

Welcome to our Sixth Form

Find out all you need to
know about us here.



DDAT
Derby Diocesan Academy Trust

We are proud
to be part of
Derby Diocesan
Academy Trust.

Derby
CATHEDRAL
SCHOOL

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A message from DDAT



The opening of Derby Cathedral School in September 2018 was a special moment for Derby Diocesan Academy Trust. With over one hundred infant, primary, and junior Church Schools across the Diocese of Derby, it had always been a dream of ours to be able to offer young people the opportunity to continue their educational journey at secondary level. In addition to being our first secondary school where we are now able to complete this 'all through journey', Derby Cathedral School was the first Church of England secondary school to be established in Derbyshire. With pupils now ready to progress within our school to a Post 16 education, we were delighted to celebrate an additional milestone: the opening of Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form – September 2023.

'experience life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Our aim is for the Sixth Form to be inclusive, supporting progression of our own Year 11 students, as well as welcoming pupils from schools within Derbyshire. Our schools are not faith schools for the faithful, but where they are Church Schools, they are so for the community. We are excited to welcome you to join our community because your commitment and values align with ours. We want to encourage you to choose courses that will not only further your career ambitions but will inspire and motivate you while you are in our care. To support this, Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form offers a broad Level 3 curriculum, including both A Levels and vocational courses which allow students to follow bespoke pathways Post 16. Through the commitment of our subject specialists, we endeavour to offer the highest possible standards of teaching and learning in all subjects'. In addition to the rich extra-curricular offer and strong links to Derby Cathedral, we engage with a wide range of Universities, Further Education providers and employers to ensure that when you leave us, you have an exciting future ahead.

We are immensely proud, honoured and privileged to be serving our students, and their families, who are about to walk through our doors. We look forward to meeting you.

Sarah Clark
Chief Executive Officer
DDAT



Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form

I'm delighted to welcome you to Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form, where we combine academic ambition with personal growth in a vibrant, values-led community. As Headteacher, I am proud of the culture we've built – one rooted in high expectations, mutual respect, and a belief that every student has the potential to achieve remarkable success.

Inspired by John 10:10 – "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" – our Sixth Form is designed to offer students a rich and fulfilling experience, both inside and beyond the classroom. Whether you're aiming for university, an apprenticeship, or the world of work, we are committed to helping you thrive.

Here, learning is both rigorous and joyful. Through our FAITH values, we foster academic excellence, personal integrity, and a strong sense of purpose. Sixth Form students are role models in our school community, and we support you to lead with confidence, curiosity, and compassion. Our goal is simple: to help you flourish – academically, personally, and spiritually, so that when you leave us, you do so with the knowledge, character, and confidence to shape your future and make a meaningful impact in the world.

We invite you to explore our website, learn more about our Sixth Form offer, and get in touch to see how we can support your journey.

Mr A. Brown
Headteacher



Your new Sixth Form waiting to be discovered

We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form which opened its doors for the first time in September 2023. It has been a privilege to have the rare opportunity to create a Sixth Form from the ground up and we continue to build on the strong foundations the whole school has set since opening in 2018. The development of the Sixth Form has been a natural progression to expand the whole school community, and we look forward to welcoming you to our ever-growing school.

Experienced, committed and driven, we will continue to ensure that the Sixth Form is a complete success. This is another special year for us as we bring together all the necessary elements that make our Sixth Form a place to be proud of for staff and students alike.

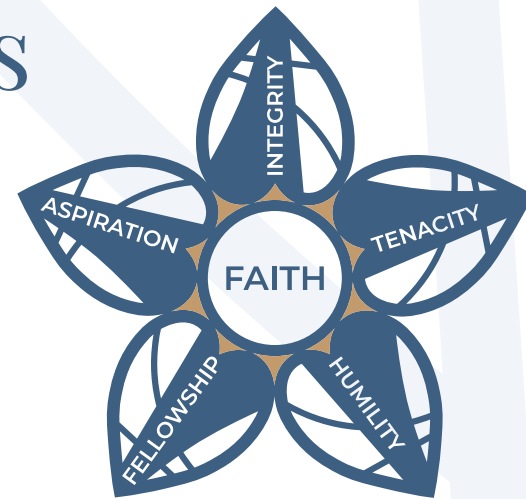
Our Sixth Form follows the same FAITH values as our main school with a strong emphasis on attainment and aspiration. We always look forward to facilitating our students to achieve, thrive and forge their future careers, whilst also giving them the opportunity to support and develop the long-term vision of our school.

Derby Cathedral School is the first secondary school in the DDAT Trust and if you enrol in September 2027, you will be working with our committed and experienced subject specialists to ensure you achieve your true potential and leave our school qualified and well-rounded.

We are very much looking forward to seeing the next generation of sixth-form students walking our corridors next year and it will be a pleasure to support your journey if you choose to study and enjoy your formative years here with us at Derby Cathedral School.

*Mr A. McIntyre, Head of Sixth Form
and Ms K. Osika, Sixth Form Administrator*

Our FAITH Values



SCHOOL VISION

Derby Cathedral School is a Christian community that welcomes students, families and visitors of all faiths and none. The diversity and richness of such a family brings depth and a vibrancy to our core.

Students of Derby Cathedral School are given every opportunity and challenged to be the best that they can be, demonstrating FAITH in all they do.

- **Fellowship** Collaborating with others, we treat everyone with respect, dignity and kindness.
- **Aspiration** We are ready to learn and grow, striving to be the best that we can be in every aspect of our lives.
- **Integrity** We demonstrate fairness, equality and honesty.
- **Tenacity** We are determined and resilient when faced with challenges.
- **Humility** We are gracious, calm and understand the importance of forgiveness.

Jesus said, 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

A place of rigour and joy, where every student flourishes.

FAITH

As you can see from our school vision statement, our FAITH values are a really important part of school life. We expect every student to work hard at demonstrating these values at all times, including when out of school.

You will experience a variety of activities in school in order to help develop these important character traits.

Every week you will reflect on how you have demonstrated one of the values and will work towards different levels of our FAITH Award every year.

Our FAITH values are based on our Christian values but apply to everyone.

They are also aspects of our character that are highly valued by all colleges, universities and employers.

House System

As a Sixth Form student, you will become a member of one of our six houses. Various opportunities will arise from being affiliated with your house including leadership opportunities, competitions and rewards.

BAKEWELL

Robert Bakewell (1682-1752), was an highly skilled ironsmith from Uttoxeter, Staffordshire. He worked at Melbourne Hall, before moving to Derby where he set up a workshop and forge in St Peters Street. He made the wrought iron rood screen and west gate at Derby Cathedral and the wrought iron gates at Derby Silk Mill (now the Museum of Making). Various examples of his ironwork can be seen at many churches within Derbyshire.

DERWENT

The River Derwent is about 66 miles long and apart from passing through the City of Derby, it is a completely rural river. It was once highly important to the Industrial Revolution providing power for the first ever cotton mill, Richard Arkwright's mill in Cromford.

MIDLAND

The Midland was one of the largest railway companies in Britain in the early 20th century, and the largest employer in Derby, where it had its headquarters. A large amount of the Midland's infrastructure remains in use and visible today, including its lines and hotels.

MERLIN

The Merlin V12 aero engines designed and manufactured by Rolls Royce, were a key factor in British success during the Second World War when combined with aircraft such as the Hurricane, Spitfire, Mosquito, Lancaster and the Mustang.

NIGHTINGALE

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), known as "The Lady with the Lamp," was a British nurse who grew up in Derbyshire. She was a social reformer and statistician best known as the founder of modern nursing. Her experiences as a nurse during the Crimean War were foundational in her views about sanitation.

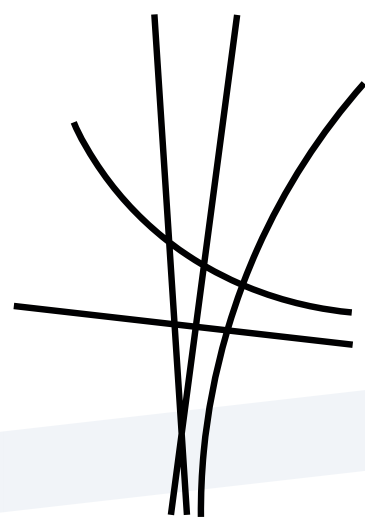
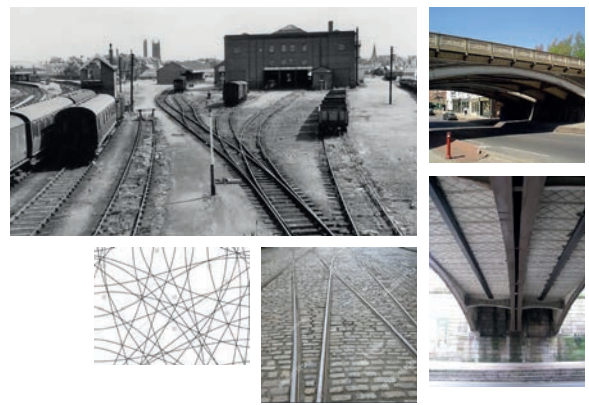
PEAK

Founded in 1951 the Peak District was the first National Park in England.

The Park spans an area of around 550 square miles and its terrain consists of rolling hills, farmland and moorland. The area is protected due to its outstanding natural beauty and it is famous for its caves.

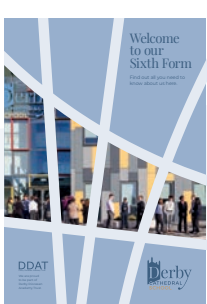


Sixth Form Identity



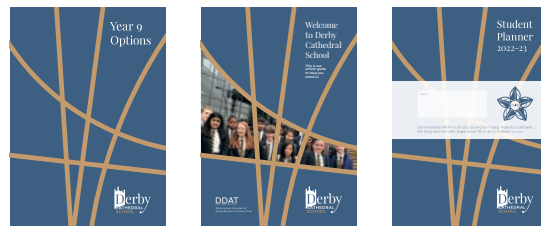
At Derby Cathedral School we take a great deal of pride in our wonderful city and surrounding area and have used this as a connection between the past and future. This history of the school imagery is a strong one, connecting both Derby Cathedral and the site on where the school now stands.

The inspiration for the school colours was taken from the two stunning stained glass windows, The All Saints and The All Souls, which stand either side of the altar in Derby Cathedral. The school was built on the former Friar Gate Goods Yard and the five lines that now make up our branding are taken from the railway lines on the goods yard itself and Friar Gate Bridge. Each line now represents one of our FAITH values (Fellowship, Aspiration, Integrity, Tenacity & Humility).



When creating the identity for the Sixth Form, we wished not to be separate from the main school but rather, to be a mature progression while still feeling like an integral part of the wider school community. To do

this we decided to use the lighter blue in the iconic stained glass windows, as opposed to the darker blue used more widely in lower school, and have kept the five lines, meaning the Sixth Form will continue to be a recognisable part of Derby Cathedral School as a whole.



