

DURHAM JOHNSTON SIXTH FORM

Course Guide
2025 Entry



Welcome to one of the top Sixth Form Comprehensives in England

Durham Johnston's Sixth Form is a school community of approximately 350 students. We are proud of our traditional, academic ethos and our outstanding track record of A-Level exam success which has received national recognition. We are an experienced and supportive staff team that has consistently proven successful in helping students to perform at their best, making the successful transition to university and the world of work. The majority of our students go on to study at university, gaining entry onto the most competitive degree courses in the UK. For those of our young adults where the traditional route of Higher Education is not their preferred destination, they too are very successful in securing places in Degree Apprenticeships, training contracts and employment.

Durham Johnston's Sixth Form students exemplify the very best of our school community. They work hard, achieve well, and leave us as socially-conscious, informed citizens. Whether it be through charitable fund-raising, volunteering and mentoring, weekly sixth form committee, the range of student societies or the school's House System, our young people flourish in an environment that nurtures the development of their character, their independent decision making and their academic capability.

We share the students' ambitions and are proud to help them in their preparation for life in university, employment and beyond.

Sapere Aude – Dare to be wise



Durham Johnston – Sixth Form Course Details

This booklet tells you everything you need to know about the courses available in the Sixth Form at Durham Johnston. It should be read in conjunction with our Sixth Form Prospectus. Further details are available on our website. As well as A-Level courses we also offer the Extended Project Qualification (AQA) to develop your skills, super curricular enrichment and project management experience.

There is also a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities which we encourage students to take part in. As would be expected from a community working with young people, we seek to nurture, challenge and improve.

Sixth Form - Key Dates for 2025 Entry

7th October 2024	Sixth Form Open Evening
8th October 2024	Application opens
5th November 2024	Application submission deadline
June 2025	Option blocks, based on application choices, published
27th June 2025	Sixth Form Induction Day
21st August 2025	GCSE results, registration and confirmation of places

We accept applications throughout the year but those received by 5th November will be processed first, by the end of 2024.

Note on Post-16 Admissions

Every year we are oversubscribed in certain subjects. Offers depend on demand for places in your subjects, your predicted grades meeting the minimum entry requirements, your other details (see website), the date your application is received and of course places also depend on your GCSE results. Those who meet the deadline are therefore at an advantage in securing places on courses. If you are not predicted to reach the required entry grades or you apply after the places on a course are filled, you may be placed on a waiting list. Students on waiting lists will be assigned places as they become available and once results are published.



The A-Level curriculum at Durham Johnston

We focus on A-Levels since these are the established “Gold Standard” qualifications known and relied on by universities and employers. They work well for us in our students achieving outstanding grades and progress from GCSE. If you would like to look at details on other types of courses, sources of information are listed at the back of this booklet. Since the year 2000 students have generally taken four courses in Year 12 and then focused on three A-Levels during Year 13. However, around 10% of our students have taken four courses through to full A level and we expect this may continue. The advantages of the four course Year 12 are firstly that it boosts students’ UCAS points score and secondly but much more importantly, that it defers the decision of the final three A-Levels until the students have tried out the courses. We wish to retain this advantage, so students take four subjects in Year 12. At the end of Year 12 students will, if possible, take AS exams in the courses they may not continue. These exam entry choices will be made following December trial exams. In the courses where students are not taking the external AS, internal exams in the summer term will decide Year 13 course progression and inform UCAS predictions. It is possible to take just three A-Level courses, but it is important that they are the right three for you.

Choosing your courses

This is a major step and one which deserves time and attention. The general advice is to choose subjects which you find interesting – when you go from about ten subjects to four and spend five lessons plus four to five hours homework each week on a course, it really helps to want to do it. Secondly, play to your strengths; universities will offer places on the basis of grades so look at how you have done so far, use teachers’ advice and look at what the courses involve. Thirdly be aware of any requirements of the courses or careers you may be interested in. At the very least, research entry requirements - websites such as UCAS are good for this (some examples are given on the back inside cover of this booklet) - and let us know on your application form so we can include it in your interview. The fourth subject is an opportunity to broaden your education. This might mean keeping on a real passion in Art, for example, but more often it is a chance to develop a relevant skill such as Maths or a language to support your university application and future employability. It is important to check that the AS qualification is available if you only intend to study the subject in Year 12.

Preparing for your courses

You will be given guidance on this as time goes on but in general you should research carefully your choices and probably review them as you find out more from mock results etc. The best long-term foundation will be built by paying attention to media items linked to your courses and starting to develop your background reading. All of you need to be aware that GCSE results will be increasingly important in applications for university and for employment and you should be working hard from now on.

The details in this booklet are correct at the time of going to print. There may be further developments in curriculum, university admissions etc. which impact on our offer. We will keep applicants informed if this happens.



