



SIXTH FORM

PROSPECTUS 2020-22

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Mr Christoforou

Headteacher

Firstly, I would like to thank you for considering Abbey College Sixth Form. Over the last few years, our A Level and BTEC results have meant we consistently ranked among the best sixth forms in Cambridgeshire, outdoing many private schools. The number of our students gaining entrance to universities remains at a high level and 2019 saw a significant number of our students attend the prestigious Russell Group of Universities.

The first step in achieving these high results is choosing the right courses for you. Before you choose the courses you'd like to study from those outlined in the following pages of this prospectus there are a number of important things I would like you to consider:

- What are the academic requirements of my future career?
- Have I the ability to work at my chosen level in these subjects?
- Have I sought adequate careers advice and spoken to my subject teachers about my long term prospects?
- Have I the appropriate entry qualifications to embark on the course of my choice?
- Do I prefer to be assessed via coursework or tests or both?

It is no secret that Post 16 study can be challenging and that you will have to work hard to achieve your potential. This will now involve greater freedom and working independently which may at times require you to organise your own learning. Though this may be challenging for some, the rewards will be great and those who respond successfully to these demands will emerge not only as well-qualified students, but as more mature persons, ready to accept responsibilities as adults and go into the next steps of their life.



However, we recognise there is more to life than study and the College offers an enrichment programme that will fit in alongside your studies. As part of this, you will engage with local businesses, creating important networks and gaining invaluable experience.

You will also be expected to be a responsible role models to younger students at the College and to play a leading role in the school community through helping younger students with paired reading, acting as student mentors, Senior Prefects or participating in various school 'activities', and also with the wider community through charitable enterprises and volunteering.

Most importantly, the main thing I would like you to take away from today is our promise to you. If you work hard and show commitment to your study, we will provide you with a caring and supportive atmosphere from which you will be able to not only reach your highest levels of achievement, but also emerge a well-rounded individual. You will be equipped, physically, intellectually, morally and socially to meet with confidence the ever-changing demands of the modern world.

40%

of students achieved
A*-A grades in 2019

78%

of students achieved
A*-C grades in 2019

Sixth *form* leaders message

Abbey College provides an extensive range of new opportunities both in and out of academia. In Sixth Form we provide a vast range of subjects by our passionate and specialist teachers, with a large range of support staff to help with every need, and therefore Abbey College Sixth Form students feel supported from their first day of Sixth Form right through to their last. With updated ICT facilities within the Sixth Form Hub to aid learning.

Abbey College Sixth Form is well equipped with new and improved resources. We also have Café 6 available for us to use as somewhere to go to relax and get hot food every day.

There are a large number of leadership opportunities available within the Sixth Form providing students with the chance to leave their legacy and get involved in the running of Sixth Form.

We are constantly getting involved within the school to improve the success and progression of Abbey College and to provide an experience for all students that will be enjoyed from beginning to end. The Sixth form leadership team feel that it is vital to make life better and to represent the many voices within the school.



“ Teaching in the sixth form is consistently good across the range of courses provided. Teachers match activities to the abilities of students and provide insightful, detailed guidance on how to improve.”

Ofsted 2018

Entry Requirements

All students who wish to join Abbey College Sixth form must meet a minimum entry requirement of five GCSE grades 4-9.

Students need to achieve a grade 6 or higher to be able to complete an A level in that subject (or related subject for those courses where we do not run a GCSE). Grades 4-6 may be accepted for entry into BTEC level 3 qualifications (equivalent to A level).

If you haven't achieved a level 4 or better in GCSE English and/ or Mathematics will have to retake these subjects.

Students are offered places on the basis of their predicted grades. If you achieve better GCSE grades than anticipated, then you may be able to review the subject package offered to you. Conversely, if your GCSE grades are lower than anticipated then you must arrange a meeting with either the Deputy or Head of Sixth Form before the start of the Autumn term in September.

On results day or before the start of the term you must also confirm the acceptance of your place at Abbey College so that timetables and form groups can be completed before you start back at school.

When completing the application/subject choice form, please add three subject choices and one reserve choice.



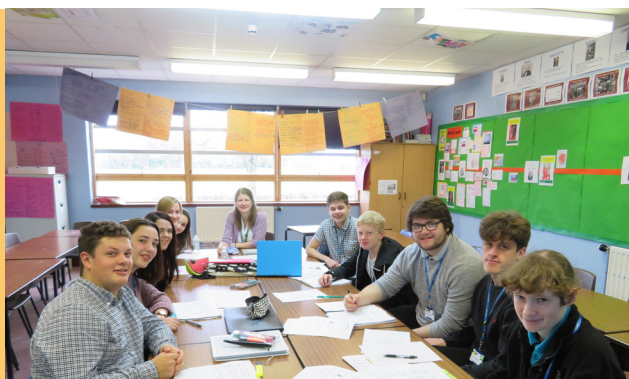
“ The best thing about Sixth Form at Abbey College is the independence; you are allowed to work at your own pace to a style that suits you.”

Student quote

| | November | December | February | April | May/June | August | September |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| External applicants | Open evening | Application hand in | Sixth form interviews | Conditional offers made to students | GCSE Examinations | GCSE results & guidance | Start at sixth form |
| Abbey College Year 11 | “ | Subject choice form in | Guidance discussion | “ | “ | “ | “ |

Sixth Form Day

Facilities/committees/societies



We offer a variety of Level 3 subjects, both A levels and BTECs, within our eight subject faculties: The Arts, Business, Humanities, Linguistics, Mathematics, Science, Social Science & Sport.

Extended study hours

Sixth form students are required to work in their study time to support and enrich the learning in the classroom. Students will need to research and prepare for their lessons as well as complete practice papers, extended essays and specific subject tasks. In addition to this, sixth form students, should also be completing independent study; in year 12 students should spend approximately 20 hours per week on independent study, this should rise to 30 hours for students in year 13.

Free Time

Year 12 students may leave the school site during break and lunch times after October half term if they have met specific targets and there are no attendance concerns. Students must sign out and in again using the vericool scanner in the 6th form Hub.



Sixth Form Identification

All sixth form students must wear a lanyard at all times whilst on the school site. This identifies students as members of the sixth form and is part of our safeguarding procedures.

Sixth Form Study agreement

All sixth formers sign a contract at the beginning of their time at Abbey College, agreeing to maintain an excellent work ethic and attendance to all timetabled events. Reneging on this agreement could mean that a student is required to find alternative provision.

Committees

Every student is given opportunities to flourish and be part of a wide program of enrichment and leadership opportunities. These include a wide range of 6th form led student committees, such as; debating, newspaper, leadership roles, fundraising, wellbeing, HIP ambassadors (anti-bullying), climate change, ball, chess, science and 6th form magazine.

Facilities

Sixth form students have exclusive access to our Sixth form hub; this includes two IT suites, an art studio, student lounge, a quiet study room and collaborative working area. Sixth Form students also have exclusive access to Cafe6 which serves a variety of drinks & snacks throughout the day and has free Wi-Fi for students to access.



Involvement *in* the Community



Sixth form students are encouraged to get involved in the community, this can be through supporting the main school; taking part in learning walks with senior staff, working with students in lessons through the subject ambassador committee or working with Prefects or students within the different houses via the House Captains. Students are also encouraged to work with the wider community; volunteering, organising events, fundraising or supporting the community.

Sixth Form students are involved in a range of fundraising events that they organise and run. The Sixth Form Students have supported a range of different charities, these include; Multiple Sclerosis Trust, Macmillan, Children in Need and Teenage Cancer Trust.

