# Cockermouth School Sixth Form

## Subject Information 2026/27

AN EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL

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# 1 | Art, Craft and Design

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| This diverse course offers a wide range of techniques spanning both traditional and contemporary practice. Students will have opportunities to explore and then specialise in a variety and combination of methods used across all of the Visual Arts subjects. All projects are personalised and we strongly encourage individuals to further explore and develop their own ideas. Students choose to work in their specialist area focusing on combinations from graphics, textiles, ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, fashion, photography and print.<br>The course aims to reveal to the students their own artistic traits, what they are interested in developing and creating a resolved body of work that in the making provides knowledge and experience that they will apply beyond a Level in Degree, apprenticeship or work place. | AQA A Level<br>Art, Craft and Design<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:<br><br>Art, Craft and Design Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| There are three components to the A Level:<br>• Portfolio of Artwork<br>• Personal Investigation (written extended essay and artwork)<br>• Externally set assignment (Exam set by AQA) | Grade **5** in GCSE Art, Craft & Design (including specialism e.g. Graphic Communication), GCSE Fine Art or GCSE Photography, Grade **5** in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| • Independent working practice<br>• Research and selection process<br>• Time management<br>• Decision making<br>• Working to specific tasks and meeting deadlines<br>• Oral, visual and written presentation skills | |
| **Progression** | |
| Many students use the course as a natural progression into the study of art, fashion, interiors, photography and architecture at degree level. Others find it is a perfect foundation for primary teaching, psychology and other child centered courses. The natural link between media-based careers in theatre, television, journalism and advertising is often helpful for students who want to pursue careers in these areas. This course is well suited to those who need to have some creative element in their studies for specific careers e.g. Architecture.<br><br>**Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses:**<br>Textile Design at MMU, Graphics and Illustration at Dundee University, Architecture at MMU, Product Design at MMU, Fine Art at Edinburgh, Automotive design at Swansea, Interior Design at Salford, Jewellery Design and making at Glasgow school of art. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mrs N McMullen: mcmullenn@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 2 | Biology

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| Biology involves the study of living organisms: the way they work, their interactions with each other and the environment. The diversity of life and its study extends from the simplest bacteria to complex multicellular organisms like mammals.<br><br>The course builds on material covered at GCSE including cell biology, enzymes, genetic variation, inheritance and ecology while also introducing new concepts such as the physiology of organ systems, biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis, molecular biology and the control of gene expression.<br><br>Theory is closely linked to practical application and this is reflected in the course delivery. Students will be required to apply their practical knowledge to analyse critically and interpret experimental data and design. To facilitate this there will be fieldwork opportunities. | AQA A Level Biology<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:<br><br>AQA Biology Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| 3 x 2 hour written papers. All papers assess practical skills.<br>Paper 1 (35%) Topics 1 – 4, a mixture of short, long and extended response questions.<br><br>Paper 2 (35%) Topics 5 – 8, a mixture of short, long and comprehension questions.<br><br>Paper 3 (30%) Topics 1 – 8, structured questions, critical analysis of experimental data and a 25-mark essay question. | Grade **6** in GCSE Biology or at least Grade **6,6** in GCSE Combined Science with a Grade **6** in both Biology papers; Grade **6** in GCSE Mathematics; and Grade **5** in GCSE English Language. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| The ability to communicate scientific understanding succinctly and effectively both orally and written. The use of higher-level problem-solving skills, data handling and interpretation. Analytical, practical and observational skills as well as independent learning and research. | |
| **Progression** | |
| Degrees in Biological Sciences, Biomedical Science, Physiology, Natural Science, Biochemistry, Zoology, Neurosciences and Genetics and many other biological degree courses offer a natural progression for any student studying Biology. Many students go on to a biologically-related degree course such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing or Forensic Science. Biology graduates are employed by a variety of growing industries ranging from research, laboratory work, field work, epidemiology to climate change and environmental management.<br>Others choose careers as diverse as Law, Computing, Languages, Accounting or Teaching.<br><br>**Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses:**<br>Natural Sciences, Evolutionary Biology, Medicine, Bio-medical sciences, Neuroscience, Genetics, Zoology and Environmental Science at a range of universities including Cambridge, Oxford, Newcastle, Sheffield, Glasgow, Loughborough and Exeter. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mrs K Faria: fariak@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 3 | Business

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| Most students will, at some time, work in a business or an organisation with business principles. Learning about businesses and their activities is a core life skill.<br>This Business course is a real-world focused one that is rooted in the study of relevant and up-to-date case studies, backed up by a full understanding of core theory that explains the rationale and principles behind actions.<br><br>The course is delivered through a mixture of taught elements, class activities and self-directed work. In addition, students are provided with textbooks, websites, magazines and Firefly to assist their learning. We also make use of visits and guest speakers.<br><br>In Year 12 two modules are studied:<br>• 1) Exploring Business<br>• 3) Personal and Business Finance<br><br>In Year 13, a further two will be completed:<br>• 2) Developing a Marketing Campaign<br>• 22) Market Research. | Edexcel BTEC Level 3<br>Business<br><br>This BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate is equivalent to one full A Level.<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the Pearson Edexcel website:<br><br>Business BTEC Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| Each unit is assessed separately upon completion; half the assessment is therefore accredited at the end of Year 12, and the remainder during Year 13.<br>High scores in all assessments can mean that a top grade has been achieved by March of Year 13<br><br>• Units 1 and 22 are assessed through the completion of an internally set and marked project based around the research of a local business/situation<br>• Unit 2 is assessed through a time-limited controlled assessment set and assessed by Edexcel<br>• Unit 3 is assessed by a traditional written exam at the end of Year 12 that is set and marked by Edexcel | Grade **5** in GCSE Business, if studied, and Grade **5** in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language. |

| Transferable skills you will develop |
|---|
| This course will develop a variety of skills, including research and project writing, calculation, data analysis and interpretation. Students will also develop their presentation skills and take part in a variety of group work tasks. The core skill of evaluation will be enhanced through discussion and consideration of viewpoints. |
| **Progression** |
| The BTEC Level 3 will equally enable students to progress into employment, training or higher-level study. The qualification attracts UCAS points equivalent to A Level. Virtually all universities accept BTEC courses.<br><br>All employers, educators and trainers value the development of transferable skills mentioned above. Many students of Level 3 courses choose to enter employment and continue to study part-time to Level 4 (Undergraduate level) and beyond. |
| **For further details** |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mr S Dawson: dawsons@cockermouthschool.org |

