



DARE TO BE WISE
at
DURHAM JOHNSTON
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL



Course Guide 2027 Entry



“Sixth Form provision is exceptional.”

Ofsted, 2025

Award-winning excellence, shared ambitions.



Welcome to one of the highest performing Sixth Form Comprehensives in England

Durham Johnston Sixth Form is a thriving community of approximately 350 students, united by ambition and a commitment to achieving their very best. For 125 years, Durham Johnston has been at the heart of education in Durham City, and we remain committed to providing an outstanding comprehensive education for every young person. We are proud of our traditional academic ethos, exceptional examination results and national reputation. Our Sixth Form has been described by Ofsted as exceptional, while the school has received national recognition through *The Times Parent Power* awards, including Comprehensive School of the Year and State Secondary School of the Year.

Our expert and supportive staff encourage students to go beyond the examination specification, developing intellectual curiosity, independence and a genuine love of learning. Our students progress to highly competitive universities across the UK and beyond, as well as securing degree apprenticeships, professional training and employment opportunities. Whatever their chosen destination, we are committed to helping every student fulfil their individual ambitions.

Academic success is only part of the Durham Johnston experience. Through sport, performing arts, leadership, volunteering, mentoring, student societies and our House System, students develop confidence, resilience, independence and a strong sense of social responsibility. They leave us as knowledgeable, capable and socially conscious young adults, ready to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

We share our students' ambitions and are proud to prepare them for university, employment and life beyond school.

Sapere Aude – Dare to be wise

Mr Bray, Miss Simpson & Mrs Ward
Sixth Form Team





Sixth Form Course Details

This booklet provides everything you need to know about the courses available in the Sixth Form at Durham Johnston. It should be read alongside our Guide to Life in the Sixth Form, with further information available on our website. Alongside our broad range of A Level courses, we offer the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) through AQA. The EPQ provides an opportunity to develop valuable skills in independent research, critical thinking, project management and academic study, while also encouraging students to explore their interests beyond the curriculum.

Our Sixth Form also offers a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, and we strongly encourage all students to take an active part in school life. As a community dedicated to working with young people, we seek to nurture, challenge and inspire every student, helping them to develop academically, personally and socially.

Sixth Form - Key Dates for September 2027 Entry

12th October 2026	Sixth Form Open Evening
13th October 2026	Application opens
13th November 2026	Application submission deadline
25th January 2027	Sixth Form Keeping in Touch evening
25th June 2027	Option blocks, based on application choices, published
25th June 2027	Sixth Form Induction Day – compulsory for applicants
19th August 2027	GCSE results, registration and confirmation of places

Entry criteria

Students must achieve **five good GCSE passes (grades 9-4) including English and Maths with at least three grade 6s**. Individual A Levels may have additional entry requirements, including higher grades or grade 6s in specific GCSE subjects. Please see the following pages for details.

Courses are subject to sufficient demand to enable them to be timetabled.

Minimum entry requirements are not targets. GCSE grades are included on UCAS applications and job applications, and higher grades may be used as selection criteria. Students should therefore aim to achieve the highest grades possible.

We have no post-16 catchment area and welcome applications from across County Durham and beyond.



Course entry requirements for courses running in 2027:

Subject	Specific subject grade(s)	Maths grade	English grade
Art	6 in Art or Photography or by portfolio	4	4
Biology	6, 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Biology	5	5
Business	6 in Business (if taken - see course details)	5	4
Chemistry	6, 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Chemistry	6	4
Classical Civilisation	5 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography	4	5
Computer Science	6 in Computer Science -See course details	6	4
Economics	6 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography	6	5
English Language	5 in English Language	4	5
English Literature	6 in English Literature and Language	4	6
Ethics & Philosophy	6 in a humanity e.g. History, Geography, RE (full course)	4	5
Film Studies	5 in either English GCSE	4	5
French	6 in French	4	5
Geography	6 in Geography (if taken - see course details)	5	5
German	6 in German	4	5
History	6 in History (if taken - see course details)	4	5
Mathematics	7 in Mathematics	7	4
Further Mathematics	8 in Mathematics (See course details)	8	4
Music	6 in Music or Grade 5 theory, plus at least Grade 5 ABRSM performance standard	4	5
Physical Education	6 in PE	4	5
Physics	6, 6 in Combined Science or 6 in Physics	6	5
Politics	6 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography	4	5
Psychology	2 6s from Science, Maths or Humanities	5	5
Sociology	5 in a humanity e.g. History or Geography if taken	4	5
Spanish	6 in Spanish	4	5

Subjects in **bold** are not available at AS-Level. The running of any course depends on level of demand in order that they can be timetabled.





The A-Level curriculum at Durham Johnston

We focus on **A Levels**, established qualifications that are widely recognised and valued by universities and employers. Our A Level provision has consistently enabled students to achieve outstanding grades and make excellent progress from GCSE. Students normally begin Year 12 studying **four A Level subjects**, before focusing on three in Year 13. This approach has two key advantages: it can strengthen students' UCAS profiles and, more importantly, allows them to experience four subjects before deciding which three are the right choices for their final year. Around 10% of our students continue all four subjects to full A Level, while some choose to take an **AS qualification** in a subject they do not intend to continue. Following December internal assessments, students will decide which subjects they wish to continue and, where appropriate, which AS examinations they will enter at the end of Year 12. For subjects without an external AS examination, summer internal assessments will inform progression into Year 13 and contribute to UCAS predicted grades.

It is possible to study just three A Levels from the outset. However, choosing the **right three subjects** is crucial, and our four-subject model gives students the opportunity to make that decision with greater experience and confidence.

