The Minster School
Sixth Form

Prospectus

Succeeding Together

2026

“

Sixth-form students benefit from exceptional provision.

OFSTED

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WELCOME

Thank you for showing an interest in The Minster School Sixth Form. We are very proud of our students and their achievements as well as the high quality educational experience that we offer. As an outstanding Sixth Form provider we believe in developing students as young people to succeed in life as well as achieving fantastic examination results.

We hope that this prospectus gives you a flavour of our Sixth Form and encourages you to visit us to find out more. Details of our events for prospective students can be found on the Minster School website.

If you would like to discuss the Sixth Form please contact us using the details on this page.

For further information about The Minster School Sixth Form please visit our website:

www.minsterschool.org.uk/sixthform

Follow us on Instagram:
@minsterpost16official
@the_minster_school

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INTRODUCTION

> When you become a member of our sixth form you will become part of a community where succeeding together is at the heart of all that we do.

Welcome from the Head Teacher

Mr Ben Chaloner

Thank you for considering The Minster School Sixth Form as the destination for your Post-16 education. Each year we welcome back many students who have been part of our school community for a number of years, as well as meeting new faces joining us for the first time. It is this blend of students which helps make our sixth form an exciting and vibrant environment for you to excel in your studies.

We are proud to have a track record of academic success across all subjects. This is due to students making the most of the opportunities offered to them through high quality teaching and excellent pastoral care. When you become a member of our sixth form you will become part of a community where succeeding together is at the heart of all that we do.

We truly believe that our sixth form provides an education of the highest order. We offer an extensive curriculum, giving you the opportunity to study over 30 different courses. Classes focus upon delivering the knowledge and developing the skills for you to be successful and best prepared for your future.

Few decisions are more important than the next steps in your education. We hope that the resources here and on our website will give you an insight into what makes The Minster School a compelling choice.

Welcome from the Director of Post 16

Mr Justin Samuels

As you would expect from a great sixth form, we have high expectations and our skilled Post 16 tutor team will help you meet these; both looking after your needs and helping you to overcome challenges to achieve your ambitions.

As a Minster School Sixth Former, your experience is so much more than A-Levels alone and our enrichment programme enables you to develop in leadership roles and participate in clubs. We are really looking forward to overseas visits and hosting visiting speakers.

We are proud of our sixth form and invite you to join us.
Please come and see for yourself our superb facilities and learn first-hand what we have to offer for the next important step in your education.

Ms Luce Brailsford
Assistant Director of Post 16

> Our enrichment programme enables you to develop in leadership roles and participate in clubs.

SIXTH FORM STUDENT LEADERS

> We are incredibly proud to have the opportunity to represent our school and be part of such a vibrant and supportive community.
>
> We aim to be approachable and supportive, ensuring that all students have a voice and are represented.

Welcome from the Student Leaders

Academic Year 2026-27

As the Student Leaders, we are incredibly proud to have the opportunity to represent our school and be a part of such a vibrant and supportive community. Our main goal is to organise whole school events and activities that unite people together, bringing a sense of belonging and community among students and the staff body. We firmly believe that a strong and welcoming community is the foundation for academic success and personal growth. We are enthusiastic to see students pursue their passions and discover new ones. We aim to be approachable and supportive, ensuring that all students have a voice and are represented. We are excited to make a positive impact on our school and contribute to overall growth and devlopment of the students. Together, lets embrace the challenges, celebrate the successes and create lasting connections.

SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord"

Colossians 3:23

Our Key Virtues

Wisdom

Learning to think critically, act justly and consider the views of others

Optimism

Showing gratitude for what we have and having positive hope for the future

Resilience

Developing self-belief to take on new challenges, persevere and seek support from those around

Kindness

Considering the needs of others and acting through compassion and care

Service

Using our gifts and talents for the benefit of others in school and in the wider community

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

SIXTH FORM FACILITIES

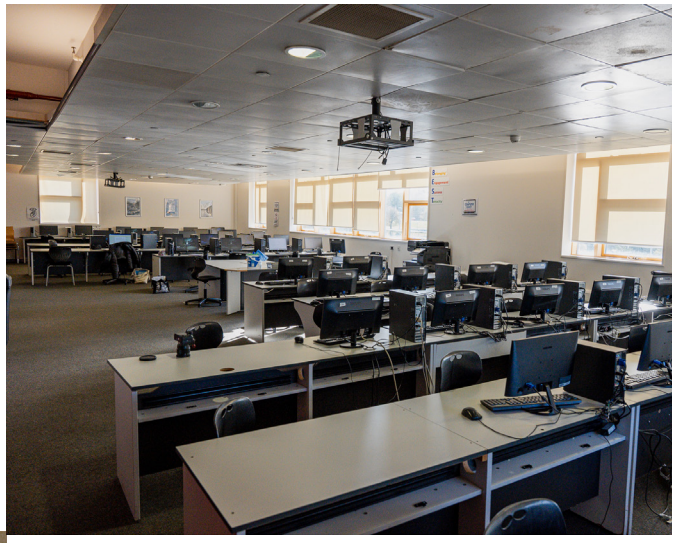
As a Sixth Form student at The Minster School, you will benefit from our state of the art, modern school buildings. There are a number of dedicated sixth form spaces available to you throughout the school day. We also have fantastic facilities for extra-curricular activities such as sport and performing arts.

01 INDEPENDENT STUDY AREA

Conference style seating, including facilities for individual and collaborative group work.

02 SILENT STUDY AREA

Exclusive to sixth formers, available throughout the day.



03 POST 16 DINING AREA

Open throughout the day.

04 SCHOOL LIBRARY

A space to work and use a wide range of resources linked to your subjects.

Results

The Minster School Sixth Form has a long tradition of achieving great results in examinations, due to the combination of hard work by students, support at home and excellent teaching in school. Students continue to achieve high grades. In 2026, the average grade was a C+, with23.8% of grades being an A* or A and 49.4% grades being A*-B. These enabled them to access universities, apprenticeships and employment of their choice.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection found the Sixth Form to be Outstanding:

“The school sets notably high expectations of sixth-form students. Pastoral care is strong. Students value the excellent support offered. Students are taught excellently by knowledgeable and skilled staff and students are very well prepared for their next steps in education, training or work.”

