studies, Medicine and Accountancy. Careers in the financial sector, e.g. banking and insurance often look for a mathematical qualification beyond GCSE.

Further Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification: AS Level and A Level

Teacher Contact: Mr Brooke

Entry Requirements: Grade 8 and studying A level Maths.

What will I study?

The first year is made up of a Pure Mathematics unit and two optional units. Currently in Year 12, students study Further Statistics 1 and Further Statistics 2 as the optional units.

Pure

In the Pure unit students will encounter a number of completely new concepts such as complex numbers, volumes of revolution and matrices as well as building on subject areas such as series, proof and vectors.

Statistics 1 and 2

In the statistics units students will cover a number of new techniques such as Poisson distribution, Chi-squared testing, Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and regression lines. All of these concepts are ones that are highly transferable in other subjects at A level and degree level.

In the second year students will continue to study the Pure unit in more depth; however there will be some degree of choice within the option unit depending on the strengths and interests of the class. Students can choose between Further Pure, Mechanics and Statistics.

Pure

The Pure unit significantly builds up the work that students will do in their A level maths qualification and complements this qualification really well. The main concepts covered are; complex numbers, methods of calculus, series, polar co-ordinates, hyperbolic functions and differential equations.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the Year 12, all students will sit an exam in AS Further Maths. This will consist of one Pure paper and one option paper. Those achieving a Grade B or higher can choose to continue into the second year and sit the full A level. In the second year, students will sit two Pure Papers and two option papers.

Am I suited to this course?

If you have a passion for maths and enjoy learning about new concepts this is a course that you will particularly enjoy.

What other subjects does it complement?

Further Maths complements a huge array of other subjects but primarily is closely linked to subjects such as Physics and Chemistry; however there are lots of elements that cross over with subjects such as Biology, Economics and Geography.

Where can it lead?

Further Maths is a highly sort after A level by a large number of universities and subjects. Quite often courses will lower their entry requirements for students that have studied AS or A level Further Maths. Equally, it will often be a required subject for students looking to go to a top university to study a mathematics-based course.

Music

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mrs Robinson

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 at Music GCSE or grade 5 instrumental standard. Due to the demanding nature of the course, students need to undertake five hours of unsupervised work each week in addition to the formal lessons; this is particularly relevant to practical coursework and performance-based tasks.

What will I study?

The course is comprised of three units;

Appraising Music, Performance and Composition.

You will develop your listening and analysis skills as well as your contextual understanding.

There will be various performance opportunities for you throughout the year and you will be encouraged to develop both your solo and ensemble skills. You will also be expected to take part in at least one of the many varied ensembles that run throughout the year.

The composition unit consists of the creation of two pieces of music. One in response to a given brief, the other is a free composition.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying music at A level if you:

- enjoy playing your musical instrument and participate in extra-curricular activities
- wish to develop and deepen your understanding of music and its context
- want to explore music by creating your own compositions.

What other subjects does it complement?

Music goes well with other arts-based subjects such as English, Drama and Art. Music also goes well with Mathematics and some Sciences due to the mathematical nature of some compositions and the physics of sound – there has been extensive research into the links between musicians and mathematicians. Music can also complement ICT through the use of music technology.

Where can it lead?

Music A level would be beneficial to those seeking to develop or specialise in music at degree level. It would support those wishing to pursue Music professionally, either on a performance or compositional basis. Music A level can assist a career in teaching in institutions ranging from primary schools to higher education establishments. Other opportunities lie in music publishing, journalism, musicology, therapy and the recording industry. Music is also a well-respected qualification amongst other employers due to the individual demands and rigours of the course and the ability of musicians to work as part of an ensemble or team.

Physical Education

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mrs Little

Entry Requirements: Practically competent in one sport and a minimum of grade 6 in GCSE PE and grade 6 in Science (Biology).

What will I study?

Component 01: Physical factors affecting performance

Students gain a deeper understanding of key systems in the body and how they react to changes in diet and exercise. They also study the effects of force and motion on the body and how they can be used to our advantage.

There are three topics:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 90 marks
- 30% of the A level.

Component 02: Psychological factors affecting performance

Students study the models and theories that affect learning and performance in physical activities, how different methods of training and feedback work and why their effectiveness differs from person to person. They also explore the psychological factors that affect group dynamics and the effects of leadership and stress.