GCSE requirements for entry to Sixth Form

9 - 4 grades in 5 GCSE subjects (generally including Maths & English*) including 9 - 6 in at least 3 GCSE subjects.

* See detail on English and Maths in our admissions policy.

In addition, there are entry requirements for each subject (see subject pages in the courses booklet.)

Students will also need to complete the Transition Work posted on the website for each subject to help them in their decision making.

The running of any course depends on level of demand in order that they can be timetabled.

Note that the minimum entry requirement is not a target. GCSE grades go on UCAS forms and job applications with higher grades often used as a filter for selection.



Art and Design

Minimum course entry requirement

Awarding Body **Edexcel**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 6 in GCSE Art, Design or Photography. Candidates who do not have GCSE but can demonstrate exceptional interest in pursuing A-Level Art and Design must produce a portfolio of work and arrange an interview with Head of Department. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Art need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

Durham Johnston Art Department is offering the two-year linear Art and Design A-Level, with the option of the AS qualification in year 12. The following titles are being offered:

- Art, Craft & Design
- Fine Art
- Graphic Communication
- Textile Design
- Three-dimensional Design
- Photography

Component 01: Personal investigation 60%

- A practical portfolio with supporting contextual research in response to a set theme. The portfolio may be presented in a format appropriate to the specialism and area of study chosen.
- A related study using words and illustrations demonstrating the context in which their portfolio exists, exploring the relevant genre, subject matter, movement or historical framework of the selected theme.

Component 02: Externally set task 40%

- Students can choose a starting point from any of the seven given themes for which they will generate an appropriate personal response for assessment. They will carry out preparatory work to research, plan and develop their ideas, before engaging in 15 hours of supervised time to complete their work.

Careers and skills

A-Level Art is highly valued for careers in architecture, graphic design, illustration and advertising, fashion and textiles, film and TV, print making, 3D design, ceramics and jewellery, photography, art therapy, community and performance art.



Biology

Awarding Body **OCR**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 5 in Maths plus grade 6 in single award Biology. If Combined Science then a minimum of 6,6 including grade 6 in Biology papers 1 & 2 and grade 5 in an English GCSE. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Biology need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Course content

Biology A-Level is split into 6 modules. Modules 1 to 4 constitute a stand-alone AS-level qualification (AS Level marks no longer contribute towards the A Level marks).

Modules 1 to 6, combined with a practical Endorsement, constitute the full A-Level.

Module 1: Development of practical skills

Module 2: Foundations in biology

Module 3: Exchange and transport

Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Module 5: Communications, homeostasis and energy

Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

Assessment

In year 12, two papers, 1½ hours each, assess any content from modules 1 to 4.

In year 13, there are three papers:

- Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 3 assesses content from all 6 modules (1½ hours)

For year 13 at least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of practical skills and 10% will assess mathematical skills.

Practical endorsement (Year 13 only)

Students will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. This will be endorsed as pass or fail but will not contribute marks towards the A level. Practical requirements impose strict limits on class sizes and places may not be available to late applicants.

Careers and skills

Biology is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in medicine, dentistry, nursing and the health professions, scientific research, agriculture, veterinary sciences, pharmacy, environmental sciences, forestry and teaching.



Business

Minimum course entry requirement

Awarding Body **EDEXCEL**

At least grade 6 in GCSE Business (if taken), grade 5 in Maths and grade 5 in an English GCSE. It is not a requirement to have studied Business at GCSE level. Students who have not studied GCSE Business perform equally as well as those who have. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Business need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Course content

Year 12

Theme 1: Marketing & People

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

Both units cover the following: external influences, marketing, operations, human resources and financial considerations.

Year 13

Theme 3: Business Decisions & Strategy

Theme 4: Global Business

Year 12 themes are revisited in additional depth.

Assessment

Year 12

Paper 1: Marketing & People: 50% of total AS-Level, 1½ hour written paper.

Paper 2: Managing Business Activities: 50% of total AS Level, 1½ hour written paper.

Year 13

Paper 1: Marketing, People & Global Business: 35% of total A-Level, 2 hour written paper.

Paper 2: Business Activities, Decisions & Strategy: 35% of total A-Level, 2 hour written paper.

Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment: 30% of total A-Level, 2 hour written paper.

Careers and skills

There are few areas of work where Business does not have a part to play. Even in jobs that are technical, practical or artistic, it is useful to have an understanding of how the organisation operates, especially if you want to start climbing the management ladder. For those seeking employment, A-Level Business would be of obvious value for a wide range of careers in the business world. Universities offer a range of business-related degrees, with specialist routes in management, marketing, economics, finance, law, human resource management, information technology, European studies/languages and international business management.