Destinations

Each year around 75% of our Year 13 students progress to university, with around 30% of our students securing places at Russell Group Universities, the most prestigious institutions in the UK. University places are not the only successful outcome for our students. We are proud that we support our students in achieving their ambitions through securing higher level Apprenticeships, Art Foundation courses and employment. Our students pursue a wide range of careers, mirroring the choices that are available within our Sixth Form subjects. Our tutors are experienced in supporting students to attain entry to a vast range of courses, including Medicine and Law, which remain popular among our students.

If you are considering applying to either Oxford or Cambridge, you require specific qualities as well as outstanding academic qualifications. Our Sixth Form Oxbridge group gives you the best possible chance of success with your application. This includes visiting speakers, advice from Oxbridge students and admissions tutors from Oxford or Cambridge to help you to prepare. We have an annual programme of mock interviews, tailored for all students likely to have a university interview, but also available for any Sixth Form student. We run a 'Progression day' in Year 12 that focuses on making successful applications for university courses and apprenticeships. We also support students with other non-university pathways and a work experience week for all Year 12.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

In addition to academic studies, we want you to embrace a wide range of opportunities through our enrichment programme.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

You have the choice of studying for either the Extended Project Qualification or Core Mathematics. These qualifications develop independent learning skills and support applications for post-18 study and employment.

In addition, students who are unsuccessful in acheiveing a grade 4 in GCSE English or Maths are able to access additional support, to enable them to retake one of these subjects.

'EPQ gave me the chance to discover and create something that I'm really passionate about. It taught me how to work truly independently and was very worthwhile'.
– Thea , A* EPQ student

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

You will also undertake lessons which encourage you to consider and discuss wider spiritual and ethical issues. Students are able to develop their understanding further, challenge themselves and share interesting debating points, in keeping with our Christian values.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

At The Minster School, learning extends beyond the classroom. Many curriculum areas offer opportunities to widen the experience of a subject by attending residential or day visits.

WIDER ENRICHMENT

In order to prepare for university and employment it is essential that you develop your confidence and leadership skills. Our Sixth Form students take on a range of responsibilities to develop themselves further and to contribute to the school community:

ENRICHMENT GROUPS

These groups meet regularly and new members are welcomed at any time. Examples include:

Charity Leaders
Environmental Action Group
Musical Theatre
Ugive Uchange (Fundraising group for education outside of our local community)
Young Enterprise
Sporting clubs
Music groups
Drama groups

STUDENT LEADERSHIP ROLES

Student Presidents– Head students, elected to represent the whole school
Student Leaders – elected annually by peers and teachers in a number of areas including Sport, Performing Arts, Charity, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Christian Distinctiveness and Sith Form Life and Events.
Sixth Form Prefects - a leadership role rewarding contributions made to The Minster School
Minster Mentors – providing support for younger students
Subject Ambassadors – supporting lower school lessons in your specialist subject
Sport Leaders – we run a sports leader's programme that any students can apply to join in year 12.

THE MINSTER SCHOOL
THE MINSTER SCHOOL
THE MINSTER SCHOOL
THE MINSTER SCHOOL

> What an amazing opportunity for all pupils to be part of such a production - it is way over and above what most schools provide and we are eternally grateful that there is such a strong music and performance ethos within the school and that so many staff are willing to give such a huge amount of time.
>
> **PARENT**

TUTORING

You will have a dedicated tutor as your main contact point in school. Our tutors deal with the 'whole student'. At the heart of what we do is supporting you to be the best that you can be through our school ethos:

Succeeding Together
Wisdom - Optimism - Resilience - Kindness - Service

Our Sixth Form Tutor Programme is structured around three key themes:

Post-16 Study Skills
Tutor sessions focus on the value and the skill of independent learning and managing your time effectively. You will develop a range of revision strategies and be guided through making the most of your time in school and at home.

Leadership and Enrichment
You are encouraged to take advantage of a wide range of opportunities to develop your skills and interests, maintaining a healthy balance between studying and other activities. We also expect you to be a leader and role model for the main school through delivering assemblies, leading workshops and supporting younger students.
The tutor programme includes sessions designed to raise awareness on areas such as Driver Safety, Mental and Sexual Health and becoming a Blood Donor.

Transition and Progression
Tutor sessions provide guidance on the process of applying for university, apprenticeships or careers. Alongside timetabled sessions the tutor provides one-to-one tutorial sessions to help you fulfil your potential. Our tutors are sixth form specialists and their experience with the UCAS application system gives you the best possible chance of success.

> "Our tutors deal with the 'whole student'.
>
> At the heart of what we do is supporting you to be the best that you can be through our school ethos.

SIXTH FORM SUPPORT

PASTORAL SUPPORT
Miss Wilmot

At The Minster School Sixth Form we believe that, in order for students to reach their full potential, it is important that they are supported in every aspect of their student life. For this reason, in addition to the tutor team, we have a Post 16 Student Support Assistant. This role is dedicated to supporting the progression of students and helping them to remove any barriers to learning.

Our Post 16 Student Support Assistant is based in the Sixth Form office and is available daily for one to ones and drop-in sessions. Students may be referred by their teachers or parents, or they can arrange a meeting independently. This support covers a variety of areas, from being someone to talk to, help with stress management, advice on workload and study skills, and signposting to self-help and external services. The Post 16 Student Support Assistant is also a point of contact for parents and liaises as appropriate between teachers and students.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
Mrs Marshall

Mrs Marshall is part of our Learning Support team and has a specific focus on supporting Sixth Form students. We recognise that for some students with particular needs and challenges, Sixth Form can feel overwhelming at first. Mrs Marshall works with students and parents to ensure that new Sixth Formers can transition effectively into a Post 16 environment successfully. Mrs Marshall is also able to offer further support and guidance, helping to ensure students are happy and able to achieve to their full potential, throughout their Sixth Form journey.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & APPLICATIONS

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR 2026 ENTRY

Students commencing sixth form study in September 2027 will need to have achieved at least five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including GCSE English or Maths. Students will also need to have achieved the entry requirements in the subjects they are wishing to study, these are outlined on each subject page.

