HOLCOMBE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Sixth Form Open Evening
Subject Information for Courses
September 2024

THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST

HOLCOMBE GRAMMAR SCHOOL SIXTH FORM
SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 2024/2025

Subject	Entry Requirements (Essential)	Entry Requirements (Desirable)
Fine Art	Grade 6 in GCSE Art and Design	Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature
Biology	Grade 7 in Biology **or** a grade 7 7 in Combined Science	Grade 7 in Mathematics
BTEC Applied Science **(Equivalent to 1 X A-Level)**	Grade 6 6 5 in separate sciences **or** Grade 6 6 in Combined Science	
Business Studies	Grade 6 in Mathematics **and** English Literature (If taken at GCSE grade 5 in Business)	
Chemistry	Grade 7 in Chemistry **or** a grade 7 7 in Combined Science	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Computer Science	Grade 6 in Mathematics (If taken at GCSE a grade 5 in Computer Science)	
Design Technology	Grade 6 in Design Technology	Grade 6 in Mathematics
Drama	Grade 6 in English Literature or English Language	Grade 6 in Drama if studied at GCSE
Economics	Grade 6 in English Literature **and** a Level 7 in Mathematics	
English Language & Literature	Grade 6 in English Language	Grade 6 in English Literature
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Literature	Grade 7 in English Literature
French	Grade 6 in French	
Further Maths	Grade 8 in Mathematics	
Geography	Grade 6 in Geography **and** a level 6 in English Language (Where Geography has not been taken at GCSE, a Grade 7 in English Language and a Grade 6 in Humanities subject)	
History	Grade 6 in History **and** a Level 6 in English Literature (Where History has not been taken at GCSE, a grade 7 in English Language and a Grade 6 in Humanities subject)	
Law	Grade 6 in English Literature or English Language	Grade 6 in a Humanities subject
Music Technology	Grade 6 in a creative subject e.g. Music, Drama etc. Grade 5 in any Science subject.	Grade 5 in instrument or singing
Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics	
Media Studies	Grade 6 in English Literature	
Philosophy, Ethics & Theology (Religious Studies)	Grade 6 in English Literature and a Grade 6 in English Language	Grade 6 in RS **or** another Humanities subject
Photography	Grade 6 in GCSE Art & Design (Where Art has not been taken at GCSE, a Grade 6 in **either** English Language **or** Literature)	
Physical Education	Competitive involvement in one practical activity outside of school (see AQA website for list of approved activities); Grade 6 GCSE Physical Education and a Grade 6 in English Language	Grade 6 in Biology
Physics	Grade 7 in Physics **or** a Grade 7 7 in Combined Science	Grade 7 in Mathematics ideally with an intention of taking Maths at A-Level

Subject	Entry Requirements (Essential)	Entry Requirements (Desirable)
Politics	Grade 6 in a Humanities subject and Grade 6 in English Literature or Language	
Psychology	Grade 6 in English Language, Grade 6 in Mathematics and a Grade 6 in Biology **or** 6 6 in Combined Science. (If taken at GCSE a Grade 6 in Psychology)	
Sociology	Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 6 in English Literature	Grade 6 in Sociology or another Humanities subject
Spanish	Grade 6 in Spanish	

Enrichment/ Additional qualifications to be studied alongside A Levels (not in place of A Levels)	
EPQ	Meeting entry requirement for Sixth Form

For the purpose of entry requirements, the following are considered as humanities subjects: Religious Studies (full course), History, Geography, Psychology, Sociology, Film Studies, Economics and Business Studies.

Dear Student,

Thank you for taking the time to read our Sixth Form course prospectus. We are very proud of our extensive curriculum and are pleased to offer such a broad choice of courses at Holcombe Grammar School and across our Trust Schools. With such a wide range of facilities and courses available, Holcombe staff will support you in selecting the combination that best suits your interests, abilities and career aspirations.

Within this booklet, you will find details of all the Sixth Form courses we are offering students for September 2024. If you are an existing student, you will be able to ask your teachers any questions about the courses by speaking to them directly in school. If you are an external student, please feel free to contact to our excellent team of teachers, including those from Victory Academy, by emailing us at sixthform@holcombegrammar.org.uk.

Students wishing to study in the Sixth Form at Holcombe Grammar School are required to achieve at least five GCSEs at grades 4 to 9 - including English Language and Mathematics; in addition to the subject specific requirements listed on the enclosed sheet within this pack.

As part of the 'The Thinking Schools Academy Trust', Holcombe is committed to providing the very best learning experiences for all of our students. The embedded use of thinking tools provides a framework for deep and critical thinking that students can utilise in their everyday lives. We want our students to flourish so that they have a solid foundation for further study, be it University, Apprenticeships, employment or alternate pathway; it is our aim to transform their life chances.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust believes that every young person in our community deserves to have the best opportunities in life, regardless of their individual circumstances. Education is the key to transforming life chances and we support and develop every member of our community to:

- Think about their thinking
- Shape their success
- Be their best self

Holcombe is an ambitions and supportive grammar school where life chances are transformed through Mastery, Endeavour and Thinking. You would be joining a caring and aspirational community, that would nurture you to achieve excellent progress over your time at the school. We will work collaboratively with you to provide you with the skills, knowledge and attributes so that you can fulfil your individual future goals and aspirations.

Students have excelled for another year with a 100% pass rate in their A level results gaining places at prestigious universities; Birmingham, Surrey, Lancaster, Nottingham and Loughborough to name a few. Holcombe is a school that prides itself on its varied and high-quality education to all its students.

Students in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to take significant responsibility within the school community and, as such, become their best selves. Characteristics for success include creative thinking, empathy and understanding, questioning and posing problems, persisting and thinking interdependently. These habits are developed both within and outside of the classroom with students being given a range of teamwork, decision making and leadership opportunities.

The School Captains Team have responsibility for assisting with the running of major whole school events such as our annual Open day and Open evening. Sixth form students also give freely of their time to mentor younger students. They act as role models and offer study advice. Plans are afoot to further involve sixth form students into lower school classes to model good behaviour for learning and to assist with study skills and revision.

We believe that yours is an exciting future and look forward to receiving your application and working with you to shape your curriculum offer ready for September 2024.

Yours faithfully

Mr Lee Preston
Headteacher

Subject Leader
Miss P Wilson

Advanced Level
Applied Science-BTEC
Edexcel

Why study Applied Science?
This course provides the foundation of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics at A Level. You will learn a wide range of practical laboratory skills. It is aimed at students that have a high interest in science and desire to pursue either further studies at university, a route to employment or further training in this subject.

How will you be assessed?
Unit 1 - External assessment- Written examination set and marked by Edexcel, 1.5 hours, 90 marks

Cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics equally. The paper will include a range of question types, including multiple choice, calculations, short answer and open responses.

Unit 2 - Internal coursework assessment

Unit 3 - External assessment- Written examination set and marked by Edexcel (2.25 hours), 60 marks

Unit 8 - Internal coursework assessment

Each unit is graded as: U, Pass, Merit or Distinction

The units are combined together for one overall A-Level equivalent grade. You will be awarded either a U. Pass, Merit, Distinction, or Distinction *. You will be awarded an Extended Certificate in Applied Science at the end of year 13.

What will you study?

Unit 1: Principles and Applications of Science	• 90 Guided Learning Hours • Covers some of the key science concepts in biology, chemistry and physics. The topic areas covered in this unit include: animal and plant cells; tissues; atomic structure and bonding; chemical and physical properties of substances related to their uses; waves and their application in communications.
Unit 2: Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques	• 90 Guided Learning Hours • This unit introduces you to standard laboratory equipment and techniques, including titration, colorimetry, chromatography, calibration procedures and laboratory safety.
Unit 3: Scientific Investigation Skills	• 120 Guided Learning Hours • In this unit, you will develop the essential skills underpinning practical scientific investigations. As well as drawing on Units 1 and 2, these skills will be delivered through subject themes ranging from enzymes and diffusion to electrical circuits.
Unit 8: Physiology of Human Body Systems	• 60 Guided Learning Hours • In this unit, you will focus on the physiological make up of three human body systems (musculoskeletal, lymphatic and digestive), how the systems function and what occurs during dysfunction.