Chemistry

Awarding Body **OCR**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Maths plus grade 6 in single award Chemistry. If Combined Science then a minimum of 6,6 including grade 6 in Chemistry units 1 & 2.
For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Chemistry need to demonstrate potential for A Level success

Course content

Chemistry A-Level is split into 6 modules. Modules 1 to 4 constitute a stand-alone AS-Level qualification (AS Level marks no longer contribute towards the A Level marks). Modules 1 to 6, combined with a practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

Module 1: Development of practical skills in Chemistry

Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3: Periodic Table and Energy

Module 4: Core Organic Chemistry

Module 5: Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements

Module 6: Organic Chemistry and Analysis

Assessment

AS/Year 1: There are two papers:

- Breadth in Chemistry (1½ hours)
- Depth in Chemistry (1½ hours)

Both papers assess content from modules 1 to 4.

A-Level: There are three papers:

- Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (2¼ hours)
- Paper 3 assesses content from all six modules (1½ hours)

For Year 13, at least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of practical skills and 10% will assess mathematical skills.

Practical endorsement (Year 13 only):

Students will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. This will be endorsed as pass or not achieved but will not contribute marks towards the A Level.

Practical requirements impose strict limits on class sizes and places may not be available to late applicants.

Careers and skills

Chemistry continues to be the central subject for medicine and many science-based courses. A qualification in Chemistry may lead to the following careers: chemistry, biochemistry, medicine, dentistry, engineering, accountancy, law, nursing, veterinary science, pharmacology, environmental science, food and drug industries, geosciences, sports science, management consultancy and forensic science.



Computer Science

Awarding body **AQA**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Maths and Computer Science if taken. Students who do not have GCSE but can demonstrate exceptional interest in pursuing A-Level Computer Science must produce a portfolio of work and arrange an interview with a member of the Computing department. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Computer Science need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Course content

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It involves computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. Key content includes:

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.

Students will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.

1. Analysis of the problem. 2. Design of the solution.

3. Developing the solution. 4. Evaluation

Assessment

Year 12

Paper 1 – Programming and the theory of computation – 75 marks. 1 hr 45 minutes (50%)

Paper 2 – The fundamentals of computer architecture and networking – 75 marks. 1 hr 30 minutes (50%)

Year 13

Paper 1 - Programming and the theory of computation – 100 marks. 2hrs 30 mins on-screen exam (40%)

Paper 2 - The fundamentals of computer architecture and networking 2hrs 30 mins written exam (40%)

NEA 75 marks (20%)

Careers and skills

This specification has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of computing would be beneficial. Students can study Computer Science and go on to a career in software and hardware development, IT systems management, Business, any type of science and many other areas.



Economics

Awarding Body **EDEXCEL**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Mathematics and grade 5 in an English GCSE plus grade 6 in a Humanity subject.
For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Economics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Course content

- Year 12: Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
- supply and demand
 - the economic problem
 - government intervention in markets e.g. taxes and subsidies
 - examples of market failure such public goods and externalities
- Theme 2: The UK economy performance and policies
- aggregate demand and supply
 - inflation
 - unemployment
 - the balance of payments
 - fiscal policy
 - monetary policy
 - conflicts between objectives and policies
- Year 13: Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
- the objectives of firms
 - the growth of firms
 - costs, revenue and profit
 - market structures
 - the labour market
- Theme 4: A global perspective
- international economics
 - the financial sector
 - poverty and inequality
 - emerging and developing economies
 - role of the state in the macro economy

Assessment

Year 12: The exam is based on two 1½ hour papers (covering themes 1 and 2).

Year 13: The exam is based on three 2-hour papers (covering all four themes). The papers consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended open-response questions – and make use of case studies.

Careers and skills

Management, administration, banking, politics, teaching and accountancy. Students who intend to study Economics at L.S.E. or Cambridge may require Maths at A Level and Further Maths at a minimum of an AS Level. They may also need to demonstrate breadth with relevant essay writing subjects such as Economics and Politics.



English Language

Awarding Body **AQA**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE Grade 5 in English Language.
For continuation to Year 13, grades in Year 12 English Language need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

Paper One: Language, the individual and society. 40% of the total A level, 2½ hours

Section A: Textual Variations and Representations. Two texts linked by topic or theme. Each text is analysed separately and then the final question requires comparison of the two texts.

Section B: Children's Language Development - An evaluative essay on children's language development from a choice of two questions.

Paper Two: Language Diversity and change. 40% of the total A level, 2½ hours.

Section A: Diversity and Change. An evaluative essay on either language diversity or language change.

Section B: Language Discourses. A question requiring a comparative analysis of how texts use language to present views on a contemporary language issue. This is then followed by a directed writing task linked to the same topic and ideas in the texts.

Coursework is 20% of total A-Level

A language investigation is produced (2000 words). In addition, students will complete a piece of original writing with a commentary (1500 words in total).

Assessment

Paper One: Language, the individual and society. 40% of the total A level, 2½ hours

Paper Two: Language Diversity and change. 40% of the total A level, 2½ hours.