> The Minster School has a really fantastic ethos of caring. It cares about the students, it shares information with parents, it lets the parents get involved should they want and it gets involved in the local community. This in turn reflects on the students who care about others.
>
> **(Parent of a Year 12 student)**

APPLICATIONS & ADMISSIONS CYCLE 2027 ENTRY

Applications should be submitted by Friday 20th November 2026.

Applications submitted later will be accepted but early submission makes it much more likely that your subject combinations will be available. If you wish to make changes to subject choices let us know at the earliest opportunity.

Please note that the availability of some subjects and subject combinations will depend on levels of demand and staffing. If a subject does not have enough students opting for it, we will not be able to run it.

We endeavour to provide students with their first choice combination of subjects but we cannot guarantee all combinations can be met. For this reason we encourage studnets to consider what their reserve choice might be.

Important note: We very much welcome applications from students currently at other schools. Sixth Form applications can be made online via the school website at www.minsterschool.org.uk/sixthformadmissions

In the event that we have more applications than places, governors will invoke the agreed admissions arrangements scheme for 2027, a copy of which can be found on the website.

ENGLISH
MEDIA STUD
GEOGRAPHY
HISTORY
RELIGIOUS
FINE ART
COMPUTER
MATHEMAT
MUSIC
PSYCHOLOG
SCIENCE
DRAMA & T
DESIGN & T
MUSIC TECH
MODERN FO
SOCIAL STU
PHYSICAL E
POLITICS

DIES
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STUDIES

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HEATRE
ECHNOLOGY
HNOLOGY
OREIGN LANGUAGES
DIES
DUCATION

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The school’s attention to character building is motivational and inspiring. The efforts the teachers go to in order to ensure that we are as good as we can be is phenomenal.

STUDENT

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Psychology 53

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Product Design 55

Fine Art 56

Food Science & Nutrition 57

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SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

GREAT CHOICE

The Minster School Sixth Form is proud to offer you a wide range of over 30 courses. Due to the size of our Sixth Form we are able to cater for most combinations of subject choices meaning that we can enable you to study for the qualifications you need. Students take three subjects throughout Year 12 and 13. The only exceptions to this model are:

- Students who are approved to take Further Mathematics as a fourth subject. For most of these students this will mean not studying the Extended Project Qualification as an academic enrichment.

- Students who are taking a re-sit course in either GCSE English Language or Mathematics

Our curriculum is reviewed annually and this may be subject to change. Further information on entry requirements and applications is available on www.minsterschool.org.uk/sixthformadmissions

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

All students are expected to study three subjects. Students are free to choose from a range of A Level and equivalent courses, more details of which can be found later on in this prospectus. In addition to this, students will opt to choose either the Extended Project Qualification, Core Mathematics or Further Mathematics (see page 59 for more details). Finally, all students will also study a course on 'Faith, Culture and Life' in Year 12 as well as participate in tutor and whole school activities throughout both years.

MINSTER SCHOOL SIXTH FORM SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the entry requirements for the sixth form as a whole, individual subjects have entry requirements that are intended to ensure that students commencing those courses in Year 12 have a strong possibility of success at the end of Year 13. These can be found on each subject page in this prospectus. Achievement of the subject entry requirements guarantees that a student can take the subject, as long as the course runs in that year and the student's combination of subjects allows it. Where the subject entry requirement is not met, each case will be looked at on an individual basis in discussion before entry into the subject. If you meet our entry requirements for the sixth form, but do not have the grades to take the subjects that you wish, you will have a meeting to support you in choosing an appropriate set of subjects to study.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

The nature of the course:

This course is ideal for students who enjoy many different aspects of English. Studying OCR English Language and Literature allows you to develop as a writer while exploring a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts in detail. This includes a classic and modern selection of novels, plays and a collection of poetry. There is also the chance to study quality fiction of your choice in preparation for two coursework pieces. The course is ideal for those who enjoy discussing writers' ideas and methods in depth and who are keen to develop their own creative writing.

Course components:

Component 1: Exploring a collection of non-fiction and spoken texts: (Examination worth 16%)
Component 2: Exploring the language of a poetry collection and a play: (Examination worth 32%)
Component 3: Studying the narrative of a novel and producing a piece of original narrative writing (Examination worth 32%)
Component 4: NEA. Students produce an independent comparative response to two fiction texts and a piece of original non-fiction witing (20%)

Future pathways:

English A level can lead on to careers in:

- Broadcast and Print Journalism
- Law
- Advertising
- Teaching
- Publishing
- Public relations and marketing
- Academic research
- Technical writing
- Corporate Communications

Entry Requirements:

GCSE English Language Grade 5
GCSE English Literature Grade 5

Exam Board
OCR

A Level

ENGLISH LITERATURE

The nature of the course:

Studying OCR English Literature allows you to explore classic and modern texts in detail, including a detailed investigation of the Gothic genre through the classic novel Dracula and Toni Morrison's powerful work Beloved. You will have the opportunity to study a Shakespeare play as well as contemporary drama and a selection of classic poetry. There is also the chance to study quality fiction of your choice in preparation for two coursework pieces. Keen readers and independent thinkers relish the class discussions and wide range of tasks.

Course components:

Component 1: Shakespeare and pre-1900 poetry. Examination worth 40%.
Component 2: Comparative and contextual study: The Gothic Examination worth 40%.
Component 3 Literature post 1900
Non-Examined Assessment of 3000 words worth 20%

Future pathways:

English A level can lead on to careers in:

- Broadcast and Print Journalism
- Law
- Advertising
- Teaching
- Publishing
- Public relations and marketing
- Academic research
- Technical writing
- Corporate Communications

Entry Requirements:

GCSE English Literature Grade 5

Exam Board
OCR

A Level

MEDIA STUDIES

The nature of the course:

The A level course provides an excellent introduction to a variety of media texts. Each area has a specific set text, set against other examples from this media form. It is an exciting and dynamic course which looks at current media issues, events and forms, whilst providing an historical understanding of how these forms came into being. There is a robust study of media theory which is applied to these texts and helps the students appreciate how texts are constructed to target different audiences.