What will Applied Science offer you in the future?
This course is useful in preparation for further study at university, employment, self-employment, or training. Studying Applied Science could lead to a career in engineering, psychology, geography, environmental science, nursing, midwifery, and many other STEM related fields. Students should always check the requirements of the degree programme that they are interested in pursuing.

What do I need at GCSE in order to Study BTEC Applied Science?
In Separate Science GCSE you must get at least 6/6/5 and in Combined Science you must have at least 6/6.

Subject Leader
Mrs R Mourino

Advanced Level
Art and Design
AQA

Why study Art & Design?

The main purpose of an Art and Design course is to develop students' ability to engage with the visual world and respond in personal and creative ways. Whilst studying Art and Design at Holcombe Grammar School you will develop a variety of skills and a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology in different disciplines such as drawing, painting, textiles and digital photography, mixed-media and darkroom techniques. You will develop your imaginative and creative powers as well as experiment and analyse developing a deeper understanding of art and design in past and present times. A typical Art and Design student is independent and able to understand how to build on previous knowledge as well as having a growth mind set

Endorsements: -

Fine Art

Photography

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio. 60% of the A Level.

Component 2: Externally set assignment. 40% of the A Level

What will you study?

Year 12 – Foundation Skills	During terms 1-3 students will learn and extend a number of skills using a wide variety of materials. Both Photography and Fine Art students will have the same starting point from which they will explore sources and techniques. Work will mostly be sketchbook based
Year 12 – Component 1 (coursework personal Investigation)	Students will decide on their own personal investigation project title, this is an individual process. Building on skills learnt during their foundation terms students will develop ideas using sources.
Year 13 – Component 1	Students will continue to develop and refine ideas both in and out of their sketchbooks. Through 1-2-1 tuitions students will extend their ideas and will research and develop work independently to produce a personalised journal and series of outcomes. Students will also produce an extended essay supporting the sketchbook work.
Year 13 – Component 2	Externally set assignment. Students will have a choice of titles and will have approximately 12 weeks to develop a project with the final piece/s being produced during 15 hours of supervised time. This unit makes up 40% of the A Level.

What will Art & Design offer you in the future?

Many students, after completing their A Level in Art and Design move on to complete a foundation course before moving onto a creative degree of their choice. Future careers are wide and varied but could include: Architecture, advertising, marketing, graphic and motion design, game design, theatre and set design, fashion and textile design as well as publishing and the media. The study of Art and Design can also help you to develop transferable skills that you can take into any career.

Subject Leader
Mrs R Mourino

Advanced Level
Art and Design
Photography
AQA

Why study Photography?

The main purpose of an Art and Design course is to develop students' ability to engage with the visual world and respond in personal and creative ways. Whilst studying Art and Design at Holcombe Grammar School you will develop a variety of skills and a working knowledge of materials, practices, and technology in different disciplines such digital photography, mixed-media, film and darkroom techniques. You will develop your imaginative and creative powers as well as experiment and analyse developing a deeper understanding of art and design in past and present times. A typical Art and Design student is independent able to understand how to build on previous knowledge as well as having a growth mind set

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Subject Leader
Mr G Phillips

Advanced Level
Biology
AQA

Why study Biology?

Saving threatened species, studying microbes, growing organic plants for food, curing diseases? The 21st Century offers many challenges to biologists. Which ones are you interested in? New knowledge in areas such as genetics, molecular biology, and biochemistry, the environment and marine sciences have profound effects on human society and the environment which we inhabit. The world moves quickly and in order to move with it and participate fully people need to be 'in the know'. Studying A Level Biology at Holcombe Grammar School gives you the skills and opportunities to advance human knowledge and understanding in today's world, in order to make a difference to tomorrows.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1

Any content from topics 1 - 4 (2 hours written exam 91 marks, 35% of the A Level)

Paper 2

Any content from topics 5 - 8 (2 hours written exam (91 marks, 35% of the A Level)

Paper 3

Any content from topics 1 - 8 (2 hours written exam 78 marks, 30% of the A Level)

What will you study?

Topic 1: Biological Molecules	This topic looks at carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, nucleic acids and water and their role in biological systems.
Topic 2: Cells	This topic looks are the dichotomy in cell structure between prokaryotes and eukaryotes. It also focuses on cell organisation and the control of the movement of materials in and out of cells and its role in cell communication.
Topic 3: Organisms exchange things with their environments	This topic focuses on large organisms, where exchange surfaces are associated with mass transport systems that carry substances between the exchange surfaces and the rest of the body and between parts of the body.
Topic 4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms	This topic looks at the genetic causes of diversity and the relationship between the genome and the environment and the role of mutations in bringing about variation.
Topic 5: Energy transfers in and between organisms (**A Level only**)	This topic looks at the energetics and biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis as well as energy fluxes in ecosystems.
Topic 6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (**A Level only**)	This topic looks at the role of nervous, hormonal and growth regulator mediated mechanisms for regulating the internal and external environments of organisms with a clear focus on cell to cell communication.
Topic 7: Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems (**A Level only**)	This topic helps you understand how common ancestry can explain the similarities between all living organisms, such as common chemistry (*e.g*. all proteins made from the same 20 or so amino acids), physiological pathways (*e.g*. anaerobic respiration), cell structure, and DNA as the genetic material and a 'universal' genetic code.
Topic 8: The control of gene expression (**A Level only**)	This topic studies the many factors that control the expression of genes and, thus, the phenotype of organisms. Some are external, environmental factors, others are internal factors. This will give you an appreciation of common ailments resulting from a breakdown of these control mechanisms and the use of DNA technology in the diagnosis and treatment of human diseases.

What will Biology offer you in the future?

Whether deciding on a career in psychology, medicine, genetics, forensics, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, biochemistry or journalism, a biological qualification gives you many skills and increases your career options so you can adapt to the world changing around you.

Subject Leader
Miss S Lyons

Advanced Level
Business
AQA

Why study Business?

To give you the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. To provide you with the knowledge and skills needed with a firm foundation for further study in Business, Economics or Finance. To explore business theories and concepts in the most relevant way, through the context of events in the business and economic world. To keep up to date with current business affairs to enable you to develop a deeper understanding of key business studies topics and to then apply this current affairs knowledge to these key topics. To give you opportunities to think like business leaders, enabling you to think and evaluate far beyond the context of the classroom. To learn about topics and issues that are relevant in today's society, e.g., digital technology, globalisation, business ethics etc.

How will you be assessed?

There are three papers used to assess A Level Business Studies. Each paper will assess all parts of the subject material. Each paper assesses knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation skills.

- Paper 1 consists of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions totalling 100 marks and is worth one third of the qualification. (2-hour written paper)
- Paper 2 contains questions based on data response which are both short answer and essay style questions. This paper totals 100 marks and is also worth one third of the qualification. (2-hour written paper)
- Paper 3 is based on a longer case study and includes essay style questions. This paper totals 100 marks and is also worth one third of the qualification. (2-hour written paper)

What will you study?

Year 12 - Business Activity	Unit 1 - What is business? Unit 2 - Managers, leadership and decision making. Unit 3 - Marketing management Unit 4 - Operational management Unit 5 - Financial management Unit 6 - Human resource management
Year 13 - Business Strategy	Unit 7 - Analysing the strategic position of a business. Unit 8 - Choosing strategic direction. Unit 9 - Strategic methods Unit 10 - Managing strategic change.

What will Business offer you in the future?