Choosing your courses

Choosing your A Level subjects is an important decision and deserves careful thought. Our advice is to consider four key things:

1. **Choose subjects you enjoy.** You will move from studying around ten subjects to four, spending around five lessons and four to five hours of independent study each week on each course. It helps enormously to be genuinely interested in what you are studying.
2. **Play to your strengths.** Universities make offers based on grades, so consider your GCSE performance, seek advice from your teachers and look carefully at what each course involves.
3. **Think about your future plans.** If you have particular university courses or careers in mind, check their entry requirements carefully. **UCAS** is a useful starting point, and examples of other helpful websites are provided on the inside back cover. Please tell us about your aspirations on your application form so that we can discuss them with you at interview.
4. **Use your fourth subject to broaden your education.**
Your fourth choice might be a subject you are passionate about, such as Art, or one that develops a useful skill to complement your other subjects, such as Maths or a language. Consider how it might support your future study and employability.

If you intend to study a subject for Year 12 only, **check that an AS qualification is available** before making your choice.

The information in this booklet is correct at the time of going to print. Curriculum developments, university admissions requirements and other changes may affect our course offer. Applicants will be kept informed of any significant changes.

ART & DESIGN

Awarding Body **OCR**
Not available at AS Level

Why choose Art & Design:

A Level Art and Design gives you the opportunity to develop your creativity, confidence and individual artistic style. You will explore a wide range of materials, techniques and processes while experimenting with ideas and responding to artists, designers and contemporary practice. The course encourages you to take creative risks, develop independent ideas and communicate your own perspective through your work. Alongside building a strong portfolio, you will develop valuable skills in research, problem-solving and critical thinking, preparing you for further study and creative careers.

You will be expected to:

- Explore and experiment with a wide range of materials, techniques and processes.
- Develop personal ideas through research, investigation and creative experimentation.
- Respond to artists, designers and other creative practitioners, using their work to inform your own.
- Record and refine your ideas through drawing, photography, annotation and visual research.
- Produce a personal portfolio that demonstrates creativity, development and critical understanding.

Course Details:

Students can specialise in Art, Craft & Design, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, Three-Dimensional Design or Photography.

Personal Investigation – 60%

Develop a practical portfolio in response to a personal theme, supported by contextual research and a related written study exploring relevant artists, movements, genres or subject matter.

Externally Set Task – 40%

Respond to one of seven externally set themes, developing and refining ideas through preparatory work before completing a final outcome during 15 hours of supervised time.

Entry Requirements:

6

At least GCSE 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 & 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.

Courses & Careers:

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.

“Creativity takes courage.” Henri Matisse

BIOLOGY

Awarding Body **OCR**

Why choose Biology:

Biology A-Level offers an exciting opportunity to explore the science of life, from cells and genetics to ecosystems and human health. Students develop practical laboratory skills, critical thinking and analytical abilities while exploring real-world issues such as antibiotic resistance, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity. The course provides an excellent foundation for university study and careers in medicine, healthcare, environmental science, research and many other science-based fields.

You will be expected to:

- Explore beyond the classroom through scientific articles, journals and popular science.
- Develop practical laboratory skills through investigations contributing to the Practical Endorsement.
- Analyse and evaluate data and apply biological knowledge to unfamiliar contexts.
- Strengthen mathematical, analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Extend your learning through lectures, competitions and science enrichment opportunities.

Course Details:

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**

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

Year 13: Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 & 5 (2¼ hours). Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 & 6 (2¼ hours). Paper 3 assesses content from all 6 (1½ hours). At least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge & understanding of practical skills & 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.

Entry Requirements:

6

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.

Courses & Careers:

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.

"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution."
Theodosius Dobzhansky

BUSINESS

Awarding Body **EDEXCEL**

Why choose Business:

Business is a dynamic and exciting subject that opens the door to a world of opportunities. You will explore strategy, entrepreneurship, global economies and how organisations achieve success. Develop the confidence to analyse evidence, interpret data, make informed decisions and apply your ideas to real-world business challenges. Through discussion and debate, you'll build valuable skills for university, employment and beyond, preparing you to think creatively, embrace opportunities and achieve your ambitions in an ever-changing world.

You will be expected to:

- Be engaged and inquisitive
- Track current affairs & world events
- Consider internal & external factors that drive change
- Apply theoretical concepts
- Analyse and evaluate

Course Details:

Edexcel A Level Business:

The A Level is assessed through 3 papers.

- Paper 1: Marketing, People & Global Businesses
- Paper 2: Business Activities, Decisions & Strategies
- Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment

Entry Requirements:

6

At least a grade 5 in
English & Maths
Grade 6 in Business (if
previously studied)

Courses & Careers:

Entrepreneur
Human Resource
management
(people and strategy)
Marketing
Law/legal field
Operational & Logistical
Business Development
Procurement
Finance
Business in general – there isn't
a field of work that this
wouldn't support!

“Action is the foundational key to all success” Pablo Picasso

CHEMISTRY

Awarding Body **OCR**

Why choose Chemistry:

Chemistry A-Level is ideal for students who are curious about how and why the world works. Explore the substances and reactions that shape everything from medicines and materials to energy and the environment. Develop practical laboratory skills alongside problem-solving, mathematical and analytical thinking. You will investigate real-world challenges, evaluate evidence and apply your knowledge to unfamiliar situations. Chemistry provides an excellent foundation for university study and careers in medicine, healthcare, engineering, research, environmental science and many other fields.

You will be expected to:

- Develop practical laboratory skills through regular investigations and experiments.
- Apply mathematical and analytical skills to solve chemical problems and interpret data.
- Read beyond the specification and engage with current developments in chemistry and science.
- Work independently and consistently, completing regular homework, revision and wider study.
- Explore beyond the classroom through scientific articles, journals and popular science.

Course Details:

Chemistry A-Level is divided into **six modules**:

Year 12 / AS-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
- Two 1½-hour examinations covering Modules 1–4

Year 13 / A-Level

- **Module 5:** Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements
- **Module 6:** Organic Chemistry and Analysis
- Three examinations: two 2¼-hour papers and one 1½-hour paper

Practical Endorsement

Students complete a minimum of **12 practical activities** to demonstrate practical competence. The endorsement is reported separately as **Pass or Not Achieved** and does not contribute to the A-Level grade.