Our Commitment and Vision



The Sixth Form at Derby Cathedral School is committed to ensuring outstanding achievement by all to produce qualified life-long learners. Improving the lives of all young people is at the centre of everything we do. We are an outward facing and inclusive Sixth Form at the heart of its community with a culture of high expectations and holistic education. Sixth-form students are empowered to study a highly developed curriculum in a caring, supportive, and enriching environment, with a clear focus on academic excellence, extensive extra-curricular opportunities and high career aspirations.

We want you as sixth-form students to **believe, belong and become** so you can forge '*your career in our community*'. As such, we will always place a strong emphasis on **curriculum, community, culture and careers**.

Believe: As the only Church of England Sixth Form in the County, we welcome students of all faiths and none. We want students to believe in our ethos, and in return, we will offer a transition route and curriculum that cares for the needs of all students which is inclusive, supportive and ensures students study the correct courses and complete their studies successful.

Belong: In our Sixth Form, you will be part of the whole Derby Cathedral School community and its FAITH values. We will ensure you belong to a school that provides a rich learning environment with a culture based on enrichment, challenge, balance, safety, enjoyment, independence and progress. We want you to show commitment, resilience, organisation and a true sense of community.

Become: It is our duty to provide support and create pathways for all our Sixth Form students to progress Post 18 with varied options to support their future careers. This is built on high aspirations and a commitment to excellent outcomes and destinations regardless of background or personal circumstance. We ensure you strive to achieve your true potential and leave our Sixth Form qualified and with the skills necessary to become a life-long learner.

Location and facilities housing our curriculum

- A school with a city centre location and established transport links which is open to all students across Derby city
- Opportunity to study in a modern building with state-of-the-art facilities
- Purpose built spacious classrooms with modern facilities and ICT across our subjects specialisms including specific science laboratories, music rooms, art and technology rooms and a drama studio
- Dedicated sixth-form-only study spaces open from 8am until 5pm each day including refreshment facilities and a silent room for individual study. Fridges, hot water, comfy seating, TV, computers, laptops and Wi-Fi are available to provide students with independence and a purposeful working environment
- Access to excellent sports facilities, including a large sports hall, football pitches and a fully-equipped fitness suite, with a range of sporting activities and competitive fixtures on offer
- A staffed learning resource centre, professional assembly hall, specific ICT suites and follow me printing available to Sixth Form students throughout the school

Student support and community

- A comprehensive induction programme tailored to support your successful transition from GCSE to Sixth Form study including specific help for those students moving to Derby Cathedral School from another school
- Relentless pastoral support and personal development, including guidance from a personal Form Tutor, Pastoral Year Lead, Head of Year, Personal Development Lead and Head of Sixth Form to support your health and wellbeing and encourage you to achieve your full potential
- Daily Collective Worship and weekly timetabled Key Stage 5 PSHE and Personal Development programmes to promote your study skills, health and wellbeing and support your career aspirations
- Being part of our house system with a key focus on attendance, rewards and celebrating student achievement
- Target setting, tracking and monitoring and regular parent and student feedback focussing on progress and areas to improve, including parents evenings, reports and one-to-one guidance to maximise development and chances of success
- Access to SEND support and the Post-16 Bursary for all eligible students



Enrichment and culture

- Extensive extra-curricular opportunities beyond the classroom through our Sixth Form specific 'Endeavour Programme' to maximise your potential
- Autonomy to decide on your areas of interest including options in sport, music, drama, culture, charity, voluntary work, teaching, mentoring, Gold Duke of Edinburgh and the opportunity to develop numerous other activities as our Sixth Form continues to grow
- Calendared work experience in Year 12 as well as a range of subject specific trips and events
- Leadership opportunities including Archbishops' Young Leaders Award, Prefects, FAITH ambassadors, House Captains, student voice, school event support, School Council and being part of the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team
- Strong partnerships with our local community and links to careers, universities and businesses with a commitment to meet the Gatsby Benchmarks and develop your employability skills

Post 18 progression and careers

- Guided choices and expert advice on Higher Education, Apprenticeships, employment and all other Post 18 progression routes from our in-house Careers Adviser
- Personalised provision including the use of Unifrog, trips to career events, widening participation, employer talks, mock interviews, CV advice and university, apprenticeship and job application support
- Super-curricular opportunities to support your Post 18 progression with a focus on degree level literacy, reading lists, masterclasses and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
- Specific and tailored individual guidance for those students aiming for highly competitive courses including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Oxbridge
- Support on A Level Results day to ensure you successfully progress on to your next steps after DCS, with the option to become part of our Sixth Form alumni



Student Life

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is an important part of life in our Sixth Form, providing students with time to pause, reflect and consider the kind of people they want to become.

Our programme is built around our FAITH values, alongside themes that connect with the experiences and challenges of young people today. Sessions are designed to be engaging, thought-provoking and relevant, using stories, debate, personal experiences, current issues and Christian teaching to encourage students to reflect on their own lives and the world around them.

As a Church of England school, our Collective Worship is rooted in the Christian tradition, while recognising, appreciating and exploring the diverse beliefs and backgrounds within our Sixth Form. Students are encouraged to ask questions, consider different perspectives and reflect on their own values.

In tutor groups, students debate contemporary topics, explore current affairs and develop their written and verbal professional communication. They build strong relationships with their tutors, who support their personal development and contribute to character references, while Sixth Form students also play an important role within our House System as positive role models for younger students.

Our aim is not simply to prepare students for their next steps, but to help them develop the character, confidence and compassion to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

"I've loved the enrichment and leadership opportunities. Mentoring younger students and running events has given me real confidence. It's easy to get involved in things beyond lessons."

"The teachers treat us as young adults and trust us to manage our own learning, but support is always there when we need it. There is a great community here. Everyone's friendly, the staff are approachable, and I feel like I belong."

Enrichment, Personal Development and Well-being

All Year 12 students take part in extensive extra-curricular opportunities beyond the classroom through our Sixth Form specific Endeavour Programme, aimed at expanding students' horizons and experiences. Students have the autonomy to decide on their areas of interest, which span the government's five core categories of enrichment: Civic Engagement; Arts and Culture; Nature, Outdoors and Adventure; Sport and Physical Activities; and Developing Wider Life and Future Skills.

Year 12 students also participate in the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award, a leadership and education programme that equips students with leadership skills, character virtues and faith development while inspiring them to drive social action in their local communities. Financial support is available through the Post 18 bursary and students with SEND are provided with tailored support to thrive.

Further leadership opportunities for all Sixth Form students include Prefects, House Captains and Sixth Form Student Council representatives, which allow students to demonstrate initiative and use their voices to help develop the wider school.

Throughout their time at Sixth Form, students document their experiences and categorise them according to our FAITH values, with the goal of achieving the Derby Cathedral School FAITH Award at the end of each year.

KS5 PSHE

Sixth Form is not just academic grades. At DCS, we believe it is also about preparing you for life beyond school, which is why every Year 12 and Year 13 student takes a dedicated weekly PSHE lesson, taught by experienced and qualified staff.

Our programme builds on what is learnt at KS4 and is designed to prepare students for independent living, higher education and future careers. It follows the PSHE Association's recommended themes, which we revisit and deepen across the two years with us. We explore Health and Wellbeing, from managing stress to staying safe; Relationships, including consent, respect and tackling discrimination; and Living in the Wider World, covering student finance, apprenticeships, independence and living away from home, as well as numerous other Post 16 relevant topics.

Our curriculum is up to date, flexible and responsive to the needs of our students and to what is happening in the world around us. Content is planned so that you learn what you need at the right time, supported by a well-planned careers and enterprise programme that helps you make informed choices about your next steps. It encourages you to grow spiritually, socially, emotionally and culturally, helping you leave DCS as a confident, well-rounded young adult ready for whatever comes next.

Literacy Project

At Derby Cathedral School, we aim to develop a lifelong love for reading. In Year 12, all students will be encouraged to read a book that relates to their aspirations beyond Sixth Form study. This could relate to a subject they intend to pursue at university, an industry they intend to join during an apprenticeship or a profession they intend to enter later in life.

We believe that this helps to build our students' understanding of this chosen field and develop a curiosity that extends beyond the syllabi of their sixth form courses.

Following this, students are supported to write a short critical review of their chosen book, helping our students to develop into more discerning readers and provide them with an insight into academic book culture. As well as being naturally enriching, this project fosters aspiration and tenacity, giving our students' applications for courses and careers beyond the sixth form, a distinctive appeal.

"Choosing DCS was the best decision I made. My tutor and teachers know me really well and have helped me with my UCAS application. I am now aiming higher than I thought I would."

Religious Education

At Derby Cathedral School, sixth form is about far more than your Level 3 qualifications. It's a place to think deeply, ask big questions and become a thoughtful, confident young adult, guided by our Christian vision and a community that values every individual.

Alongside your A Levels or vocational courses, you'll take part in a rich programme of reflection, discussion and personal growth throughout Years 12 and 13. You'll explore questions of meaning, purpose, identity and belonging in a welcoming, respectful environment, encountering religious and non-religious worldviews and developing the confidence to shape your own values and convictions.

With more than ten hours of dedicated sessions woven into our Personal Development and Wellbeing programme, you'll build the critical thinking and understanding to engage with others and the world around you. Your Ultimate Questions booklet captures your reflections along the way, a lasting record of your personal and intellectual journey.

Careers

At DCS Sixth Form, we support all students to prepare for their next steps, whether they are aiming for university, an apprenticeship or employment. Our university support covers choosing courses, writing a strong personal statement, and preparing for interviews. Students interested in apprenticeships receive support with finding opportunities and making applications.

We also help every student find meaningful work experience, drawing on our links with local employers including Rolls-Royce, Hungry Desert, Quantum Impact and Kedleston Hall. These placements help you build skills, explore careers and strengthen your applications for university, an apprenticeship or employment.

In September 2026, four in five of our leavers went on to university, including Russell Group universities such as the University of Cambridge, Durham University, University of Nottingham and the University of Warwick. We also have students progressing onto degrees in Medicine and Veterinary Science. Our strong links with leading local employers have helped students secure apprenticeships, for example through Hungry Desert and Saint Goban. We pride ourselves on ensuring all students succeed and progress onto their chosen destinations.

to our Sixth Form

What we offer

- Brand new building with state-of-the-art facilities
- Dedicated Sixth Form only study spaces with refreshment facilities
- City centre location with convenient transport links
- Wide curriculum offer at Key Stage 5
- Expert teaching from subject specialists
- Continued SEND support
- High-quality pastoral support for every student
- A commitment to personal development for everyone



Your Commitment

We have high expectations of you, as you should have of us. You will be joining a school community driven to helping you succeed.