Students gain an understanding of media language, different types of representations and industry issues. This is achieved through independent research, discussion and practical work – especially for the Non-Examined Assessment.

Course component:

Component 1 - Examination worth 35%
A range of forms and media products in relation to relevant aspects of the Media frameworks.
Component 2 – Examination 35%
An in-depth study into three media forms in relation to the frameworks: television, social media platforms and magazines.
Non Examined Assessment - Component 3 worth 30%
Students choose ONE area: Television, advertising & marketing (Film or music), magazines
A statement of aims and intentions (500 words) and a production aimed at a specified audience

Future Pathways

- Marketing
- Public/Media Relations
- Television, film and radio - production
- Digital media production

Entry Requirements:

GCSE English Language Grade 5 or
GCSE English Literature Grade 5

Exam Board
WJEC

A Level

GEOGRAPHY

The nature of the course:

According to The Guardian (2016), "It is the must-have A Level... Geography is a subject for our times. It is inherently multidisciplinary in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills needed to work across the physical and social sciences." Studying Geography provides you with the opportunity to engage with the world around you. From looking at landscape systems such as glaciation, to understanding how people perceive the places around them, Geography Paper 1 and 2 topics inspire a love of the dynamic world around us and explore your role within it. With its emphasis on data analysis, environmental processes, and scientific investigation, Geography complements subjects like Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, making it an ideal choice for students with a scientific mindset. The course also delves into geopolitics, examining global power dynamics, conflicts, and international decision-making, equipping you with a critical understanding of the forces shaping our world and the skills valued in fields such as Economics, International Relations, and Planning. In the Paper 3, you will further develop your knowledge of both Global Diseases and Natural Hazards, whilst building the ability to critically discuss complex issues. Geography A Level is a reputable course (with the Russell Group Universities) that provides you with highly employable and transferable skills to prepare you for university and future careers.

Course components:

Component 1: Physical systems (Glaciated Landscapes and Earth's Support Systems) - Examination - 24%
Component 2: Human interactions (Place, Migration and Power & Borders) - Examination - 24%
Component 3: Geographical Debates - Examination - 32%
Component 4: NEA (Non-examined assessment) - 4,000 word fieldwork project - 20%
Please note that a requirement of the specification is that students must complete at least four days of fieldwork. As a result, parents and carers are invited to make voluntary contributions to meet trip costs of approximately £425.

Future pathways:

Geography A level can lead on to careers in:

- Law, Business and Economics
- Urban Planning and Architecture
- Geoscience, Environmental Science and Conservation
- Geoengineering
- Government and Politics
- Medicine (when studied biology and chemistry)

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Geography Grade 5

Exam Board
OCR

A Level

HISTORY

The nature of the course:

History explores different periods to help develop a sense of perspective over time, to understand a wide range of opinions and interpretations and to formulate ideas and judgements. You will study the nature and development of government and society over time in unit 1, and in unit 2 you will explore the creation of a dictatorship in the 20th century and its subsequent impact on society. You will also complete an historical investigation on an aspect of 19th century American history which will require independent research, an understanding of historical interpretations and a thorough interrogation of primary sources.

Course components:

Unit 1: The Tudors: England 1485-1603
Examination worth 40%
Unit 2: Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia 1917-1953
Examination worth 40%
Unit 3: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: USA 1775-1928
Non-examined Assessment of 3500-4500 words worth 20%

Future pathways:

History A level can lead to careers in

- Teaching
- Museum and heritage management
- Journalism
- Law
- Politics

Entry Requirements:

GCSE History Grade 5

Exam Board
AQA

A Level

POLITICS

The nature of the course:

Politics is a dynamic course that combines looking at current political events in the both the United Kingdom and the USA. In Unit 1 and 2 the key areas that are covered include the nature of democracy and how effective the government is. Students also explore the traditional political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism. Unit 3 explores US Politics, including the role of the President, US elections, Congress and the constitution. Within this, students have to compare and contrast US and UK systems. An interest in current affairs is strongly encouraged.

Examination is based on the interpretation of source material and essay writing.

Course components:

Unit 1: UK Politics Examination worth 33%.
Unit 2: UK government Examination worth 33%.
Unit 3: Government and Politics of the USA Examination worth 33%

Future pathways:

Politics A Level can lead on to careers in:

- Politics
- Law
- Journalism
- Civil service

Entry Requirements:

None

Exam Board
Edexcel

A Level

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The nature of the course:

The Religious Studies; Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Religious Thought course aims to help you gain knowledge and understanding of the development of Western philosophy from Plato to the present day. You will be encouraged to develop an informed and personal response to a range of philosophical and ethical issues and examine significant social and historical developments in religious thought. The course examines questions of belief and morality in the light of religious teachings.

Students will explore religious beliefs, values, teachings and practices that shape religious identity.

Course components:

Unit 1: Philosophy of Religion Examination worth 33.3%
Unit 2: Religion and Ethics Examination worth 33.3%
Unit 3: Developments in Christian Thought Examination worth 33.3%

Future pathways:

Religious Studies A level can lead on to careers in:

- Teaching
- Law
- Medicine
- Journalism

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Religious Studies Grade 5

Exam Board
OCR

A Level

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The nature of the course:

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement. The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop:

- An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving problems
- The capacity to think creatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- Mathematical skills

Course components:

Unit 1 - Computing principles component (01) Examination worth 40%
Unit 2 - Algorithms and problem solving component (02) Examination worth 40%
Unit 3 - Programming Project Non Examined worth 20%

Future pathways:

Computer Science A level can lead on to careers in:

- Databases
- Data Mining
- Embedded Systems
- Graphics, Vision, Games, and Animation
- Hardware Design/Engineering
- Robotics and Control Systems
- Systems Development
- Software Engineering
- User Interface and Human-Computer Interaction

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Computer Science Grade 5

Exam Board
OCR

A Level

MATHEMATICS

The nature of the course:

This course builds on and extends areas of Mathematics you have seen during your GCSE course as well as introducing new and exciting concepts and ideas. You will cover topics such as Algebra, Quadratics, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Graph Work, Differentiation and Integration. The course is challenging and will require you to have good understanding of abstract concepts as well as being able to apply this understanding to questions which model a real world problem. The course comprises of two parts; the Pure Mathematics content which is worth 66.6% of the qualification, and the Applied Mathematics content testing work on Mechanics and Statistics worth 33.3%. This course is academically challenging - you need to be prepared to work hard to be successful and not give up!