Coursework is 20% of total A-Level

Careers and skills

There is a wide range of possibilities: English Language is highly valued for careers in the media, police, business, law, social services, civil service and education. In fact, any career where language and communication skills are important. Many universities offer an English Language or Linguistics degree and all value A-Level English Language.



English Literature

Awarding Body **AQA Specification A**

Note - certification in this course is not available at AS-Level.

Minimum Course Entry Requirement

At least grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 English Literature need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

English Literature is ideal for students who enjoy reading; the course covers a range of texts from F Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby' to Shakespeare's 'Othello'. At Durham Johnston, we study AQA Specification A that has a historicist approach to the study of literature, working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced. An example of this is the unit on 'Modern Times: literature from 1945 to the present day', in which students study texts such as 'The Colour Purple', considering how readers would respond to it at the time it was published and now; as well as how it reflects common themes and motifs of the period or genre. Furthermore, English Literature provides good scope for independent thinking in that the Non-Examination Unit is a piece that students choose themselves. With guidance, students select two texts of their choice and create their own question. This leads to high engagement and highly engaging pieces of coursework.

Assessment

Paper One: Love Through the Ages: 40% of total A Level, 3 hours.
Section A: Shakespeare: one passage-based question with linked essay (closed book).

Section B: Unseen poetry: comparing two unseen poems.

Section C: Comparing two texts that have been studied in class (open book).

Paper Two: Texts in Context: 40% of total A Level, 2½ hours.

Section A: Set Texts: One essay on a set text that has been studied in class (open book).

Section B: Unseen Prose.

Section C: Comparing two further set texts that have been studied in class (open book).

Non-Examination Unit: 20% of total A Level

2500 word essay comparing two texts of the student's choice; one of which must have been written pre-1900.

Careers and skills

English Literature is excellent preparation for careers in English teaching, journalism or the arts. The course develops skills in close reading, making presentations, structuring arguments, problem solving and working with others that are essential in many jobs including the law, banking, administration, marketing, advertising and any job where management skills are required.



Ethics and Philosophy (Religious Studies)

Minimum course entry requirement

Course content

Awarding Body **OCR**

At least grade 5 in GCSE English and a grade 6 in a Humanities subject (Religious Education, History or Geography).
For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Religious Studies need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Candidates focus on three components:
Philosophy of Religion
Religious Ethics
Developments in Religious Thought - Christianity

Assessment

All components are assessed by written examination.

Year 12

There will be an examination paper for each of the three components. Each paper, lasting 1½ hours, will consist of five questions. Candidates must choose three questions. Each paper will carry a 90 mark value and account for 33.3% of the qualification.

Year 13

There will be an examination paper for each of the three components. Each paper, lasting 2 hours, will consist of five questions. Candidates must choose three questions. Each paper will carry a 120 mark value and account for 33.3% of the qualification.

Careers and skills

Religious Studies develops a range of skills such as critical thinking, textual knowledge and evaluation. The subject will help you form incisive arguments, give you empathy for people whose beliefs and world views are different from your own, and help you to understand what it means to live in a culturally diverse world. The study of Religion, Ethics and Philosophy will be useful for a variety of careers and courses: teaching, law, management, lecturer, ministry, medicine, advertising, Civil Service, journalism, business, philosophy, politics, police, social work, writer and any other careers which involve working with people from different cultural and social backgrounds.



French

Awarding Body **AQA**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in French and grade 5 in an English GCSE. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 French need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Course content

In Year 12 the Advanced Level course in French enables students to develop and build on skills acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The AS course provides a logical progression from GCSE. A-Level students study grammatical structures of the language throughout the course so that they can acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use.

Students study the following:

- One theme from Social issues and trends
- One theme from Artistic culture
- One book or film
- Grammar

In Year 13 the course encourages students to develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for language learning. Students develop an awareness and understanding of contemporary French society and learn how to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language. The course aims to enable students to take their place in a multilingual global society.

Students study the following:

- A further theme from Social issues and trends
- A further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- One book or film (NB if a film is chosen in year one, then a book must be studied in year two)
- Grammar

There will also be an individual research project.

Assessment

Year 12: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into French).

Year 13: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into French).

Careers and skills

Languages can lead directly to a career in translation, interpretation or teaching but can be an advantage in any area of work where there is a need to deal effectively with people or companies beyond our own borders (law, accountancy, engineering and many more). Many degree courses now include a language element, especially in the areas of law, business and science. A language qualification in the global twenty-first century is a real asset. It enhances most job applications.



Geography

Awarding Body **AQA**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in geography, grade 5 in an English GCSE and grade 5 in Maths. However, it is possible to study A-Level geography without having taken the subject at GCSE as long as your other GCSE grades are strong and you undertake some additional preparatory reading. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Geography need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

Year 12/AS-Level

Topics studied:

- Coasts
- Contemporary Urban Environments
- Changing Places
- Skills, Stats and Fieldwork

Year 13/A-Level

Topics studied:

- Carbon and Water Cycles
- Hazards
- Global Systems and Governance
- NEA (coursework)

Fieldwork

You will carry out 4 days of fieldwork during your A Level geography course. Two of those days will be in Year 12 and will consist of one visit to a stretch of coastline and one visit to an urban area. These visits are to enable you to develop fieldwork and data processing techniques.