# 4 | Chemistry

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| As a central science, Chemistry connects physical sciences, like Physics and Maths, with applied sciences, such as Biology, Medicine and Engineering. Chemistry is all around us and developing an understanding of the subject can help to answer many simple questions about everyday life. The course builds on GCSE material such as atomic structure, moles and rates (physical), carbon chemistry (organic) and trends in the periodic table (inorganic), extending these to thermodynamics, polymers, amino acids and DNA. | AQA A Level Chemistry<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:<br><br>AQA Chemistry Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| 3 x 2 hour written papers. All papers assess practical skills.<br><br>• *Paper 1 (35%)* Physical and inorganic. 105 marks. Mixture of short and long answers.<br>• *Paper 2 (35%)* Physical and Organic. 105 marks. Mixture of short and long answers.<br>• *Paper 3 (30%)* Any content and any practical skills. 90 marks. 40 questions on practical technique, 20 marks on questions across the specification, 30 marks of multiple-choice questions. | Grade **6** in GCSE Chemistry or at least Grade **6,6** in Combined Science with Grade **6** in both Chemistry papers; Grade **6** in GCSE Mathematics and Grade **5** in GCSE English. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Communicating your knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas with precision and using mathematical approaches to solve problems are important skills you will develop on this course. Collecting and processing reliable data will allow you to think critically and link theory with practical work, allowing you to think objectively when presented with information. | |
| **Progression** | |
| There are a wide range of Chemistry-related degrees, including Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Materials Science, Natural Sciences and Environmental Chemistry. Chemistry is essential if you wish to study Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy or Forensic Science.<br><br>Career links - progression into a wide variety of careers, including chemical engineer, healthcare scientist, clinical biochemist, forensic scientist, pharmacologist, research scientist, toxicologist, analytical chemist, career in the nuclear industry. Less obvious careers followed by students include chartered certified accountant, environment consultant, higher education lecturer, patent attorney, science writer or secondary school teacher. Recent A Level Chemistry students have progressed to the following degree courses: Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool; Chemistry at the University of Sheffield; Natural Sciences at the University of Oxford and Medicine at University of Newcastle. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Miss K Hardy: hardyk@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 5 | Computer Science

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| Computer Science is a rich and deep discipline in its own right, like Physics and Mathematics. It explores foundational principles and ideas, rather than training students in skills related to particular software. Computing's aspects of design, theory and experimentation are drawn from Engineering, Mathematics and Science respectively. Computing involves concepts and questions that have the potential to change how we view the world. The A level course is designed to develop students' problem-solving skills and lead students on to Computer Science at university level, or to supplement the skill sets of students intending to read Mathematics, Sciences or Engineering at university. | This Specification features significant Mathematics content.<br><br>AQA A Level<br>Computer Science<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:<br><br>AQA Computer Science Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| **Paper 1** is the on-screen programming exam which tests a student's ability to program and develop a provided skeleton code as well as theoretical knowledge (40%)<br><br>**Paper 2** is a theory paper based on subject content (40%)<br><br>**Non- Exam assessment**<br>Project work – students select a context to carry out an investigation of a practical problem and produce a solution (20%) | Grade **6** in GCSE Computer Science if studied, and Grade **6** in Mathematics if not; and Grade **5** in GCSE Mathematics is a minimum requirement and Grade **4** in GCSE English.<br><br>In addition to the above qualifications, students must have previously learnt to code using a high-level programming language, such as VB.NET, Python, Java or C#. |

| Transferable skills you will develop |
|---|
| Computer Science is not just about learning how computers work and how to program them; it's about learning how to think logically and problem solving, which relate well to Maths and Physics and are skills that many successful professionals possess. All pupils will be able to read and write algorithms and be able to use a computer competently and confidently whether they go into a computing specific career or not. However, few modern careers do not involve a degree of IT capability and there is still much scope for those with a higher level of skills to move forward quickly in a wide range of professions. |
| **Progression** |
| Many students go on to study subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, Computing, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering, Robotics and Computer Games Programming at university, while others use this course to improve their career opportunities generally.<br><br>**Career links –** Computer Science offers great opportunities to progress into many IT fields, including mobile technologies, games, project management, systems analysis and all the technical areas such as networking, databases and cyber security. Many electrical engineering departments are now subdivisions of computing departments at universities.<br><br>**Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses:**<br>Computer Science at Durham, Edinburgh, York, and Lancaster, Law at Cambridge, Forensics, Physics at Manchester, Maths at Oxford. Electrical Engineering at Leeds, Chemistry at Nottingham. |
| **For further details** |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mr N Whitehead: whiteheadn@cockermouthschool.org |