Course components:

Paper 1 Pure Mathematics (2 hours)
Paper 2 Pure Mathematics (2 hours)
Paper 3 Statistics and Mechanics (2 hours)

Future pathways:

- Accountancy and Finance
- Engineering
- Physics
- Actuarial Science
- Natural Sciences
- Economics
- Many others...

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Mathematics Grade 6

Exam Board
Edexcel

A Level

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

The nature of the course:

This course is for people who love doing Maths! It is academically challenging and runs in parallel with the A level Mathematics course. You will learn about Complex Numbers, Matrices, Series, Proof, Polar Coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions and Differential Equations. The course will require you to understand and work with some abstract concepts as well as apply this understanding to mathematical problems set in a real-world context. You will study Further Statistics and Mechanics as part of this course. Further Mathematics is often chosen as a fourth A level by our most able Mathematicians and Scientists so if you like a challenge then this course is for you! Please note that the AS Further Mathematics course can also be chosen as your 'academic enrichment' option.

Course components:

Paper 1 - Further Pure Mathematics (1 hour 30 minutes)
Paper 2 - Further Pure Mathematics (1 hour 30 minutes)
Paper 3 - Further Mechanics (1 hour 30 minutes)
Paper 4 - Further Statistics (1 hour 30 minutes)

Future pathways:

- Accountancy and Finance
- Engineering
- Physics
- Actuarial Science
- Natural Sciences
- Economics
- Many others...

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Mathematics Grade 7

Exam Board
Edexcel

A Level

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The nature of the course:

The A level course in French, and Spanish focuses on language, culture and society through the study of a range of exciting and current topics relevant to young people today. You will develop a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, intercultural understanding, research skills and creativity. You will gain valuable cultural insights by analysing a book and a film from the target language country. You will gain practical skills, in high demand in many professions and industries, which demonstrate a high level of intellectual ability. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a modern languages degree but equally a degree with a languages or international element or year abroad.

Course components: Unit 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (2 hours 30 minutes) Examination worth 50%. Unit 2: Extended Writing – essays on the studied book and film (2 hours) Examination worth 20%. Unit 3: Speaking (21–23 minutes - including 5 minutes preparation time). Stimulus card, presentation and discussion of Independent Research Project. Speaking examination worth 30% Future pathways: Modern Foreign Language A level can lead on to careers in:
Translation
Interpreting
Work in multinational teams B
usiness International posts

Teaching Entry Requirements:
French - GCSE French Grade 6
Spanish - GCSE Spanish Grade 6

Entry Requirements:
French - GCSE French Grade 6
Spanish - GCSE Spanish Grade 6

Exam Board
AQA

A Level

DRAMA & THEATRE

The nature of the course:

This course is based around practical exploration of texts or ideas. You will gain a thorough understanding of Drama and Theatre, develop your analytical skills and creativity skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.

Course components:

Unit 1: Devising - Exploration of a performance in light of a practitioner. You must record the process in a portfolio. This is internally assessed and externally moderated worth 40%.
Unit 2: Text in Performance - Group performance from a performance text as a performer or designer. You will perform or design a monologue or duologue from a different text. This is externally assessed by a visiting examiner worth 20%.
Unit 3: Theatre Makers in Practice – Part 1: Study one set text from a choice of six which must be explored practically as a performer and a designer. Part 2: Choice of one set text from nine. You will create an interpretation of the chosen text as a director for a contemporary audience in light of a practitioner. Part 3: Evaluation of a piece of live theatre you have seen. This is a written 2hrs 30mins examination worth 40%
Sec A: Live Theatre Evaluation
Sec B: Questions on a set text
Sec C: Director's interpretation on a set text

Future pathways:

- Acting
- Directing
- Stage Management
- Marketing
- Law
- Education/Teaching
- Psychology
- Drama Therapy
- Community Arts Worker

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Drama Grade 5 or Merit at Level 2 BTEC Performing Arts

Exam Board
Edexcel

A Level

MUSIC

The nature of the course:

The course develops your musical strengths and interests focusing on the main components of performing, composing and appraising. You are encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, whilst nurturing your individual passion for music.

As a strong academic subject, Music has an excellent reputation with universities as a rigorous and analytical A Level. This is reflected in lessons with the study of music from different cultures and historical periods based including the following areas of study; The Western Classical Tradition, Rock & Pop Musical Theatre, Jazz, Into the Twentieth Century and Into the Twenty-first Century alongside more practical studies, developing skills of performance and composition.

Many continue their musical study at conservatoire or university, whilst others pursue non-music related degrees and careers.

Course components:

Performing - 35%/25% - Either a 10-12 minute or 6-8 minute solo or ensemble recital to a visiting examiner*
Composing – 35%/25% - Either 8-10 minutes or 4-6 minutes portfolio of compositions* Appraising - 40% - Listening and written paper based on the areas of study outlined above
*Weighting between performance and composition is chosen by student

Music/Music-related pathways

- Composer/performer
- Music therapy
- Music teaching
- Sound production
- Music publishing and Arts Administration

Non Music/Music-related pathways

Music A Level is considered a good platform for most subjects at degree level. Many doctors, mathematicians, scientists and linguists are also musicians.