Assessment

Year 12/AS Level

Component 1: Coasts and Urban. 1½ hours (50%)

Component 2: Changing Places and Fieldwork/Skills/Stats. 1½ hour (50%)

Year 13 /A Level

Component 1: Physical Geography. 2½ hours (40%)

Component 2: Human Geography. 2½ hours (40%)

Component 3: NEA (coursework) (20%)

Careers and skills

Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment. Geographers enter a very wide range of career areas and, put simply, there is no such thing as a geography job, there are jobs that geographers do. Studying geography provides you with valuable skills and a firm base for life-long learning. (Royal Geographical Association).



German

Awarding Body **AQA**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in German and grade 5 in an English GCSE. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 German need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

In Year 12 German enables students to develop and build on skills acquired at GCSE: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The AS course provides a logical progression from GCSE. A-Level students study grammatical structures of the language throughout the course so that they can acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use.

Students study the following:

- One theme from Social issues and trends
- One theme from Artistic culture
- One film
- Grammar

In Year 13 the course encourages students to develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for language learning. Students develop an awareness and understanding of contemporary German society and learn how to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language. The course aims to enable students to take their place in a multilingual global society. Students study the following:

- A further theme from Social issues and trends
- A further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- One book
- Grammar

There will also be an individual research project.

Assessment

Year 12: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into German).

Year 13: Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into German).

Careers and skills

Languages can lead directly to a career in translation, interpretation or teaching but can be an advantage in any area of work where there is a need to deal effectively with people or companies beyond our own borders (law, accountancy, engineering and many more). Many degree courses now include a language element, especially in the areas of law, business and science. A language qualification in the global twenty-first century is a real asset. It enhances most job applications.



Government and Politics

Awarding Body **AQA**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 5 in English and a 6 in a humanity e.g. Geography or History is required. A genuine interest is the main requirement needed from students who take this course. A student who studies Government and Politics as an A-Level subject will be one who wants to understand current affairs in depth.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Government and Politics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Course content

Politics has three papers which focus on:

1. Government and politics in the UK
 - Constitution, Devolution, Parliament, PM, Cabinet and the Judiciary
 - Democracy, participation, elections, parties and pressure groups

2. Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics
 - Constitution, Congress, President, Supreme Court
 - Parties, pressure groups, elections, participation
 - Comparative politics between the US and the UK

3. Political Ideologies
 - Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism, Anarchism.

Assessment

Year 12

Two 1 hr 45 mins papers examining Government and Politics in the UK.

Year 13

Three 2 hour papers (one on each section) which consist of a combination of short answers and extended essay writing.

Careers and skills

An A-Level course in Government and Politics is good preparation for anyone considering a degree in sociology, social studies, history, law, economics, business studies and public administration. It should also provide vital information for any student considering a career in journalism, law, social work and local or central government.



History

Awarding Body **OCR**

Note - Those studying History should expect to complete the full A-Level course. The AS-Level contains the same content as Y12 History, but is examined differently and requires support beyond Y12 classes.

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in History if taken and grade 5 in an English GCSE. It is not absolutely essential for an exceptional candidate to have studied GCSE History before embarking on a study of the subject at A-Level. New students to the course should complete additional preparatory reading. For continuation to Year 13, grades in Year 12 History need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

Year 12: Students will study units 1 and 2 and start unit 3.

Year 13: Students will study units 3 and 4 and revisit units 1 and 2.

Unit 1 (Y113) Britain 1930–1997. (Enquiry topic: Churchill 1930–1951)

Unit 2 (Y213) The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774–1815.

Unit 3 (Y319) Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992.

Unit 4 (Y100) A final 4th module will involve independent research on the period 1945-1997. Students will complete a 4,000 word essay; this is an internally assessed unit.

Assessment

External assessment will be at the end of year 13.

British period study and enquiry:

(Y101-Y113) 50 marks. 1½ hour paper. 25% of total A-Level

Non-British period study:

(Y201-Y224) 30 marks. 1 hour paper. 15% of total A-Level

Thematic study and historical interpretations

(Y301-Y321) 80 marks. 2½ hour paper. 40% of total A-Level

4,000 word essay

(Y100/03 or 04) Non-exam assessment. 40 marks. 20% of total A-Level.

Careers and skills

This subject is ideal for any student intending to work in the academic field of history. It can also transfer well if students wish to be a lawyer, journalist, accountant, banker, manager, administrator, architect or civil servant. It is a highly regarded subject and provides excellent training in constructing an argument, debating, analysis, undertaking research and thinking critically.