There are two topics:

- Skill acquisition
- Sports psychology.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour
- 60 marks
- 20% of the A level.

Component 03: Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport

This component focuses on the social and cultural factors that have shaped sports over time, and their influences on physical activity. Students consider the impact of hosting a global sporting event such as the Olympic Games, and the influence of modern technology on both the performer and the spectator of contemporary sport.

There are two topics:

- Sport and society
- Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour
- 60 marks
- 20% of the A level.

Practical controlled assessment

Component 04: Performance in physical education

Students are assessed in the role of either performer or coach in one practical activity. They are required to demonstrate effective performance, the use of tactics or techniques and the ability to observe the rules and conventions under applied conditions.

Students are also assessed in the Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI). They observe a live or recorded performance by a peer and provide an oral analysis and critical evaluation of their peer's performance.

How it's assessed

- Practical and oral performance
- 60 marks
- 30% of the A level.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying PE at A level if you:

- have a keen interest in sport and want to evaluate and improve your own performance
- have an enquiring mind and want to learn more about PE in social, cultural, scientific, historical and psychological areas
- are already a member of a sports club or team which supports the development of your practical performance.

What other subjects does it complement?

A level PE combines well with many subjects, most notably Biology, Dance and Psychology.

Where can it lead?

An advanced level qualification in PE is rapidly becoming an essential qualification for specialist study in PE and Sports Studies in higher education. The syllabus provides an excellent foundation for students considering careers in the biological sciences, teaching and coaching, recreational management, physiotherapy and the leisure and health and fitness industries.

Physics

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Richardson and Mr Reeves

Entry Requirements: A grade 6 in Mathematics and at least a 6 in GCSE Physics or 6-6 Science.

What will I study and how will I be assessed?

The first year course is comprised of the following topics:

Measurements and their errors

Particles and radiation

Waves

Mechanics and materials

Electricity

The first year course is assessed in two papers of 1 ½-hours, each contributing 50% of the grade and involving questions from any of the five topics. Students must also take part in six practical investigations to develop their skills and understanding of experimentation.

The second year course is comprised of the five Year 1 topics, plus:

Further mechanics and thermal physics

Fields and their consequences

Nuclear physics.

and one additional topic from the following options:

Astrophysics

Medical physics

Engineering physics

Turning points in physics

Electronics.

A level Physics is assessed in three 2-hour exams. Papers 1 and 2 have content from topics 1 to 6 and 6 to 8 respectively. Paper 3 has questions on practical experiments, data analysis and questions on the optional topic. Students take part in 12 practical investigations to develop their skills and understanding of experimentation.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying A level Physics if you:

- have enjoyed studying Science at GCSE level
- have a good mathematical ability and an eye for detail
- enjoy conducting experiments
- can think logically and apply knowledge to unfamiliar situations
- are willing to persevere with new concepts and to work hard throughout the course
- enjoy a challenge!

What other subjects does it complement?

Physics combines well with other Science subjects, Mathematics and Psychology. Combining Physics with Languages or Business Studies adds breadth for students considering degree courses such as Law. To assist the study of Physics, it is recommended that you also study Mathematics at A level, but it is not essential.

Where can it lead?

Physics leads to a wide range of courses and careers. These include Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Astrophysics, Computing and Mathematics, Radiography, Materials Science and Physics itself. Physics is also suitable for combined Arts Science degrees or other subjects such as Physics and French, Philosophy and Law. Physics is held in extremely high regard by employers and higher education institutions as it is a highly academic subject.

Psychology

Examination Board: Eduqas

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Miss Sancto, Miss Davies and Ms Lobbett

Entry Requirements: A grade 5 or above in either English Literature or a humanities subject. Students must have met the entrance requirements for the Sixth form.

What will I study?

The first year course is comprised of two components:

Component 1: Past to Present

Students study five different approaches that psychologists use to study behaviour. Each approach involves the study of classic pieces of research evidence and contemporary debate.

Component 2: Investigating behaviour

Students study the principles of research, studying how psychological investigations are carried out (including social and developmental psychology). Students carry out their own investigation to aid their understanding of research methodologies and are required to apply their knowledge to a novel scenario.