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Music Grade 5 (if a student has not taken GCSE Music, Music Instrumental or Voice at Grade 5 and Music Theory at Grade 5)

Exam Board
Eduqas

A Level

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

The nature of the course:

Music Technology A Level focuses on recording, sequencing and composing music alongside analysing the impact that technology has had throughout the history of popular music. Through the course students will understand a wide range of production techniques as well as developing recording skills to demonstrate an understanding of sound and acoustics.

In lessons, students combine practical skills and creativity with analytical listening and theoretical understanding to explore new areas of music technology, in order to complete a portfolio of work using Logic Pro. Students learn how to use the recording studio and how to manipulate sounds creatively.

Course components:

Component 1: Recording – 20%
One multi-track recording consisting of a minimum of 7 instruments
Component 2: Technology-based composition – 20%
One 3-minute composition chosen from 3 briefs set by Pearson. Synthesis and sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects must be used
Component 3: Listening and analysing – 25%
A listening exam answering questions on music technology production techniques
Component 4: Producing and analysing – 35%
Written/practical exam involving questions on editing, mixing and production techniques

Future pathways:

- Sound engineering, mixing and mastering
- Sound production, creative sound design
- Composing for TV, film or computer games
- Music Technology also supports the pursuit of non music-related careers and combines particularly well with Music, Physics, Media Studies and ICT

Entry Requirements:

None

Exam Board
Edexcel

A Level

MUSICAL THEATRE

The nature of the course:

A practical and theoretical approach to the world of Performing Arts with a Musical Theatre pathway. This vocational course develops transferable skills and expects students to understand and demonstrate the role of the performer in a wider, professional context. Students work practically in groups and individually to develop performance skills in a range of musical theatre styles that are showcased to public audiences. The course requires students to research, present, keep a detailed written portfolio and write essays on theoretical aspects of musical theatre and the work of practitioners.

Students are expected to take part in workshops and attend theatre visits as part of the course to develop their knowledge and understanding of musical theatre.

Course components:

Unit 1: Investigating practitioners work (90hrs) - Year 12 - External

Research into two practitioners (e.g. Bob Fosse and Andrew Lloyd Webber) and one theme (all given on your exam paper). You will then write up your findings and links between the practitioner and the theme in a three hour controlled assessment of 2000 words.

Unit 2: Developing skills and techniques for live performance (90hrs) - Year 12 - Internal

A presentation of the 'Role of a Performer', two performances from contrasting musical styles and a journal including skills audits, targets and rehearsal logs.

Unit 3: Group performance workshop (120hrs) - Year 13 - External

Work as a group to devise an original musical theatre performance based on a stimulus. This is performed as a 'work in progress' piece to a live audience. Alongside this, you will document the process by completing 4 one hour 'milestone moment' controlled assessments.

Variety Performance: (60hrs) - Year 13 - Internal

An essay of the key features of a variety show, a variety performance and a journal including skills audits, targets and rehearsal logs.

Future pathways:

- Performer
- Acting
- Directing
- Stage management
- Marketing
- Law
- Education/Teaching
- Psychology
- Community Arts Worker

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Drama Grade 5 or Level 2 BTEC Performing Arts Merit

Exam Board
Edexcel

Level 3 BTEC

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The nature of the course:

The content of this course allows learners to study PE in an academic setting, enabling them to critically analyse and evaluate their physical performance and apply their experience of practical activity in developing their understanding of the subject. A level PE will equip learners with both a depth and breadth of knowledge, understanding and skills relating to scientific, socio-cultural and practical aspects of physical education

Course components:

Unit 1: Physiological factors affecting performance Examination worth 30%.
Unit 2: Psychological factors affecting performance Examination worth 20%.
Unit 3: Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport Examination worth 20%
Unit 4: Performance in physical education Non-Examined Assessment worth 30%

Future pathways:

A level PE can lead on to careers in:

- Sports Science
- PE Teaching
- Physiotherapy
- Sports Medicine
- Sports Dietitian
- Sport Psychology
- Sports Coaching

Entry Requirements:

GCSE PE Grade 5
Grade 5 Science (55 Double or 5s in both Biology and Physics)

Exam Board
OCR

A Level

SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The nature of the course:

A Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity is equivalent to 1 A level. This course will be delivered over 2 years. The course is taught through the completion of 5 different units. Assessment includes coursework and two externally assessed units.

Course components:

The Mandatory units are:
Body Systems and the effects of Physical Activity (Externally Assessed)
Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership.
Sports Organisation and Development (Externally Assessed)
These units make up 66.6% of the qualification

Students will also study optional units from the following list (these units are yet to be confirmed by the PE staff)
Performance Analysis in Sport and Exercise
Organisation of Sports Events
Biomechanics and Movement Analysis
Physical Activity for Specific Groups
Nutrition and Diet for Sport and Exercise
Sports Injuries and rehabilitation
Practical Skills in Sport and Physical Activities
Sports and Exercise Psychology
Sport and Exercise Sociology

Future pathways:

Sport & Physical Activity Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate can lead on to careers in:

- PE Teaching
- Coaching
- Personal Training
- Sports Development

Entry Requirements:

Level 4 in Science
Level 4 GCSE PE **or** Cambridge National Sports Studies Level 2 Pass

Exam Board
OCR

Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate

BIOLOGY

The nature of the course:

Biology is a course that combines theory and practical work to develop your knowledge and understanding of the natural world. Biology has a scientific foundation and touches on elements within the other two science disciplines (Chemistry and Physics), but also relies on your ability to conduct research, problem-solve and apply your knowledge to different situations. You will study the fundamental principles of Biology throughout the two year course and this information is grouped into 8 sections.

The first 4 are studied in year 12 and the next 4 in year 13. There is a field trip to Perlethorpe in the summer of year 12 and there are 12 required practicals to complete over the two years.