By joining our Sixth Form, your commitment is to:

- Enjoy Sixth Form life here at Derby Cathedral School and experience life in all its fullness (John 10:10).
- Demonstrate excellent attendance and punctuality throughout your two years of study and follow our dress code.
- Be committed to your academic and wider curriculum, always meeting deadlines and focusing on personal achievement and attainment.
- Making use of our study facilities when not timetabled for lessons, working independently and managing your time effectively.
- Establish effective relationships with all staff and peers to ensure you achieve together and foster a culture of success.
- Be self-aware and evaluative in order to identify your strengths and areas for improvement.
- Make a contribution to the whole school and wider community, advocate our FAITH values and be a role model for younger students.
- Be ambitious and aspirational to achieve your career goals and progress Post 18; a life-long learner.

Our Curriculum

As an inclusive Sixth Form, we have a broad Level 3 curriculum offer consisting of a mixture of A Level and other vocational courses to ensure students have numerous pathways Post 16.

We have the highest possible standards of teaching and learning and all of our subjects are taught by subject specialists. We focus on the individual and include stretch and challenge, consistent retrieval, revision opportunities and exam smart techniques to maximise student potential.

All students are expected to choose three subjects which they will study for two years. Students are encouraged to study a broad range of subjects and select courses they enjoy, are successful in and link to their career aspirations.

It is important to note that all of our qualifications are equivalent to one A Level irrespective of name, apart from Core Maths and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). These are AS Level equivalents and are only offered as additional areas of study.

This means that students can pick any combination of our subjects, but must pick Core Maths or the EPQ as a fourth subject if they wish to extend their study beyond the typical three subjects. Further Mathematics is also only available as a fourth subject and must be coupled with A Level Mathematics.

Students receive tailored support following application and their academic profile will support decisions around the types of qualifications chosen and whether extended study is appropriate. This enables students to make informed choices about the best subjects to suit their individual needs and provide an opportunity for guidance around longer term career aspirations.

All students will follow our weekly KS5 PSHE and Personal Development and Well-being (PDW) programmes, and attend daily Collective Worship as part of their Sixth Form studies. They will also take part in our Sixth Form specific Endeavour Programme for extra-curricular enrichment.

In Summary, Sixth Form students will usually undertake the following Programme of Study:

**Year 12: three or four Level 3 courses
+ PSHE + PDW + Enrichment + EPQ/Core Maths (optional)**

Year 13: three or four Level 3 courses + PSHE + PDW

GCSE Resit Courses

We also offer resit courses in GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics. All students who do not achieve at least a Grade 4 in either of these subjects at GCSE will have to retake these in Year 12.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Anyone is welcome to apply to join our Sixth Form provided they meet our entry requirements.

Standard Entry Requirement:
Minimum of five GCSE Grades 4 – 9 including English and Mathematics

Students will also need to meet any course specific entry requirements as outlined in the subject curriculum pages that follow.

Entry requirements are subject to change at any time

List of subjects on offer

KEY:	A Level courses
	Vocational courses (A Level Equivalent)
	Additional study (worth half an A Level)

Applied Science
Art and Design (Fine Art)
Biology
Business
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Criminology
English Language and Literature
Food Science and Nutrition
Further Mathematics
Geography
Health and Social Care
History
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music Performance
Music
Performing Arts
Drama and Theatre
Philosophy & Ethics (Religious Studies)
Physical Education (Sport)
Physics
Politics
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Core Maths

**Note: subjects will run dependent on student numbers*

Applied Science



Examination Board: **Pearson BTEC**

Qualification Type: **AAQ Extended Certificate** (A Level Equivalent)

Teacher Contact: **Miss B Aughton**
b.aughton@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-aaqs/applied-science/2025/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-national-in-applied-science-specification.pdf>

Course Overview:

The BTEC National in Applied Science offers a comprehensive curriculum designed to provide students with a solid foundation in scientific principles and practices. The course covers key areas such as biology, chemistry, and physics, emphasizing practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge.

Students engage in various units that explore the application of science in real-world contexts, including laboratory techniques, investigative skills, and the use of scientific equipment. The curriculum is structured to develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, with an emphasis on research methods and data analysis.

Overall, the BTEC National in Applied Science empowers students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the dynamic scientific landscape.

Course Structure

The course requires you to complete 360 credits over the 2 years of Sixth Form.

Year 12:

- o Principles and Applications of Biology (60 credits)
- o Principles and Applications of Physics (60 credits)
- o Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques—Biology (30 credits)
- o Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques—Physics (30 credits)

Year 13:

- o Principles and Applications of Chemistry (60 credits)
- o Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques—Chemistry (30 credits)
- o Contemporary Issues in Science (90 credits)

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
5 in any GCSE Science.

Assessment Method:

Y12	Principles and Applications of Biology	External Exam – 1 hr (50 marks)
Y12	Principles and Applications of Physics	External Exam – 1 hr (50 marks)
Y12	Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques—Biology	Internal Coursework
Y12	Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques—Physics	Internal Coursework
Y13	Principles and Applications of Chemistry	External Exam – 1 hr (50 marks)
Y13	Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques—Chemistry	Internal Coursework
Y13	Contemporary Issues in Science	Internal Coursework

Progression Opportunities:

This qualification not only prepares students for higher education in science-related fields but also equips them with skills applicable in various industries, fostering pathways to careers in healthcare, environmental management, and research. The qualification also prepares learners for specialized vocational training and apprenticeships in science-related industries. Additionally, graduates may find entry-level positions in healthcare, laboratory technology, or research roles. The course's practical focus and emphasis on critical thinking equip students with the skills needed for further study or immediate employment, making it a valuable stepping stone for both academic and career advancement in the scientific field.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

Key transferable skills necessary for the BTEC National in Applied Science include critical thinking, data analysis, and effective communication. Students should be adept at problem-solving and decision-making, as these skills are crucial for conducting experiments and interpreting results. Time management and organization are also important for balancing coursework and practical assignments. Additionally, teamwork skills are essential, as many projects require collaboration. Finally, adaptability and attention to detail will help students thrive in diverse scientific environments, ensuring they can apply their knowledge effectively in real-world situations.

Art and Design (Fine Art)



Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:
Mrs A Gibson
a.gibson@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design-7201/specification-at-a-glance>

Course Overview:

This course is for anyone who loves being creative. You will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional media, processes and techniques. You will be made aware of both traditional and new media. During the course you will explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. You may use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin your work where appropriate.

Course Structure:

You will be expected to explore relevant images, artefacts and resources within Fine Art exploring a wide range of artists and designers. This will be integral to investigating and making processes.

Your responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities that demonstrate your understanding of different styles, genres and techniques.

You will be expected to demonstrate skills in the context of your chosen areas of study.

Assessment Method:

Component 1	Personal Investigation	No time limit	60%
Component 2	Externally set assignment	Prep time and 15 hours supervised time	40%

Progression Opportunities:

Art and Design gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. You can choose to focus on a specialist area of study from a variety of exciting processes and media to suit your individual interests and abilities. This can result in degree opportunities and careers ranging from painting portraits to producing exotic fashion costumes or designing futuristic architecture.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
6 in GCSE Art or Textiles

Biology

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mr M Simpson

m.simpson@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/biology-7401-7402>



Course Overview:

Biology is an ideal choice for students who have an interest in and curiosity about the living world and how organisms work. The course builds upon the concepts and skills that were developed at GCSE. Students will have the opportunity to study many different disciplines in Biology – biochemistry, cellular biology, physiology, ecology, diversity, genetics, variation, evolution and classification. Practical work forms an important part of the course. Students are encouraged to work in a synoptic manner, bringing together differing aspects of Biology to give a holistic answer to problems posed.

Course Structure:

A Level Biology lasts 2 years, with exams at the end of the second year. You will study Topics 1 – 4 in Year 12 and Topics 5 – 8 in Year 13.

Year 1:

- 1 - Biological molecules
- 2 - Cells
- 3 - Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- 4 - Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Year 2:

- 5 - Energy transfers in and between organisms
- 6 - Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- 7 - Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- 8 - The control of gene expression

Assessment Method:

Paper 1	2 hours	35%
Paper 2	2 hours	35%
Paper 3	2 hours	30%

10% of the overall assessment of A Level Biology will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above.

At least 15% of the overall assessment of A Level Biology will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to practical work.

Progression Opportunities:

Due to an ever progressing world Biology remains a desirable A Level for future study. Students use Biology A Level as a route into Medicine, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Veterinary Science, Veterinary Nursing, Optometry, Dentistry, Conservation, Marine Biology, Horticulture, Medicinal Research, Pathology, Forensic Science and many more.

There is the opportunity to participate in a residential fieldtrip in the summer of year 12. This enables the students to complete the practical ecology element of the course and to enhance their learning experience.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

The course content allows students to develop skills in communicating scientific ideas using appropriate language, application of theory, collecting primary scientific data, presenting and processing both primary and secondary data, data analysis and evaluation of experimental technique. There is an emphasis on mathematical skills in biology including statistical analysis of data. Students will also be able to develop their independent research skills.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus; 6 in GCSE Biology and a 5 in one of the other two separate sciences (or 6-6 in Combined Science) and 5 in GCSE English and 5 in GCSE Maths

Business

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Ms D Willmer

D.Willmer@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/a-level/business-7138>



Course Overview:

This course looks at business from the inside and out. Would you like to know how a business like Gymshark grew from a bedroom start-up into a global brand? Would you like to read a set of accounts and judge whether a company is really performing well? Would you like to debate whether AI, sustainability and ethical supply chains help or hurt profits? If you answered yes to any of these then A Level Business would be a perfect fit for you

Course Structure:

This is a two-year linear course studied through three themes: managing marketing and finance, managing people and operations, and business, society and strategy. You will study how decisions are made in every part of a business, then how leaders set long-term strategy in a changing world. The course is built around real companies and current issues, including digital technology, ESG reporting, employee wellbeing, equality and inclusion, and disruptive technologies such as AI. There is no coursework: you are assessed by three exams at the end of Year 13.

Progression Opportunities:

A Level Business is well respected by universities and employers and leads on to degrees in business management, accounting and finance, marketing, economics, human resource management and law. It also supports degree apprenticeships and school leaver programmes. Possible careers include management, marketing and digital marketing, accountancy, banking and investment, human resources, project management, data analysis, supply chain management, consultancy and, of course, starting your own business.

Assessment Method:

Paper 1: Managing Marketing & Finance	• Written exam • 2 hours, 90 marks • 33⅓% of A Level
Paper 2: Managing People & Operations	• Written exam • 2 hours, 90 marks • 33⅓% of A Level
Paper 3: Business, Society & Strategy	• Written exam • 2 hours, 90 marks • 33⅓% of A Level

Each paper has two compulsory case studies based on real businesses, with five questions on each (6, 9 and 15 mark questions). All papers are AQA set and marked and include calculations.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

You will need a genuine interest in the world of business and current affairs, and be willing to keep up with business news. You should be comfortable working with numbers, as calculations and data interpretation appear on every paper, and be able to write clear, well-argued extended answers. You will develop skills in analysis, evaluation, decision making and presenting a supported judgement, all of which are valued in higher education and the workplace.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus; 6 in GCSE Business (if studied) or 6 in GCSE English and 5 in GCSE Maths

Business Studies



Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Type: **Extended Certificate** (A Level Equivalent)

Teacher Contact:

Ms D Willmer

D.Willmer@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/258757-centre-handbook-certificates.pdf>

Course Overview:

This course covers all aspects of business. Would you like to look at a business's finances and discuss if they are performing well? Not only that would you like to make recommendations to a business based on this? Would you like to know why different businesses operate in the way they do? Would you like to find out how businesses recruit, train and motivate their staff, and how they plan and manage projects? If you answered yes to any of these then Business Studies would be a perfect fit for you.