Mathematics

Awarding Body **OCR**

Minimum course entry requirement

The course is specialised and demanding and therefore a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics should be regarded as the absolute minimum. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Mathematics need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

There is a fixed content for AS and A-Level Mathematics. All students will study a mixture of pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics. Both AS and A-Level Mathematics are $\frac{2}{3}$ pure mathematics, $\frac{1}{6}$ mechanics and $\frac{1}{6}$ statistics.

Assessment

Year 12/AS

- Paper 1 - Pure and statistics (1½ hours)
- Paper 2 - Pure and mechanics (1½ hours)

Year 13/A-Level

- Paper 1 - Pure (2 hours)
- Paper 2 - Pure and statistics (2 hours)
- Paper 3 - Pure and mechanics (2 hours)

100% of the assessment is by examination. There is no coursework. The use of calculators (including graphical calculators) is permitted in all exams. You will require an advanced calculator with built-in statistical distribution functions. The calculator you used for GCSE and the "advanced" calculators available in the shops will not be good enough.

A current non-graphical calculators which is suitable:

- The Casio Fx-991CW Classwiz is our preferred calculator.

If you are considering buying a graphical calculator instead, please seek advice from the Maths department before you make a purchase.

Careers and skills

With numbers, statistics and computers so much part of modern life, an AS or A-Level in Mathematics is one of the most generally useful qualifications. A-Level Mathematics is essential for degree study in Mathematics, Engineering and Physics, and often required for courses in Computer Science, Chemistry, Business Studies, Economics, Operational Research, Architecture and Accountancy. With statistics being widely used in many occupations this subject can be useful support for students of Geography, Social Sciences, Psychology and Biology. Other career areas where Mathematics is useful include banking, insurance, science of all types and the armed services.



Further Mathematics

Awarding Body **OCR**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 8 in Maths. The standard of this course is high. If you intend on studying Further Maths, you should also choose to study Maths. Further Mathematics students often choose to complete four A-levels but this is not assumed. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Further Mathematics need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Course content

AS-Level Further Mathematics is comprised of $\frac{1}{3}$ Compulsory Pure Maths with $\frac{2}{3}$ made up of the best two of Additional Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics.

A-Level Further Mathematics is comprised of $\frac{1}{2}$ Compulsory Pure Maths with $\frac{1}{2}$ made up of the best two of Additional Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics.

Assessment

AS-Level Further Maths exams at the end of Year 12

- Compulsory Pure Maths (75 minutes)
- Additional Pure Maths (75 minutes)
- Mechanics (75 minutes)
- Statistics (75 minutes)

A-Level Further Maths exams at the end of Year 13

- Compulsory Pure Maths 1 (90 minutes)
- Compulsory Pure Maths 2 (90 minutes)
- Additional Pure Maths (90 minutes)
- Mechanics (90 minutes)
- Statistics (90 minutes)

Careers and skills

The depth and breadth of study provided by A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics create a strong foundation for any career with a mathematical content such as science, engineering, banking, accountancy or insurance. The most selective universities may have a very strong preference for students applying to some courses to have taken Further Mathematics. These include Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Computer Science and Economics. Students should check UCAS for further details (see websites on final pages).



Media Studies

Awarding Body **Eduqas**

Note - certification in this course is not available at AS Level

Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 4 in a GCSE English. No previous study of Media at GCSE is required.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Media Studies need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Course content

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

Component 3: Cross-Media Production Coursework

Assessment

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences.

Written examination: 2¼ hours at the end of Year 13. The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts - 35% of qualification.

Section A: Media Language and Representation - 2 analytical questions on Unseen texts

Section B: Media Industries and Audiences - 2 analytical questions on set texts

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

Written examination: 2½ hours at the end of Year 13. This unit is completed in Year 12 and 13 - 35% of qualification. There are 3 extended essay questions based on the set texts studied for each module – TV, Magazines and Online Media

Component 3: Cross-Media Production Coursework.

To be completed by the end of autumn term in Year 13 - 30% of qualification.

Careers and skills

Media Studies is a valuable and highly regarded qualification, leading directly to many media based careers. The moral and ethical debates students engage with, and the analytical and investigative approach developed, are excellent training for a wide range of careers including law, politics, journalism, social services, civil service and teaching. Any area which requires critical thinking and excellent communication skills would be well served by a Media Studies student.



Music

Awarding Body **AQA**

Note - certification in this course is not available at AS-Level

Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 6 in GCSE Music, grade 5 theory standard plus at least grade 5 ABRSM performance standard and grade 5 in an English GCSE. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Music need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. A-Level music gives students the opportunity to study a wide range of musical genres, and brings performance and composition to life in new and engaging ways.

The A-Level syllabus content is taught as three modules:
Component 1: Appraising Music – Listening, Analysis and Contextual Understanding. This component provides an appropriate focus for students to appraise music and develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. The music to be studied is 'Baroque: The Solo Concerto', 'Classical: The Operas of Mozart', 'Romantic: The Piano Music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg', 'Art Music since 1910' and 'Jazz'.