The Personal Development Portfolio

One of the most important success measures for any Sixth Form student is achieving the necessary entry requirements for post 18 provisions, be that college or university entry, essential elements for applications to an apprenticeships, a work based placement or a full time job. However, academic results alone won't ensure success in selection processes, higher level study and an ensuing career. Here, the ability to demonstrate

softer virtues will come to the fore; Humility, Intuition and Passion. The Abbey College Sixth Form's Personal Development Portfolio (PDP) encourages students to participate in activities, in and out of college which demonstrate these virtues, thus providing a framework through which all Sixth Form students can plan for and then produce their best possible UCAS application and guarantee their future outcomes.

“ Being part of Abbey College Sixth Form is about more than lessons, there are so many ways to get involved, there is something for everyone.”

Student quote

Fine Art

TEACHERS

Mrs Wibberley
Mrs Gerrard-Cook

Why this course?

This course will develop both your practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of materials, processes and technologies. You will learn about influences and inspiration for the work of artists and art movements and how to use this knowledge to create your own work.

Fine Art: Focuses on the disciplines of painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture and lens based image making.

Types of learner

You will succeed on this course if you are creative, artistic and you are able to work independently to research and develop your ideas. You need to enjoy the subject and ideally have completed a GCSE Art course (minimum grade 6 or above).

Further career paths

The A level course can lead to a variety of Art based courses and careers. Students can go onto study Art Foundation before taking an Art related degree, or go straight to University depending on the course.

Careers: Interior Design, Artist, Textile Design, Graphic Design or Teacher.

Yearly events

Gallery visits to London at least once a year.

Exam Board

WJEC

“ It is a chance to express yourself and be creative where you lead the direction of your work. You are able to inspire other students within the school by getting involved and showing them your work.”

Student quote



Biology

TEACHERS

Mrs Phillips
Mrs Craig

Why this course?

A well respected course accepted by many top universities for undergraduate courses in biology, health and sport related fields. It is a concept led scheme which anchors key biological concepts in real life situations making complex ideas easier to understand.

The course is organised into topics to provide students with the knowledge of real world biology and equip them with practical experience. Students will learn about subjects ranging from biological molecules, to infection and immunity, the heart and genetics.

You will study eight topics, four for AS and four for A2. Each takes about half a term of study, including the practical work. This leaves you enough time to do the coursework and to revise for the exams. There is a sequence of core practical work that you will complete in class and then be assessed on in a final exam. They will build your lab skills and ability to analyse data and present conclusions. You will learn how to successfully apply statistical analysis to your data to prove or refute it's validity in supporting the hypothesis.

Students who study Biology at A level can go onto university to study a Biology degree, however there are a variety of degrees such as Teaching, Nursing, Sport studies, Medicine, Veterinary science, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Environmental science, Crop science, and Waste Management that require a Biology A level too.

Types of learner

Organised, hardworking students who are resourceful and self-motivated and who also have a high level of interest in the study of living organisms, ecosystems or health related fields.

Further career paths

Careers in the National Health Service or in private healthcare. Graduate positions in agriculture,



horticulture, brewing and food science. Roles within the pharmaceutical industry from analysis to sales positions. Teaching across all age groups from Nursery to University lecturing, both in schools and in outreach or liaison positions for museums, theme parks and outdoor education providers.

“ Biology is my favourite, I just love learning about how living things work.”

Student quote

Business Studies BTEC

TEACHERS
Mr Thompson
Mr Pearmain

Why this course?

The course will develop your knowledge and understanding about a range of Business topics. You will learn about the theory behind a number of key business topics such as Marketing, Finance and Human Resource Management. Throughout the duration of the course you will complete exams and will produce a number of controlled assignments to demonstrate your understanding of how the theory relates to real business situations. It is expected that you will be able to work independently to produce work by the deadlines set.

Types of learner

You will succeed on this course if you are able to work independently to research how the theory relates to the activities of real businesses. If you are organised and work well to deadlines then this could be the subject for you. You do not need to have studied Business previously but if you have taken a Business BTEC previously it would be expected that you have achieved at least your OE to progress on to a Level 3 course.

Yearly events

Visits to local businesses, New York and London.

Specification

BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Business Single (1) and Diploma (2 A Level) equivalent available (please specify on entry form).

Further career paths

BTEC courses are accepted alongside A Levels for University applications as well as employers as an indication that you can work to deadlines. It can lead on to a variety of Business based courses and careers.

Business careers include: Accounting, Management, Law, Retail and Events Management.



“ I’ve enjoyed it to a great extent and I have honestly found my true passion.”

Student quote

Chemistry

TEACHERS
Mrs Batchford
Ms Mashonganyika

Why this course?

A well respected course accepted by many top universities for undergraduate courses in chemistry, material sciences and pharmaceutical related studies. This advanced level chemistry course, offers an exciting, context based approach to studying chemistry. The course is currently followed by over 17000 students across the United Kingdom. In order to access the necessary chemistry content students are introduced to chemical content through what are called Chemical Storylines. The Chemical Storylines cover a wide range of contexts, from art restoration to drug synthesis, from the use of alternative fuels to the formation of the universe. This context – led approach makes it easier for students to anchor key chemistry ideas in real-life situations. The course has been planned so that student understanding of chemical concepts develops gradually, giving them the chance to consolidate thinking before moving on to more advanced aspects of that concept.

“ Life is chemistry; dilute your sorrow, evaporate your worries, filter your mistakes, boil your ego: you will get the crystal of happiness.”

Aspirational quote

Types of learner

Organised, hardworking students who are resourceful and self-motivated and who also have a high level of interest in the study of chemical properties and reactions.

Yearly events

Schools analyst competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Specification

Specification – change to Chemistry A (OCR)

Further career paths

In addition to a pure Chemistry degree A level chemistry will enable you to study other University degree courses such as Forensic science, Pharmacy, Material science, Geology and Chemical engineering



“ I like chemistry as it is challenging and interesting at the same time, it makes you think!”

Student quote

Computer Science

TEACHERS
Mr Thompson

Why this course?

Advances in computing are transforming the way we work, study and communicate. Computing is part of everything we do. Technology is part of just about everything that touches our lives from the cars we drive, to the movies we watch, to the ways businesses and governments deal with us. Whether you want to be a scientist, develop the latest killer application, or just know what it means when someone says “the computer made a mistake”, studying computing will provide you with this valuable knowledge.

The course will develop your knowledge and understanding about a range of computing topics which will prepare you to solve complex and challenging tasks. You will explore the logical and structured ways that computer systems process data to develop programs, processes and systems that solve specific problems. You will examine the features of effective computer programming and apply accepted computing and programming paradigms. You will explore the principles that underpin any computer system. You will examine the relationships between hardware and software within computer systems, and the factors and implications involved in selecting and using different types of hardware and software to build a computer system. You will explore the theory of computation, the fundamentals of communication and networking. This will give you in insight to the consequences of uses of computing and the fundamentals of databases. Finally, the other key area we will focus on will be project based software development where students will be designing a software to meet the identified requirements for a given client.

Types of learner

You will succeed on this course if you can work independently to research how the theory relates to practical implementation. In addition to this you will also need to carry out a set of tasks outside of lessons to develop and enhance your skills. You need to be passionate about technology and have a desire to solve problems. A big part of the course will cover problem-solving skills, creating algorithms and programming. This means you will need to use some Maths and have



patience when things are not working. If you are organised and consistently meet deadlines, then this could be the subject for you. You do not need to have studied Computer Science previously but if you have taken a GCSE in this field previously, it would be expected that you have achieved at least a Grade 6 or above to progress onto the A-level course.