University courses are plentiful in different areas of business, which can include marketing, finance, human resource management, business and languages, business, accountancy and finance

Students can use this qualification in the future to help them start up their own business

Apprenticeships are available in banking, finance, accountancy, marketing and management

Subject Leader
Miss P Wilson

Advanced Level
Chemistry
AQA

Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry provides the opportunity to develop the manipulative, practical, analytical skills needed to interpret experimental data. It emphasises ability to apply knowledge and make predictions about unknown/new situations and in addition it enables you to understand the world around you, including some of the very processes of life itself.

How will you be assessed?

Pupils will sit 3 papers at the end of Year 13

Paper 1 (2 hours) a written exam - 35% - Advanced Physical and Inorganic
Paper 2 (2 hours) a written exam - 35% - Advanced Physical and Organic
Paper 3 (2 hours) a written exam - 30% - Advanced Physical, Inorganic and Organic

There is also a practical endorsement that is assessed internally upon the completion of 12 practical activities and the associated write-ups.

What will you study?

Physical Chemistry	• Atomic structure • Amount of substance • Structure and Bonding • Energetic • Kinetics • Equilibria • Redox Chemistry • Thermodynamics • Kinetic Rate Equations • Equilibrium Constants Kc • Electrode Potentials • Electrochemical Cells • Acids, Bases and Buffer Solutions
Inorganic Chemistry	• Periodicity • Trends in group 2 and 7 • Identification of unknown aqueous compounds • Transition metals and reactions of ions in solution
Organic Chemistry	• Alkanes and Alkenes • Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols • Optical Isomerism • Aldehydes and Ketones • Carboxylic Acids • Aromatic Chemistry • Amines • Polymers • Amino Acids • Proteins and DNA • Organic Synthesis • NMR and Chromatography

What will Chemistry offer you in the future?

A Level Chemistry is an essential requirement for studying Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine and can lead to a large variety of career options, such as Chemical Engineering, Pharmaceuticals, Forensics, Biochemistry, Accountancy/Finance, Journalism/Publishing and Education. Universities particularly value the logical discipline and transferrable skills developed through studying Chemistry and regard it as a facilitating subject for a diverse variety of courses, providing you with the scope to pursue virtually any career path.

Subject Leader
Mr M Fielding

Advanced Level
Computer Science
OCR

Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science (this is NOT ICT, ICT is totally different from Computer Science) is a practical subject where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. Computer Science qualifications will value computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

How will you be assessed?

01 Computer Systems – Externally marked paper – 40%
02 Algorithms and programming – Externally marked paper – 40%
03 Programming project – Internally assesses and externally moderated – 20%

What will you study?

Unit 01 Computing Principles	This component is a traditionally marked and structured question paper with a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer, and levels of response mark-scheme-type questions. It will cover the characteristics of contemporary systems architecture and other areas including the following: • Operating systems • Introduction to programming • Data types, structures and algorithms • Exchanging data and web technologies • Using Boolean algebra • Legal and ethical issues
Unit 02 Algorithms and Programming	This component will be a traditionally marked and structured question paper with two sections, both of which will include a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer, and levels of response mark-scheme-type questions. **Section A** • Traditional questions concerning computational thinking • Elements of computational thinking • Programming and problem solving • Pattern recognition, abstraction and decomposition • Algorithm design and efficiency • Standard algorithms **Section B** There will be a scenario/task contained in the paper, which could be an algorithm or a text page-based task, which will involve problem solving.
Unit 03 Programming Project:	You will select your own user-driven problem of an appropriate size and complexity to solve. This will enable you to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the Assessment Objectives. You will need to analyse the problem, design a solution, implement the solution and give a thorough evaluation.

What will Computer Science offer you in the future?

You will develop an ability to analyse, critically evaluate and make decisions. The project approach is a vital component of 'post-school' life and is of particular relevance to Further Education, Higher Education and the workplace. Irrespective of your final choice of workplace or further education place Computer Science helps you to develop the analytical skills essential to success.

Subject Leader
Mr H Ackers

Advanced Level
Design and Technology Product Design
Eduqas

Why study Product Design?

The Product Design A level is a course designed to develop an interest into a passion. Students have the unique opportunity to develop their own design style and to experience a course tailored to preparing for the next step into University or into industry. The course teaches students how to solve real world problems and be an all-round designer with them learning a tool kit of practical process, machinery, materials, CAD software and CAM processes. This allows the students to tailor their creative journey by being able to identify the correct processes and materials to solve the problems they set out in their own design briefs. The specification encourages learners to use creativity and to be confident to explore their own imagination. The course enables learners to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions and make and test prototypes.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Exam, 3 examination – 50% of A Level

Component 2: NEA, 80 Hours – 50% of A Level

What will you study?

Year 12/13 Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century	This paper is set out through four sets of questions that predominantly cover technical principles within each endorsed title. Learners will be required to: • analyse existing products • demonstrate applied mathematical skills • demonstrate their technical knowledge of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques • demonstrate their understanding of wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries. • analyse and evaluate wider issues in design and technology
Year 12/13 Component 2: Design and make project	Learners are required to complete one sustained design and make project, based on a design brief developed by the learner. Approximately 80 hours should be devoted to this project. In completing the design and make project, the learner will be required to produce the following evidence: • a design brief developed by the learner • a final prototype (or prototypes) based on that design brief, and • additional evidence as necessary, including a design folio, to enable the assessment of the learner's attainment in each of the categories a) Identifying and investigating design possibilities b) Developing a design brief and specification c) Generating and developing design ideas d) Manufacturing a prototype e) Analysing and evaluating design decisions and prototypes

What will Product Design offer you in the future?

A Level Design Technology naturally progresses on to University courses in product design, furniture design, interior design, architecture, engineering, and automotive design. The skills developed in managing extended projects, time management, problem solving and creativity are a valuable foundation for any future university course or career.

Subject Leader
Mrs N Miles

Advanced Level
Drama and Theatre
Edexcel

Why study Drama and Theatre?

A-level Drama will give the opportunity to explore a range of texts and topics through performance and analysis. You will learn a wide variety of skills through practical work and analytical reflection. This will include; cooperation and collaboration, independent decision making, effective communication, awareness of a potential audience reaction, reviewing and refining work, detailed analysis of processes and self-reflection to inform future decisions. These will provide you with a varied skill set, whatever your chosen career.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Devising (40%) Internally filmed and assessed
Component 2: Text in Performance (20%) Externally filmed and assessed
Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%) Written examination: 2hrs 30mins

What will I study?

Component 1: Devising	In this component students will develop their creative and exploratory skills to devise an original performance. The starting point for this devising process will be an extract from a performance text and an influential theatre practitioner. In their creative explorations, students will learn how text can be manipulated to communicate meaning to audiences and they will begin the process of interpretation. They will gain an understanding of how a new performance could be developed through the practical exploration of the theatrical style and use of conventions of the chosen practitioner.
Component 2: Text in Performance	Students will develop and demonstrate theatre-making skills, appropriate to their role as a performer or designer. They will explore how they realise artistic intentions in performance. The knowledge and understanding acquired though the study of one key extract from a performance text in Component 1 can be applied to assist in the interpretation, development and realisation of key extracts from performance texts. Teaching and wider reading should address the significance and influence of social, historical and cultural contexts on the chosen texts and extracts.
Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice	This component requires students to consider, analyse and evaluate how different theatre makers create impact. Throughout this component, students will consider how production ideas and dramatic elements are communicated to an audience from the perspective of a director, a performer and a designer. Students will critically analyse and evaluate their experience of live performance. As an informed member of the audience, they will deconstruct theatrical elements which will help inform their own production choices and develop their own ideas as potential theatre makers. Students will practically explore texts in order to demonstrate how ideas for performance and production might be realised from page to stage. They will also consider the methodologies of practitioners and interpret texts in order to justify their own ideas for a production concept. Students will research the original performance conditions and gain an understanding of how social, historical and cultural contexts have informed their decisions as theatre makers.

What will Drama and Theatre offer you in the future?

Studying Drama can give you a whole host of exciting university and career options, as well as allowing for personal development. Not only by absorbing knowledge and facts about the text, but through immersion in a narrative and the experience of playing out a scenario. In addition to an uplift in social and emotional understanding, taking part in drama activities helps to build essential skills for success in wider studies, future pursuits and life in general.