Entry Requirements:

6

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

Courses & Careers:

A qualification in Chemistry may lead to the following careers:

Chemistry, Biochemistry, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Accountancy, Law, Nursing, Veterinary medicine, Pharmacology

“Chemistry is the study of change.” Roald Hoffmann

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Awarding Body **OCR**

Why choose Classical Civilisation:

Classical Civilisation offers a fascinating opportunity to explore the worlds of ancient Greece and Rome and understand how their ideas, beliefs and cultures have shaped the world we live in today. You will study inspiring literature, mythology, art, architecture and history, developing your ability to analyse sources, construct arguments and think critically. From epic heroes and ancient gods to politics, power and everyday life, the course brings the ancient world vividly to life while encouraging you to question, debate and form your own interpretations.

You will be expected to:

- Read and analyse a range of ancient literature, sources and material culture, considering different interpretations and perspectives.
- Develop informed arguments, using detailed evidence to support your ideas and reach well-reasoned conclusions.
- Explore connections between ancient societies, their beliefs, values, politics, art and literature.
- Think critically, engaging confidently in discussion, questioning evidence and forming your own interpretations.

Course Details:

The World of the Hero: Study Homer's *Odyssey* in Year 12 and Virgil's *Aeneid* in Year 13, exploring heroes, values, themes and literary techniques. **40% of A Level | 2 hour 30 minute examination**

Culture & the Arts: Explore ancient visual and material culture alongside literature. Studied in Year 12, with the option to take an AS qualification. **30% of A Level | 1 hour 45 minute examination**

Beliefs & Ideas: Explore Classical thought through options including Greek Religion, Love & Relationships, Politics of the Late Roman Republic and Athenian Democracy. Studied in Year 13. **30% of A Level | 1 hour 45 minute examination**

All components are assessed through written examinations, including short-answer, source-based and essay questions.

Entry Requirements:

5

At least GCSE grade 5 in GCSE Humanities subject and grade 5 in English.

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

Courses & Careers:

The study of Classics develops a wide range of valuable skills – close reading of texts, analysing sources and evaluating evidence, communicating clearly and supporting an argument – which are essential for higher education and for a wide range of careers. Classicists can be found in many fields ranging from academia, museums, the arts and media to politics, law, advertising, retail and beyond.

“For me, classics doesn't mean studying the ancient world on its own. It means studying us and our relationship with the ancient world.” Mary Beard

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Awarding Body **AQA**

Why choose Computer Science:

If you enjoy puzzles and challenges, Computer Science is the perfect subject for you. You will master advanced programming concepts, gaining the tools needed to build practical, impactful software. The course demystifies the complexities of everyday technology, from processors to the global architecture of the Internet. You will also showcase your skills through a major coursework project, designing a large-scale program of your choice. Computer Science remains perpetually relevant, adapting and thriving as our technological landscape evolves.

You will be expected to:

- Apply problem-solving skills in every lesson
- Independently investigate programming concepts to deepen understanding
- Justify the efficiency of a program using technical terms
- Create a balanced argument for the potential ethical, legal, and cultural issues of new technology

Course Details:

AQA Computer Science specification is a practical course applying academic principles to real-world systems.

Students develop computational thinking to solve problems, analyse software, explore hardware architecture, examine networking, and evaluate ethical issues.

Assessment is split across both years:

- **Year 12** features two papers (Paper 1: Programming/Theory, 1hr 45mins, 50%; Paper 2: Architecture/Networking, 1hr 30mins, 50%).
- **Year 13** consists of Paper 1 (On-Screen Programming, 2hr 30mins, 40%), Paper 2 (Written Architecture, 2hr 30mins, 40%), and the NEA Practical Project (20%).

Entry Requirements:

GCSE grade 6 or above in Mathematics and Computer Science.

Applicants without GCSE Computer Science must submit a portfolio and pass a department interview.

Continuation to Year 13 is conditional upon Year 12 performance demonstrating clear potential for A-Level success.

Courses & Careers:

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.

"Programming isn't about what you know; it's about what you can figure out"
Chris Pine

ECONOMICS

Awarding Body **EDEXCEL**

Why choose Economics:

Economics is the invisible force shaping our world, from global trade wars to the price of your morning coffee. By studying Edexcel A Level Economics, you will decode how societies allocate scarce resources and how political decisions impact everyday lives. You will develop a rare blend of analytical, data-driven, and critical thinking skills that are highly prized by top universities and employers alike. It is not just about finance; it is about understanding human behaviour, resolving global inequalities, and solving the world's most urgent problems.

You will be expected to:

- Understand economic theory and use diagrams to model the world around you.
- Apply theory to real-world data and case studies to evaluate economic decisions.
- Build clear, coherent arguments using economic reasoning.
- Evaluate contrasting economic views and perspectives.
- Apply economic understanding to current affairs and contemporary issues.

Course Details:

Year 12

- **Theme 1:** Markets, supply and demand, market failure and government intervention.
- **Theme 2:** The UK economy, economic performance and policy, including inflation, unemployment, fiscal and monetary policy, and the balance of payments.
- **Assessment:** Two 1½-hour papers covering Themes 1 and 2.

Year 13

- **Theme 3:** Business behaviour, market structures, costs, revenue, profit and the labour market.
- **Theme 4:** Global economics, international trade, finance, poverty and inequality, development and the role of the state.
- **Assessment:** Three 2-hour papers covering all four themes, combining multiple choice, short-answer and extended-response questions using case studies.

Entry Requirements:

6

At least Grade 6 in Mathematics, Grade 5 in English and Grade 6 in a humanity is required.

For continuation into Year 13, grades in Year 12 Economics need to demonstrate potential for A level success

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial for a range of careers:

Economist
Banking & Finance
Accountancy
Business Management
Investment & Financial Analysis
Government & Public Policy
Teaching & Education
Law & Professional Services

“Economics is everywhere, and understanding economics can help you make better decisions and lead a happier life.” Tyler Cowen

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Awarding Body **EDEXCEL**

Why choose English Language:

In developing analytical, critical thinking and research skills through classwork and two coursework projects, English Language is the ultimate university preparation course. As well as delving into the fascinating world of how we speak, how we write, why we communicate the way we do, you will get to explore how children learn and develop their language - right from inside their mothers' wombs. Lastly, you will develop journalistic level writing skills which could prove essential in your future career.