Specification

AQA Advanced Level GCE in Computer Science (7517)
A-level Equivalent: (1)

Further career paths

The AQA A-Level Computer Science is recognised by many universities. They indicate that you can work to deadlines, have a sound knowledge of theory of computation and how it is put to practise. It can lead on to a variety of Computing based courses and careers.

Computing or other related careers include: Service desk analyst, SQL database administrator, network engineer, software developer, web developer and computer systems and design.

Core Maths

TEACHERS
Mrs Oswell
Mr Sivakumar

Why this course?

Core Maths is the new Level 3 qualification for students who achieved at least a Grade 4 (formerly a Grade C) at GCSE mathematics and wish to develop their practical skills so they may apply these in work, study or everyday life.

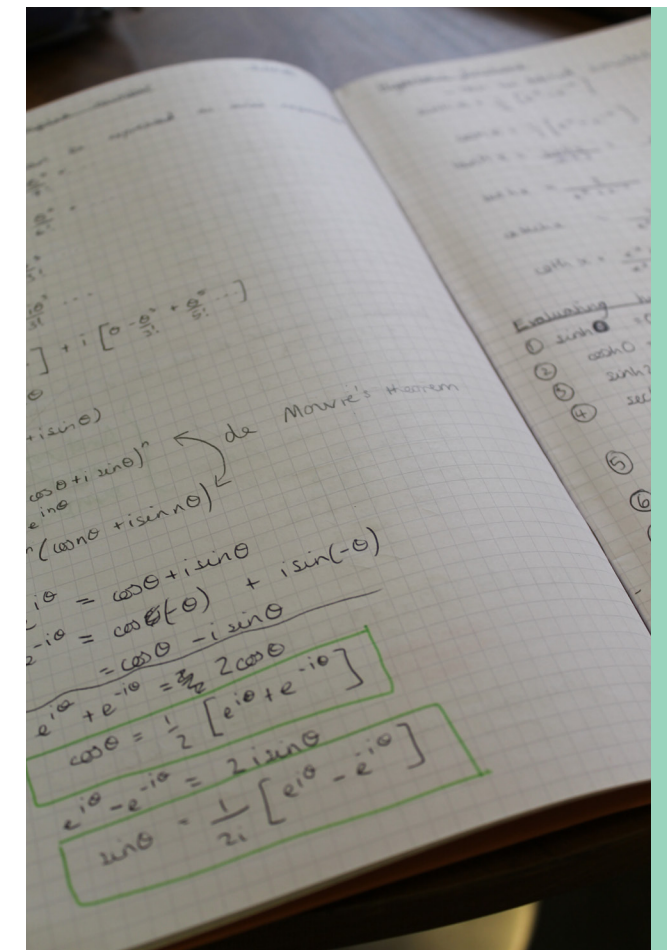
According to the Higher Education STEM project, many students arrive at university with unrealistic expectations of the mathematical and statistical demands of their subjects, leading to a lack of confidence and anxiety by the students.

Mathematics is, inherently, a sequential subject. There is a progression of material through all levels at which the subject is studied. It is assumed that students will already have confidence and competence in the content presented within GCSE mathematics criteria and will make use of elements of this content when addressing problems within this qualification. This Level 3 Certificate specification aims to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in GCSE mathematics.

Core Maths is about students doing meaningful mathematical problems to increase their confidence in using mathematics to be better equipped for the mathematical demands of other courses, higher education and employment.

Designed to maintain and develop real-life mathematics skills, what students study can be applied on a day-to-day basis whether in further study or employment. This course will include a financial mathematics element and can help with other A level subjects, including science, geography, business studies, economics and psychology.

The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education. Most students who study mathematics after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning potential.



Several universities have come out in strong support of Core Maths. Employers from a range of sectors are also firmly behind the qualification. Many roles in the workplace require high levels of budget management and problem-solving skills and Core Maths will be a useful tool in equipping you with these skills. The course requires two hours of teaching per fortnight and runs for two years.

Specification

AQA certificate Level 3 Mathematical Studies (1350)

Drama *and* Theatre

TEACHERS
Ms Davey

Why this course?

A-level Drama and Theatre is for students who enjoy reading, watching plays, and taking part in them, whether performing, directing or designing sets and costumes. It offers students the freedom to choose both the content and the form of their practical presentations.

“To enter a theatre for a performance is to be inducted into a magical space, to be ushered into the sacred arena of the imagination.”

Simon Callow

Types of learner

The types of learner that would suit this course are those with a passion for drama and theatre. They should be interested in the topics mentioned above, be organised in their learning. It is also essential they have a grade 6 or above in Drama and 4 or above in English. However, most importantly they must enjoy performing.

Yearly events

Student conference and visit to plays locally and nationally.

Specification

AQA A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Further career paths

Career opportunities for students who study A-level Drama and Theatre Studies include: Arts/theatre administration, journalism, director, actor, designer, playwright, stage management, Theatre Management, Theatrical Agent, Technician, Broadcasting, Media Presenting, Education, Politics, Drama Therapy and Scriptwriting.



“ A level Drama & Theatre Studies was the most comprehensive and rounded A level that I studied. If you work hard, it constantly rewards you and will continue to do so even when you leave.”

Student quote

Economics

TEACHERS
Mr Thompson
Mr Pearmain

Why this course?

A course that will help to demonstrate how economics is truly all around us, present in almost every aspect of our lives. Studying the subject gives students a generalist understanding of the world we live in and its inner workings. Students learn everything from what determines the price of goods and services to why the average standards of living vary so widely within and between countries. Students will be able to apply their knowledge to current issues and prepare to undertake 2 exams in year 13.

“Economics has allowed me to understand why governments have to make particular decisions and has helped me to decide to continue to study this subject at University”

Student Quote

Types of learner

Students who have an interest in the real world. They should be passionate when hearing about current affairs such as Brexit and how these decisions can impact the economy in the short term and long term. Students should have a good understanding of Maths and be achieving a grade 6 as a minimum. Being able to interpret data is essential for the course.

Yearly events

Bank of England 2.0, Young Enterprise, Student Investor and The Share Centre Challenge are offered at least every 2 years.
Visits and talks with businesses throughout the year.
Visits to London Bank of England, New York trip and Alton Towers.

Specification

???

Exam Board: Edexcel



Further career paths

Higher education, variety of careers

Economics careers include:

- Economist
- Financial risk analyst
- Data analyst
- Financial planner
- Accountant
- Economic researcher
- Financial consultant
- Investment analyst
- Banking
- Politics

Engineering BTEC

TEACHERS
Mr Austin

Why this course?

Engineering is the most diverse career path in the world – from designing bridges to space travel, medical apparatus to racing cars: engineers are working in every industry as the driving force to develop new technology.

“Engineering allows students to develop their independent learning abilities, preparing themselves for university and/or work.”

Aspirational quote

Types of learner

You will succeed on this course if you have good Design and Make skills and you are able to work independently to research and develop your ideas. You will also need good people skills since you will be linked to an Engineer throughout your course. You need to enjoy the subject and ideally have completed a BTEC Engineering Level 2 course, but not essential.

Yearly events

Regular work experience to learn the role of the Engineer along with guest speakers.