Course components:

Section 1: Biological molecules
Section 2: Cells
Section 3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment
Section 4: Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
Section 5: Energy transfer in and between organisms
Section 6: Organisms respond to changes in their environments
Section 7: Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
Section 8: The control of gene expression
Exams – all exams are at the end of year 13
Paper 1: Covers sections 1-4 : 2 hours – 35%, Paper 2: Covers sections 5-8 : 2 hours – 35%, Paper 3: Covers sections 1-8 : 2 hours – 30%

Future pathways:

Biology A level can lead on to careers in:

- Medicine
- Associated Health Service Careers
- Conservation
- Scientific Research
- Teaching
- Local Government

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Science Grades 66 or GCSE Biology Grade 6 with GCSE Maths Grade 4

Exam Board
AQA

A Level

CHEMISTRY

The nature of the course:

Chemistry is a course that combines theory and practical work to develop your knowledge and understanding of the natural world, our environment and modern innovations that enhance the quality of our lives. Chemistry has a direct impact upon daily life, from the foods we eat and medicine we take, to the materials and technologies in our home and the environment we live in. In Year 1 you will study the fundamental principles of chemistry, organic chemistry and the periodic table and energy. In Year 2 you will study physical chemistry and transition elements together with organic chemistry and analysis.

Practical skills are assessed throughout the course and a Practical Skill Endorsement is awarded on successful completion.

Course components:

Exam 1: Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry Examination worth 37%.
Exam 2: Synthesis and analytical techniques Examination worth 37%.
Exam 3: Unified chemistry Examination worth 26%.

Future pathways:

Chemistry A level can lead on to careers in:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Pharmacy
- Veterinary Science
- Chemical Engineering
- Forensic Science

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Science Grades 66 or GCSE Chemistry Grade 6 with GCSE Maths Grade 5

Exam Board
OCR

A Level

PHYSICS

The nature of the course:

Physics is interesting, stimulating and intellectually challenging. We will look at matter from the tiniest sub-atomic particles, to the vast swirling galaxies at the outermost limits of the universe. Your studies will take you from quarks to quasars, from positrons to pulsars and most other things in between. You will use mathematics to make predictions about the universe, but it won't just be theory. Most subjects will be introduced by practical demonstrations, which you will do for yourself whenever possible. You will see the physics come to life in the laboratory.

Course components:

What does the course involve? Core content:

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

Future pathways:

Physics A level can lead on to careers in:

- Engineering
- Computing
- Medicine
- Scientific research
- Finance
- Business

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Science Grades 66 or GCSE Physics Grade 6, with GCSE Maths Grade 6

Exam Board
AQA

A Level

BUSINESS STUDIES

The nature of the course:

By taking a holistic approach to business, the course examines the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support the analysis of contemporary business issues and situations. The course is designed to engage students through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society. Students will study key contemporary developments, such as digital technology, business ethics and globalisation. The course will develop the knowledge and skills required to analyse data, think critically about issues and make informed decisions – all skills that are needed for further study and employment.

Course components:

Paper 1: What is Business, marketing management, finance
Paper 2: Managing operations and people
Paper 3: Business and society, the external environment, business strategy

Future pathways:

A Business qualification can lead to the following careers:

- Accountant
- Business advisor
- Project manager
- Human resources manager
- Marketing executive
- Management consultancy

Entry Requirements:

None

Exam Board
AQA

A Level

ECONOMICS

The nature of the course:

Economics is a course that examines macro and microeconomics issues. On a macro level you will study economies as a whole and their key macroeconomic objectives such as low unemployment and steady economic growth. This will include an analysis of the long-term implications of BREXIT, COVID, current labour shortages and high government borrowing. In microeconomics, you will study the decisions made by individuals and firms. This includes, for example, why some industries tend to be dominated by a few large companies e.g. the supermarket and mobile phone industries, and how regulation has failed to prevent water companies pumping raw sewage into our rivers. It also analyses why individuals make what economists call 'irrational choices' such as choosing to lead unhealthy lifestyles or buy cars that pollute their environment.

Course components:

Paper 1: Markets and Market failure (micro) Weighting = 1/3
Paper 2: National and international economy (macro) Weighting = 1/3
Paper 3: Economic principles and issues (a combination of both) Weighting = 1/3

Future pathways:

An Economics qualification can lead on to careers in:

- Accountancy
- Investment banking
- Economics adviser to businesses
- Financial risk analyst
- Financial adviser
- Management consultancy

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Maths Grade 5

Exam Board
AQA

A Level

PSYCHOLOGY

The nature of the course:

Psychology is a forward thinking and innovative subject that investigates why we behave in the manner we do, helping us understand the human psyche and giving insight into the motivations behind our actions. A-level Psychology offers a solid understanding of the key psychological concepts and theories, which can help you develop your knowledge of the critical elements of human behaviour.

A-level psychology covers a wide range of topics, so you will have several areas to apply the knowledge you gain. Most importantly, it offers an extensive introduction to the core areas of human psychology, such as:
Social psychology - the study of people's social relationships. It focuses on why we conform and why we are more prone to obey authority figures.
Cognitive psychology - the study of internal mental processes. It sheds light on how mental processes play a role in memory.
Developmental psychology - the exploration of how people develop and change from the moment they are born.
Clinical Psychology and Mental Health - the study of the causes and treatments for of mental disorders.
Biological psychology - the investigation of how evolutionary forces and genetics influence human behaviour.

Course components:

The full A level course is examined at the end of the 2 years by three 2 hour exams.
Paper 1: Social Influence, memory, attachment, clinical psychology and mental health
Paper 2: Approaches, biopsychology, research methods
Paper 3: Issues & debates, relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology

Future pathways:

With further study, Psychology A level can lead on to careers in:

- Clinical psychology
- Counselling psychology
- Educational psychology
- Forensic psychology
- Further education
- Health psychology
- High intensity therapist
- Occupational psychology

Entry Requirements:

None

Exam Board
AQA

A Level

FASHION & TEXTILES*

The nature of the course:

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives you the practical skills and theoretical knowledge of design - including design movements, manufacture, buying and marketing within the fashion and textiles industry. You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences within the industry. You will also have opportunities to put your learning into practice by manufacturing prototypes within the market area of your choice using iterative design. You will gain a real understanding as well as the skills and knowledge needed to work in the creative textile industry.