What do I need at GCSE in order to Study A Level Drama and Theatre?

You will need at least a grade 6 in GCSE English Literature to meet the requirements of the course.

Subject Leader
Miss S Lyons

Advanced Level
Economics
EDEXCEL A

Why study Economics?

- Develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the subject
- Appreciate the contribution of economics to the understanding of the wider economic and social environment
- Develop an understanding of a range of concepts and an ability to use those concepts in a variety of different contexts
- Use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of economics and develop an ability to think as an economist
- Understand that economic behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives
- Develop analytical and quantitative skills, together with qualities and attitudes that will equip them for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult and working life.

What will you study?

You will be examined on Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and a combination of both. Microeconomics involves the decision making by the government to intervene in the interaction of supply and demand in the individual markets to correct market failure in order to solve the basic economic problem of scarcity. It then processes to look at imperfect markets, business objectives and the labour market. Macroeconomics is about the government's decisions on the nation-wide basis and involves objectives such as low unemployment, low and steady inflation, high economic growth, and equity in income distribution. Macroeconomics then progresses to look from a global perspective including developing countries and the role of the financial sector

How will you be examined?

Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour	35% of your grade. 2 hours. 100 marks, split into 3 sections. Section A: Multiple-choice and short answer Section B: Data Response Section C: Extended open-response question
Paper 2: The national and global economy	35% of your grade. 2 hours. 100 marks, split into 3 sections. Section A: Multiple-choice and short answer Section B: Data Response Section C: Extended open-response question.
Paper 3: Microeconomics and macroeconomics	30% of your grade. 2 hours. 100 markers, split into 2 questions. Both sections have data response style questions and an extended open-response question

What will Economics offer you in the future?

Apprenticeships: They include; Bank of England, Ernst and Young, Price Water House and other audit firms straight after school.

University degrees: Economics pupils will look to gain University places, in a variety of degrees including Economics, PPE, Economics and Management and other Financial based degrees

Future careers: jobs in both the public and private sector, working as Civil Servants as Economists, working in leadership roles in management, investment banking. Economics Graduates is currently in the top 3 for future earnings, behind Medicine and Veterinary Sciences.

Subject Leader
Mrs G Dacey

Advanced Level
English Language and Literature
AQA

Why study English Language and Literature?

The Language and Literature syllabus encourages students to engaging creatively, critically and independently with a wide range of texts. Using literary and linguistic methods, students will analyse literary and non-literary texts in a range of modes and genres, in the process gaining insights into the nature of different discourses and ideas about creativity. Students will develop skills as producers and interpreters of language by creating texts themselves and critically reflecting on their own processes of production.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 - Written exam 3 hours. Open books.100 marks. 40% of A Level.

Paper 2 - Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes. Open book. 100 marks. 40% of A Level.

Coursework – A personal investigation into language (2500 words). 50 marks. 20% of A Level.

What will you study?

Unit 1	Paper 1: Telling Stories. This paper involves students exploring the differing perspectives and viewpoints used by authors to create characters. It also explores how imagined worlds and remembered places have been represented through an exciting range of poetry and prose. This exam will be 3 hours in length and will be open book.
Unit 2	Paper 2: Exploring Conflicts. This unit will inspire students to get creative with their writing skills, re-creating texts from a range of genres. There will be particular focus on society and the roles of individuals within it as well as an exploration of drama texts with conflict at their heart. This exam will be 2 hours 30 minutes in length and will be open book.
Unit 3	Non-exam Assessment: Making Connections. The coursework takes the form of a personal investigation, where students select their own specific language technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse. The word count is 2500, not including a bibliography.

What will English Language and Literature offer you in the future?

Studying A Level English Language and Literature will give you the best of both worlds: it will develop you as a critical thinker whilst, at the same time, lighting the creative fires in you. You will engage innovatively and independently with a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts and this will prepare you to engage with, critically assess and utilise language in any setting.

The opportunity to undertake independent and sustained studies in this subject, honing skills as both producers and interpreters of language along the way, will be excellent preparation for future study and a stepping stone to self-sufficiency. The chance to write creatively will certainly encourage you to take more risks and build confidence in your own abilities. English Language and Literature inspires you to grow as individuals. It cares about what you think.

Finally, the flexibility of an English Language and Literature qualification is unsurpassed, supporting innumerable career paths, from Finance to Law to Medicine – it is highly prized and one that no student should underestimate the value of.

Subject Leader
Mrs G Dacey

Advanced Level
English Literature
AQA

Why study English Literature?

The Literature syllabus encourages students to develop interest in and enjoyment of English Literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 - Written exam 3 hours. 75 marks. 40% of A Level.

Paper 2 - Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes. Open book. 75 marks. 40% of A Level.

Coursework - A personal investigation into Language (2500 words). 50 marks. 20% of A Level.

What will you study?

Unit 1	Tragedy has a long tradition in literature, with origins in the ancient world and with a specific emphasis on drama. Texts have been selected and grouped together because they share some of the common features of traditional tragic drama while also offering some interesting variations. You will study Othello, arguably Shakespeare's greatest tragedy, the poetry of Keats and more modern drama in the form of Death of a Salesman
Unit 2	While studying crime writing you will study texts which focus on transgressions against established order and the specific breaking of either national, social, religious or moral laws. The narratives range from the romanticism of The Rime of the Ancient Mariner to Agatha Christie and the Golden Age of crime fiction and Ian McEwan's Atonement in order to study the modern element. There is also an unseen extract aspect to this unit.
Unit 3	In this component, you will write about two different literary texts. One of the texts must be a poetry text and the other must be prose. Each text must be linked to a different section of the Critical anthology-including; Narrative theory Feminist theory Marxist Theory Eco-critical theory Post-Colonial theory Literary value and the canon Two essays of 1500 words or required or one essay and a piece of recreative writing.

What will English Literature offer you in the future?

Studying A Level English Literature will help you to develop your ability to effectively communicate, both orally and in writing. You will also develop skills in: independent working; time management and organisation; planning and researching written work; articulating knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories; leading and participating in discussions; effectively conveying arguments and opinions and thinking creatively; using your judgement to weigh up alternative perspectives; and critical reasoning and analysis.

The acquisition of these skills means that A-Level English Literature is a highly prized A Level which opens routes to many courses at university and in the world of work.

Subject Leader
Miss H Ortega/Mrs G Senges

Advanced Level
French
Edexcel

Why study French?

The ability to speak other languages opens up countless opportunities in both the fields of leisure and work. There will be a shortage of qualified linguists and your services will be in great demand by industry if Britain is to compete in a business context on a global level. The course encourages a greater appreciation of French language, society and culture, as well as a greater understanding of language in general. It would therefore be of great benefit to English Language and Literature students.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation. Written examination: 1 hour and 50 minutes (40% of the qualification 64 marks)
Paper 2: Written response to works and translation. Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes (30% of the qualification 48 marks)
Paper 3: Speaking - Internally conducted and externally assessed. Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, which includes a single period of 5 minutes' formal preparation time (30% of the qualification 48 marks)

What will you study?

Paper 1 - draws on vocabulary and structures across all four Themes. 1. Changes in French society; 2. Political and artistic cultural in French speaking countries; 3. Immigration and the French multicultural society; 4. Occupation and Resistance.	Section A: Listening (24 marks) A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female French speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources. Section B: Reading (24 marks) A reading assessment based on a variety of text-types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions. Section C: Translation into English (16 marks)
Paper 2 - draws on the study of two discrete French works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film. The literary texts listed include a range of classic and contemporary novels, novellas, short stories and plays. All of the films are feature length.	**Assessment overview** This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts, **or** one literary text and one film (students must **not** answer questions on two films). Students are not permitted access to a dictionary or any documentation relating to the works during the examination. **Section A: Translation (16 marks)** Students translate an unseen passage from English into French. **Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (16 marks)** **Section C: Written response to works (films) (16 marks)**
Paper 3 **Task 1** draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes. **Task 2** is based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the Themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the language studied.	**Assessment overview** Students complete two tasks. Task 1 worth 20 marks and Task 2 worth 28 marks. **Task 1 (discussion on a Theme)** Students discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements. **Task 2 (presentation and discussion on independent research)** Students present a summary of the key findings of the written sources they have used for their research and answer questions on this. They then have a wider discussion on their research.