Specification

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 BTEC National Diploma
EXTENDED CERTIFICATE in Engineering
(QAN 601/7584/9)

Course content: 3 MANDATORY UNITS

Unit 1 – Engineering Principles (120 GLH) H

Unit 2 – Delivery of Engineering Processes Safely as a Team (60 GLH) H

Unit 3 – Engineering Product Design and Manufacture (120 GLH)

Optional Unit

Unit 44 – Manufacturing Secondary Machining Processes (60GLH)



Further career paths

For prospective University students aiming to study engineering, certain Universities may require other subjects to accompany A Level Engineering.

- A level Engineering to BTEC is also a Pathway to obtaining engineering higher apprenticeships.
- A level Engineering to BTEC also provides students with transferable skills, useful in the working world.

“Studying Engineering has developed my ability to carry out practical processes as well as the theoretical aspects. It has challenged me in several aspects of learning which I have found enjoyable and fun. I am currently working with Nene Valley Gliding club on a winch project.”

Student quote

English Literature

TEACHERS
Mr Deighton
Miss Lane

Why this course?

Studying how a text functions as a self-contained piece of writing, a thorough analysis involving studying the historical background of the text, or its relationship to the society of the author; placing it within a tradition, whether a formal tradition (e.g. dramatic tragedy) or a historical or thematic tradition (e.g. Victorian supernaturalism; women's liberation) and applying critical models, known as literary theory, to the text that you're studying. Literary theory includes, for example, postcolonial and feminist models of how literature can reveal or conceal power relationships.

“Life without literature is a life reduced to poverty. It expands you in every way. It illuminates what you're doing. It shows you possibilities you haven't thought of. It broadens you, it makes you more human, enriching your life.”

Aspirational quote

Types of learner

Successful learners have a love of reading, and read around the subject. They are analytical and extremely well organised.

Yearly events

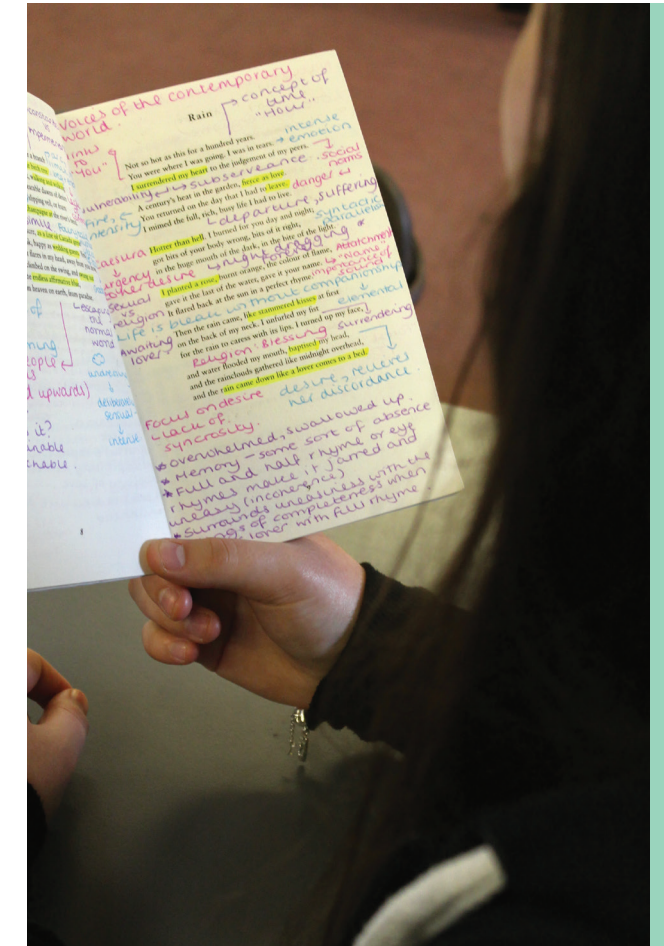
We attend several yearly trips such as University lectures, Theatre trips, cinema trips and gothic walks.

Specification

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE.

Further career paths

Careers that follow on from this course can be Law, journalism, media, publishing, teaching, advertising, marketing and PR, police, armed forces, business, accounting and finance.



Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or higher in GCSE English Language and English Literature

“English Literature helps you discover your identity as a reader and voice as a critic.”

Student quote

English Language

TEACHERS
Mr Deighton
Miss Lane

Why this course?

Students study language in various contexts including: audience, purpose, subject matter, genre and its wider social, geographical and temporal contexts. They develop skills to analyse and understand how ideas about language are created and see how language and social values are connected.

“Language has no independent existence apart from the people who use it. It is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end of understanding who you are and what society is like.”

Aspirational quote, David Crystal

Course information

Component 1: Language Variation

Students will explore:

- how language varies depending on mode, field, function and audience
- how language choices can create personal identities
- language variation in English from 1550 (the beginnings of Early Modern English)

Component 2: Child Language

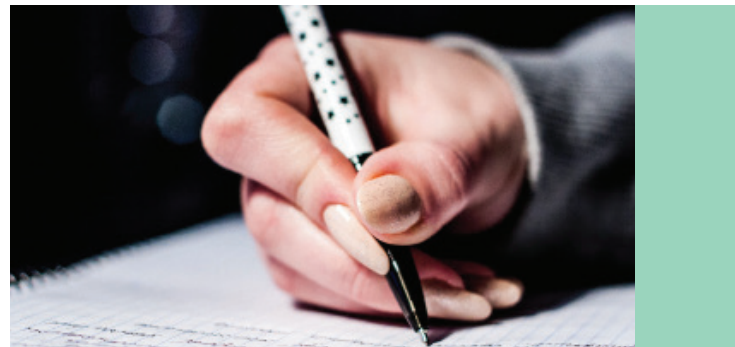
Students will explore:

- spoken language acquisition and how children learn to write between the ages of 0 and 8
- the relationship between spoken language acquisition and literacy skills that children are taught, including the beginnings of reading
- appropriate theories of children’s language development.

Component 3: Investigating Language

Students will:

- select a research focus from five topic areas
- develop their research and investigation skills
- undertake a focused investigation
- apply their knowledge of language levels and key language concepts developed through the whole course
- develop their personal language specialism.



Coursework: Crafting Language

Students will:

- research a selected genre
- demonstrate their skills as writers within their selected genre, crafting texts for different audiences and/or purposes
- reflect on their research and writing in an accompanying commentary.

Yearly events

London Library and University Lectures.

Specification

A Level English Language

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE.

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or Higher in GCSE English Language.

Further career paths

This specification is a good building block for higher education courses and careers in journalism, marketing, publishing, drama, academia, linguistics and new media.

Types of learner

Successful learners have a love of reading, and read around the subject. They are analytical and extremely well organised.

Further career paths

This specification is a good building block for higher education courses and careers in journalism, marketing, publishing, drama, academia, linguistics and new media.

French

TEACHERS
Mme Maldé-Kara
Mme Stevenson

Why this course?

Being able to speak, write and understand French at a high level can give you the edge in a global workforce. The exam board we use is AQA, which covers a variety of relevant contemporary issues such as media, popular culture, healthy living, family relationships, the environment, multicultural society and contemporary social issues. In addition we study two cultural topics in depth at A level. These cultural topics include literary texts, a study of a city or region in the French speaking world, the study of the works of a French speaking artist, architect and musician. Because the numbers taking modern languages at A level tend to be small, you will be taught by a combination of small group work with a specialist teacher at Abbey College and support from a bought in online course provided by Oxford Open Learning.