You will be expected to:

- Analyse and comprehend a range of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Observe language use at school, at home and in the wider community
- Write passionately and persuasively about a topic you have selected
- Carry out research and analyse data on a particularly fascinating use of language
- Evaluate attitudes to accents, dialects and the many ways the English language has changed over time

Course Details:

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

- Section A: Textual Variations and Representations.
- Section B: Children's Language Development.

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.

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).

Entry Requirements:

At least Grade 6 in English Language GCSE is required.

6

For continuation into Year 13, grades in Year 12 English Language need to demonstrate potential for A level success

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial for a range of careers:

Media & Journalism
Police & Criminal Justice
Business & Management
Law
Social Services
Civil Service & Government
Education & Teaching
Communications & Public Relations

Any career where strong language and communication skills are valued

"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."
Ludwig Wittgenstein

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Awarding Body **AQA**
Not available at AS Level

Why choose English Literature:

English Literature explores powerful ideas, complex characters, and vital social issues through great writing across time. By studying diverse literary texts, you will develop your ability to think critically, construct persuasive arguments, and communicate with absolute confidence. The course fosters creativity, independence, and intellectual curiosity while building essential skills in analysis and written expression. Ultimately, English Literature provides an outstanding foundation for success in higher education and a wide range of rewarding future careers.

You will be expected to:

- Be eager to explore new texts, ideas, and perspectives.
- Read beyond the syllabus and develop personal interpretations.
- Be willing to consider diverse viewpoints and literary theories.
- Contribute thoughtfully to class debates and group work.
- Understand how historical, social, and authorial contexts shape texts.

Course Details:

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.

Entry Requirements:

6

At least Grade 6 in English
Language and
Literature GCSE

For continuation into Year
13, grades in Year 12
English Literature need to
demonstrate potential for
A level success.

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial
for a range of careers:

Arts
Journalism
English teaching
Law
Banking
Administration
Marketing
Advertising
Management roles

“Literature is the vehicle through which we learn about the world and pass on values from one generation to the next” Laurie Anderson

ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY

Awarding Body **OCR**

Why choose Ethics & Philosophy:

A Level EP (Religious Studies) develops a wide range of valuable skills, including critical thinking, textual analysis, evaluation and constructing well-reasoned arguments. You will explore religious, philosophical and ethical ideas, considering different perspectives on some of life's most important questions. The subject encourages you to challenge assumptions, engage respectfully with different viewpoints and develop empathy for people whose beliefs and world views differ from your own. You will gain a deeper understanding of faith, culture and society, preparing you for further study and a diverse, interconnected world.

You will be expected to:

- Analyse texts, evaluate scholarly perspectives and develop your own philosophical arguments.
- Explore the role of religion and worldviews in society, questioning beliefs, values, ethics and morality.
- Develop academic skills through essay writing, research, presentations and class discussion.
- Think for yourself! Challenge assumptions, question ideas and defend your own informed conclusions

Course Details:

OCR Religious Studies:

The A Level is assessed through 3 papers.

- Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion
- Paper 2: Ethical theory
- Paper 3: Developments in Religious Thought

Entry Requirements:

6

At least Grade 6 in a humanity e.g. History, Geography

Grade 6 in RE full course (if previously studied).

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial for a range of careers:

Teaching
Law
Management
Ministry
Social Work
Medicine
Advertisement
Journalism

"The unexamined life is not worth living" Socrates

FILM STUDIES

Awarding Body **EDUQAS**
Not available at AS Level

Why choose Film Studies:

A Level Film Studies allows you to explore the power of film as an art form, industry and cultural influence. You'll study a diverse range of films, from Hollywood blockbusters to independent and international cinema, while developing your understanding of storytelling, representation and film language. The course encourages critical thinking, creativity and detailed analysis, helping you understand how films are made and why they affect audiences. These transferable skills are valuable for university, creative careers and many other professions.

You will be expected to:

- Analyse films critically, exploring narrative, cinematography, editing, sound and representation.
- Study a diverse range of films, including Hollywood, British, independent and international cinema.
- Develop your ability to discuss and evaluate film theories, contexts and audiences.
- Create your own film ideas, applying your knowledge of film language and production techniques

Course Details:

The course begins by introducing the **language of film** and key concepts before moving into an exciting range of films studied in depth for your Year 13 exams. You will explore cinema from its earliest forms through to contemporary Korean cinema, studying key films including *Alien*, *Trainspotting*, *Mulholland Drive* and *La La Land*.

You will also develop practical filmmaking skills by creating a **short film script and storyboard**, accompanied by an evaluative analysis.

Assessment

Coursework – 30%

Script, storyboard and 1,600–1,800 word evaluative analysis.

Paper 1 – 35% | 2.5 hours

British and American film, from the 1950s to the 2010s.

Paper 2 – 35% | 2.5 hours

Global, documentary, silent and experimental film.

Entry Requirements:

5

At least GCSE grade 5 in English Literature or Language.

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

Courses & Careers:

You will learn about the technical aspects of filmmaking, including camera, lighting, sound and set/props. You will gain an insight into the history of the film industry, and an understanding of why the industry is as it is today. You will also have the chance to advance your skills in creative development.

“Movies touch our hearts and awaken our vision, and change the way we see things.” Martin Scorsese

FRENCH

Awarding Body **AQA**

Why choose French:

A-Level French develops communication, confidence, critical thinking and cultural awareness while opening doors to global opportunities. Spoken across five continents, French is valuable for careers in business, law, medicine, engineering, international relations, tourism and technology. You'll explore engaging topics including relationships, digital culture, music and politics, alongside literature and film. Universities and employers highly value language skills. If you enjoyed GCSE French and want a rewarding, distinctive and internationally recognised subject, A-Level French is an excellent choice.