Course components:

Examination - Technical principles (30%), Designing and making principles (20%)
Non-exam assessment (NEA) – (50%) - Design and make portfolio and prototype

Future pathways:

Fashion and Textiles can lead to careers in:

- Design based careers (fashion, costume, protective clothing, technical textiles)
- Technologists (fibre technologist, fabric technologist, garment technologist, product development)
- Trends & Fashion (colourist, stylist, Trend forecaster, Visual Merchandiser)
- Retail (Buyer, Merchandiser, Advertising & marketing)

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Product Design Grade 5 or GCSE Art Grade 5

Exam Board
AQA

A Level

PRODUCT DESIGN

The nature of the course:

The Design and Technology (Product Design) course reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving society, equipping you with design skills for the future. You will be able to recognise design needs and develop an understanding of how current global issues, including integrating technology, impacts on today's world. In the independent design and make project you will, in consultation with a client, identify a problem and design context. You will develop a range of potential solutions which include the use of computer aided design and evidence of modelling. You will be expected to make decisions about the designing and development of the prototype in conjunction with the opinions of the user group or client. You will realise one potential solution through practical making activities with evidence of project management and plan for production. You will incorporate issues related to sustainability and the impact your prototype may have on the environment.

Course components:

Component 1: Principles of D&T

- Written exam (2.5 hours) – 50% of the qualification

Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project

- Non-examined assessment – 50% of the qualification

Future pathways:

Design & Technology: Product Design A level can lead on to careers in:

- Architecture
- Industrial or product design
- Engineering
- Graphic design
- Exhibition design
- Furniture design
- Interior and spatial design

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Design and Technology Grade 5 or GCSE Art Grade 5

Exam Board
Edexcel

A Level

FINE ART

The nature of the course:

A Level Fine Art is a challenging and rewarding course that combines creative freedom with academic rigour. Through a broad-based study of contemporary and historical artistic practice, students are encouraged to explore personal ideas, themes, and concepts while developing skills in critical thinking, research, analysis, and written communication. Through engagement with a wide range of artists and visual cultures, students learn to investigate, evaluate, and justify creative decisions, producing sophisticated and highly personal practical responses. The course nurtures independence, curiosity, creativity, and resilience.

Course Components
Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)
A substantial personal project based on a theme, idea, issue, or concept.
Development of a portfolio of practical work.
Supported by a written study linking your work to the work of other artists. (1,000 – 3,000 words)
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)
Respond to one of several starting points set by AQA.
Preparation period involving visual research, experimentation, and idea development.
Final outcome produced during a supervised examination period.
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment - 40%

Future pathways

- Fine Art, Architecture, Graphic Design, Illustration, Animation, Games Art, Fashion, Art Therapy, Teaching, Curation, and many other creative and professional careers.

Entry Requirements:
GCSE Art Grade 5

Exam Board
Edexcel

A Level

FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION

The nature of the course:

The Level 3 Diploma has been designed to provide you with underpinning knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study and training in a food related degree or career. An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. This is an applied qualification which means that each unit within the qualification has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for learning. You will research authentic case studies and consider how the use and application of learning impacts on individuals, employers, society and the environment.

Course components:

To achieve a WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition (QCF) three units are completed which include unit 1 and Unit 2 which are mandatory.

Unit 1 Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups - Mandatory Unit Internal assessment worth 25% externally assessment worth 25%

Unit 2 Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat - Mandatory unit External assessment worth 25%

Unit 3 Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems - Optional Unit Internal assessment worth 25%

Unit 4 Current issues in Food Science and Nutrition- Optional Unit Internal assessment worth 25%

Future pathways:

- Dieticians
- Nutritionists
- Sports Coaches
- Public Health Roles
- Product Development

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Grade 5 or Level 2 Merit Hospitality and Catering

Exam Board
WJEC

Level 3 Diploma

PHOTOGRAPHY

The nature of the course:

The course encourages you to generate and to develop ideas showing an understanding of the context of photographic genres through both practical and theoretical work. You will focus on digital photography and you will be expected to develop your knowledge and understanding of the uses of light, pixel and digital processes. You will study the visual elements of composition, colour, image manipulation and use of a range of tools including, software packages and hardware; printers, scanners, cameras.

Course components:

Component 1: Coursework; a personal project consisting of a written study (1,000-3,000 words) and a portfolio of your own images - 60%

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment - 40%

Future pathways:

Photography A level can lead on to careers in:

- Specialised Photographer
- Advertising & Social Media
- Fashion & Styling
- Web, Video & Film production
- Publishing & Curation

Entry Requirements:

None

Exam Board
OCR

A Level

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

What does the course involve?

EPQ is studied in Year 12 and is at an equivalent level of study to A levels, earning UCAS points. Students work on a project of their choice and complete either a 5,000 word written project or an artefact accompanied by a 1,000 word evaluation. Completion of EPQ prepares students for further study and develops research, literacy and evaluation skills which are invaluable to other courses.

Universities and employers place high value on the successful completion of a project which is relevant to students' chosen academic or vocational route.

The skills developed through the Extended Project are directly relevant to their university-level study. Students can refer to the Extended Project in their UCAS personal statements and have, upon occasion been asked to bring their project to interview when due to its relevance to their university course.

CORE MATHEMATICS

What does the course involve?

Core Mathematics is a one-year course which carries UCAS points equivalent to an AS level qualification. Students study and develop their mathematical skills beyond GCSE. This course is a practical approach to mathematics, which supports other A level qualifications and can be studied by anyone who has achieved grade 5 in GCSE Higher Mathematics. Universities and employers value numeracy skills as well as literacy. Core Mathematics develops key mathematical skills and demonstrates your ability to process and analyse data effectively.

Core Mathematics is a particularly useful course for students who are not studying maths, physics or computing at A Level as it develops and demonstrates a wide range of skills that may not be covered in your other studies.

AS FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Please see page 40 for information about this course along with entry requirements.

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