“In learning French you get out of it what you put in – and a lot more besides!”

Aspirational quote

Types of learner

Disciplined, independent learners with a thirst for knowledge, a love of the country and a good eye for detail. You must be prepared to learn at least twenty new words or phrases a day for every day of your course as well as getting to grips with complex grammar.

Yearly events

Guest speaker to talk about languages at Univeristy.

Specification

AQA French A-Level (7652).

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or higher in GCSE French.



Further career paths

Aside from translating, interpreting and other language based careers, many employers are looking for graduates with an extra, extremely marketable skill such as a modern foreign language. You can also study French alongside a wide variety of other subjects at university.

“ Studying French at A2 really took me out of my comfort zone; it forced me to communicate in spoken and written French on lots of subjects. It has definitely made me more confident.”

Student quote

Further Mathematics

TEACHERS
Dr Oswell
Mr Sivakumar

Why this course?

A-level Further Mathematics is designed to broaden and deepen the mathematical knowledge and skills developed when studying A-level Mathematics. It may be studied alongside or after taking A level Mathematics and provides a stimulating experience for those who enjoy the subject. The further maths units build upon the techniques in algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus developed from the A-level units as well as introducing topics such as complex numbers, matrices, proof, hyperbolic functions, polar coordinates and differential equations. Mathematical applications make up the remainder of the qualification and the options are chosen by the students based on their preferences to the A-level application units.

"It needs to be smooth, like the Loch Ness monster."
Aspirational quote, Dr Oswell

Types of learner

You will succeed on this course if you are a very able mathematician who is rigorous and determined to succeed with every maths problem presented to you. Successful students are reflective learners who can analyse their errors and find new ways of tackling problems. They are highly creative and can absorb new concepts and then apply their knowledge creatively and collaboratively. Successful candidates are aspirant and will already be studying GCSE Further Maths.

Yearly events

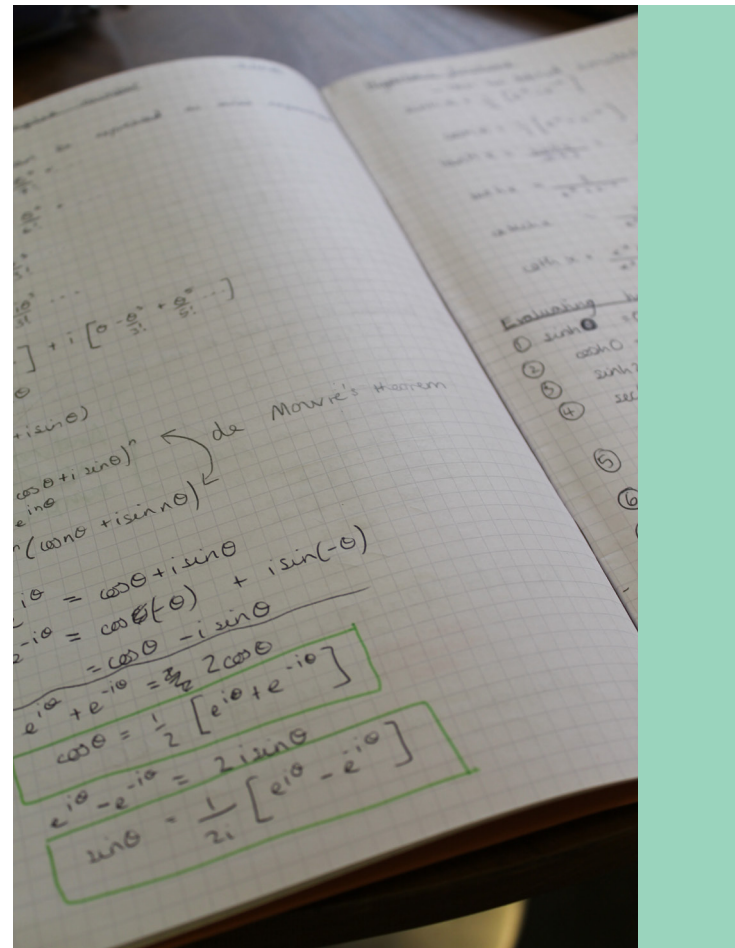
Maths Challenge

Specification

AQA A level Further Mathematics (7367)

Further career paths

Studying both A-level Mathematics and A-level Further Mathematics provides a foundation for further studies in any Science or Maths-based course, ranging from Computer Science, Medical Sciences, and Psychology to management and mechanical and other maths based engineering courses.



" Maths is incredibly challenging yet very satisfying when you get it right."

" Maths is awesome, fun and challenging. This is a great experience for all to enjoy."

Student quotes

Geography

TEACHERS
Mr Wright
Ms Sharpley

Why this course?

The topics we study as Geographers are varied, relevant, challenging and exciting. The skills developed serve Geographers well in aspects of later life. It considers the physical and human influences on the shape and style of our world.

"Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?"

Michael Palin (2007)

Types of learner

Geography is a very visual subject and involves a broad range of skills in understanding and applying the concepts learnt. Due to the multi-dimensional nature of the subject, information is gathered and interpreted in different ways. These range from describing, exploring, annotating, and evaluating secondary information to gathering and interpreting primary data from fieldwork trips in order to make sense of the world. All students can access geography and those who are flexible, multi-skilled and adaptable will flourish.

Course units

Human Geography: Changing places, Global systems and governance, Population and the environment. Physical Geography: Glacial landscapes, Hazards, Water and carbon cycles.

Learning outside the classroom

Geography provides the opportunity to learn outside the classroom and a compulsory part of the A level course is at least four days of fieldwork. From 2018, we are taking the opportunity to explore the local area through a number of day trips out in the school minibus, providing us with greater flexibility and direction. These trips will be subsidised by the Geography department and include examining flood risk and management, exploring the character of local places, visiting local cities such as Cambridge and comparing them to more distant ones such as Milton Keynes. On top of this, we will travel to the



Norfolk coastline to familiarise ourselves with coastal landscapes and human interactions as well as at least 1 visit to London to gain perspective on a large-scale urban environment. Alongside these local compulsory elements there is a bi-annual trip to Italy with the History department. On the trip, will be exploring Rome and Naples, visiting Mount Vesuvius and Solfatara.

Specification

AQA A level Geography

Further career paths

Geography A level students and graduates are seen as highly employable due to the range of transferrable skills developed. There are many University courses that are based around Geography, and Russell Group Universities consider it a facilitating subject. The close link between the subject and the world makes for a long and varied list of related careers.

" I believe that I made a very good choice in studying Geography. I enjoy both the human and physical sides of the subject very much. I find the wonders of the world fascinating and in Geography you discover how they all work, making it a great subject to study."

Year 13 student

Government and Politics

TEACHERS
Mrs Blood

Why study politics?

Government and Politics is a fantastic A-Level that has shown us just how great an influence Politics has on us and has broken the illusion that we are disconnected from it. Aside from the huge benefits that this course brings with it in terms of an understanding of events that are happening around us, here are some further reasons to study Politics.

- Politics Helps You to Know Your Rights
- Politics Clarifies What You Yourself Believe
- Politics is a Living, Breathing Subject
- Politics Prepares You for Adult Life

A degree in politics prepares students for many forms of employment as well as further study. You will gain many analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication and IT, all of which are invaluable in today's employment market. Politics courses constantly update their teaching methods to meet the changing political landscape which means that with politics you will learn, literally, something new every day.