# 6 | Design and Technology

<table>
<tr><th>Course Content</th><th>Exam Board & Qualification</th></tr>
<tr><td>Students will develop and evolve their design thinking and manufacturing skills so that they can be successful in all areas of Design and Technology: Product Design.<br>Using a range of skills including; investigative and research skills, iterative design skills, modelling and manufacturing as well as critical analysis and evaluative skills.<br>Students will also be given opportunities to establish their own areas of interests within the many sectors of the Design industry, they will also gain experiences of Product design in the real world; how to solve problems with feasible design solutions as well as gaining knowledge of careers within the industry.</td><td>AQA A Level<br>Design and Technology<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:<br><br>https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/a-level/design-and-technology-7552/specification</td></tr>
<tr><th>Assessment</th><th>Entry Criteria</th></tr>
<tr><td>Paper 1 – Technical principles – written examination, 2.5 hours, 120 marks, 30% of the qualification.<br>The paper includes calculations, short-open and open-response questions, as well as extended-writing questions focused on:<br>Analysis and evaluation of design decisions and outcomes, against a technical principle, for prototypes made by others etc.<br><br>Paper 2 – Design and Making principles – written examination, 1.5 hours, 80 marks, 20% of the qualification.<br>Mixture of short answer and extended response questions.<br>Product Analysis: 30 marks<br>Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).<br>Section B:<br>Commercial manufacture: 50 marks<br><br>Non-Examined Assessment, 100 marks, 50% of the qualification.<br>Students will produce a substantial design, make and evaluate project which consists of a portfolio and a prototype.<br>The portfolio will contain approximately 40 sides of A3 paper (or electronic equivalent).</td><td>At least Grade 5 in GCSE Design and Technology, or a Level 2 Merit in CAMNAT Engineering Manufacture if studied, Grade 5 GCSE English Language and Grade 5 GCSE Mathematics.<br><br>If not studied, Grade 6 in any other practical, design-related subject is required.</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">Transferable skills you will develop</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Oral, written and drawing communication skills, problem solving, cultural and social awareness, critical thinking and analytical, evaluative skills, portfolio and presentation skills, designing and manufacturing techniques skills, CAD / CAM and more.</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">Progression</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Career links - supports progression into a wide variety of careers through the degree or apprenticeship route. These include civil/electrical/mechanical engineering, interior and spatial design, graphic design, packaging design, 3D/product design, furniture design, architectural technician, architect, production design, purchasing management, design & technology teaching and more.<br>Recent A Level Product Design students have progressed to the following degree courses: Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Interior Design, Graphic Design, 3D/Product Design, Architecture, Fashion design, Design & Technology Teaching and Automotive Design.</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">For further details</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Please contact the Head of Department, Miss E Dempsey: dempseye@cockermouthschool.org</td></tr>
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# 7 | Drama

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| The course is designed to provide a balance across a range of practical activities that will inform your academic understanding. It combines the activities of exploring plays, creating theatre, the performing of plays, the analysis of theatre and the critical evaluation of all of these elements.<br><br>Students completing the course successfully will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others. | Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies (8DR01/9DR01-DR03)<br><br>Year 12 & Year 13 A LEVEL: two-year course A2<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the Edexcel website:<br><br>http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/drama |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| **Year 12 Component 1: Devising (40%)**<br>The creation of an original devised piece of theatre using an existing playtext as a stimulus along with a theatre practitioner. Includes portfolio work as assessment along with performance of devised piece.<br>**Year 13 Component 2: Text in Performance (20%)**<br>Group performance of one key extract from a specific play and a monologue/duologue performance to a visiting examiner.<br>**Component 3: (40%) 2 hour 30 minutes written exam in three sections**<br>**Live Theatre Performance Review Section A: O**wn choice.<br>**Page to Stage Section B:** Realisation of a performance extract: Unseen question based on text they have studied theoretically and practically-Equus by Peter Scahffer.<br>**Interpreting a Performance Text Section C:** Using chosen text Lysistrata by Aristophones write about their re-imagined production concept and relate this to a theatre practitioner-Brecht. | Minimum of grade 5 in Drama or a 5 in English Literature if you've not studied GCSE Drama. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Communication, presentational, research, time management, management, leadership and team-working skills. Critical, analytical and evaluative writing abilities. | |
| **Progression** | |
| Aside from the obvious courses in the performing arts sector (both performance and production/technical) the academic abilities gained will be advantageous to you on any degree course where critical analysis, evaluation and research are required. Your ability to communicate complex and abstract thoughts, theories and ideas are transferable to many varied areas of study and work.<br>**Career links**<br>A qualification in Drama and Theatre Studies will allow you to progress not only into the many and varied careers within theatre, film, radio and television but also into other creative industries; PR and marketing, advertising, journalism, teaching or any job role that requires you to communicate.<br>**Recent A Level students** have progressed to the following degree courses:<br>Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Royal Court Theatre School, Central School of Speech and Drama, Liverpool John Moore's, LIPA and Man. Met. to study acting/theatre as well as a number of students who have gone on to study Musical Theatre, Drama and English and various Dance courses around the country. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Miss Julie Mossop: mossopj@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 8 | Economics

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| Economics is a real-world subject that explains everything we purchase, every job we have and every resource we use. Topics are split into Microeconomics relating to individuals and Macroeconomics relating the whole economy.<br>In Year 12 Microeconomic concepts include prices, supply and demand, production, competition and market failure. Macroeconomic concepts include economic performance, government policy and the national economy.<br>In Year 13 further Microeconomics topics include markets, labour market plus income and wealth; Macroeconomics aspects are international trade, financial markets and the European Union.<br>The course is delivered through a mixture of taught materials, class activities and self-directed work. Students are provided with textbooks, websites and Firefly to assist. We also attend revision workshops and have assistance from guest speakers. | **AQA A-Level Economics**<br><br>AQA Economics Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| The course is assessed at the end of the course through three exams covering the topics of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Principles & Issues.<br>The assessments will comprise a mix of essays, data response, multiple choice and short answers. | Grade **5** in GCSE Business if studied; Grade **6** GCSE Mathematics and Grade **5** in GCSE English Language |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Studying Economics will develop a range of transferable skills including analytical and evaluative techniques. The ability to use, calculate and interpret data will also be a feature of the course. Students who succeed are those with a strong grasp of theory and current affairs backed up by a thirst for knowledge and a willingness to have their viewpoint challenged. | |
| **Progression** | |
| Economics is a classical art with scientific principles and as such enables progression into a wide variety of careers, training and higher study. Almost all students continue to study Economics, Finance, Politics, Accountancy, Business, Marketing or Management at university. Others use the breadth of key skills as an excellent aid to study in an unrelated field.<br>Within employment and training, employers place a high value on the key skills of analysis and evaluation plus the fact that students have engaged with the real world during their course. In all cases, decision makers have a confidence in the depth, breadth, quality and rigour of the course.<br><br>**Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses:**<br>International Finance and Economics at Sheffield Hallam | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mr S Dawson: dawsons@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 9 | English Language