Additionally in Year 2, **component 3: Implications in the Real World** involves the study of the application of the approaches studied in component 1 to particular behaviours. Students should be able to explain and draw conclusions about the possible causes of these behaviours and understand that psychology has the potential to impact on society as a whole by developing methods of modifying behaviour. Students also explore five controversies that continue to pose challenges for psychology that draw on the content from the whole of the course.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Psychology at A level if you:

- love finding out about how the human mind works
- enjoy working independently as well as in groups
- respond well to discussion and like giving mini-presentations
- enjoy finding out what makes people do the things they do
- are well motivated and enjoy problem-solving
- are interested in a career in Psychology.

What other subjects does it complement?

Psychology complements a number of other subjects, but particularly Sociology, Biology, Mathematics and PE.

Where can it lead?

Studying Psychology can lead to a career directly related to the subject, such as a clinical psychologist, but can also prepare students wishing to enter teaching or health-related careers. The course encourages personal as well as academic development and is recognised as useful preparation for many university courses.

Religious Studies

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Ms Pamby

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in both English Language and Literature and a grade 6 in Religious Studies.

What will I study?

The A level course involves study in two areas:

Philosophy of Religion

In Philosophy of Religion we explore the ideas of great Western thinkers from the time of Plato to the present day. We consider difficult questions such as: Does suffering undermine the idea of a good God? Was Marx right to say that religion is an opiate? Which Richard will you support: Dawkins or Swinburne? Do you think that science explains everything about the world, or do poetry and art have something to contribute to human knowledge?

Religious Ethics

In Ethics we ask what it means to say something is 'good' or 'bad,' and if we can ever make useful judgements on issues such as war, abortion and euthanasia. We study the ethical theories of the great philosophers, Aristotle, Kant, Bentham and Mill, alongside gaining a greater understanding of classical Judeo-Christian ethics. In the second year we ask fundamental questions about freedom; do we have free will? Are we determined by an outside force? Has what will happen to us in life already been decided?

Developments in Religious Thought

We systematically study Christianity; this will include the exploration of religious beliefs, values, teachings and practices that shape religious identity, as well as sources of wisdom and authority. Also central are the ways in which religious traditions have developed over time, and religious responses to challenges and significant contemporary social issues.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed entirely by examination. There are three written papers each year, Philosophy of Religion, Religious Ethics and Christianity. All exams are 2 hours long.

Am I suited to this course?

Above all you need to be a person who constantly asks why and who is interested in the answers that other people give, even if you do not agree with them. Studying Religious Studies at A level gives you a deep insight into the world's major religions, allowing you to make useful contributions to debate on current affairs and ethical issues. The course does not assume religious belief and will suit people of no religious faith or someone from a faith background. It will develop individuals who can think independently, and have the skills to empathise with opposing viewpoints. Studying Philosophy and Ethics allows you to develop excellent critical-thinking skills and gain the essential essay-writing skills needed to study successfully at university.

What other subjects does it complement?

Philosophy and Ethics complements the study of History, Psychology and English. However, it is also valuable for students studying Mathematics and the Sciences. Many of the philosophers we study were contemporaries of the people who wrote the mathematical and scientific theories you will study.

Where can it lead?

An A level in Religious Studies is excellent preparation for a university degree in Philosophy or Theology. It is a highly regarded discipline at the top 10 universities, and is considered hugely beneficial when applying to study law, politics or medicine.

Sociology

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Miss Sancto

Entry Requirements: A grade 5 or above in either English Literature or a humanities subject. Students must have met the entrance requirements for the Sixth Form.

What will I study?

Sociology is the study of human societies, in all sorts of contexts. It is a very broad discipline. It is classed as a social science. In Sociology there are a lot of theories that you have to learn and understand. You also have to learn how to apply them and criticise them. Once the main theories are understood (Feminist, Marxist, Functionalist, New Right, etc.) we apply them to the different topics. You will also study different ways of doing research and how to analyse results. You will look at advertisements and news stories in a completely new way! It is a very interesting subject and a lot of the theories and studies do have a common-sense factor behind them. Sociology is a mainly essay-based subject so be expected to write many, although they do not always have to be very long. You will also be expected to do your own research and keep up to date with current affairs.