What will French offer you in the future?

Direct use of languages following Higher Education: translating, interpreting, teaching, commerce, tourism and travel. Indirect use of languages for careers: law, accountancy, secretarial skills, export marketing and selling, insurance, hotels, catering, merchant banking, engineering, manufacturing, computing and purchasing.

Subject Leader
Mrs F Williamson

Advanced Level
Further Mathematics
Edexcel

Why study Further Mathematics?
Potential for joint university courses, graduate prospects, transferable skills and salary advantage.

How will you be assessed?
PEARSON Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics (9FM0)
Four externally examined written papers.
Students must complete all assessment in May/June, in any single year.
Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 (9FM0/01)
1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification and 75 marks.
Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used in the assessment.
Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 (9FM0/02)
1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification and 75 marks.
Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used in the assessment.
Further Mathematics Optional Papers (9FM0/3A-3D, 9FM0/4A-4D)
Each paper is written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes, 25% of the qualification, 75 marks.
Content overview: students take **two** options from the following eight:
Option 1 Papers: 3A Further Pure Mathematics 1, 3B Further Statistics 1, 3C Further Mechanics 1, 3D Decision Mathematics 1.
Option 2 Papers: 4A Further Pure Mathematics 2, 4B Further Statistics 2, 4C Further Mechanics 2, 4D Decision Mathematics 2.
There are restrictions on which papers can be taken together. Students choose a pair of options, either:

- Any two Option 1 papers, or
- A matching pair of Option 1 and Option 2 papers.

This makes a total of ten different option pairs.
Assessment overview: Students must answer all questions; Calculators can be used in the assessment.
Assessment objectives:
AO1 Use and apply standard techniques, 50%;
AO2 Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically, at least 15%;
AO3 Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts, at least 15%.

What will you study?

Paper 1 Core Pure Mathematics 1: proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.	**Paper 2 Core Pure Mathematics 2**: proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.
Paper 3A Further Pure Mathematics 1: further trigonometry, further calculus, further differential equations, coordinate systems, further vectors, further numerical methods and inequalities. **Paper 3B Further Statistics 1**: discrete probability distributions, Poisson and binomial distributions, geometric and negative binomial distributions, hypothesis testing, central limit theorem, chi squared tests, probability generating functions, quality of tests. **Paper 3C Further Mechanics 1**: momentum and impulse, work, energy and power, elastic strings and springs and elastic energy, elastic collisions in one dimension, elastic collisions in two dimensions. **Paper 3D Decision Mathematics 1**: algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs I and II, critical path analysis and linear programming.	**Paper 4A Further Pure Mathematics 2**: groups, further calculus, further matrix algebra, further complex numbers, number theory, further sequences and series. **Paper 4B Further Statistics 2:** linear regression, continuous probability distributions, correlation, combinations of random variables, estimation, confidence intervals and tests using a normal distribution, other hypothesis tests and confidence intervals, confidence intervals and tests using the t-distribution. **Paper 4C Further Mechanics 2**: motion in a circle, centres of mass of plane figures, further centres of mass, further dynamics, further kinematics. **Paper 4D Decision Mathematics 2**: transportation problems, allocation (assignment) problems, flows in networks, dynamic programming, game theory, recurrence relations, decision analysis.

What will Further Mathematics offer you in the future?
A broad mathematical knowledge and secure technical ability to progress a broad range of career options, leading to 5% to 10% higher salaries than the mean for all graduates.

Subject Leader
Mrs C Obee

Advanced Level
Geography
Edexcel

Why study Geography?

The specification is designed to address a wide range of contemporary themes and issues, so students can understand the world around us and what could impact its future. We cover the key ideas and debates in our world today, such as climate change, globalisation, urban regeneration and management of the world's resources. Students will explore a range of issues and examine potential solutions to them. There are a minimum of 4 compulsory days of coursework required to study this course.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1, 30% of qualification - Assessment of Dynamic Landscapes and Physical Systems and Sustainability. 2 hours 15 minutes. 105 marks

Paper 2, 30% of qualification - Assessment of Dynamic Places and Human Systems and Geopolitics. 2 hours 15 minutes. 105 marks

Paper 3, 20% of qualification - Synoptic investigation of a contemporary geographical issue. 2 hours 15 minutes. 70 marks

Coursework, 20% of the qualification- A level Independent Investigation. Internally assessed and externally moderated. Written report of 3000 – 4000 words. 70 marks

What will you study?

Area of study 1 -Dynamic landscapes	This unit will include study on: 1. Tectonic processes and Hazards 2. Landscape processes and change- Either Glaciated or Coastal Landscapes
Area of study 2 - Dynamic Places	This unit will include study on: 3. Globalisation 4. Shaping Places - Regenerating Places or Diverse Places plus a minimum of 1 day of human geography fieldwork
Area of study 3- Physical systems and sustainability	This unit will include study on: 5. The water cycle and water insecurity 6. The carbon cycle and energy security 7. Climate change futures
Area of study 4 - Human systems and geopolitics	This unit will include study on: 8. Superpowers 9. Global Development and Connections Either Health, Human Rights and Intervention or Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

What will Geography offer you in the future?

Geography offers a host of career opportunities: Meteorology, Data Collectors, Climatology, Global Warming Researcher, Teaching, Seismologist, Volcanologist, Lecturer, Human Resources, Travel Industry and many more.

Subject Leader
Mr J Wrigley

Advanced Level
History
Edexcel

Why study History?

The study of History will provide a sound basis for both further education and entering the world of work. History provides vital forensic and literary skills and is a sound basis for professions where concise, accurate reporting is important. Students will develop a range of skills which will be of significant use to them both in further education and future employment. The study of History helps students to improve as effective and individual learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers. Students will learn to question the world around them rather than to simply accept the views and beliefs of others.

How will you be assessed?

Units 1 is worth 20% of final grade.

Unit 2 and 3 are worth 30% each of final grade.

Unit 4 is worth 20% of final grade.

Units 1-3 are externally marked.

Unit 4 is internally marked and externally moderated.

What will you study?

Unit 1 – Britain, 1625-1701; conflict, revolution and settlement	A focus on the changing relationship of the Stuart monarchs with parliament and how the concept of who had power evolved during the Civil War, Restoration and Glorious Revolution. Wider study of developments in Britain in terms of religion, economy, politics, trade and exploration.
Unit 2 – Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924	An examination of the events that culminated in Tsar Nicholas II losing the Russian throne in the February 1917 revolution. This then develops into a study of the rise to power in Russia of the Bolsheviks under Lenin and the creation of the worlds first communist state the USSR.
Unit 3 – Civil Rights in the USA, 1850-2009	An investigation into the developing story of black American civil rights from the US Civil War in 1865, though the New Deal era, the roles and significance of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X in the mid-twentieth century and finally the reasons for and importance of Barak Obama's Presidential election in 2009.
Unit 4 – Historical Investigation	Students complete a single assessment on a question set by the teacher. The assignment will assess the ability to carry out a historical enquiry, analysing and evaluating historical interpretations, and organizing and communicating the findings.

What will History offer you in the future?

The study of history offers clear preparation for a wide range of university courses. It also prepares students for the world of work by developing a wide range of transferrable skills such as investigation, organisation and communication. Students will prepare for university study by developing as effective and independent learners, and as critical and thinking learners with lively, curious and enquiring minds.

Subject Leader
Mrs A Sandhu

Advanced Level
Law
OCR

Why study Law?