You will be expected to:

- Communicate confidently and accurately in the target language, both orally and in writing.
- Develop independent study habits, including vocabulary learning, grammar revision and wider reading and listening.
- Engage with authentic materials, including news, films, literature, podcasts and current affairs. Analyse and evaluate ideas and cultural issues

Course Details:

Year 12

- Develop and build on GCSE skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing
- Study social issues and trends, artistic culture and one book or film
- Develop knowledge and understanding of French grammar

Year 13

- Develop fluency, confidence and effective communication
- Explore contemporary French society and culture further social issues and trends and Political, intellectual and/or artistic culture and one book or film
- Develop advanced grammar
- Complete an individual research project

Entry Requirements:

6

At least Grade 6 in French and Grade 5 in an English GCSE

For continuation into Year 13, grades in Year 12 French need to demonstrate potential for A level success

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial for a range of careers:
Translator / Interpreter
Teacher / Lecturer
Lawyer / Solicitor
International Business Manager
Diplomat / Foreign Service Officer
Marketing & Communications Specialist
Travel & Tourism

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way” Frank Smith

GEOGRAPHY

Awarding Body **AQA**

Why choose Geography:

Studying Geography will develop your interest and enthusiasm for the world around you and give you an increased awareness of human's impact on Earth. It's not just about knowing places on a map; it's about learning how people and place interact and how they influence each other. Studying Geography helps you to become an informed individual who can apply knowledge and skills to new contexts. This allows you to make educated decisions; a trait highly valued by employers.

You will be expected to:

- Think critically about the world around us to develop an understanding of how physical and human systems are interconnected.
- Keep up to date with current events.
- in discussion and debate.
- Develop academic research skills via the completion of fieldwork investigations.

Course Details:

Year 12 / AS-Level

- **Topics:** Coasts, Contemporary Urban Environments, Changing Places, Geographical Skills, Statistics & Fieldwork.
- **Assessment:** Component 1: Coasts & Urban Environments — 1½-hour exam (50%); Component 2: Changing Places & Geographical Skills — 1½-hour exam (50%)

Year 13 / A-Level

- **Topics:** Carbon & Water Cycles, Hazards, Global Systems & Governance, plus NEA (coursework).
- **Assessment:**
Component 1: Physical Geography — 2½-hour exam (40%)
Component 2: Human Geography — 2½-hour exam (40%)
Component 3: NEA (coursework) — 20%

Fieldwork

Students complete four days of fieldwork across the A-Level, including visits to a coastal environment and an urban area in Year 12. These develop practical skills in fieldwork, data collection, analysis and evaluation.

Entry Requirements:

6

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 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.

Courses & Careers:

Understanding challenges such as climate change, energy security, migration, urbanisation & globalisation is increasingly important across a wide range of careers. Geography can lead to opportunities in Environmental & sustainability sectors, Business & finance, Education & research, Natural & social sciences, Media & communications, Geospatial industries, Travel, tourism & planning

Geography opens up a wide range of pathways while developing valuable skills for further study and employment. Geographical Association

GERMAN

Awarding Body **AQA**

Why choose German:

A-Level German develops communication, confidence, critical thinking and cultural awareness while opening doors to exciting international opportunities. German is a major European language, particularly valuable in business, engineering, science and technology. You'll explore fascinating topics including culture, politics, migration and reunification, alongside *Das Leben der Anderen* and *Der Besuch der alten Dame*. Universities and employers value language skills highly. If you enjoyed GCSE German and want a challenging, distinctive and rewarding subject, A-Level German is an excellent choice.

You will be expected to:

- Communicate confidently and accurately in the target language, both orally and in writing.
- Develop independent study habits, including vocabulary learning, grammar revision and wider reading and listening.
- Engage with authentic materials, including news, films, literature, podcasts and current affairs. Analyse and evaluate ideas and cultural issues

Course Details:

Year 12

- Develop and build on GCSE skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing
- Study social issues and trends, artistic culture and one book or film
- Develop knowledge and understanding of German grammar

Year 13

- Develop fluency, confidence and effective communication
- Explore contemporary French society and culture further social issues and trends and Political, intellectual and/or artistic culture and one book or film
- Develop advanced grammar
- Complete an individual research project

Entry Requirements:

6

At least Grade 6 in German and Grade 5 in an English GCSE

For continuation into Year 13, grades in Year 12 German need to demonstrate potential for A level success

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial for a range of careers:
Translator / Interpreter
Teacher / Lecturer
Lawyer / Solicitor
International Business Manager
Diplomat / Foreign Service Officer
Marketing & Communications Specialist
Travel & Tourism

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way” Frank Smith

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Awarding Body **AQA**

Why choose Politics:

Politics A-Level is perfect for anyone wanting to understand how power is wielded and how decisions shape our daily lives. You will debate volatile global events, master the inner workings of the UK and US political systems, and critique major ideologies like liberalism and socialism. The course sharpens your analytical, debating, and essay-writing skills, which are highly prized by top universities. It opens career paths in law, journalism, civil service, and international relations, turning you into an informed, critical thinker.

You will be expected to:

- Analyse political structure.
- Evaluate political ideologies.
- Debate current events.
- Write analytical essays.
- Evaluate political extracts.

Course Details:

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.

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

Entry Requirements:

6

At least Grade 5 in English and Grade 6 in a humanity is required.

For continuation into Year 13, grades in Year 12 Government & Politics need to demonstrate potential for A level success

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial

- Law
- Politics
- Teaching
- Social work
- Journalism
- Civil service
- Police officer
- Market research

"Politics is the art of the possible" Otto von Bismarck

HISTORY

Awarding Body **OCR**

Why choose History:

A Level History offers an engaging and thought-provoking exploration of the past, developing your ability to analyse evidence, question interpretations and construct well-reasoned arguments. You will learn that historical questions rarely have simple answers, encouraging you to challenge assumptions and form independent, informed judgements. Alongside developing a deeper understanding of the past, History builds highly transferable skills in critical thinking, research, communication and debate — skills valued by universities and employers across a wide range of careers.