"This course is challenging, engaging and fun and really important as politics affects every part of our lives. It's tough but there is plenty of laughter once you realize there is often nothing more amusing than the comments politicians make in all seriousness; you really couldn't write funnier jokes. Young people have opinions they just need a forum for understanding them and what to do about them."

Aspirational quote

Types of learner

You will succeed on this course if you are hardworking and can keep up with current affairs.

Yearly events

Trip to Parliament and a Peer visit.



Specification

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics (9PLO)

Course requirements

There is no prerequisite but a B/6 at GCSE English is preferred as the course is writing intensive.

Further career paths

This qualification supports progression into further education such as honours degrees in Politics or Political science, or honours degrees in related subjects such as History, Geography, Economics, International Relations and Social Policy. This qualification may also support progression to vocational qualifications such as the Level 5 BTEC Higher National Certificate/Diploma in Public Services or the Level 5 BTEC Higher National Certificate/Diploma in Media (Journalism).

Future Career Paths may include: Civil Service; Government; Politician's assistant; Public Affairs/ Relations consultant; Diplomatic Corps; Journalist.

Health and Social Care BTEC

TEACHERS
Mrs V Sims

Why this course?

This course aims to:

- Develop and sustain an interest in health, early-years care, education, social care and issues affecting the care sector
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of health, early-years care, education and issues affecting the health and social care sector
- Develop skills that will enable them to make an effective contribution to the care sector including skills of research, evaluation and problem-solving in a work related context
- Apply knowledge, understanding and skills
- Prepare for further study and training.

"This is a great hands on course teaching you skills as well as knowledge that can be used in all areas of the health and social care sector."

Aspirational quote

Types of learner

You will succeed on this course if you are interested in the Health and Social care sector and like a holistic learning experience; which gives the opportunity to engage local employers, and the possibility of work experience. You need to enjoy the subject and ideally have completed a BTEC health and social course, but this is not essential.

Yearly events

Some components of this course will require you to have involvement with employers within the health and social care sector.

Specification

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Health and Social Care.

Further career paths

This course can lead on to a variety of health and social care based courses and careers. Students may choose to go directly into work and train on the job through an apprenticeship or other on the job training and gain vocational qualifications or could go directly to university



to study in particular areas. Health and social care careers include: Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedics, Doctor, Nursery worker, Health visitor, Social worker, psychologist or anaesthetist.

"Studying Health and Social Care has helped me to communicate with people in the wider community and will help me to fulfil my dreams of becoming a social worker."

"I am hoping to go on to university to study and be a paramedic, studying Health and Social Care has helped me with this as I have learnt a lot about my communication skills, health related issues and providing clients with quality care."

Student quotes

History

TEACHERS

Mr Mather
Mr Gawronski

Why this course?

“Not to know what happened before one was born is always to be child.”

(Cicero) History helps us to understand what we are doing here and therefore how we can make the best of our time while we are here. On top of that, the topics we study are extraordinary stories.

“Study History and one day you might be as wonderful as the teachers of the History department.”

Aspirational quote

Types of learner

The study of History requires patience and imagination. There's no short cut in historical research to understanding how past events have unfolded and why human motivations are so frequently puzzling. It takes a critical eye and creative mind to explore the mysteries of the past. It is not a subject for those who do not enjoy writing. All assessments at A Level is through essays, so students must enjoy developing persuasive arguments and the skill to do this under exam conditions.

Yearly events

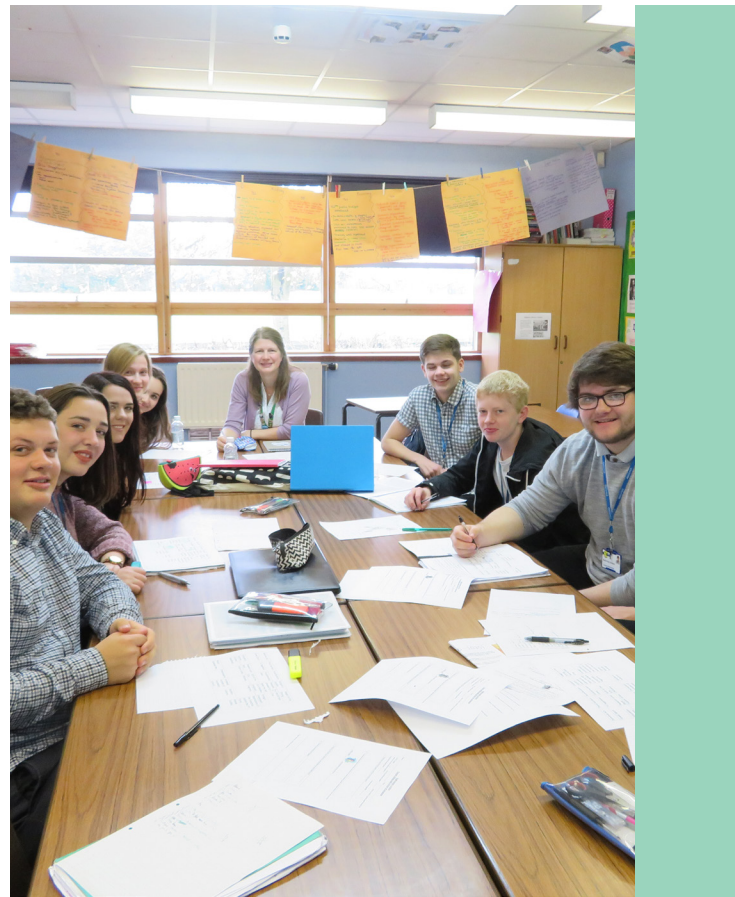
Last year A Level History students visited Italy and it is intended that a visit to Normandy will become a regular part of the new A Level course.

Specification

OCR A Level History A (H505)

Further career paths

History is the ideal starting point for a career in politics, administration, public services, the law, journalism, education, archaeology and information management. Historians are taught how to interpret complex information and communicate their ideas in a lucid and convincing way.



“Best choice I ever made - the teachers are very enthusiastic and the lessons are always based around discussions.”

“We have the best teachers ever - they are very thorough, I always come away from the lessons knowing they were worthwhile - and we get cake!”

Student quotes

Mathematics

TEACHERS

Dr Oswell
Mr Sivakumar
Mrs West

Why this course?

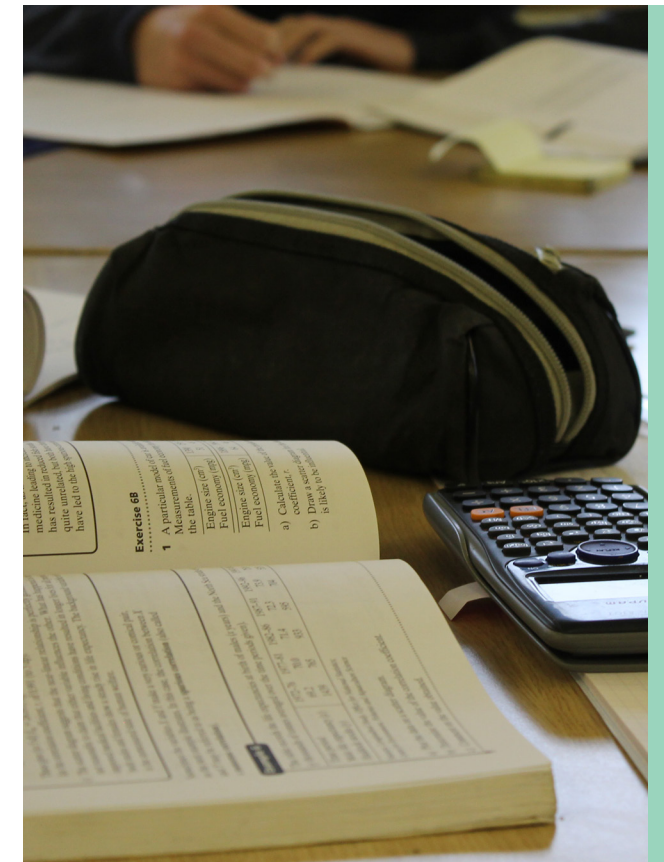
Mathematics is a versatile qualification, well-respected by employers and excellent preparation for higher education. The reason why so many employers highly value mathematics qualifications is mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results help you to formulate reasoned arguments. And importantly you will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data. The mathematical skills you learn in A level Mathematics are of great benefit in other A level subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, computing, geography, psychology, economics and business studies.