This course is designed to encourage students to develop their knowledge and understanding of how our law is made, how our legal system operates and the fundamentals behind both criminal and civil liability. Students will also gain an understanding of legal method and reasoning, develop techniques of logical reasoning and analytical skills, and solve problems by applying legal rules.

How will you be assessed?

Students will sit 3 papers at the end of the two years;

Paper 1 (2 hours) a written exam – 33.3%- The Legal System and Criminal Law

Paper 2 (2 hours) a written exam – 33.3%- Law Making and Tort

Paper 3 (2 hours) a written exam – 33.3%- The Nature of Law and Contract

What will you study?

The Legal System and Criminal Law	2-hour exam includes; 1 x 8-mark question; 1 x 12-mark question; 3 x 20-mark questions This unit involves looking at how our legal system works, who works within it and their roles, and how criminals are punished for their crimes. In this unit, we also learn how guilt in a criminal case is established and study a range of criminal offences from assault to murder and many in between!
Law Making and Tort	2-hour exam includes; 1 x 8-mark question; 1 x 12-mark question; 3 x 20-mark questions This unit focuses on how our law is made and by whom. We look at the different law makers ranging from Parliament to judges and the processes they use for making and changing our law. This unit also explores the rules and principles concerning liability in civil law, including how to establish negligence, occupier's liability, nuisance and vicarious liability.
The Nature of Law and Contract	2-hour exam includes; 4 x 20-mark questions This unit delves in to major themes such as how, and if, morals affect and shape our law and whether they should do so; whether our law is, and should be just; how technology is impacting our law and much more! Also, in this unit, we study the law surrounding making and breaking contracts and what our rights and remedies are as citizens.

What will Law offer you in the future?

The study of law provides a strong and useful base for the further study of law at degree level. It also enables you to gain skills (analysis, critical thinking, reasoning) which would be of benefit in many other degrees.

Study Jobs directly related to Law include:

- Arbitrator
- Barrister
- Barristers Clerk
- Chartered Legal executive (England and Wales)
- Company secretary
- Costs Lawyer
- Detective
- Licenced conveyancer
- Paralegal
- Solicitor
- Solicitor, Scotland

Jobs relating to Law include:

- Advice worker
- Border Force Officer
- Chartered Accountant
- Civil Service Administrator
- Data Analyst
- Data Scientist
- External Auditor
- Forensic computer Analyst
- Human Resources Officer
- Mediator
- Patient Attorney
- Political Risk Analyst
- Stockbroker

Subject Leader
Mrs F Williamson

Advanced Level
Mathematics
Edexcel

Why study Mathematics?

Potential for joint university courses, graduate prospects, transferable skills and salary advantage.

How will you be assessed?

PEARSON Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics (9MA0)
Three externally examined written papers.
Students must complete all assessment in May/June, in any single year.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (9MA0/01) 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification and 100 marks.
Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used in the assessment.

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (9MA0/02) 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification and 100 marks.
All the content of the specification for Paper 1 is assumed knowledge for Paper 2 and may also be tested within parts of questions. Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used.
Synoptic assessment requires students to work across different parts of a qualification and to show their accumulated knowledge and understanding of a topic or subject area. Synoptic assessment enables students to show their ability to combine their skills, knowledge and understanding with breadth and depth of the subject. This paper assesses synopticity.

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (9MA0/03) 2 hours, 33.33% of the qualification and 100 marks.
The assessment comprises two sections: Section A - Statistics and Section B – Mechanics.
Students must answer all questions and calculators can be used in the assessment. All of the content of the specification for Paper 1 and Paper 2, is assumed knowledge for Paper 3 and may be tested within parts of questions. This paper assesses synopticity.

Assessment objectives:
AO1 Use and apply standard techniques, 48-52%;
AO2 Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically, 23-27%;
AO3 Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts, 23-27%.

What will you study?

Topics for Paper 1	Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, numerical methods and vectors.
Topics for Paper 2	Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, numerical methods and vectors.
Topics for Paper 3 Section A: Statistics	Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.
Topics for Paper 3 Section B: Mechanics	Quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's Laws and moments.

What will GCE Mathematics offer you in the future?

Development of analytical and problem-solving skills. Careers in accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business consultancy, teaching, ICT, games development, scientific research, programming, civil service, design, construction and astrophysics.

Subject Leader
Mrs E Morris

Advanced Level
Media Studies
Eduqas

Why study Media Studies?

This course is designed to allow media students to draw on their existing experience of the media and to develop their abilities to respond critically to the media.

The media play a central role in today's culture, society and politics. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer. The media have real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and the ability to participate in key aspects of society. The media also has an important economic influence. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and generate significant global profit. This suggests that the importance of the media in social life can only increase.

The WJEC (Eduqas) specification offers learners the opportunity to develop a thorough and in depth understanding of key issues, and to learn about a variety of advanced theoretical approaches and theories to support critical exploration and reflection, analysis and debate. There will be detailed study of a range of media products, offering opportunities for detailed analysis of how the media communicate meanings in a variety of forms. This will underpin debate about the social, cultural, political and economic role of the media. Learners will consider established media forms alongside more modern forms, developing an awareness of emerging and evolving media.

Learners will also extend their experience of the media through the study of products with which they may be less familiar, including those produced by or for a minority group, non-mainstream and non-English language products. The aim of this is to develop knowledge and understanding of the effect of different national contexts on representations in media products, the global reach of media industries, and the targeting of audiences on a national and global scale.

Learners will also have exciting opportunities to develop media production skills in different forms, apply their knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework to media forms and products, and become creators of meaning themselves. Learners will be offered a choice of briefs and forms within which to work, enabling them to explore and pursue their own media interests.

What will you study?

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences. **Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes.** **35% of qualification.**	This component covers media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media context. It consists of 2 sections: **Section A:** Analysing Media Language and Representation. This section analyses media language and representation in relation to 2 of the following forms studied: advertising, marketing, music videos or newspapers. **Section B:** Understanding Media Industries and Audiences. This section assesses two of the following media forms - advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, video games – and media contexts.
Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth **Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes.** **35% of qualification**	This component assesses knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, industry and audiences. The exam consists of three sections: Section A – Television in the Global Age Study of two crime dramas: one British drama and one foreign language drama. Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media Study of 2 magazines from different time periods. Section C – Media in the Online Age Study of 2 modern online media platforms.
Component 3: Cross-Media Production Non-exam assessment 30% of qualification	An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by Eduqas, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence.

What will Media Studies offer you in the future?

The study of Media will be of benefit for many careers such as those in communications, journalism, the media, IT and marketing. The skills that you will develop over this course are respected in all areas of life whatever career path you choose; skills such as fluency in argument and expression, critical analysis and personal reflection will always be of great value.

Subject Leader
Mr J Zwanzig

Advanced Level
Music Technology
Edexcel

Why study Music Technology?

Advanced skills in music technology are developed through the use of sequencing, recording techniques and listening and analysing. Students will have the opportunity to perform and arrange music and to record their work on a regular basis.

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1 – Recording - A controlled coursework module, externally examined – 20%
Unit 2 – Technology - based composition, externally examined – 20%
Unit 3 – Listening and Analysing – 25%
Unit 4 – Producing and Analysing – 35%

What will you study?

Unit 1 - Recording	• One recording, chosen from a list of 10 songs, consisting of 5 compulsory instruments. • Keyboard tracks may be sequenced • Total time – between 3 and 3 ½ minutes • Logbook
Unit 2 – Technology - based composition	• One technology-based composition chosen from 3 briefs • Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects use must be included • Total time must be 3 minutes • Logbook
Unit 3 – Listening and Analysing	• Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles • Application of knowledge related to all 3 areas of study: - Recording and production techniques - Principles in sound and audio technology - The development of recording and production technology Examination 1 hours 30 minutes
Unit 4 – Producing and Analysing	• Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques • Application of knowledge related to 2 of the areas of study: - Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes - Principles of sound and audio technology Examination 2 hours 15 minutes

What will Music Technology offer you in the future?