Component 2: Performance

Students will record a programme of solo and/or ensemble music between 10 and 12 minutes in which they will demonstrate an understanding of context including, the chosen style or genre being performed and the composer's purpose and intention.

Component 3: Composition

Students will write two compositions which must last between 4½ and 6 minutes. One will be in response to an externally set brief (harmonising in 4 parts) and the other a free composition.

Assessment

Component 1: Written/Listening Examination. (40% of total A-Level marks)

Component 2: Performance - Externally Assessed Coursework. (35% of total A-Level marks)

Component 3: Composition - Externally Assessed Coursework. (25% of the total A-Level marks)

Careers and skills

For those wishing to pursue a professional musical career as a performer, composer or teacher, A-Level music is a pre-requisite for higher education courses at both universities and music colleges. Music also creates a practical and creative balance for those studying two or more classroom or laboratory based subjects, developing independent study and cultivating interpersonal skills through the examination of music as a communicative language.



Physical Education

Awarding Body **AQA**

Note – certification in this course is not available at AS-Level

Minimum course entry requirement

At least grade 6 in GCSE PE and grade 4 in an English. In individual cases, alternative P.E. qualifications may be considered.
For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Physical Education need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

The course builds upon the student experience from GCSE to enhance knowledge and increase understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in PE. The qualification looks to equip students with skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world of work.

Students will have the opportunity to experience and develop an interest in a variety of roles in sport such as performer, official and/or leader/coach. The content of the course will address current contemporary issues. Topics will include the impact of the use of ergogenic aids, technology and increasing commercialisation of sport.

Assessment

Year 13 - Paper 1: Written 2 hour exam – 35% of A-Level. Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

Section A – Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B – Skill acquisition

Section C – Sport and society

Paper 2: Written 2 hour exam – 35% of A-Level. Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity

Section A – Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B – Sports psychology

Section C – Sport and society and technology in sport

Practical performance - 30% of A-Level. Students assessed as a player/performer or in full sided version of one activity plus written analysis and evaluation of performance

Careers and skills

Sports at all level in civilian life and the Services, leisure and recreation industries, youth services, education and related fields such as some medical careers. The subject provides a useful background in the scientific study of the working of the human body and the growing leisure sector that is valuable for a number of courses in Higher Education.



Physics

Awarding Body **OCR**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Maths plus grade 6 in single award Physics. If Combined Science then a minimum of 6,6 including grade 6 in Physics units 1 & 2. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Physics need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

Year 12

Modules Physics A (H156):

1. Development of practical skills
2. Foundations of physics
3. Forces and motion
4. Electrons, waves and photons

Year 13

Modules Physics A (H556):

1. Development of practical skills
2. Foundations of physics
3. Forces and motion
4. Electrons, waves and photons
5. Newtonian world and astrophysics
6. Particles and medical physics

Assessment

Year 12

Two 1½ hour written exams.

Exams sat in Year 12 do not count towards the full A-Level grades as it is a linear course.

Year 13

Two 2¼ hour exams and one 1½ hour written exam based on Year 12 and 13 modules. Students also need to pass a teacher assessed practical set of tasks.

Careers and skills

Physics A-Level is a requirement of many science and most engineering courses in higher education. Physicists find employment in many areas: e.g. astronomy, computing, aeronautics, the automotive industry, electronics, laboratory work, radiography, engineering, (electrical, mechanical, civil), communications, optical, forensic science, armed forces, music, entertainment, geophysics, energy and the environment and finance.



Psychology

Awarding Body **AQA**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 5 in English and Maths and 2 6s from Science, Maths or Humanities (e.g. R.E., Geography or History).
For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Psychology need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

Year 12

- Psychopathology – looking at symptoms, causes and treatments of OCD, Phobias and Depression.
- Social Influence – the effects of conformity, obedience and minority influence
- Memory – theories of memory and forgetting, application to EWT and how memory can be improved
- Attachment – how childhood attachment affects adult relationships
- Approaches & Biopsychology – Theories in Psychology
- Research Methods – Scientific principles of how to carry out research in Psychology

Year 13

- Gender – theories of gender, atypical gender development, Gender Dysphoria
- Schizophrenia – symptoms, theories and treatments of schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology – Why crime happens, offender profiling and treatment of offenders
- Approaches in Psychology – comparison of theories
- Biopsychology - Biological basis of behaviour, brain, CNS
- Research Methods – development of scientific principles
- Issues & Debates – nature/nurture, freewill/determinism, ideographic/nomothetic, holism/reductionism, gender bias and cultural bias

Assessment

AS-Level: Two 1½ hour papers (covering Year 12 work).

A-Level: Three 2 hour papers (covering Year 12 and Year 13 work). The papers consist of a combination of short answer questions and extended writing.