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| The course is wide ranging in content and requires students to have a genuine, intellectual curiosity as to how language functions. The course covers aspects of language study as diverse as language change over time to the acquisition of children's speech. Whilst the majority of the course is exam focused there is also the opportunity for independent, investigative research. The non-exam assessment also includes a creative writing element. The course incorporates a variety of academic approaches, such as data analysis, discursive essays, directed writing, original writing and research-based investigative writing. This allows students to develop a wide range of skills which include critical reading, evaluation, analytical thinking plus the ability to develop and sustain arguments and write in a range of different styles, which are all invaluable for both further study and future employment. | AQA A Level<br>English Language<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:<br><br>AQA English Language Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| A level – two written exams (80%) and non-exam assessment (20%). | Grade **5** in GCSE English Language; Grade **4** in GCSE Mathematics and at least Grade **5** in another extended writing subject. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| The course will equip students with skills that are useful in the workplace, such as data analysis and report writing. | |
| **Progression** | |
| Degrees in English Language, English Literature, Media and Journalism. The skills developed also support a wider range of academic disciplines such as history, geography, sociology and psychology.<br><br>**Career links** – supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including teaching, law and journalism.<br><br>**Recent A Level English Language students** have progressed to the following degree courses: Law at Leeds University; English Language and Linguistics at York St John; Media, Culture and Communication at Liverpool John Moore; Psychology at Aberdeen; Middle Eastern Studies at Manchester University; Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Manchester University. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Director of English, Ms C Quine: quinec@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 10 | English Literature

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| English Literature is a course that suits students who are interested in human nature and the ways in which people's experiences over a wide range of social and historical contexts are represented through different literary genres. Because of the requirement to read widely and independently, the course appeals to students who enjoy reading and working with some level of independence. If you choose this course, you will study set texts from a wide variety of historical periods, as well as exploring your own literary interests by choosing your own texts for your NEA. You will study poetry, prose and drama, learning to engage critically and creatively across a range of genres and periods; develop and apply your knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation; explore the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received; and evaluate the value of different interpretations of texts. Lessons will involve a wide variety of approaches: you will be expected to pre-read texts, contribute ideas to discussions, prepare group and individual presentations and work independently on follow-up work. An open mind and a love of reading are essential. | Edexcel A Level<br>English Literature (9ETO)<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the Edexcel website:<br><br>Edexcel English Literature Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| Assessment is by examination and coursework<br>Exams:<br>Component 1: Drama (2 hours 15 minutes)<br>Component 2: Prose (1 hour 15 minutes)<br>Component 3: Poetry (2 hours 15 minutes)<br>Coursework – internally assessed. | Grade **5** in GCSE English Literature; Grade **4** in GCSE Mathematics and at least Grade **5** in another extended writing subject. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Through the study of this subject, you will develop a wide range of transferable skills, which include critical thinking, the ability to explore ideas and concepts creatively, and both written and verbal communication skills. The content and approach to the subject will enable students to progress to employment or to further stud in a wide range of disciplines. | |
| **Progression** | |
| English Literature or English degrees; evidence of general academic ability for the full range of degree courses, such as Law, Medicine, Social and Political Sciences, Physical Sciences, English Language and Linguistics, Drama, Business, and a range of vocational courses such as Nursing, Teaching and Social Care.<br>**Career links** – supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including business, teaching, law, accountancy, the Civil Service, international development, tourism, journalism, marketing and advertising.<br>**Recent A Level English students** have progressed to the following degree courses: English at Durham University, English and Modern Languages at Sheffield University, Architecture at the University of Northumbria, Primary Education at Durham University, Economics at Sheffield University, Medicine at Newcastle University, Law at Sheffield University, English at Manchester University. Chemistry at Glasgow University, Business of the Creative Industries at York University and Art at Edinburgh University. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Director of English, Ms C Quine: quinec@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 11 | French

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| The course offers students a varied and comprehensive insight into the social, political, intellectual and artistic culture of the countries/communities where French is spoken. The themes covered are: artistic and political culture in the French Speaking world, and social issues and trends in French Speaking society. Students will also study two works: one literary work and one film. | AQA French A level (7652)<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website:<br><br>AQA French Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| **Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing** 50% 100 marks 2 hours 30 minutes.<br><br>**Paper 2: Writing** 20% 80 marks 2 hours<br>• One text and one film or two texts from the set list.<br><br>**Paper 3: Speaking** 30% 60 marks 21 - 23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation).<br>• Discussion of a sub-theme based on stimulus card 5 - 6 minutes.<br>• Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 - 10 minutes) of individual research project. | Grade **6** in GCSE French; Grade **5** in GCSE English Language and Grade **4** in GCSE Mathematics. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| The course fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a modern languages degree. | |
| **Progression** | |
| A Level French supports progression onto language and combined degrees in the language studied and other European and non-European languages; useful if you want to study an unrelated subject with a year abroad; evidence of general academic ability for the full range of degree courses, for example Law, Medicine, Social and Political Sciences, Physical Sciences, English Language and Linguistics.<br><br>**Career links** - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including business, teaching, law, accountancy, the Civil Service, international development, tourism, journalism, marketing.<br><br>**Recent A Level language students** have progressed to the following degree courses: German and Russian at Oxford University; Physics with a year in the USA at the University of Kent; Linguistics with French at Newcastle University; Chinese at the University of Cambridge; Physics with Astrophysics at the University of Glasgow; two students studying Bio-chemistry at Cambridge; French and Spanish at Newcastle University, Law at Lancaster University and Biology 1ith Psychology at Lancaster University. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mrs P Campion: campionp@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 12 | Geography