Music Technology is an excellent course for those wishing to work in the music business or study different aspects of Performing Arts. It can lead to further study of Music Technology or Recording, as well as being an excellent course for those who wish to further study music (in addition to a Music A Level). The job market for music technology is huge from sound engineering, producer, recording engineer, composer (film music and music for video games), performer, teaching, entertainment, television, radio, concert management and many more.

Subject Leader
Mr A Nanson

Advanced Level
Physical Education
AQA

Why study Physical Education?

Students will explore contemporary issues in modern sport and recreation as well as examining the effects of exercise and the relationships between training and performance. Students will enhance their understanding of how elite performers prepare for sports competition as well as finding ways to improve their own performance in selected roles through their greater understanding of the subject.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (*2 hour written examination*) **35%** of overall grade
Component 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport (*2 hour written examination*) **35%** of overall grade
Component 3: Non-Exam Assessment (*Practical performance in physical activity and written analysis & evaluation coursework*) **30%** of overall grade

What will you study?

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport	• **Applied anatomy & physiology** (e.g.: movement analysis, specialist training, energy systems) • **Skill Acquisition** (e.g.: theories of learning, information processing) • **Sport & society** (e.g.: sociological issues, historical eras, female sport)
Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport	• **Exercise physiology & biomechanics** (e.g.: injury prevention, fluid mechanics) • **Sports psychology** (e.g.: anxiety, leadership, motivation) • **Technology in sport** (e.g.: role of NGBs, sports analytics, development of facilities & equipment)
Non-Exam Assessment	1) Assessment as a **player or coach** in the full context of one activity. 2) Written or verbal **analysis and evaluation** of either your own or another's practical performance.

What will Physical Education offer you in the future?

Students have progressed onto careers in teaching, sports coaching, sport development, leisure management, and sports design, as well as physiotherapy and sports psychology. The new specification has an emphasis on physiology as well as quantitative analysis which lend themselves to further study or specialisation in Biology and Mathematics.

Subject Leader
Dr B McGovern

Advanced Level
Physics
AQA

Why study Physics?

Physics attempts to describe how nature works using the language of mathematics. It is the most fundamental of all the natural sciences and its theories attempt to describe the behaviour of the smallest building blocks of matter, light, the universe and everything in between.

A level physics and maths are required for many university courses including engineering and physics courses

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 (sections 1-5 and 6.1 periodic motion) - Externally written examined modules - 34% of A Level grade

Paper 2 (assumed knowledge from all sections but the option Astrophysics) - Examined Unit - 34% of A Level grade

Paper 3 (Part A: practical skills and data analysis; Part B: the option Astrophysics) - Examined Unit - 32% of A Level grade

All examinations occur at the end of the Year 13.

What will you study?

Section 1- Measurements and their errors	Students will carry out experimental and investigative activities in order to improve their practical skills. The examination will not involve completing a practical but answering questions related to practical's completed in class and completing a written paper.
Section 2 - Particle and radiation	Particle physics introduces students to the fundamental properties of nature, matter, radiation and quantum mechanics.
Section 3 - Waves	Waves studies, interference, stationary and progressive waves, fibre optics and diffraction.
Section 4 - Mechanics and Material	In mechanics, we study projectile motion, moments, Newton's Laws, momentum and energy conservation. Students will also look at the properties of materials, including Young Modulus.
Section 5 - Electricity	Electricity involves the study of the laws underpinning electric circuits. Including applications such as superconductivity and the potential divider.
Section 6 - Further Mechanics and thermal physics	Further mechanics includes circular motion, simple harmonic motion and simple harmonic systems, forced vibrations and resonance. Thermal physics includes energy transfer calculations and qualitative treatment of the first law of thermodynamics, ideal gases and molecular kinetic theory modelling.
Section 7 - Fields and their consequences	In this topic students will investigate forces acting at a distance. They will study gravitation, electric fields, capacitance, magnetic fields and electromagnetic induction.
Section 8 - Nuclear Physics	As implied by the name, nuclear physics is focused on the nature of the atomic nucleus. Students will study phenomena such as radioactivity, nuclear instability, nuclear energy, as well as safety aspects of nuclear physics.
Option - Astrophysics	Astrophysics, the application of physical laws and techniques to the observation of phenomena in space. Topics include telescopes, stellar evolution and classification and cosmology.

What will Physics offer you in the future?

Progression to University in a very wide range of subjects and a variety of careers and professions including engineering, natural sciences, financial services, architecture, computing, meteorology and climate science, patents law, education and research along with many others.

Subject Leader
Mr D Hayes

Advanced Level
Politics
Edexcel

Why study Government and Politics?

Who should study politics, and why? The short answer is that everyone should study politics – all members of society should have a general understanding of the rules under which they live. For these rules to be effective, as many citizens as possible should actively participate in making, upholding and, hopefully, changing these rules. This is what is meant by 'active citizenship'. A healthy society is a society in which many people engage in political activity and do so with insight and understanding.

Politics is therefore particularly likely to suit students who:

- have in interest in the world around them – ones who want to know more about the society they live in, how it works and how it could work.
- enjoy debate, discussion and argument – students who are comfortable with the fact that in politics there are no simple 'rights' or 'wrongs'.
- like to think for themselves and who wish to develop their own views, rather than simply accept the views of others.

How will you be assessed?

All 3 units are externally examined modules worth 33.3% of the final A Level Grade.

All units are assessed at the end of Year 13 in the Summer (June) Examination Diet.

What will you study?

Component 1: UK Politics	Political Participation and Core Political Ideas (conservatism, liberalism, socialism)
Component 2:UK Government	The Constitution, parliament, the Prime Minister and the executive and non-core political ideas
Component 3: Comparative Politics	A study of key similarities and differences between features of the UK and US political systems

What will Government and Politics offer you in the future?

The study of politics offers clear preparation for a wide range of university courses. It also prepares students for the world of work with particular relevance to public service such as the police force, teaching and civil service. Politics is also becoming increasingly relevant to those who wish to work in the private sector; journalists, researchers, lawyers, engineers and financial sector workers are all influenced by political decisions made by people in power. They are increasingly finding that being aware of, understanding and helping to shape those decisions is not only helpful, but also necessary, in their chosen lines of work.

Subject Leader
Mrs K Jhaj

Advanced Level
Psychology
OCR

Why study Psychology?

Studying Psychology will give you fundamental and lasting insights into human behaviour; you will learn about the main approaches in this subject (Biological; Cognitive; Social; Developmental and Individual Differences). The research in Psychology ranges from controlled experiments on humans (power of the authority figure to conformity in administering electric shocks) to long term case studies (deprivation studies)

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% externally examined. The course is divided into three components:

Component 1 Research Methods - 30% of the overall course.

This component has three elements which include a multi-choice section, stimulus response section and a mathematical data analysis section.

Component 2 Psychological Themes through Core Studies - 35% of the overall course

Students will answer a range of short and essay style question on ten sets of classic and contemporary core studies.

Component 3 Applied psychology - 35% of the overall course.

Students answer extended questions relating to three areas of applied psychology, of which, mental health is the compulsory element.

What will you study?

Research Methods	This component introduces the student to the world of research methods whereby, they actively engage in their own practical research investigations. Through the first-hand experiences of collecting data via a range of methods and techniques, students will be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different techniques.
Psychological themes through core studies	This exciting component draws upon classic core studies and contemporary studies, to appreciate how psychological knowledge and understanding has developed over time. There are ten pairs of studies to cover behaviours ranging from child aggression to brain abnormality. Media sources are analysed in detail for their applications and engagement with psychological research.
Applied psychology	This insightful applied unit examines how the research and theories in psychological theory have an impact on life in certain areas. The compulsory unit is “issues in mental health” plus students learn from two other optional units, choosing from: • Child psychology • Criminal psychology • Environmental psychology • Sport and exercise psychology

What will Psychology offer you in the future?