Course Structure:

This course is made up of two examined units and three extended projects. The projects give you real life experience of tasks carried out in the business world, including customer service, human resources and project management whereas the examined units look into theories surrounding all aspects of the world of business.

Progression Opportunities:

Due to the nature of this course the career pathways are endless. Unit 2 looks at working within a business and so will aid whichever career you choose. Other possible careers are: marketing/ digital marketing, accountancy & finance, human resources, project management, data analysis, purchasing and supply chain management, investment, banking, sales and of course if you were to start your own business you will have all the tools you need to be successful!

Assessment Method:

Unit 1: The Business Environment	- Written exam (1-12 mark questions) - OCR set and assessed 2 hour exam
Unit 2: Working in Business	- Written exam (1-12 mark questions) - OCR set and marked 1 hour and 30 minute exam
Unit 4: Customers & Communication	Units 4, 8 & 16
Unit 8: Introduction to Human Resources	- Coursework - Teacher marked/assessed and OCR moderated - Completed during lessons/ study periods/own time.
Unit 16: Principles of Project Management	

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

You will need to have a genuine interest in the world of business, good research skills and be able to produce professional reports. Workload and time management skills are essential due to the nature of the course. You will gain hands on experience in carrying out a number of real-life tasks typically completed by business owners and those who work within human resources or project management for larger companies. You will also develop a number of skills needed for further study such as research skills and writing reports to meet deadlines.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement.

Chemistry



Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mrs S Wood

s.wood@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/chemistry-7404-7405>

Course Overview:

A Level Chemistry attempts to answer the big question 'what is the world made of' and it's the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating. From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that chemistry provides are endless.

Course Structure:

A Level Chemistry lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year. The list below shows what topics you'll learn each year in the three branches of Chemistry; physical, inorganic and organic.

Year 1:

Physical chemistry – atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle

Inorganic chemistry – periodicity, Group 2 the alkaline earth metals, Group 7(17) the halogens

Organic chemistry – introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols, organic analysis

Year 2:

Physical chemistry – thermodynamics, rate equations, the equilibrium constant K_p , electrode potentials and electrochemical cells

Inorganic chemistry – properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals, reactions of ions in aqueous solution

Organic chemistry – optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, NMR spectroscopy, chromatography

Assessment Method:

Paper 1	2 hours	35%
Paper 2	2 hours	35%
Paper 3	2 hours	30%

20% of the overall assessment of A Level Chemistry will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above.

At least 15% of the overall assessment of A Level Chemistry will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to practical work.

Progression Opportunities:

There are hundreds of career sectors that look for students with A Level Chemistry, ranging from Agro Chemistry to Textiles. There are many you would not even know existed. Even if you do not choose a career in chemistry, employers know and trust the qualification as a good indicator of intellect and work ethic. An opportunity to enter the Chemistry Olympiad will be available as will a residential course for preparing to apply for Medicine in Year 12.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

In addition to chemical knowledge, the course will also develop skills that are valued by universities and employers. These include problem solving, practical skills, working safely, numeracy, literacy, communication, thinking in 3D and teamwork. Pupils will need to have the following skills: An interest in other science subjects and mathematics. Excellent data analysis skills. Ability to use technical language concisely. Drive and enthusiasm for the subject. Ability to carry out practical work carefully. Willingness to carry out further reading around the subject.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus; 6 in GCSE Chemistry and 5 in in one of the other two separate sciences (or 6-6 in Combined Science) and 6 in GCSE Maths

Computer Science

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mrs S Spencer

s.spencer@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/computer-science-h046-h446-from-2015/>



Course Overview:

Computer Science is a creative subject developing skills such as problem solving and analytical thinking, where students can apply their learning to the real-world combining invention and excitement, to look at the world through a digital prism.

This qualification will enable learners to:

- Apply the fundamentals and concepts of computer science.
- Analyse problems in computational terms through solving problems and writing programs
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- To see relationships between different aspects.

Course Structure & Assessment Method:

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
• The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices • Software and software development • Exchanging data • Data types, data structures and algorithms • Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues • Elements of computational thinking • Problem solving and programming • Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms <i>The learner will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.</i> • Analysis of the problem • Design of the solution • Developing the solution • Evaluation	Computer systems (01)	40%
	140 marks	of total
	2 hours and 30 minutes	A level
• Algorithms and programming (02*)	written paper (no calculators allowed)	
	Algorithms and programming (02*)	40%
	140 marks	of total
• Programming project 03* – Repository or 04* – Postal or 80 – Carry forward (2018 onwards)*	2 hours and 30 minutes	A level
	written paper (no calculators allowed)	
	70 marks	20%
Non-exam assessment		of total
		A level

Progression Opportunities:

This qualification suits learners intending to pursue any career in which an understanding of technology is required. It is also suitable for any further study as part of a course of general education. It will provide learners with a range of skills, which will facilitate personal growth and foster cross curriculum links in areas such as maths, science and D&T. Job opportunities include Computer Programmer; Hardware Engineer; Software Developer; Systems Manager; Web Developer; Software Engineer; Database Administrator; IT Architect; Computer Games Designer; Systems Analyst; Forensic Analyst; Software development and analytics; Computer Games Tester.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

Students should have a strong interest in Computing; Motivation and resilience for programming and abstract concept development; The capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically and the maturity and ability to articulate the moral, ethical, legal and cultural implications of a digital society. Computer Science allows for a huge range of transferable skills from general digital literacy to programming development. Computer Science allows the understanding of digital artefacts which can be applied in a range of creative careers.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus; 6 in GCSE Computer Science or equivalent if studied, or a 6 in GCSE Maths

Criminology

Examination Board: **WJEC**

Qualification Type: **Applied Diploma** (A Level Equivalent)

Teacher Contact:

Mr C Walker

c.walker@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/criminology-level-3/#tab_keydocuments



Course Overview:

Criminology (from Latin crimen, "accusation"; and Greek -λογία, -logia) is the scientific study of criminal behaviour, on individual, social and natural levels, and how it can be managed, controlled and prevented.

This course will enable students to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations and make recommendations for policy. Students also develop the knowledge and skills to research policy in practice, assess campaigns for changes in awareness and examine information to review verdicts in criminal cases.

The specification:

- develops critical analysis skills
- is graded A* - E
- comprises four units in total, two internally assessed units and two externally assessed units

Course Structure

Year 1

Unit 1 - Changing Awareness of Crime

Follow the content of the specification and complete a controlled assessment that tests your ability to apply knowledge and understanding to a previously unseen crime scenario.

Unit 2 - Criminological Theories

Clear examination and marking structures are provided for this 90 minute examination

Year 2

Unit 3 - Crime Scene to Courtroom

Follow the content of the specification and complete a controlled assessment that tests your ability to apply knowledge and understanding to a crime scenario.

Unit 4 - Crime and Punishment

Clear examination and marking structures are provided for this 90 minute examination.

Assessment Method:

Candidates are allowed to take their class notes in to internal assessments to support them.

Unit 1	Internal assessment	8hrs (25%)
Unit 2	External examination	1.5hrs (25%)
Unit 3	Internal assessment	8hrs (25%)
Unit 4	External examination	1.5hrs (25%)

Progression Opportunities:

Criminology opens the door to many career paths that require understanding of the justice sector. These include careers in the police force or in police support roles, in forensic psychology, social and probation work or the prison services. Criminology graduates are attractive to employers in areas such as social research and politics.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

The course has been designed to provide learners with underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study and training.

The study of Criminology will equip you with a wide range of transferable skills; giving you the ability to:

- complete project-based research, and to present it
- collect, analyse and interpret data effectively
- construct well-informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence
- learn independently and work alongside other peers in a professional environment
- apply your learning in vocational contexts.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus; 4 in GCSE English Language

English Language and Literature

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mrs L Pritchard: l.pritchard@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7707/introduction>



Course Overview:

In A Level English Language and Literature, students engage creatively and independently with a variety of written, spoken and multi-modal texts. The course focuses on the integration of language and literature; this specification enables students to see how linguistic and literary methods are related and to explore these links in their work.

Course Structure:

Telling Stories

The aim of this part of the subject content is to allow students to learn about how and why stories of different kinds are told. The term 'telling' in the title is deliberately chosen to reflect the twin aspects of how stories are told, and why stories are 'telling', or valuable, within societies.

Drawing both on their everyday experiences of storytelling in different modes, and on published texts, students learn how language choices help to shape the representations of different worlds and perspectives.

Exploring Conflict

This part of the subject content focuses on how language choices help to construct ideas of conflict between people, and between people and their societies.

Drawing both on their everyday experiences of interaction in different modes and on published texts, students learn about how the language choices writers make are used to express relationships, drive narrative, and construct views about the nature of different societies.

Making Connections

This part of the subject content focuses on language use in different types of text. It is called 'Making Connections' because it requires students to make active connections between a literary

text and some non-literary material. This area of the course provides an individualised experience for students, enabling them to demonstrate their ability to initiate and sustain independent enquiry.

Assessment Method:

Paper 1	Telling Stories	3 hours	40%
Paper 2	Exploring Conflict	2.5 hours	40%
Non-exam assessment Making Connections		2,500 – 3,000 words	20%

Progression Opportunities:

With a qualification in English, you could go into higher education and/or work in the media and communication industry, teaching, administration, publishing or librarianship.

Other common careers with an English degree include, information and research, tourism, events management, social work, youth work, probation work, human resources, retail management and sales.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

English Language & Literature students will have developed an impressive array of transferable skills including critical analysis, structuring arguments, selecting evidence, debating interpretations of fictional and non-fiction texts and developing effective creative writing skills.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
5 in both GCSE English Language
and GCSE English Literature

Food Science and Nutrition

Examination Board: **WJEC**

Qualification Type: **AAQ Extended Certificate (A Level Equivalent)**

Teacher Contact:

Miss M Foulkes

m.foulkes@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:
**Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification
in Food Science and Nutrition**



Course Overview:

This course is an exciting opportunity to learn about Food Science and Nutrition through hands on practical experiences. Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to learners who have studied Food Science and Nutrition. Over 20% of the top 100 British companies are in food manufacturing. The UK produces approximately 1000 'food' graduates per year, it has been forecast that the industry will have 2000 graduate vacancies.

Course Structure:

You will complete four units: three mandatory and one optional. Each unit is worth 25% of the qualification.

Unit 1: Nutritional Needs Across the Life Stages (mandatory) looks at the science of nutrition and how dietary needs change from infancy to later life, including links between diet, health and disease.