The first year course is comprised of two units:

Unit 1: Families and Households

This unit examines the role of the family in society and examines how family life has changed over the past century.

Unit 2: Education and Sociological Methods

This unit looks at the purpose of education and examines the factors that contribute to the academic success of a student.

The second year course is also comprised of two units:

Unit 3: Beliefs in Society

This unit looks at the role of religion and sects and cults in society.

Unit 4: Crime and Deviance

This unit examines reasons why people are deviant and commit crimes.

How will I be assessed?

There are two unit examinations in Year 12 which are externally assessed, with a paper on each of the topics. In Year 13 there are also two externally assessed unit examinations.

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Sociology at A level if you:

- have an interest in people and the way we are shaped by the world around us
- have an interest in how societies change and develop over time
- are willing to take on board new ideas and ways of thinking
- want to develop the way you organise and present information, ideas and arguments
- want to find out how society works
- enjoy testing theories to find out if they are true.

What other subjects does it complement?

Sociology complements a number of other subjects, but particularly History, Psychology, Film Studies, Geography and the Natural Sciences.

Where can it lead?

Sociology is an essential part of many higher education courses including Law, Medicine, Social Work, Criminology, Health and Social Care and Teacher Training. It provides a good background for careers in publishing, civil service, law, education and social work.

Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Mr Cordle and Miss Hassell

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish.

Students should have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired at the Higher Tier of entry at GCSE.

What will I study?

The A level course is comprised of three papers.

Each unit covers a wide range of topics and subtopics on the following themes:

- social issues and trends (modern and traditional values, cyberspace, equal rights, etc.)
- political and artistic culture in the Hispanic world (modern day idols, Spanish regional identity, cultural heritage or cultural landscape, etc.).

Students will also study one literary text and one film in Spanish. You will have the opportunity to go on an educational and cultural trip to Salamanca to further develop your language skills and broaden your cultural experiences.

The A level course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It fosters a range of transferable skills, including communication, critical thinking and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. Students will develop their understanding of themes relating to the society and culture of the countries where Spanish is spoken. They will do so by using authentic spoken and written sources in Spanish.

How will I be assessed?

The final exam will consist of three papers.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (50% of A level)

Paper 2: Writing (20% of A level)

Paper 3: Speaking (30% of A level)

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well-suited to studying Spanish at A level if you:

- enjoy languages and want to develop your skills in a range of contexts
- are interested in Spain and Spanish-speaking cultures and societies
- are willing to develop your opinions on personal, national and international issues
- are willing to work hard to learn grammatical structures and new vocabulary
- are aiming for an international career
- would like to develop your knowledge of foreign literature and film.

What other subjects does it complement?

Spanish links well with almost any subject as you will study a wide range of life experiences from a Spanish point of view. Other languages will also complement the study of Spanish, as linguistic skills are highly transferable. A language can also be incredibly useful if applying for any other university or professional field where verbal and written skills are paramount, e.g. Law, Politics, History, English, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology.

Where can it lead?

A level Spanish will provide an excellent qualification from which to proceed to higher education. Languages can be studied at university in combination with many other subjects. Linguists are in high demand in the business world, and many other career paths value language skills highly.

Oldfield Sixth Form Application Form

Application for entry in September 2022 - Please fill in all fields unless specified

Name:

Address:

Date of birth:

Telephone no.:

Email:

Parent/carer tel:

Parent/carer email:

Current school:

or tutor group if currently at Oldfield School

Preference	Course/subject name
A level Choice 1
A level Choice 2
A level Choice 3
Oldfield Offer Choice (chose one of the 4 options below):	
.....	
Core Maths, Further Maths, Extended Project Qualification; Sports Leadership	

Future career or
Higher Education
aspiration (if known)*

Interests, Hobbies
and Activities*



I accept that my final choice is subject to timetable constraints and my attainment at GCSE.

Signature of student:

Signature of parent:

Date:

Duplicate forms available from Mr Nash at Oldfield School.

Please return this completed form by **17th December 2021**
to: Mr Nash, Oldfield School, Kelston Road, Bath BA1 9AB





OLDFIELD SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM