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| Geography A Level is a wide-ranging course about landscape, processes at work in the natural environment, the global economy, nation-states and society. The management of human impact on our planet and equitable social and economic development are key themes.<br><br>Physical geography topics studied are: cold environments (glacial & periglacial landscapes); earth's life support systems (carbon cycle & water cycle); oceanography.<br><br>Human geography topics studied are: making places (social & economic change); global migration; sovereignty, power and borders; geography of disease.<br><br>There will be four days of geography fieldwork to develop students' skills and experience. In addition, students do a local fieldwork investigation of their choice. Statistical analysis techniques are taught - students apply them to their fieldwork data. | OCR A Level<br>Geography (H481)<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website:<br><br>OCR Geography Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| Paper 1 – Physical Geography (25% of total A-Level)<br>Paper 2 – Human Geography (25% of total A-Level)<br>Paper 3 – Geographical Debates (30% of total)<br>Independent Investigation – students carry out fieldwork and write a report of 3000-4000 words (20% of total A-Level) | A high Grade **5** in GCSE Geography if studied; Grade **5** in GCSE English and Grade **5** in GCSE Mathematics.<br><br>If Geography hasn't been studied at GCSE Grade **5** in another extended writing subject or science is required. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Writing skills including essays and report-writing; survey methods; a range of statistical analysis techniques; data presentation; use of geographical information systems. | |
| **Progression** | |
| **Career links** – This A-Level could lead to careers in: water companies, geographical information systems, urban planning, conservation and countryside management, civil engineering, local government, overseas development, travel and tourism, law, business and administration, marketing.<br><br>**Higher Education –** recently our A-Level Geography students have gone on to do a range of geography-related degree courses; for example: Geography (Geo-Sciences) at Edinburgh University, Geography and Planning at Sheffield University, Environmental Science at Lancaster University, International Law at Nottingham Trent University, and Countryside Management at Aberystwyth University. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Assistant Head of Department, Dr R Suckling: sucklingr@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 13 | Health and Social Care

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| The course is designed to provide a broad understanding of the specialist work-related knowledge required for the health, social or childcare related sectors. It is designed for individuals who want a career supporting and working with others and who want to gain a greater understanding of how to support the most vulnerable in society to improve their health and well-being. The course offers opportunities to investigate a range of issues affecting the health, social care and childcare sectors.<br>The Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care will develop knowledge, understanding and skills that will prepare students for progression to undergraduate study. It covers equality, diversity and rights, health and safety, anatomy and physiology, person-centred approaches, mental health, long-term physiological conditions, public health strategies, sexual health and nutrition and lifestyles. | OCR Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care H025, H125<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website:<br><br>https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/alternative-academic-qualifications/health-and-social-care-level-3-h025-h125/#specification-tab-2 |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| Learners will take up to 6 units made up of mandatory (M) and optional units (O):<br><br>**Exam units:**<br>M – Principles of Health and Social Care<br>M – Anatomy and physiology for Health and Social Care<br><br>**Internally assessed units**<br>M – Person Centred Approach to Care<br>M – Supporting People with Mental Health Conditions<br>O – Supporting People with Long Term Physiological Conditions<br>O-Investigating Public Health<br>O - Supporting People in Relation to Sexual Health, Pregnancy and Postnatal health<br>O – Supporting Healthy Nutrition and Lifestyles | At least a Level 2 **Merit** in CAMNAT Health and Social Care if studied; Grade **5** in GCSE English Language and Grade **4** in GCSE Mathematics.<br><br>If not studied, at least a Grade **5** in two sciences. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| The course fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, teamwork, critical thinking and reflection, independent research and IT skills and creativity. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study. | |
| **Progression** | |
| **Career links** - progression into a wide range of roles is supported, including, nursing; midwifery; care work; social work; radiography; occupational health; social work; teacher; youth and community work; probation officer; police force.<br><br>**Higher Education –** past students have progressed to a wide range of degree courses including Adult Nursing; Social Work; Primary Education, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy Project Management and | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mrs D Ashbridge: ashbridged@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 14 | History

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| Year 12<br>• In search of the American Dream: the USA 1917-96.<br>• South Africa 1948-94: from apartheid state to 'rainbow nation.'<br><br>Year 13<br>• Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c.1780-1939.<br>• Coursework unit, a choice of questions will be set. | Edexcel A Level<br>History route F: Searching for rights and freedoms in the twentieth century.<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website:<br><br>Edexcel History Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| Paper 1 (USA) 2 hours 15 minutes (30% of the A Level)<br><br>Paper 2 (South Africa) 1 hour 30 minutes (20% of the A Level)<br><br>Paper 3 (Poverty and public health) 2 hours 15 minutes (30% of the A Level).<br><br>Coursework. A 3000-4000 word essay based on independent enquiry (20% of the A Level). | Grade **5** in GCSE History if studied; Grade **5** in GCSE English Language and Grade **4** in GCSE Mathematics.<br>If not studied, Grade **5** in another extended writing subject is required. |

**Transferable skills you will develop**

- Independent and critical thinking
- Research skills.
- Evaluative and analytical skills.

The ability to take information from several sources and develop an effective and supported argument.

**Progression**

Students who study history go on to a wide range of careers and further education opportunities. History can prepare you for any career, which requires you to research, to look at evidence and to collate information and write at length. It is also primarily about people, so the range of jobs it may lead to is a long one! Examples include the law, teaching, media, and journalism, to name but a few.