“No one particular employment sector employs a large majority of mathematics graduates, meaning that mathematical sciences graduates can have a wide choice of careers, depending on their interests. From scientific and technical careers to wholesale and retail, maths qualifications have prepared students for the changing world in which we live. If you enjoy mathematics, you don't need to know which career path you would like to take at the end of your degree. What you can be sure of is that you are likely to have good college/university prospects.”

Aspirational quote

Types of learner

Maths is both fun and rewarding. You will succeed on the course if you enjoy algebra and are prepared to put in the time to become good at it. You will need to be resilient, persisting with complex techniques until you can apply them independently. You will need to enjoy problem solving, you will need a determination to apply your understanding to unfamiliar tasks of increasing complexity.



Specification

AQA A level Mathematics (7357)

Further career paths

A-level Maths provides a foundation for careers including software engineer, risk analysis, meteorologist, tax office, quality assurance, technology reporter, operational research, defence analyst, associate solicitor, research engineer, effects engineer, actuary, space technology and robotics researcher, games software programmer.

“It is difficult to get right but rewarding when you do.”

Student quote

Music

TEACHERS

Mr Brown
Mr Saul

Why this course?

This qualification will support students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge and understanding skills; including performing, composing and appraising. Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

“Music is not what I do, it’s who I am.”
Aspirational quote

Types of learner

GCSE Level 6 in Music and Grade 5 equivalent in an instrument or voice, and basic keyboard skills. Strong musicians without GCSE Music will be considered. Grade 5 theory advised but not essential.

Yearly events

A level music conference

Specification

WJEC EDUQAS

Further career paths

This qualification will also allow students to develop particular strengths and interests, encourage lifelong learning and provide access to higher education and university degree courses in music and music-related subjects, as well as music-related and other careers.



“ Even on my way to Music, I love hear people playing and rehearsing, it lifts my day and inspires me to do my best.”

Student quote

Philosophy and Ethics

TEACHERS

Mrs Noble
Ms Dowd

Why this course?

Philosophy is challenging, inspiring and enlightening. It will give you the opportunity to ask some of life's biggest questions, including: Why am I here? How do I know what is real? To what extent can I trust my senses? And what is 'right'?

“Science gives us knowledge, but only Philosophy can give us wisdom”

Aspirational quote, Will Durant

Types of learner

You will be successful with Philosophy and Ethics if you are a critical thinker and enjoy active learning styles. You will be required to read around the subject, take part in discussions and debates and write essay style responses to exam questions.

Yearly events

Student conferences in Cambridge.

Specification

OCR Religious Studies H573

Course requirements

- Option 1: Relationships
- Option 2: Eating behaviour
- Option 3: Forensic psychology

Further career paths

Our students in the past have gone on to study a wide range of courses including: Law, Journalism, Nursing, Midwifery, Philosophy, Hotel Management, Biomedical Science.



“This course will change the way you think forever.”

Student quote

Physics

EDEXCEL 9PHO

TEACHERS

Mr Abbott

Mr Hodges

Why this course?

“Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us, and the world beyond us. It is the most basic and fundamental science.”

A-level Physics is a rigorous, challenging and ultimately rewarding course that develops students’ scientific skills and knowledge. Physicists are involved in finding solutions to many of our most pressing challenges. As well as studying atoms or making sense of the extra-terrestrial, physicists diagnose disease, model the climate, design computer games, predict markets and design hi-tech goods. Studying Physics opens doors!

“Not only is the Universe stranger than we think, it is stranger than we can think.”

“If you see an antimatter version of yourself running towards you, think twice before embracing.”

Aspirational quotes

Types of learner

Physics is not an easy subject and requires dedication and commitment. To make a success of Physics, you should be interested in understanding and explaining physical phenomena, enjoy experimental work and be willing to read widely. Physics supports a variety of learner styles, but mathematical skills are a vital element. To pursue physics further, as a career, it is essential that you study mathematics as well.

Yearly events

We regularly attend a series of aspirational lectures at the Cavendish, University of Cambridge. The topics this year have ranged from: The History, Nuclear Physics and Radiobiology of Polonium 210 to Fruitful Flavours at the Large Hadron Collider and Dark Matter.

Specification

Pearson EDEXCEL Level 3 Advanced GCE Physics



Further career paths

Many students will go on to study Science, Medicine, Engineering or Maths at university, but others choose Physics as an interesting and challenging complement to their other subjects. A qualification in Physics is essential for many branches of engineering and recommended for courses in Pure Science, Electronics, Veterinary Science and Medicine. It is also an excellent preparation for many other careers, not so obviously related, and is highly regarded by the top universities.

“This course will change the way you think forever.”

Student quote

Psychology

TEACHERS

Miss Brown

Why this course?

AS and A-level Psychology will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways. You will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and many more that will prepare you for an exciting future. At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 96 marks each. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions: Subject content • Social influence • Memory • Attachment • Approaches in psychology • Biopsychology • Psychopathology • Research methods Compulsory content • Issues and debates in psychology Optional content Option one • Relationships • Gender • Cognition and development Option two • Schizophrenia • Eating behaviour • Stress Option three • Aggression • Forensic psychology • Addiction.

“This is a superb introduction and a fun science A Level!”

Aspirational quote

Types of learner

Interested in the topics, organised in their learning, quite good English writing skills and not scared of maths and statistical analysis

Course requirements

Students must have gained at least a B grade (Grade 5) in Maths and Science.

Optional Content

Option 1: Relationships

Option 2: Eating behaviour

Option 3: Forensic psychology

Yearly events

Guest speakers most terms who work in the field of Psychology.



Specification

AQA Psychology 7/82

Further career paths

According to bestcourse4me.com, the top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in Psychology are: • Psychology • English studies • Sociology • Business studies • Teaching • Sport and exercise science • Law.

Possible career options studying Psychology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including: • Marketing • Business Development • Accountancy • Human resources • Forensic Psychology • Occupational Therapy • Clinical Psychology • Nursing • Teaching.

“Miss Brown allows us to do our own research projects to test out theories. I really enjoyed testing jelly babies on Year 7!”

Student quote

Science BTEC

TEACHERS
Mrs Phillips
Dr McMurdo

Why this course?