Taking Psychology as an option will change your life, besides learning about human behaviour, you will also learn how to express yourself coherently, how to challenge information, how to be confident about yourself, how to be a more self-aware person! Progression to University in a wide range of subjects and a variety of careers and professions including the public services, media, human resources, the law, education, research and many more - Psychology is relevant to every sphere of industry.

Subject Leader
Miss H Cook

Advanced Level
Philosophy, Ethics and Theology
OCR (Course code H573)

Why study Philosophy, Ethics and Theology?

This subject requires students to engage with many of the ultimate questions which have fascinated humanity for millennia. To be successful in this subject an enquiring mind, the ability to think critically, and an enthusiasm for debate are essential. Students will need to question, analyse, interpret, apply and evaluate a range of theories concerning the nature of belief and morality. Throughout the course the ability to make comparisons and connections between various concepts is developed. Students must construct and communicate articulate arguments and this frequently requires students to understand and argue points of view that may be contrary to their own.

How will you be assessed?

This is a two-year course which is externally assessed through three two-hour examinations at the end of the second year of study. Each exam is worth 33.3% of the final A level grade, and will require students to write three essays (each worth 40 marks). There is no coursework.

What will you study?

Unit 1 (H573/01) **Philosophy of Religion**	Philosophy of Religion is concerned with exploring religious beliefs and concepts to see whether they can stand up to rational argument. Students will explore ancient philosophical influences including the thought of Plato and Aristotle; the teleological, cosmological and ontological arguments about the existence or non-existence of God; the nature and impact of religious experience; the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil and suffering; the nature of the soul, mind and body; the possibility of life after death; ideas about the nature of God, and issues in religious language. Students will critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of the philosophical perspectives examined.
Unit 2 (H573/02) **Religious Ethics**	Topics studied will include normative ethical theories such as utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, natural law and situation ethics; the application of ethical theories to three contemporary issues of importance (euthanasia, business ethics and sex and sexuality); ethical language and thought; debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience; the influence on ethical thought on developments in religious beliefs and the philosophy of religion. Students must be able to express and justify their own position in relation to the issues covered.
Unit 3 (H573/03) **Developments in Religious Thought (Theology)**	In this unit, students will further develop their skills of evaluation and synthesis in particular. Students will examine religious beliefs, values and teachings, how they are connected and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world. Focussing on the Christian faith, they will examine topics such as human nature, death and the afterlife, gender, liberation theology, and the challenges of secularism and pluralism. Students will explore sources of religious wisdom and authority; practices which shape and express religious identity, significant social and historical developments, and the relationship between religion and society.

What will Philosophy, Ethics and Theology offer you in the future?

The skills and subject knowledge developed in this subject can be of great benefit to those intending to study many Arts subjects at Higher Education. In addition, these skills are useful in careers requiring the ability to prepare, present and challenge arguments, good interpersonal skills and cultural awareness, (in particular law, education, journalism, medicine, the public sector, marketing, management and many more).

Subject Leader
Mrs K Jhaj

Advanced Level
Sociology
AQA

Why study Sociology?

In Sociology we aim to encourage student's curiosity and interest in the society around them. Society affects us all directly, it shapes our lives, and it shapes our interactions with other individuals, groups and institutions. Therefore, for anyone who has ever questioned why things are the way they are, sociology is a 'must study' subject. Sociology gives a clear insight into the working of society and social interactions.

How will you be assessed?

Externally assessed examinations in year 13. Three papers each 2 hours long and worth 80 marks.

What will you study?

Paper 1: Education with Research Methods in Context (Year 1)	The role and purpose of education in Society. Differential educational achievement of social groups by social class, gender and ethnicity. Relationships and processes within schools: pupil subcultures, hidden curriculum. The significance of educational policies: selection, comprehensivisation and marketisation. The application of sociological research methods to the study of education.
Paper 2A: Families and Households (Year 1)	The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change, with particular reference to the economy and to state policies. Changing patterns of marriage, and the diversity of contemporary family and household structures. The nature and extent of changes within the family, with reference to gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships. The nature of childhood, and changes in the status of children in the family and society. Demographic trends in the UK since 1900; reasons for changes in birth and death rates.
Paper 2B: Beliefs in Society (Year 2)	Different theories of ideology, science and religion, including both Christian and non-Christian religious traditions. The relationship between religious beliefs and social change and stability. Religious organisations, including cults, sects, denominations, churches and New Age movements, and their relationship to religious and spiritual belief and practice. The relationship between different social groups and religious/spiritual organisations and movements, beliefs and practices. The significance of religion and religiosity in the contemporary world, including the nature and extent of secularisation in a global context.
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (Year 2)	Different theories of crime, deviance, social order and social control. The social distribution of crime and deviance. Globalisation and crime; the mass media and crime; human rights and state crimes. Crime control, prevention and punishment. The connections between sociological theory and methods. Theory and Methods: The relationship between positivism, interpretivism and sociological methods. Consensus, conflict, structural and social action theories. The concepts of modernity and post-modernity. The extent to which sociology can be regarded as scientific. The relationship between sociology and social policy.

What will Sociology offer you in the future?

Studying Sociology will change the way you look at the world. You will learn the value of evidence-based knowledge over common sense. Skills of analysis, interpretation and self-expression will be developed. Studying Sociology at A Level aids progression to University in a wide range of subjects and a variety of careers and professions including social policy, social work, journalism, human resources, public sector work. In comparison to other disciplines, sociology graduates have high rates of employability across a range of fields.

Subject Leader
Miss H Ortega

Advanced Level
Spanish
Edexcel

Why study Spanish?

The ability to speak other languages opens up countless opportunities in both the fields of leisure and work. There will be a shortage of qualified linguists and your services will be in demand from industry if Britain is to compete in a business context. The course encourages a greater appreciation of Spanish language, society and culture, as well as a greater understanding of language in general. It would therefore be of great benefit to English Language and Literature students.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation. Written examination: 1 hour and 50 minutes (40% of the qualification 64 marks)
Paper 2: Written response to works and translation. Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes (30% of the qualification 48 marks)
Paper 3: Speaking - Internally conducted and externally assessed. Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, which includes a single period of 5 minutes' formal preparation time (30% of the qualification 48 marks)

What will you study?

Paper 1 - draws on vocabulary and structures across all four Themes. 1. Changes in Spanish society; 2. Political and artistic cultural in Spanish speaking countries; 3. Immigration and the Spanish multicultural society; 4. Franco's dictatorship and the Spanish transition to democracy.	**Section A: Listening (24 marks)** A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female Spanish speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources. **Section B: Reading (24 marks)** A reading assessment based on a variety of text-types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions**.** **Section C: Translation into English (16 marks)** An unseen passage to be translated from Spanish to English
Paper 2 - draws on the study of two discrete Spanish works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film. The literary texts listed include a range of classic and contemporary novels, novellas, short stories and plays. All of the films are feature length.	**Assessment overview** This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts, **or** one literary text and one film (students must **not** answer questions on two films). Students are not permitted access to a dictionary or any documentation relating to the works during the examination. **Section A: Translation (16 marks)** Students translate an unseen passage from English into Spanish. **Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (16 marks)** **Section C: Written response to works (films) (16 marks)**
Paper 3 **Task 1** draws on vocabulary and structures across all four Themes. **Task 2** is based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the Themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the language studied.	**Assessment overview** Students complete two tasks. Task 1 worth 20 marks and Task 2 worth 28 marks. **Task 1 (discussion on a Theme)** Students discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements. **Task 2 (presentation and discussion on independent research)** Students present a summary of the key findings of the written sources they have used for their research and answer questions on this. They then have a wider discussion on their research.

What will Spanish offer you in the future?

Direct use of languages following Higher Education: translating, interpreting, teaching, commerce, tourism and travel. Indirect use of languages for careers: law, accountancy, secretarial skills, export marketing and selling, insurance, hotels, catering, merchant banking, engineering, manufacturing, computing and purchasing.

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