Unit 2: Developing Practical Food Production Skills (mandatory) builds your practical skills as you plan, develop, test and cook dishes for a specific target group.

Unit 3: Principles of Food Hygiene and Food Safety in Food Production (mandatory) gives you essential knowledge of micro-organisms, the causes of food-borne illness and how food safety is managed at home and in industry.

You then choose one optional unit, either

Unit 4: Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems or **Unit 5: Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition**. This lets you study an area that interests you in more depth, building on what you have already learned.

Assessment Method:

Unit 1	Mandatory	Written exam (external), 25% 1hr 30 min
Unit 2	Mandatory	Non-examined assessment (internal), 25%
Unit 3	Mandatory	1 hr 30 min written exam (external), 25%
Unit 4 or 5	Optional Choice	Non-examined assessment (internal), 25%

Progression Opportunities:

Together with other relevant qualifications at Level 3, such as A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physical Education and Maths, learners will gain the required knowledge to use the qualification to support entry to higher education courses such as: BSc Food and Nutrition, BSc Public Health Nutrition, BSc Food Science and Technology

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

This course is suitable for learners who enjoy practical experiences and can cope well with the pressures of a busy kitchen environment. Learners will want to investigate how ingredients work by carrying out food investigations and produce dishes that are suitable for different needs. Many transferrable skills will be developed including the skills of project-based research, development and presentations and the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, to name just a few!

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement.

Further Mathematics

Examination Board: **Pearson**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mr D Browne

d.browne@derbycathedralschool.org.uk



For more information go to:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html#%2Ftab-AlevelFurtherMathematics>

Course Overview:

Further Mathematics is for students with exceptional mathematical ability who are considering taking Mathematics beyond A Level. Anyone studying Further Mathematics must also be studying A Level Mathematics.

The course takes the Pure Mathematics element aspects of the subject in greater depth. Students studying Chemistry, Biology or Psychology may be particularly interested in taking Statistics further through the optional modules.

Course Structure:

The Further Mathematics course is made up of two Pure Mathematics modules and two optional modules: Decision Mathematics and Further Statistics.

Within the Pure Mathematics element, students will study proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions and differential equations.

Decision Mathematics explores how mathematical methods can be used to solve practical problems involving networks, algorithms, optimisation and efficient decision-making.

Further Statistics builds on A Level Statistics, developing your understanding of probability, statistical distributions, hypothesis testing and how data can be used to model and draw conclusions about real-world situations.

Each module has equal weighting and contributes 25% of the overall qualification. The Further Mathematics options will be considered and tailored, where possible, to suit the cohort each year.

Assessment Method:

Further Pure Mathematics 1	Written exam	1.5hrs 25%
Further Pure Mathematics 2	Written exam	1.5hrs 25%
Further Mathematics Options 1 & 2	Written exam	1.5hrs 25% each

Progression Opportunities:

Further Mathematics can support progression to higher education courses and careers that require A Level Mathematics or are strongly related to it, including Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Environmental Studies, Information Science, Surveying, Teaching, Mathematics, Accountancy, Financial Services, Psychology, Computing, Information and Communications Technology, Statistics, Systems Analysis and Systems Modelling.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

Further Mathematics is suited to students who enjoy a challenge, are confident with Mathematics and want to explore the subject in greater depth.

The course develops a range of transferable skills, including non-routine problem solving, systems thinking and critical thinking, alongside communication, collaborative problem solving, adaptability, self-management and self-development. These skills can help students meet the demands of both undergraduate study and the world of work with confidence.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
 8 in GCSE Maths and must be chosen as a 4th subject alongside A Level Maths

Geography

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Ms B Woodward

b.woodward@derbycathedralschool.org.uk



For more information go to:
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037>

Course Overview:

How does space influence the people living there, and how do people shape the landscapes around them? As populations and economies continue to grow, how can we ensure we remain sustainable and don't run out of vital resources? These are some of the big questions underpinning A Level Geography in a globalising world, where the skills of geographers are more important than ever.

Course Structure:

The A Level Geography course includes a balanced study of physical and human geography with students studying the following topics: Water and Carbon Cycles, Coastal Systems and Landscapes, Hazards, Global Systems and Global Governance, Changing Population and the Environment

In addition to this, throughout the course students will engage with qualitative and quantitative data, including observations, geospatial mapping, statistical skills and data manipulation. These will be of importance when students undertake 4 days of fieldwork prior to carrying out their own independent fieldwork investigation.

Assessment Method:

Paper 1	Physical Geography	2.5 hours	40%
Paper 2	Human Geography	2.5 hours	40%
Non examined assessment (Independent Fieldwork Investigation)		3,000 – 4,000 words	20%

Progression Opportunities:

Although more than 80% of A Level Geographers go on to university, less than 20% study Geography. This means Geography is seen as a gateway subject, with significant percentages going on to study biological sciences, social sciences, business and law. Of those going to university, Geography students rank amongst the highest in university student satisfaction surveys, have some of the lowest graduate drop-out rates, and have higher than average graduate employment rates and earnings. For those not following a higher education pathway, the expert skills that they learn during their A Level studies will support them in their chosen career.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

The core skills in A Level Geography are highly desirable and transferable. Students are able to have an understanding of the natural and human world and the interactions between them, considering the impacts of systems and processes at a range of scales, as well as contemporary and cultural issues. Critical analysis underpins Geography, and collecting, understanding and interpreting large, complex data, as well as researching information and communicating findings effectively, make geographers highly desirable employees. A Level Geography also teaches students how to use geospatial technology – a newly emerging and fast growing sector.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
 5 in GCSE Geography (if studied) or 5 in GCSE Maths and 5 in GCSE English Language

Health and Social Care



Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Type: **OCR Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)**

Teacher Contact: **Miss J Sowter: j.sowter@derbycathedralschool.org.uk and Miss V Clark: v.clark@derbycathedralschool.org.uk**

For more information go to:
<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/health-and-social-care/#level-3>

Course Overview:

The health and social care sector plays a vital role in our community and is constantly evolving and developing for individuals who may need to use its services. As demand continues to rise for health and social care provision, job roles in the sector will continue to be popular and grow. Currently about 3 million people in the UK work in health and social care, that is equivalent to 1 in every 10 people! This qualification gives learners a combination of technical and academic skills with a solid foundation of knowledge and experience that can be applied to a range of careers.

Course Structure:

Learners taking this qualification will complete six units: four mandatory and two optional.

FO90: Principles of Health and Social Care (Exam)

Learn the foundations of health and social care, including equality, diversity and rights, health and safety, key legislation, and how to apply best practice in real settings.

FO91: Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care (Exam)

Understand how the body works by studying major systems such as cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, musculoskeletal, reproductive and regulatory. Explore conditions that affect them, their treatment, and the impact on daily life and independence.

FO92: Person-centred Approach to Care (NEA)

Discover how to put individuals at the heart of care. Learn principles and values of person-centred practice, develop communication and relationship-building skills, and create care plans that meet individual needs.

FO93: Supporting People with Mental Health Conditions (NEA)

Explore what mental health means, the different types of conditions, and how they affect people's lives. Learn about available treatments, services and ways to support individuals in managing their mental wellbeing.

FO96: Supporting Sexual Health, Pregnancy and Postnatal Health (NEA)

Study sexual health, relationships, consent, contraception and STIs, as well as pregnancy, birth and postnatal care. Gain skills to provide sensitive, tailored advice and guidance for individuals at different stages.

FO97: Supporting Healthy Nutrition and Lifestyles (NEA)

Learn about nutrition, dietary needs, food labelling and physical activity guidelines. Develop skills to plan balanced meals, support individuals with specific needs, and overcome barriers to healthy lifestyles.

Assessment Method:

Unit Number	Assessment
FO90	Exam in January Year 12
FO91	Exam in May Year 12 (Resit opportunity in year 13)
FO92, FO93, FO96 and FO97	NEAs across year 12 and 13

Progression Opportunities:

This course is equivalent to 1 A Level and many employers and higher education providers value this Cambridge Technical course. On completion of this qualification, you could progress into health and social care Level 3 or 4 apprenticeships, go straight into employment or complete a degree at university. Students often progress onto studying the following courses or carry out careers in the following:

- Nursing (Adult/Child/Learning Disabilities/Mental Health)
- Social Work
- Sports Nutrition
- Dietician
- Health Visitor
- Midwife
- Therapist
- Paramedic
- Food Scientist

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

This course is suitable for learners who have an interest in working with or caring for other people. If you are somebody who thrives in a vocational context, this course will provide an opportunity in which learners can develop the knowledge and skills required for future employment within the health and social care sector. You will need be prepared to complete a high percentage of coursework with deadlines and revise for external assessments. This qualification will provide you with opportunities to work as a team and independently during lessons. It will also give you the chance to develop communication, organisation, time management, research, analytical and evaluative skills.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
4 in GCSE Combined Science
or GCSE Biology

History



Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mr M Adler
m.adler@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:
<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/history-a-h105-h505-from-2015/>

Course Overview:

We are excited to bring this course to you as it will allow you to develop your passion for history. You will get closer to understanding the world we live in and develop a deeper knowledge of the politics and society of Britain, Europe and the wider world. You will develop an unparalleled insight into patterns of politics, diplomacy, economics and human behaviour. It will enable you to understand and comment on the world in which you are now part of.

Course Structure:

Year 12

- **Unit 1: Britain 1930-1997.** The significance of Churchill and how the key events of the 20th Century moulded modern Britain.
- **Unit 2: The French Revolution and Napoleon 1774-1815.** The causes and consequences of the first modern revolution.

Year 13

- **Unit 3 Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992.** This unit will unpick the struggle of citizens in the USA to gain equality before the law.
- **Unit 4 Historical enquiry, personal study on the Holocaust.** Students will be given the opportunity to create and challenge their own hypotheses and complete an extended piece of coursework.

Assessment Method:

Paper 1	British Period Study & Enquiry	1.5 hours	25%
Paper 2	Non-British Period Study	1 hour	15%
Paper 3	Thematic Study and historical interpretations	2.5 hours	40%
Non examined assessment		3,000-4,000 word essay	20%

Progression Opportunities:

You will develop essential skills which are vital for careers in the law, academia, the heritage sector, politics, public affairs, business, teaching, diplomacy and the British Government and Civil Service. History is widely accepted as one of the most traditional and rigorous academic subjects and is highly valued by the top universities in the world. *"History is to the nation as memory is to the individual."* – Arthur Schlesinger

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

- A passion and enthusiasm for History
- The desire to find out about the past and how it has shaped the future
- The ability to analyse and challenge ideas and interpretations about the past.
- The ability to express your ideas in writing

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
5 in GCSE History (if studied) or 5 in GCSE Maths and 5 in GCSE English Language

Mathematics

Examination Board: **Pearson**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

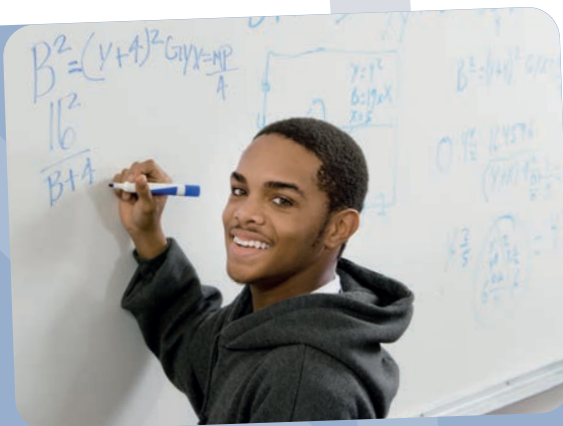
Teacher Contact:

Mr D Browne

d.browne@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html>



Course Overview:

Studying A Level Mathematics will take your mathematical understanding beyond GCSE, developing your range of skills and challenging you to tackle increasingly difficult and unfamiliar problems. You will discover how different areas of mathematics connect and how they can be applied to situations beyond the classroom.