An A level equivalent course that contains a high level of practical work and is well respected in the workplace. For anyone who sees their future career in Science the Level 3 extended certificate in Applied Science is an excellent starting point. It covers a wide range of topics across Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will allow you to acquire a high level of practical laboratory skills from which the theory is then drawn. The majority of our students progress to university and study a wide range of science related courses from Sport studies to Motor sport. For those students not wishing to progress to university, comprehensive support is provided to help students find a future pathway of their choice. The BTEC course is very practical with plenty of opportunities to implement the theory that you learn. It is course-work based, which means that you have a very clear understanding of your progress throughout the course, to help you plan and achieve your next steps. The course covers a wide range of subjects including physiology and industrial applications, as well as using statistical and mathematical tools required for science. Once the mandatory units for your pathway are completed we will give you a choice as to which further units you will study to tailor the course to your future aspirations.

"If you really want to do something you will find a way, if not you will find an excuse!"

Aspirational quotes

Types of learner

Organised, hardworking students who are resourceful and self-motivated. Students who have aspirations to work within the science industry.

Further career paths

Workplace training such as apprentice and university. Roles such as science technologists within laboratory based industries. Healthcare positions such as Nursing, Radiotherapy, Physiotherapy, Speech therapy and Occupational therapy. Phlebotomy and Pathology type analysis within healthcare provision. Chemical,



biological and physics-based research and development. You will be well qualified to take up a position with any company that provides scientific analysis in a laboratory based workplace.

"I like BTEC, as exam nerves have made me underperform in the past."

Student quote

Sociology

TEACHERS
Mrs Blood
Miss Brown
Miss Rahemtulla

Why this course?

Ever wondered how we developed into the society we are today? How the way you see yourself determines the way people identify you? Whether men or women are more likely to commit a crime? AS and A-level Sociology will help you to make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all. You will learn a number of skills including: the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate facts, and critical thinking. It is relevant to the society you live in so you are bound to enjoy learning about topics that are relevant to everyday life; plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

"Sociology is for you if you like watching the news and having debates about the problems in the world and who is to blame."

Aspirational quotes

Types of learner

Students must be competent at writing essays and happy to read a variety of text's from the BBC website to Sociological journals. You have to be organised and be prepared to argue your opinion.

Course requirements

Students must have gained at least a level 5 in their English GCSE.

Course content:

Year 12: The Family, Education, Research Methods
Year 13: Crime and Deviance, Sociological Theory, The Media

Course Assessment:

There are three 2 hour exams at the end of year 13, with a mixture of short and extended essays.

Specification

AQA Sociology 7192



Further career paths

Possible degree options according to bestcourse4me.com, the top six degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in sociology are: Sociology • Psychology • English studies • Business studies • Law • Teaching. Possible career options of Studying Sociology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including: • Social Work • Human Resources • Advertising • Policing • Marketing • Journalism • Law • Teaching.

"I really enjoyed going to London and listening to ex-convicts and how they started their life of crime. In Year 12 I enjoyed looking at whether teachers are the reason why students are successful, or whether parent's wealth is more important."

Student quote

Sports BTEC

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

TEACHERS
Mr Pugh
Mr B Robinson

Why this course?

It is a progression from all Level 2 PE courses and prepares you for further education or employment in the sporting sector. It is also assessed in a variety of ways including practical assessment, leadership scenarios, coursework portfolios and exams and is a great stepping stone for further study at degree level or for employment in the sports sector.

"Talent doesn't exist. We are all equal as human beings. If you put in the time, you will reach the top and that's that. I'm not talented, I'm obsessed."

Connor McGregor

Types of learner

- Practical
- Visual
- Reflective
- Hardworking
- Independent

Yearly events

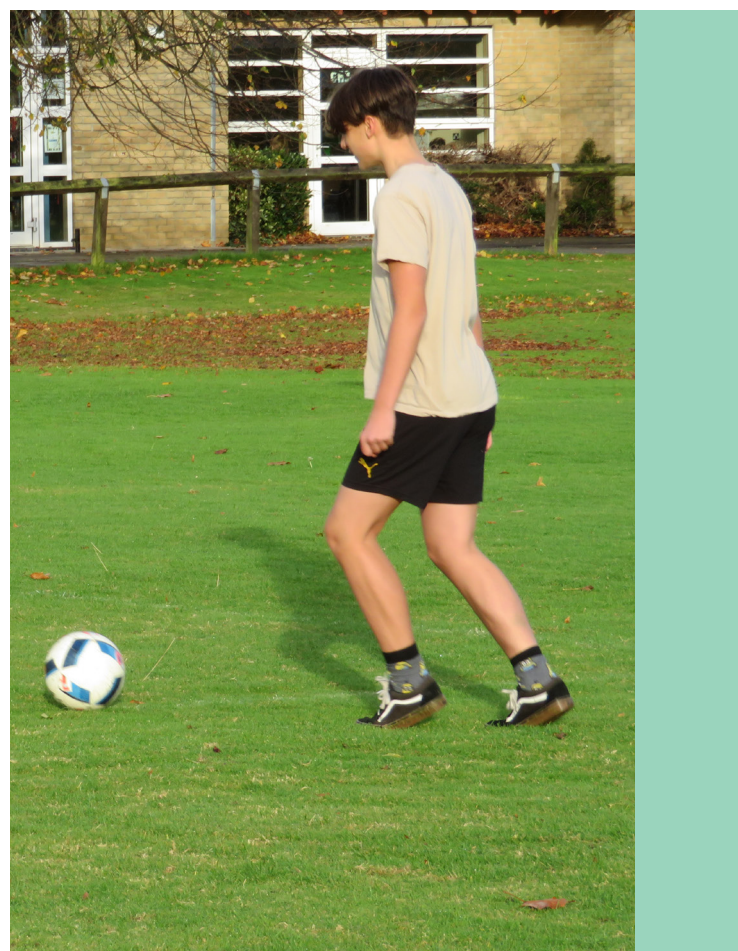
Work experience in sports industry, opportunities to coach/manage KS3 sports teams, trips to sporting events such as Wimbledon

Specification

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Sport/20161/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446938096_BTEC_Nat_ExtCert_Sport_SPEC.pdf

Further career paths

- PE teacher
- Sports coach
- Physiotherapist
- Personal training
- Leisure industry
- Sports journalist



Technical Award

Marketing Communications

TEACHERS
Mr Thompson
Mr Pearmain

Why this course?

A new course that will develop student's skills of marketing issues. You will learn theory in preparation for exams and coursework linking to specific business needs. You will be able to carry out marketing plans for established businesses as well as your own. In year 13 you will be able to specialise in the topics of digital marketing.

"I want to be able to work in social media marketing in the future and this course will be perfect to help me to achieve this goal"

Student Quote

Types of learner

Students who are self-reflective, hardworking and able to work independently due to the coursework element of the course. Students must engage with practical elements and undertake work experience as part of the course. An interest in how businesses operate and digital marketing would be preferred. If undertaking Business BTEC, a Merit is necessary.

Yearly events

Young Enterprise, Student Investor and The Share Centre Challenge are offered at least every 2 years. Visits and talks with businesses throughout the year. Visits to London, New York trip and Alton Towers.

Exam Board: AQA

Level

Level 3 Foundation Technical Level

Examination Structure

25% each unit
50% externally assessed
50% internally assessed



Further career paths

Higher education, Apprenticeships, world of work

Business careers include:

Marketing Specialist, Social Media Manager, Search Engine Optimization Specialist, Email Marketing Manager, Web Content Writer, Web Producer, Product Manager, Marketing Analyst, Advertising Coordinator, Advertising Manager, Public Relations Manager, Brand Manager, Media Buyer, Chief Marketing Officer, Digital Marketing Manager, Digital Marketing Director, eCommerce Manager



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