You will be expected to:

- Read widely and critically
- Think independently and develop informed opinions
- Contribute to discussions
- Use inference and analytical skills to evaluate historical sources
- Comprehend and evaluate the work of other historians
- Carry out independent research

Course Details:

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.

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.

Entry Requirements:

6

At least GCSE grade 6 in GCSE History if taken and Grade 5 in an English GCSE.

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..

Courses & Careers:

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 or banker, 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.

“The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.” Theodore Roosevelt

MATHEMATICS

Awarding Body **OCR**

Why choose Mathematics:

Mathematics is the study of structure, logic, and reason. As the foundation of the modern world, it is an essential language for anyone wanting to truly understand complex global issues - from climate change to biotechnology. While A-Level Maths provides a distinct advantage for high-level business, it remains strictly essential for fields like accountancy, actuarial science, engineering, and computer science. If you want to analyse, innovate, and master the concepts shaping our future, you need to speak the language of mathematics.

You will be expected to:

- Embrace mistakes: Intriguing errors drive mathematical growth. Successful mathematicians persevere through trial and curiosity rather than expecting immediate accuracy.
- Learn actively: The highest marks belong to students who ask questions and frequently discuss concepts with peers.
- Expect a challenge: A-Level requires resilience and multiple attempts, demanding a higher level of dedicated work than GCSE.
- Communicate clearly: Take pride in presenting neat, highly legible work. Clear communication is a vital mathematical skill.

Course Details:

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. A current non-graphical calculator which is suitable is the Casio Fx-991CW Classwiz and 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.

Entry Requirements:

7

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.

Courses & Careers:

As one of the most universally useful qualifications, Mathematics opens doors to diverse fields. Essential for degrees in Mathematics, Engineering, and Physics. Frequently required for Computer Science, Chemistry, Business, Economics, Architecture, and Accountancy. Valuable statistical support for Geography, Social Sciences, Psychology, and Biology. Key career sectors: Banking, insurance, corporate sciences, and the armed services.

"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas" Albert Einstein

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Awarding Body **OCR**

Why choose Further Mathematics:

Further Mathematics offers exceptional breadth and depth for advanced mathematical study. Highly selective universities value this A-Level as it demonstrates a proven ability to master demanding, complex material. Because the first-year undergraduate syllabi for physics, chemistry, engineering, and computer science heavily incorporate or rely on these advanced concepts, studying Further Mathematics gives students a distinct academic advantage.

You will be expected to:

- Embrace mistakes: Intriguing errors drive mathematical growth. Successful mathematicians persevere through trial and curiosity rather than expecting immediate accuracy.
- Learn actively: The highest marks belong to students who ask questions and frequently discuss concepts with peers.
- Expect a challenge: A-Level requires resilience and multiple attempts, demanding a higher level of dedicated work than GCSE.
- Communicate clearly: Take pride in presenting neat, highly legible work. Clear communication is a vital mathematical skill.

Course Details:

Year 12

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

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)

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.

Entry Requirements:

8

At least GCSE grade 8 Maths. The standard of this course is high. If you intend on studying Further Maths, you must 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 need to demonstrate potential for A Level success.

Courses & Careers:

As one of the most universally useful qualifications, Mathematics opens doors to diverse fields. Essential for degrees in Mathematics, Engineering, and Physics. Frequently required for Computer Science, Chemistry, Business, Economics, Architecture, and Accountancy. Valuable statistical support for Geography, Social Sciences, Psychology, and Biology. Key career sectors: Banking, insurance, corporate sciences, and the armed services.

"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas" Albert Einstein

MUSIC

Awarding Body **EDUQAS**

Why choose Music:

A Level Music is an exciting opportunity to develop your creativity, musicianship and understanding of music. You will explore a diverse range of musical styles, composers and genres while developing your skills as a performer, composer and critical listener. The course encourages independence, confidence and collaboration, allowing you to develop your own musical voice. Whether you are passionate about performing, composing or understanding how music works, A Level Music provides valuable skills and a strong foundation for further study and careers in the creative industries.

You will be expected to:

- Perform as a soloist and/or ensemble musician, or through music technology.
- Compose two pieces, including one in response to an externally set brief and one free composition.
- Appraise and analyse a diverse range of music, developing your understanding of musical elements, styles and contexts.
- Develop your listening and musical language, responding critically to both familiar and unfamiliar music.

Course Details:

- Across the course, you will develop your skills in **appraising**, **performing** and **composing** music.
- You will study Western classical tradition alongside two further areas of study, chosen from options including pop, music for media, music for theatre, jazz and contemporary traditional music.
- **Assessment:** Appraising music is assessed through a **2½-hour written and listening exam (40%)**.
- Performance accounts for **35%**, requiring at least 10 minutes of solo, ensemble and/or music technology performance.
- Composition is worth **25%**, with two compositions: one responding to an externally set brief and one free composition.

Entry Requirements:

6

At least GCSE grade 6 in GCSE Music or Grade 5 Theory, plus at least Grade 5 ABRSM performance standard.

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Music need to demonstrate potential for A Level success

Courses & Careers:

Professional musician or performer
Composer or songwriter
Music producer
Sound engineer
Music teacher
Film, TV and game composer
Music journalist or broadcaster
Arts and events management

"Music is the shorthand of emotion." Leo Tolstoy

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Awarding Body **AQA**
Not available at AS Level

Why choose PE:

A-Level PE offers the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of your passion for sport. The course combines practical performance with psychology, biomechanics and sociology, exploring the factors that influence sporting success. Lessons are challenging, engaging and closely connected to your own sporting experiences. A key feature is that 30% of the final grade is based on your practical performance, highlighting the important link between classroom learning, training and sporting development.