The course explores the links between real-world problems and mathematical models, showing how mathematics can help us understand situations, solve problems and communicate ideas clearly.

Course Structure:

Pure Mathematics: deepen and extend your knowledge of algebra, geometry and trigonometry, while discovering new concepts including calculus. You will develop your ability to reason, make connections and approach problems with confidence.

Mechanics: turn real-world situations into mathematical problems that can be modelled, analysed and solved—from cars on the road to satellites orbiting a planet. Mechanics provides an introduction to areas such as robotics, biomechanics, cybernetics and sports science.

Statistics: learn how to analyse and model numerical data, draw conclusions and use evidence to make predictions. Discover how statistical methods can be used in areas such as psychological research, biomedical studies and climate science.

Assessment Method:

Pure Mathematics 1	Written exam	2hrs 33.33%
Pure Mathematics 2	Written exam	2rs 33.33%
Statistics and Mechanics	Written exam	2hrs 33.33%

Progression Opportunities:

A Level Mathematics is a highly valued qualification for a wide range of higher education courses, apprenticeships and careers. Mathematics is particularly useful in areas including science, engineering, technology, finance, economics and data.

An A Level in Maths provides a strong foundation for many future pathways, giving you skills that are valued both in further study and the workplace.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

If you enjoyed the challenge of problem solving at GCSE, further study should be rewarding. You will develop problem solving, logical thinking, mathematical reasoning, analysis and modelling skills – valuable skills that can be applied across many subjects and careers.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
7 in GCSE Maths.

Media Studies

Examination Board: **Eduqas**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mrs D Jeffery

d.jeffery@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/kprhs5jd/a-level-media-studies-specification.pdf>



Course Overview:

A Level Media Studies explores how media products are created, distributed, and interpreted in contemporary society. Students study a wide range of media forms, including television, film, advertising, music videos, newspapers, and online media. The course develops critical understanding of media language, representation, industry, and audience, while encouraging students to analyse how media reflects and shapes culture, identity, and values. Alongside theoretical study, students also produce their own media coursework, applying practical and creative skills.

Course Structure:

The course is divided into two examined components and one coursework component. Component One focuses on exploring key aspects of the theoretical framework - Media Language, Representation, Media Industries and Audiences - in a variety of texts, whilst Component Two explores the theoretical framework in magazines, television, and blogs and websites. Students analyse a range of set and unseen products from different media forms, such as magazine front covers and podcasts, developing detailed knowledge and applying key theoretical frameworks. The Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) requires students to create an original media product, such as a music video, magazine, or short film, alongside a written statement exploring their creative decisions.

Assessment Method:

Component 1	Media Products, Industries and Audiences	2 hour exam 33.3%
Component 2	Media Forms and Representation	2 hour 30 min exam 33.3%
Component 3	Non-Examined Assessment (coursework production and statement of aims) (30%)	

Progression Opportunities:

A Level Media Studies provides a strong foundation for a wide range of university courses and careers. Students develop analytical, creative, and evaluative skills that are highly valued in fields such as journalism, marketing, advertising, film and television production, digital media, and communications. The course also supports progression into English, sociology, and cultural studies degrees. Students gain transferable skills including critical thinking, research, independent project management, and digital production. These skills are increasingly important in a media-driven world and open pathways into both creative and academic professions.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

Students develop strong analytical and evaluative skills through the study of media texts and theories. The course builds confidence in written communication, discussion, and independent thinking. Creative coursework encourages problem-solving, planning, and technical skills using digital tools. Students also gain an understanding of representation, diversity, and ethical issues within the media, supporting their wider social awareness. These transferable skills prepare students for further study and a range of professional environments. Interest in media, creativity, and analytical thinking is strongly recommended.

Entry Requirement:

Standard Entry Requirement.

Music Performance

Examination Board: **Pearson BTEC**

Qualification Type: **Extended Certificate** (A Level Equivalent)

Teacher Contact:

Mrs J Eaton

j.eaton@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Music/2017/Specification/9781446928110_BTEC_Nat_ExtCert_Music_Spec_prepubfinal.pdf



Course Overview:

Where words fail, music speaks. The BTEC Level 3 Music course at DCS is a largely practical course, centring on performing, producing and creating music. We understand that the reason many students opt for a music course is because they want to practically explore this art form and industry. Therefore, that is what we have planned - putting you, the student, at the very heart of this. We have incorporated links to the music industry through our collaboration with Dubrek Studios in Derby giving students the opportunity to learn about the music industry and recording studios, where they can perform and produce their own music.

Course Structure:

Learners taking this qualification will study three mandatory units:

Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony

Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry

Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance.

Learners choose one optional unit. These have been designed to support progression to more specialist music courses in higher education and to link with relevant occupational areas:

Unit 4: Composing Music

Unit 5: Music Performance Session Styles

Unit 6: Solo Performance

Unit 7: Improvising Music

Assessment Method:

Unit 1	Mandatory	25% internally assessed
Unit 2	Mandatory	25% internally assessed
Unit 3	Mandatory	33% internally assessed
Unit 4, 5, 6 or 7	Option	17% internally assessed

Progression Opportunities:

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses. As a vocational course, it will provide you with great experience, meaning you can progress on to university, the music sector or head straight into industry.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

This course is suitable for students with a passion and commitment to music. There will be numerous opportunities for extra-curricular studies and an expectation to get involved in performances to showcase and practise your skills.

This qualification gives learners many transferable and higher-order skills that are valued by higher education providers and employers, for example performance techniques, communication skills and team working. It also gives learners an opportunity to focus on their personal vocal/instrumental technique whilst developing effective writing techniques, analytical skills and creative development.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus; Students who have not completed a GCSE/BTEC in Music may be asked to attend a short audition.

Please be aware that we will only run one of these Music courses' dependent on the application cohort.

Music

Examination Board: **Eduqas**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mrs J Eaton

j.eaton@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music-asa-level/#tab_keydocuments



Course Overview:

The Eduqas A level in Music offers a broad and coherent course of study which encourages learners to:

- Engage actively in the process of music study
- Develop performing skills to demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, style, sense of continuity, interpretation, and expression
- Develop composing skills to demonstrate the manipulation of musical ideas and the use of musical devices and conventions
- Recognise the interdependence of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, and make links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising underpinned by attentive listening.
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- Develop knowledge and understanding of a variety of instruments and styles, and of relevant approaches to both performing and composing
- Appraise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop understanding of musical contexts and a coherent awareness of musical chronology

The Eduqas A level music course specification is designed to allow learners to pursue their own musical interests. Learners develop skills in the three distinct but related disciplines of performing, composing and appraising, whilst having flexibility to specialise in either performing or composing. Learners may choose to apportion 10% of their assessment to either performing or composing as an in-depth study.

Assessment Method:

Component 1 Performing (either 35% or 25% depending upon student choice/strength)	Component 2 Composition (either 35% or 25% depending upon student choice/strength)	Component 3 Listening and Appraising (40%)
Non-Examined Assessment	Non-Examined Assessment	Written examination
Assessed during March-May of Year 13 by a visiting examiner.	Assessed by teacher and moderated by the examination board.	Taken at the end of year 13: 2 hours and 15 minutes

Course Structure:

Students can opt to 'major' (35%) in Performance or Composition. Component 1 and 2 are non-examination assessment, with component 1 being assessed by a visiting examiner.

Option A: Component 1: Performance 35%; Component 2: Composition 25%

Option B: Component 1 Composition 35%; Component 2: Performance 25%; Component 3: Appraising. This is a written examination taken at the end of the course, lasting approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes. Students cover Area of Study A; The Development of the Symphony, as well as Music Theatre (Area of Study C) and Music in the Twentieth Century (Area of Study E)

Progression Opportunities:

This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of music or a related area through a range of higher education courses, progression to the next level of vocational qualifications or employment. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

This course is suitable for students with a passion and commitment to music. There will be numerous opportunities to get involved in performances to showcase and practise your skills. This qualification gives learners many transferable and high-order skills that are valued by higher education providers and employers, for example performance techniques, communication skills and team-working. It also gives also gives learners an opportunity to focus on their personal vocal/instrumental technique whilst developing effective writing techniques, analytical skills and creative development.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus; Studied GCSE Music or BTEC Music Level 2

Performing Arts

Examination Board: **Pearson BTEC**

Qualification Type: **Extended Certificate** (A Level Equivalent)

Teacher Contact:

Miss A Wrampling

a.wrampling@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Performing-Arts/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446938362_BTEC_Nat_ExtCert_PA_Spec_Iss2C.pdf



Drama and Theatre

Examination Board: **WJEC Eduqas**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Miss A Wrampling

a.wrampling@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to: <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/wuldiact/eduqas-a-level-drama-spec-from-2016-e-201124.pdf>



Course Overview:

Performing Arts aims to develop creative, confident and well-nurtured actors and performers. This BTEC Level 3 qualification gives students many performance opportunities, whilst developing their devising and understanding of key practitioners. A large factor in this course is working in a group, where students will take different roles working towards an ensemble performance.

Course Structure:

The three mandatory units focus on:

Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners' work: research, critical analysis and extended writing skills that aim to support learners' progression to higher education. Learners will gain a good understanding of the work of influential practitioners to inform their own work and practice

Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance: an introduction to the performing arts where learners will develop the appropriate skills and techniques in various performance disciplines such as acting, dance, musical theatre and physical theatre

Unit 3: Group Performance Workshop: group performance, where learners will develop the essential psychomotor and affective skills essential for the performing arts. They will develop physical techniques as well as wider transferable skills, such as being able to work collaboratively, personal management and organisation (rehearsals, time-management), being able to give and take direction, confidence in front of an audience, problem solving (refining the process) and teamwork. Learners will understand different audiences in different environments and will learn to adapt a performance to engage the target audience.

Learners select one optional unit to support their choices from:

Unit 19: Acting Styles

Unit 20: Developing the Voice for Performance

Unit 28: Variety Performance.