Careers and skills

Psychology A-Level prepares you for a variety of careers including: child psychology, forensic psychology, counselling, educational psychology and sports psychology. With the increasing demand from employers for general and transferable skills there are many other excellent employment prospects for graduates.

Psychology can be advantageous to a wide variety of other careers including: medicine, law, advertising, sales, social work, personnel management, careers guidance, police and broadcasting.



Sociology

Awarding Body **AQA**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 5 in an English or 5 in a humanities subject (Geography or History).
For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Sociology need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Course content

Year 12

- Work, Poverty and Welfare: The definition and measurement of poverty. The causes of poverty. The impact of the Welfare State on poverty. What is work?
- Education: Class, race, gender and educational achievement. The functions of education. The hidden curriculum. The impact of educational reforms.
- Sociological Methods: The main methods and sources used by sociologists and their relationship to theory, e.g. interviews, questionnaires and observation.

Year 13

- Global Development: Different theories of development, Globalisation, Role of transnational corporations, Development in relation to industrialisation, Urbanisation, The Environment, War and conflict, Education, Health, Gender and population change as aspects of development.
- Crime and Deviance: The causes of crime. Perspectives on crime and deviance. Corporate and white collar crime. Crime statistics – how useful are they?
- Theory and Methods: This involves re-examining the material covered earlier plus issues such as:
 - values and objectives
 - the nature of social 'facts'
 - is Sociology a Science?
 - 'structural' v 'action' approaches to Sociology
 - 'consensus' v 'conflict' approaches to Sociology

Assessment

Year 12: Two 1½ hour papers (covering Year 12 work).

Year 13 : Three 2 hour papers (covering Year 12 and Year 13 work).
The papers consist of a combination of short answer questions and extended writing.

Careers and skills

Social work, management, administration, the police service and teaching - in fact any area where dealing with people is important and for many other careers. A pass in Sociology is evidence of the candidate's ability to write clearly, think analytically and to cope with a large amount of information.



Spanish

Awarding Body **AQA**

Minimum course entry requirement

At least GCSE grade 6 in Spanish and grade 5 in an English GCSE. For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Spanish need to demonstrate potential for A-Level success.

Course content

Year 12

A-Level students study grammatical structures of the language throughout the course so that they can acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use.

Students study the following:

- One theme from Social issues and trends
- One theme from Artistic culture
- One book or film
- Grammar

Year 13

Students study the following:

- A further theme from Social issues and trends
- A further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- One book or film (NB if a film is chosen in year one, then a book must be studied in year two)
- Grammar

There will also be an individual research project.

Assessment

Year 12

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into Spanish).

Year 13

Students will be examined in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammar and translation both from and into Spanish).

Careers and skills

Languages can lead directly to a career in translation, interpretation or teaching but can be an advantage in any area of work where there is a need to deal effectively with people or companies beyond our own borders (law, accountancy, engineering and many more). Many degree courses now include a language element, especially in the areas of law, business and science. A language qualification in the global twenty-first century is a real asset. It enhances most job applications.



SIXTH FORM STUDENT AGREEMENT

In accepting a place in the Sixth Form students agree to the following:

1. Set a good example to other students by maintaining the highest standards in work and conduct in all areas of school life
2. Make the most of every lesson by preparation, participation and consolidation
3. Make full use of private study periods in school
4. Complete all independent work and submit it by the required time
5. Attend all form periods, lessons and private study periods on timetable
6. Provide a written explanation from parents/carers of any absences
7. Act with courtesy and treat others with respect to effect the smooth running of the Sixth Form
8. Participate in and contribute positively to the school community.

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM ENTITLEMENT

For each course, you will receive:

1. Course details/specifications;
2. A chronology of what you'll be taught and when;
3. Details of coursework deadlines and internal exam dates;
4. A programme of assessment;
5. Clear deadlines and support for each assessment;
6. Assessments marked and returned with feedback with clear deadlines;
7. Target setting with concise feedback from assessments;
8. Guidance on how to catch up on missed work;
9. File monitoring to ensure organisation and coverage of content;
10. Appropriate resources to support your progress.

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM EXPECTATION

In each course we expect you to:

1. Bring files/resources to every lesson;
2. Catch up on missed work in good time;
3. Request work in advance of scheduled absence;
4. Act on academic advice given to support your progress;
5. Be honest with your teacher and ask for help if you do not understand something;
6. Plan your working week including homework and part-time work;
7. Use Private Study to prepare or consolidate learning;
8. Read every day in Form Time, Private Study or at home;
9. Make use of super curricular support and opportunities;
10. Ask for help with meeting deadlines and making improvements.

We ask a lot of you and in return we offer a gold standard, Sixth Form comprehensive education.



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Registered Charity No. 516935

We believe that all the information in this booklet was correct when it was printed.
However, we are a dynamic school, constantly improving our policies and practices.