You will be expected to:

- Develop your passion for sport and deepen your understanding of physical activity and performance.
- Participate in regular competitive sport and apply your learning to your own performance.
- Explore current issues in sport through wider reading, research and discussion.
- Develop positive learning habits, including teamwork, commitment, resilience and active engagement in lessons.

Course Details:

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

Entry Requirements:

6

At least Grade 6 in GCSE PE is required.

For continuation into Year 13, grades in Year 12 PE need to demonstrate potential for A level success

Courses & Careers:

A-Level PE can lead to opportunities across professional and community sport, the Armed Forces, leisure and recreation, youth services and education, as well as related fields such as physiotherapy and other healthcare careers. It also provides a valuable foundation in the scientific study of the human body and the growing leisure sector, supporting progression to a wide range of higher education courses.

“Exercise is the most potent and underutilised ‘medicine’ available to people.”
Robert H. Sallis

PHYSICS

Awarding Body **OCR**

Why choose Physics:

Physics A-Level is for students who want to understand how the world works, from the smallest particles to the vastness of space. Explore forces, energy, waves, electricity, mechanics and modern physics while developing practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills. You will investigate challenging questions, analyse evidence and apply your knowledge to real-world situations. Physics is a highly respected A Level that develops rigorous analytical thinking, mathematical confidence and intellectual curiosity, providing a strong foundation for further study across a wide range of disciplines.

You will be expected to:

- Think mathematically – apply mathematical techniques to solve complex physical problems and interpret quantitative data.
- Think critically – analyse evidence, evaluate theories and develop logical, well-reasoned explanations.
- Work practically – plan and carry out experiments, collect data and evaluate the reliability of your results.
- Be curious and independent – engage with challenging ideas, ask questions and develop your understanding beyond the classroom.

Course Details:

Physics A-Level is divided into six modules:

Year 12 / AS-Level

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in physics
- Module 2: Foundations in physics
- Module 3: Forces and motion
- Module 4: Electrons, waves and photons
- Two 1½-hour examinations covering Modules 1–4

Year 13 / A-Level

- Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Module 6: Particles and medical physics
- Two 2¼-hour exams and one 1½-hour exam, covering content from both years, alongside a teacher-assessed practical endorsement

Entry Requirements:

6

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

Courses & Careers:

A qualification in Physics may lead to courses and careers in Engineering, Renewable energy, Astronomy and space exploration, Meteorology and climate science, Medicine and radiography, Automotive and aeronautical industries, Telecommunications and electronics, Banking, accountancy, software and computing

“Physics is the universe’s way of understanding itself.” Brian Cox



PSYCHOLOGY

Awarding Body **AQA**

Why choose Psychology:

Choosing Psychology A-Level offers a fascinating insight into human behaviour, memory and mental health. From understanding behaviour during the Holocaust to exploring mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, Psychology helps us make sense of the world around us. Highly regarded by Russell Group universities, it can open diverse career pathways in healthcare, marketing, education and forensic psychology. Most importantly, studying Psychology will develop your critical thinking and research skills while giving you a deeper understanding of yourself, other people and the society in which we live.

You will be expected to:

- Understand and explain key theories, studies, biological processes and terminology.
- Apply psychological knowledge to unfamiliar, real-life scenarios.
- Critically evaluate theories and research, considering methodology, cultural bias and generalisability.
- Work with data by designing experiments, interpreting graphs and carrying out basic statistical calculations.
- Construct clear, evidence-based arguments in extended answers..

Course Details:

Year 12

- Clinical Psychology – OCD, phobias and depression: symptoms, causes and treatments.
- Social Influence – conformity, obedience and minority influence.
- Memory & Attachment.
- Approaches & Biopsychology – key psychological theories and biological explanations of behaviour.
- Research Methods.

Year 13

- Gender & Schizophrenia – theories of gender and identity.
- Forensic Psychology – explanations of crime, offender profiling and treatment.
- Approaches & Biopsychology.
- Nature/nurture, free will/determinism, reductionism/holism, gender and cultural bias, and social sensitivity.

Entry Requirements:

6

At least Grade 6 in a humanity e.g. History, Geography

For continuation to Year 13 grades in Year 12 Psychology need to demonstrate potential for A Level success

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial for a range of careers:

- Child psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Counselling
- Educational psychology
- Medicine
- Law
- Advertising and Sales
- Social work
- Personnel management
- Careers guidance
- Police

“The curious paradox is that when I accept myself just as I am, then I can change”
Carl Rogers

SOCIOLOGY

Awarding Body **AQA**

Why choose Sociology:

Sociology A-Level explores how society shapes human behaviour, beliefs, and identity. You will investigate critical issues like social inequality, power, crime, and education, gaining profound insights into the structural dynamics of the modern world. The course develops advanced critical thinking, research, and analytical skills, making it highly respected by top universities. It offers an ideal foundation for rewarding careers in law, politics, teaching, social work, and journalism, or for anyone curious about how institutions influence our everyday lives.

You will be expected to:

- Investigate social structures
- Critique sociological theories
- Analyse contemporary inequalities
- Evaluate research methods
- Construct evaluative essays

Course Details:

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 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?

Entry Requirements:

6

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.

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial for a range of careers:

Law
Politics
Teaching
Social work
Journalism
Civil service
Police officer
Market research

"The first wisdom of sociology is this: things are not what they seem"
Peter L Berger

SPANISH



Awarding Body **AQA**

Why choose Spanish:

A-Level Spanish develops communication, confidence, critical thinking and cultural awareness while connecting you with a truly global language. You'll explore fascinating topics including modern values, cultural identity, immigration and politics, alongside engaging film and literature. Spanish can complement careers in business, law, medicine, engineering, tourism, media and international relations. Universities and employers highly value strong language skills. If you enjoyed GCSE Spanish and want an engaging, practical and internationally recognised subject, A-Level Spanish is an excellent choice for your future.