Assessment Method:

Unit 1	Mandatory	25% internally assessed
Unit 2	Mandatory	25% internally assessed
Unit 3	Mandatory	33% internally assessed
Unit 19, 20 or 28	Option	17% internally assessed

Progression Opportunities:

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses. Students often progress on to studying Theatre Studies and Drama courses at university or Drama schools, though this course also opens the door to numerous other progression opportunities, allowing you to stand out from the crowd. The career possibilities are endless and students often couple their performance skills with other areas of study.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

This course is suitable for students who enjoy drama and enjoy being creative and collaborative. This qualification provides learners with the opportunity to develop all-round performance skills and transferable skills such as self-confidence, self-presentation, personal discipline, time management and organisation. You will also develop the ability to learn independently, research actively and methodically, give presentations and be an active group member.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement.

Please be aware that we will only run one of these courses' dependent on the application cohort.

Course Overview:

The WJEC Eduqas A level in Drama and Theatre is an exciting and inspiring course which prepares learners for further study in Higher Education. This highly practical specification provides learners with the opportunity to work as either performers and/or designers on three different performances, and develop an understanding and appreciation of how the social, cultural and historical contexts of performance texts have influenced the development of drama and theatre.

Course Structure:

3 components during the course:

Component 1: Theatre Workshop:

Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by WJEC. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Learners must produce:

- a realisation of the performance or design
- a creative log.

Component 2: Text in Action

Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by WJEC:

1. a devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Component 1)
2. an extract from a text in a different style chosen by the learner

Component 3: Text in Performance

Written examination:

Section A and B

Open book: Clean copies (no annotation) of the two complete texts chosen must be taken into the examination.

Two questions, based on two different texts, one written pre1956 and one written post-1956.

Section C Closed book: The extract of text required for answering the questions will be printed on the examination paper.

Details of the 10-15 minute extract will be released during the first week of March, in the year in which the examination is to be taken.

Assessment Method:

Component 1:	Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated	20% of qualification
Component 2:	Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner	40% of qualification
Component 3:	2 hours 30 minutes written exam	40% of qualification

Progression Opportunities:

This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of drama and theatre or a related area through a range of higher education courses, progression to the next level of vocational qualifications or employment. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

The course is suitable for students who enjoy drama and enjoy being creative and collaborative. The high-level thinking and depth of written skills are ideal for those wishing to go onto higher education. The problems solving skills, analysis, evaluation and collaboration involved in the course, means there is a plethora of transferable skills, and the confidence built will allow students to stand out in interview situations.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement.

Philosophy and Ethics

(Religious Studies)

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mr. S Richardson

s.richardson@derbycathedralschool.org.uk



For more information go to:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/242913-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-religious-studies-h573.pdf>

Course Overview:

Students study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief. This includes arguments for the existence of God in Year 12 and ideas about the nature of God in Year 13. There is also an exploration of ethical theories and their application which incorporates ideas relating to the rights and wrongs of euthanasia in Year 12 and sexual ethics in Year 13. The third strand involves a systematic study of the Christian faith ranging from the person of Jesus and moral principles in Year 12 to issues relating to Christianity and gender, society, pluralism and secularism in Year 13.

Course Structure:

Three separate components are taught across two years with three final exam papers. Each module is broken down into AS units taught in Y12 and A2 units taught in Y13. The component titles are:

Component 1: Philosophy of religion.

Component 2: Religion and ethics.

Component 3: Developments in Christian thought.

Assessment Method:

Component 1	1 x 2 hour exam (3 essays)	33.3%
Component 2	1 x 2 hour exam (3 essays)	33.3%
Component 3	1 x 2 hour exam (3 essays)	33.3%

Progression Opportunities:

This A Level is extremely desirable for any future career that deals with people e.g. teaching, the legal profession or any of the caring professions. Jobs such as nursing, social work, the police or nursery care require the essential skills of empathy, respect and acceptance that Religious Studies celebrates and teaches. Areas of work such as journalism and law that expect thoughtful, reflective thinkers who can skilfully communicate ideas would also benefit. It is also a well-respected subject in its own right and suitable for entry into a wide range of other professions.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

This course is suitable for students who enjoy having the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions both verbally and in written essays. This A level helps students to develop their higher order thinking skills, for example: enquiry, critical thinking and evaluation. These are skills which both employers and Universities highly value. The subject is classified as important for students entering English, History, History of Art, Philosophy, Politics, Religious Studies and Theology degrees.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
5 in GCSE Religious Studies (if studied),
or a 5 in GCSE English



Physical Education (Sport)

Examination Board: **Pearson BTEC**

Qualification Type: **Extended Certificate** (A Level Equivalent)

Teacher Contact:

Mr M Rawson

M.Rawson@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Nationals/Sport/20161/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-l3-national-ext-cert-in-sport-spec.pdf>



Course Overview:

If you are passionate about sport and have outstanding physical ability in at least one sport, then **BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport** could be the course for you. The course will enable you to develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and enable you to use this knowledge to improve your practical performance. You will study units of physiology and psychology and understand how these also affect performance. You will refine your ability to perform effectively by developing skills and techniques as well as selecting and using strategies and tactics.

Course Structure:

The course will build on your knowledge from GCSE/ BTEC/ CNAT level 2 and add exciting new topics.

- **Anatomy and Physiology**
- **Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being**
- **Professional Development in the Sports Industry**
- **Practical sports performance**
- **Leadership in sport**

Extra-curricular activities

Various sports clubs, sixth form football, opportunities to coach sessions within the PE department, links to clubs, curriculum support in key stage 3 PE lessons, extra-curricular delivery and support.

Assessment Method:

Unit 1	Anatomy and Physiology	External exam 1.5 hours 80 marks
Unit 2	Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being	Case study prep and 2.5 hour assessment (60 marks)
Unit 3	Professional Development in the Sports Industry	
Unit 4	Sports Leadership – Practical performance	

Progression Opportunities:

After completing the course, Level 3 graduates go on to study a variety of university courses within the sports sector. These degrees range from physiotherapy, sports coaching, occupational therapy, sports rehabilitation, sports journalism, or to train as a PE teacher. Some of our students may also take the apprenticeship route which can lead to employment.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

Physical Education (Sport) is for students who have a good background in sport and a real interest in the theoretical aspects. The course is ideal preparation if you intend to study Physical Education, Sports Science or Sports Coaching at degree level. This course brings together knowledge and understanding with practical and technical skills. You will develop transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, research and analysis, which are valued in both higher education and the workplace.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement.

Physics

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

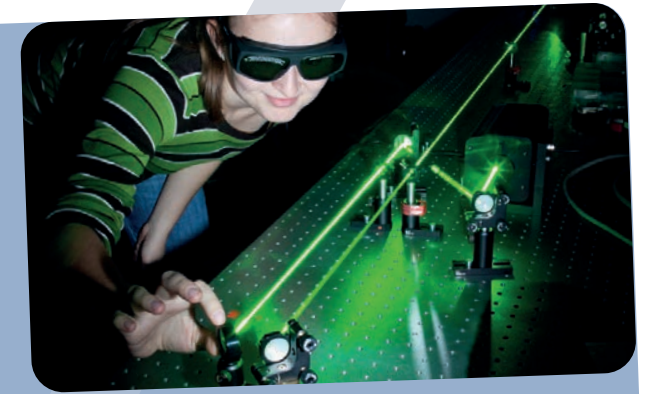
Teacher Contact:

Mr M Shooter

m.shooter@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/as-and-a-level/physics-7407-7408>



Course Overview:

The A Level Physics course enables students to build on their GCSE concepts and develop knowledge of the laws of Physics. Students will also develop their investigating skills through practical activities and will also need to utilise mathematical skills. The subject is a gateway into a variety of careers and university courses.

Course Structure:

The course is split into 8 core units, and Astrophysics as our chosen option:

1. Measurements and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity
6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
7. Fields and their consequences
8. Nuclear Physics
9. Astrophysics

Assessment Method:

Paper 1	2 hours	34%
Paper 2	2 hours	34%
Paper 3	2 hours	32%

40% of the overall assessment of A Level Physics will contain mathematical skills equivalent to Level 2 or above.

At least 15% of the overall assessment of A Level Physics will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to practical work.

Progression Opportunities:

Physics is the fundamental science. It is central to our understanding of the nature of matter and the universe around us and the basis of all developments in high technology and engineering. There is no industry, commercial activity, medical treatment, communications system, or form of entertainment that does not depend on the application of Physics principles. More than 50% of all qualified physicists work in Research and Development, Engineering, and Information Technology.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

Pupils are encouraged to look at Physics in the context of the wider world and to use the skills and knowledge they acquire to solve problems. They also work on challenges arising in the application of physical ideas to industrial problems. You will develop numerical, analytical and practical skills that are highly sought after by employers.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
6 in GCSE Physics and a 5 in one of the other two separate sciences (or 6-6 in Combined Science) and a 6 in GCSE Maths

Politics

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mr M Adler

m.adler@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/politics/a-level/politics-7152>



Course Overview:

This course aims to provide students with an in depth understanding of political theory and how it's applied in British and American Politics. It is an engaging, relevant and controversial subject that will cover news and current affairs whilst developing research, communication and debating skills. Students will study political theory, including Liberalism, Conservatism, and Socialism. We will then build on this understanding to examine how Politics works in practice, with firstly the Government and Politics of the UK, then the Government and Politics of the USA.

Course Structure:

Over the 2 years, students will cover the following topics:

- Political Ideologies
- Constitution and judiciary
- The legislature
- Multi-level governance
- Political parties
- Electoral process and direct democracy
- Participation

Assessment Method:

Paper 1	Government & Politics of the UK	2 hours	33%
Paper 2	Government & Politics of USA, Comparative Politics	2 hours	33%
Paper 3	Political ideas/Ideologies	2 hours	33%

Progression Opportunities:

Students use A Level Politics as a platform for careers in Law, Media, Journalism, the Civil Service, the Police, Local/National Government and Teaching. It is seen as a traditional academic subject and is extremely well respected by universities and employers alike. The ability to read and understand complex texts, analyse and evaluate the information and then construct a coherent essay based on those texts is an invaluable skill that is applicable and relevant to all disciplines.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

- An interest in current affairs and politics (essential)
- The ability to express your ideas in writing and verbally
- The desire to understand and challenge the views of others and the confidence to get involved in discussions and debates
- The ability to analyse, apply theories, write in depth and evaluate

The most important requirement is an interest in how the country and the world are run and a willingness to contribute ideas to discussions on political topics.

Entry Requirements:

Standard entry requirements plus;
5 in GCSE English Language.

Psychology

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mrs H Macleod

H.Macleod@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/as-and-a-level/psychology-7181-7182/specification-at-a-glance>



Course Overview:

The Psychology A Level course enables students to understand the complexities of human behaviour by taking a scientific approach to studying and understanding people. We explore one of the most intricate machines on our planet, the brain, and use psychological research to investigate behaviours and provide practical solutions. If you are interested in human behaviour and why we are all different, but also share similarities, then A Level Psychology is for you.