**Recent A Level Students have progressed to the following degree courses:**
History at a range of universities, including highly selective institutions such as Oxford University. Students who have studied History have also gone on to study a diverse range of subjects such as: Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Law, Fine Art, Business Management and Economics, Biomedical Sciences and Zoology.

**For further details**

Please contact the Head of Department, Mr S Ashworth: ashworths@cockermouthschool.org

# 15 | Mathematics

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| The course will consist of studying Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. The Pure Mathematics is largely algebraic in nature. Students also study further trigonometry, coordinate geometry, proof, sequences, vectors and calculus. In Statistics, we will study probability, statistical distributions, data presentation and interpretation along with hypothesis testing. Mechanics contains work on kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and moments. | Edexcel A level Mathematics<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the link website:<br><br>Edexcel Mathematics Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| Each paper is 2 hours<br><br>Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1 (33.3% of A Level)<br>Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2 (33.3% of A Level)<br>Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (33.3% of A Level) | A minimum of Grade **7** in GCSE Mathematics is required and Grade **4** in GCSE English. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Apart from acquiring mathematical knowledge, it is considered that students of this subject develop the ability to improve their problem-solving skills and to think logically. There is also recognition that students who study Maths experience challenges, often very difficult ones, and are prepared to work hard to overcome the difficulties. | |
| **Progression** | |
| Studying any of the sciences at a higher level will usually involve an element of mathematical ability. Many of our students go to university and study Mathematics. For those seeking apprenticeships, an A Level in Mathematics is also looked upon very favourably.<br>**Career links** – The range of potential future careers is very wide, from technical apprenticeships through to professional mathematicians. The range includes engineers, scientists, working in the financial sector, computing and the medical world.<br>**Recent A Level Mathematics students** have progressed to the following degree courses: Mathematics at a wide range of universities – including Bath, Lancaster and Edinburgh; the full range of science degrees at university. An increasing number have been successful in securing apprenticeships. Some students have studied Mathematics and continued in a very different field, for example history, art, or medicine | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact Assistant Headteacher, Mr G Moore: mooreg@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 16 | Further Mathematics

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| This course must be taken alongside the Mathematics A Level. The course will consist of Further Pure Mathematics along with Further Mechanics and Decision Maths. The Pure Mathematics is largely algebraic in nature. Students will study a wide variety of topics, which will include trigonometry, sequences, calculus, vectors, complex numbers, proof by induction and differential equations. Mechanics will contain work on kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and moments, momentum, centres of gravity, statics, collisions and projectiles. Decision Mathematics will include topics such as; algorithms, networks and linear programming. | Edexcel A Level Further Mathematics<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the link website:<br><br>Edexcel Further Mathematics Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| Further Maths: each paper 1.5 hours<br>Papers 1 and 2: Core Pure Mathematics (50% of A Level)<br>Papers 3 and 4: Further Maths Optional Papers (Decision Maths and Further Mechanics (50% of A Level) | A minimum of Grade **8** in GCSE Mathematics is required, and Grade **4** in GCSE English.<br>Students who take Further Mathematics must also take A Level Mathematics and two other subjects at A Level/Level3. |
| **Transferrable skills you will develop** | |
| Apart from acquiring mathematical knowledge, it is considered that students of this subject develop the ability to improve their problem-solving skills and to think logically. There is also recognition that students who study Maths will experience challenges, often very difficult ones, and are prepared to work hard to overcome the difficulties. | |
| **Progression** | |
| Studying any of the sciences at a higher level will usually involve an element of mathematical ability.<br>Many of our students go to university and study Mathematics. Many of the top universities' Engineering or Physics courses are keen that students study as much maths as possible. Some of our double mathematicians have been successful in seeking apprenticeships.<br>**Career links** – The range of potential future careers is very wide, from technical apprenticeships through to professional mathematicians. The range includes engineers, scientists, working in the financial sector, computing and indeed the medical world.<br>**Recent Double Mathematics students** have progressed to the following degree courses: Mathematics at a wide range of universities, including Bath, Durham and Oxford; the full range of science degrees at university. We regularly have students going on to study medicine. Some students have studied Double Mathematics and continued in a very different field, for example history, or art. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact Assistant Headteacher, Mr G Moore: mooreg@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 17 | Medical Science

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| Medical Science is the science of dealing with the maintenance of health and the prevention and treatment of diseases. The Level 3 Applied Qualification in Medical Science is for learners who are interested in careers related to healthcare and medical research. Medical scientists are at the forefront of healthcare services, as they are vital in the diagnosis of disease, determining the effectiveness of treatments and searching for new cures. The qualification covers the key topic areas of health, physiology and disease, as well as providing the opportunity to study the areas of pharmacology, physiological measurement, clinical testing and medical research. | WJEC Level 3 Applied Qualification in Medical Science Further details about the course can be accessed from the WJEC website:<br><br>WJEC Medical Science Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| Six units:<br>• Human health and disease<br>• Physiological measurement techniques<br>• Medical Science research methods<br>• Medicines and treatment of disease<br>• Clinical laboratory techniques<br>• Medical case study | Grade **5,5** at GCSE Combined Science with papers being sat at higher tier and Grade **5** in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| You will learn to take responsibility for your own learning and develop interpersonal and practical thinking skills. You will be required to manage your time efficiently and to work to a brief with set deadlines. | |
| **Progression** | |
| The main purpose of the qualification is to provide learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills in key scientific principles to support progress to higher education or employment in areas of Medical science, such as job roles in physiological sciences or clinical laboratory services. When supported by other appropriate qualifications, the Level 3 Applied Qualification in Medical Science will enable progression to higher education to a range of Applied Science programs, such as biomedical science, life sciences, and physiology.<br><br>**Recent Medical Science students** have progressed onto the following degree courses: Business, Nursing, Biomedical Science, Health and Social Care, Primary Education as well as apprenticeships at organisations such as Sellafield.<br><br>The qualification attracts UCAS points equivalent to A Levels. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact Head of Medical Science, Mrs M Lui: luim@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 18 | Music