You will be expected to:

- Communicate confidently and accurately in the target language, both orally and in writing.
- Develop independent study habits, including vocabulary learning, grammar revision and wider reading and listening.
- Engage with authentic materials, including news, films, literature, podcasts and current affairs. Analyse and evaluate ideas and cultural issues

Course Details:

Year 12

- Develop and build on GCSE skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing
- Study social issues and trends, artistic culture and one book or film
- Develop knowledge and understanding of German grammar

Year 13

- Develop fluency, confidence and effective communication
- Explore contemporary French society and culture further social issues and trends and Political, intellectual and/or artistic culture and one book or film
- Develop advanced grammar
- Complete an individual research project

Entry Requirements:

6

At least Grade 6 in Spanish and Grade 5 in an English GCSE

For continuation into Year 13, grades in Year 12 Spanish need to demonstrate potential for A level success

Courses & Careers:

The subject can be beneficial for a range of careers:

- Translator / Interpreter
- Teacher / Lecturer
- Lawyer / Solicitor
- International Business Manager
- Diplomat / Foreign Service Officer
- Marketing & Communications Specialist
- Travel & Tourism

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way” Frank Smith



What our students say: This subject is great because...

Biology

There are a lot of practicals in biology which help you understand the content a lot more as you're applying what you've learnt to a real-life situation.

Art

Creativity, freedom of choice of what you want to explore and study, and I was also surprised by how deep and mind broadening the subject is.

Business

I had never taken business before, so it was entirely new to me. However, it ended up becoming my favourite subject as I ended up learning the most from it as it is all around us. You notice more things day to day. The way it is taught by the teachers keeps you very engaged and interested.

Chemistry

It helps further explain why things work which is both interesting and helpful to give more depth to other science subjects. You're given more freedom and trust with practicals which helps develop confidence with skills

Classical Civilisation

It is a fascinating crossover of ancient history, literature, and art. You get to dive into drama, love, and politics from the Greek and Roman worlds, which is super interesting. The essay writing is great for building solid analytical skills.

Computer Science

It's challenging but the small class size means that you always have someone you can ask for help when you get stuck. Teamwork is really important.

English Language

English Language at A-Level is so different to GCSE level. You get to study language in a more in-depth and scientific way, covering a range of topics. You move from looking at written texts in Year 11 to seeing how areas such as accents and gender influence our language, as well as how children learn to write and speak! It is really interesting.

English Literature

The content is very interesting, and the lessons have quite a lot of class debate within them, which I prefer because it helps you to examine separate viewpoints. It's great for a future career in something like law as you can really rationalise and support your arguments

Economics

It allows me to understand the social and economic conflicts occurring around the world through simple fundamental chains of reasoning, authorizing me to use high depth theory to orchestrate the correct pivot for a specific financial state.

Film Studies

A brilliant academic course that goes far beyond just watching movies. It offers a fascinating look into global, silent, and mainstream cinema, training you to critically decode visual storytelling. While it requires rigorous text analysis, complex theory, and high-level essay writing, it balances this beautifully with a fantastic hands-on production component where you create your own film.

Ethics & Philosophy

I love the critical analysis side, how you're able to pick apart each theory. The teachers also make the lessons really engaging. Finally, as there are three different branches (DCT, Phil, and Ethics) that you study at the same time, you never get bored.

French

French stops being about learning answers to questions such as what's your favourite food and becomes an exploration into different cultures and thought-provoking topics. You have to be more self-motivated, but this can push you to a higher level of proficiency in the language.



What our students say: *This subject is great because...*

Geography

The best subject for an insight into the world we are a part of as its various components explore so much - both physical and human. Fascinating to learn about and a great mix of elements to the course.

Further Maths

It's an extra challenge that lends itself to normal maths (i.e. it makes normal maths genuinely easy).

German

The close-knit, small class makes learning German enjoyable and often easier than GCSE level when classes are bigger. It is the most rewarding subject that I study because gaining fluency in another language is one of the most challenging things you can do. Studying German at A-level makes this a lot easier.

History

I love this subject, because every lesson I learn something new about the world and the people who were in it previously. It's so interesting to see the patterns we as humans cannot deter from and all of the artefacts we leave behind in our paths. By looking back at History, we can see how far we have come and how much we have left to accomplish.

Maths

With maths, the main thrill comes from a question you struggle to answer but ultimately get it right with no help. The feeling of satisfaction is great.

Music

It goes way more in depth at A level, and you learn so many more techniques and appreciate the subject more as a whole. The small class size means you get a lot of one-to-one teaching and support.

Physical Education

You get to learn a wide range of topics often linking to other subjects such as psychology. It is really interesting to learn things that you can then use in your own sport and exercise routines to improve your fitness, performance and health.

Physics

It is my favourite subject because every aspect of it has real world applications in your day-to-day life that you don't always get to observe unless you know how it works.

Politics

The politics syllabus is relevant and up to date. I find it fascinating to learn about how the government works and to gain insight into what I've seen on the news.

Sociology

It teaches you a wide perspective on society, and can go down a degree in it and opens a good range of doors, for example for me education.

Psychology

I found myself really thinking about the behaviours of everyone around me - including myself. The skills learnt are a perfect balance of creativity and logic. The theories were interesting to try and apply to everyday life.

Spanish

There's a much bigger focus on the history and culture of Spain making it even more interesting than GCSE. The Spanish film and literature elements of the course were really enjoyable.



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 hold our students to high standards, and in return, we seek to deliver a gold-standard, comprehensive Sixth Form education.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



DURHAM JOHNSTON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

— DARE TO BE WISE —

Durham Johnston Comprehensive School
Crossgate Moor
Durham
DH1 4SU

Telephone: (0191) 384 3887

e-mail: sixthformadmissions@durhamjohnston.org.uk

web: www.durhamjohnston.org.uk

Follow us on Instagram: [@durhamjohnston_sixthform](https://www.instagram.com/durhamjohnston_sixthform)



Registered Charity No. 516935

*This information was correct at the time of publication.
As a dynamic school, we regularly review and enhance
our policies and practices*