Course Structure:

Year 12:

Approaches – including the key theories in psychology and its supporting research. You will explore Behaviourism, Social Learning Theory, Cognitive, Psychodynamic, Biological and Humanism.

Memory – including the different models of memory, explanations for forgetting and eyewitness testimony.

Social influence – including why some people conform and obey others.

Attachment – including how we attach to our caregivers and what happens if no attachment is formed.

Research Methods – including looking at the ways psychologists investigate behaviour.

Clinical Psychology and Mental Health – including definitions of abnormality and mental disorders and why the theories say they develop along with possible treatments.

Biopsychology – including how the biological systems of the body and the brain function and the impact on human behaviour.

Year 13:

Gender – including how and why the genders behave in different ways.

Schizophrenia – including the causes of schizophrenia and the potential treatment methods for the disorder.

Forensics – including offender profiling, theories of offending and ways of dealing with offender behaviour.

Issues and debates – including nature versus nurture, free will versus determinism, ethical implications in research, as well as gender and culture in psychological research.

Assessment Method:

End of Year 13

Unit 1 Exam	Introductory Topics in Psychology	2hrs 33.33%
Unit 2 Exam	Psychology in Context	2hrs 33.33%
Unit 3 Exam	Issues and Options in Psychology	2hrs 33.33%

Progression Opportunities:

Studying Psychology at university can lead on to a variety of different careers. Here are a selection:

- Psychology
- Clinical Psychologist
- Educational Psychologist
- Forensic Psychologist
- Teaching
- Policing
- Business
- Nursing
- Art and Drama

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

This A Level course would suit a student who enjoys questioning theory and research. You will also need to enjoy extended writing, as the assessment is 100% written exam at the end of the two years. A willingness to discuss ideas and apply them to real life cases is a major requirement of this course.

The skills you will learn will serve you well in any future career. These include critical thinking, data analysis skills, extended writing and research planning skills.

Entry Requirements:

Standard entry requirements plus;
5 in any GCSE Science and
4 in GCSE English Language

Sociology

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Miss J Sowter

j.sowter@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/as-and-a-level/sociology-7191-7192>



Course Overview:

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

Course Structure:

Year 12:

Education – including which social groups do best in education and why, changing education policy and the role of education in society.

Methods – including methods used by sociologists to support theories and investigate society.

Methods in Context – including application of a range of sociology research methods to the study of education.

Families and Households – including trends in marriage and divorce, changing notions of childhood and the purpose of living in family units.

Year 13:

Beliefs in Society – including the social role of religion, how religion influences social change and the difference between religion and science.

Assessment Method:

End of Year 13

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods	1 x 2 hour exam (80 marks)	33.3%
Paper 2: Topics in Sociology	1 x 2 hour exam (80 marks)	33.3%
Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	1 x 2 hour exam (80 marks)	33.3%

Crime and Deviance – including why people commit crime, which groups are most likely to commit crime and how we might reduce crime in society.

Theory and Methods – including the key sociological theories such as Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism, Interactionism and Postmodernism, as well as core debates.

Progression Opportunities:

Studying Sociology at university can lead on to a variety of careers. Here are a selection:

- Social work
- Human resources
- Policing
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Law
- Teaching
- Civil servant

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

A Level Sociology will help you develop a range of skills that will benefit you, whether you decide to go on to further study or the working world, including:

- the use of evidence to support your arguments
- how to investigate facts and use deduction
- critical thinking
- making reasoned arguments
- developing opinions and new ideas on societal issues
- the ability to analyse and better understand societal issues.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
4 in GCSE English Language

Spanish

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **A Level**

Teacher Contact:

Mrs K Coleman

K.Coleman@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692>



Course Overview:

This course is designed to enable students to develop their linguistic skills alongside their understanding of the culture and society of the countries where Spanish is spoken. Moving on from GCSE, students attain a greater level of fluency in the language, improving their interpersonal and communication skills, striving to become successful global citizens. They will use language spontaneously, also be able to read and respond to a variety of texts and media, also applying analytical skills in written and spoken work.

Course Structure:

Students will study:

Aspects of Hispanic society,

multi-culturalism in Hispanic society

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world.

Grammar

Literary texts and films – Students will study one Spanish language film and one Spanish language text. They will then respond to, and analyse these works in the form of written essays.

Individual research project – Students must identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to them and which relates to one or more Spanish speaking countries, then select relevant information in Spanish from a range of sources and present and discuss their findings in the speaking assessment.

Assessment Method:

Paper 1	Listening, reading and writing	2.5 hours	50%
Paper 2	Writing	2 hours	20%
Paper 3	Speaking	31-33mins	30%

Progression Opportunities:

More than 6,000 students per year, who study languages at A Level, go on to study them at University. However, even if you don't want to go to University, having a second language is an incredibly transferrable life skill. The ability to speak more than one language and knowledge of different cultures, can be useful in a wide variety of different sectors of employment. These include, but are not limited to: The civil service, education, hospitality, tourism, IT and telecommunications, law, marketing, publishing, media and journalism, recruitment, HR, retail, sales, customer service, transport and logistics.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

The Spanish A Level course is suitable for individuals who have a passion for the language and are prepared to learn and practise independently. This course will appeal to those who wish to develop their cultural capital, analytical and communication skills. Being a linguist makes you more articulate and keeps your brain active; it also helps you to develop a more compassionate and empathetic approach to other cultures, leading to a higher level of mutual respect.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
6 in GCSE Spanish

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)



Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **Level 3 Certificate** (AS Level Equivalent)

Teacher Contact: **Mr F Martin**
F.Martin@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/project-qualifications/EPQ-7993/specification-at-a-glance>

Course Overview:

The EPQ is a qualification designed to develop and extend your abilities beyond the core Level 3 curriculum and prepare you for university or a future career. It allows students to produce a piece of work that is individual to them, which could be a written research report or creative artefact. It is essentially an independent research project that is devised and managed by the student and supported in school through teaching, supervision and assessment. The qualification is well respected by universities and is equivalent to an AS Level worth 28 UCAS points.

Course Structure:

The EPQ will involve extended autonomous work by the student, with support and guidance in timetabled lessons.

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- research and choose an area of interest
- decide a title and aims
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non specialist audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development through a production log

Assessment Method:

The final piece will either be a written report of around 5,000 words, or an artefact with a written 1000 word report, which could be, for example, a three dimensional piece of artwork, a play or musical composition, a robot, a model aeroplane, even a website.

Progression Opportunities:

The EPQ is excellent preparation for university study and the world of work. Many universities regard the EPQ as a clear demonstration of a student's readiness for undergraduate study and it also demonstrates that you have the necessary skills to carry out an independent report to a high standard. This qualification is well regarded by Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, as well as employers generally. More and more universities are recognising the EPQ qualification and in some cases offers may be amended on the basis of a good grade in the EPQ.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

You will need to demonstrate the ability to be a self-motivated and will utilise skills such as conducting research, time management, planning, reflection, evaluation and presentation skills. Doing an EPQ allows students to develop their confidence and gain valuable skills to help them stand out from thousands of others. You will improve your communication, problem solving, ICT and critical thinking skills which you can then transfer to other areas of study and your future career.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
Must be taken as a 4th subject.

Core Mathematics



Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Type: **Level 3 Certificate** (AS Level Equivalent)

Teacher Contact:
Mr D Browne
d.browne@derbycathedralschool.org.uk

For more information go to:
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/>

Course Overview:

Want to keep using maths without taking A Level Mathematics? Core Maths could be for you.

Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is designed for students who have achieved a Grade 4 or above at GCSE and who are not taking A Level Mathematics. It develops mathematical skills and thinking, with a focus on real-world and financial applications.

The course will build the mathematical skills required to support a range of A Levels, including Psychology, the Sciences, Geography and Business, as well as technical and vocational qualifications.

Course Structure:

The course combines compulsory and optional units. All students will study:

- Personal finance
- Data analysis
- Estimation
- Critical analysis
- Spreadsheets and tabular data

Optional units may include statistical techniques, critical path and risk analysis, and graphical techniques. Where possible, these will be tailored to the needs and interests of each cohort.

Students will sit two examination papers at the end of the course, with much of the assessment based on pre-released preliminary material, allowing students to apply their mathematical skills to realistic situations.

Assessment Method:

Paper 1	Written exam	1.5hrs 50%
Paper 2	Written exam option A, B or C	1.5hrs 50%

Progression Opportunities:

Core Maths equips students with the general mathematical knowledge and analytical skills required for higher education and employment. It can enhance Post-18 applications as an additional fourth subject, complementing other Level 3 qualifications and demonstrating continued mathematical study beyond GCSE.

Person Spec. and Transferable Skills:

If you enjoy Maths at GCSE, or simply appreciate the importance of maths in everyday life, this qualification is for you. You will develop valuable skills in problem solving, critical thinking, data analysis, financial awareness and decision making. There has been a lot of speculation in the media about all students having to study maths until the age of 18. This is the course they are talking about! Never again will you leave a lesson asking: "When will I ever use this?" On Core Maths you'll find out – and then you'll actually use it.

Entry Requirements:

Standard Entry Requirement plus;
4 in GCSE English and 4 in GCSE Maths
and must be taken as a 4th subject

Our Application Process

<https://www.derbycathedralschool.org.uk>

Our application process opens during our Sixth Form Open Evening on 6 October, 2026.

You can apply online through our personalised online admissions system Appicaa by visiting the **Sixth Form Admissions** section of our school website or by using this direct link and completing an application form:
<https://derbycathedralschool.appicaa.com/2027>

Deadline for applications: 31st January 2027*

*Note: We may accept late applications. Please contact Ms K Osicka by email sixthform@derbycathedralschool.org.uk or by telephone on **01332 325710 ext 543** for further enquiries.

If you missed our Sixth Form Open Evening, but would like to visit our school, we would love to hear from you to arrange an informal visit.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Application Timeline Overview:

6 October 2026 – Sixth Form Open Evening and Application Process opens

The school will be open from 5.30pm to 7.30pm for prospective students. This is an opportunity to explore the school's facilities, meet staff, gather further information about each of our Level 3 qualifications and discover what Sixth Form life is like at Derby Cathedral School. The application process will also officially open on this evening.

31 January 2027 – Sixth Form application deadline

Closing date to complete our online application form.

February/March 2027 – Application reviews and offers

We will review your predicted grades and the courses you would like to study. If all goes well, you will receive a conditional offer.

May/June 2027 – GCSE Examinations

GCSE exam season is in full swing. You will also receive information about our enrolment procedures and upcoming induction day.

June 2027 – Sixth Form Induction Day

This day will consist of taster lessons in each of your chosen subjects and provide you with an opportunity to get to know your fellow students and ask questions. This is a compulsory part of our induction process where you will discover our enrichment offer and experience Sixth Form life here as a whole.

August 2027 – GCSE Results Day and Enrolment in our Sixth Form

You receive your GCSE results and attend an individual enrolment meeting to review your grades and confirm your course selections.

September 2027 – Start Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form

You begin life as a Derby Cathedral School Sixth Form student.