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| A-Level Music allows students to develop as all-round musicians by focusing on three core areas: **performing, composing, and listening/appraising.**<br><br>Building on the foundation of GCSE Music, the course dives deeper into the following key areas of study:<br><br>**The Western Classical Tradition**<br>(The Development of the Symphony)<br><br>**Rock and Pop**<br><br>**Into the 20th Century** | Eduqas A Level Music<br><br>Further information can be found on the Eduqas website:<br><br>Eduqas A Level Music Weblink |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| The course is assessed through a combination of exams and coursework:<br><br>**40% Listening and Appraising Exam**<br><br>**60% Coursework** – Two options available:<br><br>Option A: Performing 35%, Composing 25%<br>Option B: Performing 25%, Composing 35% | Minimum of grade 5 in Music or a 5 in English Literature if you've not studied GCSE Music. |

**Transferable skills you will develop**

Music at A-Level develops many key transferable skills, including:

- Creativity
- Problem Solving
- Independent Practice
- Decision Making
- Communication
- Collaboration

**Progression**

A Level Music opens the door to a wide variety of career opportunities, including in performance, composition, music production, teaching, and arts management. Universities and employers place significant value on creativity, adaptability and an open-minded approach which are central to this course. By choosing to study A Level Music you will be equipped to think critically, work independently, and approach challenges with an innovative mindset.

**For further details**

Please contact the Head of Department, Mr P Relph: relphp@cockermouthschool.org

# 19 | Physical Education

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| The course is wide ranging in content, covering many aspects of sport. The course has been designed to allow students an insight into the science of sport including the role of technology and contribution to health and fitness; psychology of sport and the effects on performance and put sport in a socio-cultural perspective. The non-exam assessment allows the students to perform in ONE sport, providing them with the opportunity to critically analyse and evaluate their performance and apply their experience of practical activity in developing their knowledge and understanding of the subject. With this said, students should be participating in their chosen sport on a regular basis outside of school as there will be a limited chance to develop skills in their sport over the course. If you want to know which sports are available, visit the OCR website for the specified list. | OCR A level<br>Physical Education (H555)<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the OCR website:<br><br>OCR Physical Education Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| **Physiological factors affecting performance**:<br>2 hour exam – 30% of the A Level<br><br>**Psychological factors affecting performance**:<br>1 hour exam – 20% of the A Level<br><br>**Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport**:<br>1 hour exam – 20% of the A Level<br><br>**Performance in Physical Education**:<br>NEA (non-examined assessment – coursework) – 30% of the A Level | Grade **5** in GCSE PE if studied; Grade **5** in two GCSE Sciences; Grade **5** in GCSE English Language and Grade **4** in GCSE Mathematics. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Our course will allow for the opportunity to create confident and effective decision makers who can operate effectively as individuals or to adapt to work as part of a team/ leadership role. It will provide experience in oral and written communication skills, gain an understanding of sports performance though analysing and interpreting data. Provide them with the skills to evaluate and be critical on their own performance. | |
| **Progression** | |
| Many students do progress into sports related courses at university. Our course allows for a wide variety of study within the world of sport, not only through the theory aspects of the course, but will include the ability to communicate and demonstrate your practical abilities. Taking A level PE is not just a decision to have a career as a sporting performer, but does allow you to be credited for your skill in your sport and can lead into many other opportunities and avenues to continue your learning and love of sport.<br>**Career links** - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including business, teaching, tourism, journalism, marketing, coaching, personal trainer, physiotherapy, sports development and many more.<br>**Recent A Level PE students** have progressed to the following degree courses:<br>Sports Science at a variety of institutions, Sports Coaching degrees, Education/Teaching courses, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Aeronautical Engineering. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mr J Charters: chartersj@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 20 | Physics

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| The fundamental processes studied in physics are those that occur in all branches of science and underpin the way the universe behaves. An understanding of physics helps us to understand why events happen in the way they do. Whether you take other sciences or not, physics at A' Level will make you see the world through different eyes.<br><br>This course builds on material covered at GCSE including waves, motion, forces, energy, radiation and electricity. The course also introduces new concepts such as subatomic particle physics, quantum phenomena, force fields, wave-particle duality, circular motion, and some aspects of relativity theory. | AQA A Level<br>Physics<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:<br><br>AQA A Level Physics Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| 3 x 2 hour written papers.<br>**Paper 1** and **Paper 2** each consist of 60 marks of short and long answer questions and 25 multiple choice questions.<br>**Paper 3** consists of 45 marks of short and long answer questions on practical experiments and data analysis, followed by 35 marks of short and long questions on an optional topic.<br>Generally speaking, Paper 1 covers work from Year 12 and Paper 2 covers work from Year 13, the work on practical experiments is covered throughout the course and the optional topic is taught at the end of Year 13. | Grade **6** in GCSE Physics or at least Grade **6,6** in GCSE Combined Science with a Grade **6** in both Physics papers; Grade **6** in GCSE Mathematics; and Grade **4** in GCSE English Language. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Through the application of logical analytical thinking ("why" does something happen), plus some mathematics, you will develop excellent problem-solving skills.<br>You will develop an inquiring mind, and be encouraged to plan how to investigate relationships between physical quantities.<br>You will develop precise communication skills, which is a hugely valuable skill-set demanded in many careers. | |
| **Progression** | |
| Degrees in Physics, Natural Sciences and Engineering are all closely supported by following this course, but other less obvious degrees such as Computing, Accountancy and Law also welcome applications from A Level Physics students. A Level Maths is often required in addition to study these degrees.<br><br>**Career links** - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including engineering, science research, medicine and the telecommunications industry. Some students have gone on to careers in journalism, theatre production and accountancy, to name just a few.<br><br>**Recent A Level Physics students** have progressed to the following degree courses:<br>Physics, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Maths, Accountancy, Veterinary Medicine, Music, Law, Business and Economics. Universities include Cambridge, Birmingham, Oxford, Leeds and Glasgow. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact Director of Science, Mr R Smith: smithr@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 21 | Psychology

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| During the first year, the course covers the main approaches in psychology (learning, cognitive and biological) and explores 'psychology in context', for example, attachment styles, memory and eyewitness testimony, obedience to authority and mental health.<br><br>The second year of the A Level aims to broaden and deepen knowledge with regard to the approaches, incorporating humanistic and psychodynamic perspectives. You will also study three core topics: schizophrenia, relationships and forensics. Research methods are a significant element to both years of the A Level course. | AQA A Level<br>Psychology (7182)<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:<br><br>AQA Psychology Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| Three two hour written exams, each worth a third of the overall A Level grade. | Grade **5** in GCSE English Language and Grade **6,5** in two GCSE sciences one of which should be Biology from combined or single science; Grade **5** in GCSE Mathematics desirable; students with a strong Grade **4** may be considered. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Skills in the design and implementation of a range of research methods. Written communication skills, analytical and reasoning skills, problem solving. Assessing issues from a broader perspective, for example cross-culturally and historically. Data analysis and interpretation, and mathematical skills. | |
| **Progression** | |
| Psychology A Level could lead on to a psychology degree; and the transferable skills gained would demonstrate general academic ability for a wide range of degree courses.<br><br>**Career links** - Psychology can lead on to a career as a qualified psychologist in areas such as clinical, educational, occupational and criminal psychology. It would also be useful in careers such as nursing, teaching, social work and human resources.<br><br>**Recent A Level Psychology students** have progressed to the following degree courses: Psychology at Bradford/Aberdeen/Liverpool Universities; Nursing at Aberdeen; Sociology, Media and IT at Liverpool John Moores; English at Newcastle. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mr L Clarke: clarkel@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 22 | Spanish

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| The course offers students a varied and comprehensive insight into the social, political, intellectual and artistic culture of the countries/communities where Spanish is spoken. The themes covered are: being a young person in Spanish-speaking society, diversity and difference, understanding the Spanish-speaking world, the two Spains, 1936 onwards. Students will also study two works: one literary work and one film. | AQA Spanish A level (7692)<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the website:<br><br>AQA Spanish Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| **Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing** 50% 100 marks 2 hours 30<br><br>**Paper 2: Writing** 20% 80 marks 2 hours<br>• One text and one film or two texts from the set list.<br><br>**Paper 3: Speaking** 30% 60 marks 21 - 23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation)<br><br>Discussion of a sub-theme based on stimulus card 5 - 6 minutes<br>Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 - 10 minutes) of individual research project | Grade **6** in GCSE Spanish, Grade **5** in GCSE English Language and Grade **4** in GCSE Mathematics. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| Oral and written communication skills, problem solving, cultural and social awareness, critical thinking and analytical skills. | |
| **Progression** | |
| A Level Spanish supports progression onto language and combined degrees in the language studied and other European and non-European languages; useful if you want to study an unrelated subject with a year abroad; evidence of general academic ability for the full range of degree courses, for example Law, Medicine, Social and Political Sciences, Physical Sciences, English Language and Linguistics.<br><br>**Career links** - supports progression into a wide variety of careers, including business, teaching, law, accountancy, the Civil Service, international development, tourism, journalism, marketing.<br><br>**Recent A Level language students** have progressed to the following degree courses: Media, Culture and Communications at Liverpool John Moores, Medicine at UCL and French with Spanish at Manchester, missionary work in a Peruvian orphanage followed by Medicine at Manchester. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact the Head of Department, Mrs J Pickavance: pickavancej@cockermouthschool.org | |

# 23 | Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

**EPQ is available as an enrichment option**

| Course Content | Exam Board & Qualification |
|---|---|
| Highly valued by universities, EPQ is a fun, challenging and exciting standalone qualification designed to extend and develop your skills beyond the A Level syllabus and prepare you for university and/or your future career. It is equivalent to half an A Level, graded A* to E and potentially carries 28 UCAS points.<br>The EPQ allows you to choose and lead your own project. You will get to plan and carry out research on a topic that you've chosen and then use this research to produce a written report, or in the case of practical projects, an artefact. You can take inspiration from something touched on in class or it could be something personal and unrelated to your studies.<br>You will be well supported during the process, with a weekly taught session and meetings with an allocated supervisor. | AQA Level 3 Extended Project Qualification<br><br>This qualification is equivalent to half an A Level<br><br>Further details about the course can be accessed from the AQA website:<br><br>AQA Extended Project Qualification Web Link |
| **Assessment** | **Entry Criteria** |
| The evidence for assessment will comprise of the following:<br>• A completed Production Log and Assessment Record including the Project Proposal Form, Presentation Record and Candidate Record Form.<br>• A project product including a 5000-word written report or an artefact and a 1000-word report, alongside any other evidence, as appropriate.<br>• A presentation given to an audience. | Grade **5** in GCSE English Language and Grade **4** in GCSE Mathematics. |
| **Transferable skills you will develop** | |
| By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) you can:<br>• Become a more critical, reflective and independent learner.<br>• Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills.<br>• Increase your planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills.<br>• Learn to apply technologies confidently.<br>• Demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise. | |
| **Progression** | |
| The EPQ is highly valued by universities, many of whom will reduce the entry requirements for their courses if you have completed this qualification. The EPQ can supplement all aspects of your A Level studies and can deliver a number of benefits, including improved A Level performance, increased motivation by allowing you to study topics of personal interest and enabling you to apply your new skills to other areas of study.<br><br>Extended Project qualifications can prepare you for any higher education course or future career that, requires you to independently plan, organise and research a topic, analyse evidence and collate information, write at length and/or present your findings. | |
| **For further details** | |
| Please contact Mr S Ashworth: ashworths@cockermouthschool.org | |