



# Highams Park

6th Form



*Success through our endeavours*

**Prospectus 2019**



# Welcome

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I am delighted that you are considering joining Highams Park 6th Form. Should you be successful in your application you will join the school at a very exciting time. Not only will you be taught by a well-established and experienced group of staff, but our 6th Form will provide you with a challenging and highly professional experience that is proudly the pinnacle of the school.

As a 6th Form student here at Highams Park we expect you to be fully engaged in the life of the school. We see you as role models for the younger students, demonstrating the school's key behaviours of respect, responsibility and resilience. This will be evident via your smart business dress, your disciplined study habits and your contributions to school events. 6th Form students will also take the lead roles on the stage, sports teams as well as in the classroom and around the school. You will have opportunity to mentor younger pupils, assisting with their language acquisition, reading skills and revision techniques. During Year 13 you will also have opportunity to apply to join the 6th Form Leadership Team as a prefect or even Head Boy or Girl.

At Highams Park we are able to offer you a flexible and wide range of options within our broad curriculum, with over 3,000 possible course combinations. Our dedicated and knowledgeable teaching staff will support you to make the most of the learning opportunities available. They will focus upon developing you as a responsible, motivated and disciplined learner who has the skills, character and qualifications to compete in the world beyond 6th Form education with confidence and enthusiasm. We will work with you to ensure that you embody the school's motto of "Success through our endeavours".

As a 6th Form student at Highams Park you will be valued, challenged and nurtured, leaving better prepared to take your next steps within higher education, training or to enter the world of work. Our A Level and our AS results in 2018 placed Highams Park within the top 25% of schools nationally (ALPS), so if you would like to be part of that success and join a 6th Form that is engaging and enjoyable, that offers you the ideal combination of high quality teaching, aspirational and personalised tutoring, as well as brand new purpose built facilities, then we very much look forward to receiving your application.



**Phil Grundy**  
*Principal*

Highams Park 6th Form is a well-established Post 16 Education Provider, offering a wide range of A Level and Level 3 BTEC courses. In an educational climate where many schools are withdrawing their 6th Form provision due to changes in funding, we are proud of our continued investment in our Post 16 provision with the opening of our 6th Form block in June 2017. The new 6th Form block will provide you with dedicated 6th Form teaching rooms, further purpose built silent study facilities as well as spaces for group work and refreshment.

Highams Park 6th Form attracts students from a wide range of secondary schools and a key emphasis we have in the first few weeks of September is ensuring all our Year 12 students are given the opportunity to integrate themselves within the life of the school.

I do hope that the prospectus, and our Open Evening on Thursday 24th January 2019 starting at 6pm will provide you with the information you need to choose the best subjects for your Post-16 education.



**Nigel Armsby**  
*Vice Principal, Head of 6th Form*

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## Courses Information:

**AS Levels:** These are designed to be one year courses; the first year of A Level. The assessment is designed to be appropriate for a student having undertaken only one year of study.

**A Levels:** These are two year courses. Due to national reforms, A Level subjects will now be assessed at the end of the second year of study.

**BTEC Programmes:** We offer the Level 3 BTEC Diploma in IT Networking, Health & Social Care, Business, and Sport. The Diploma (worth two A Levels) can be studied in combination with 1 other A Level subject in Year 12, or the Subsidiary Diploma in IT (worth 1 A Level) can be studied alongside 2 A Level subjects in Year 12.

**GCSE Programme:** All students must resit English Language or Maths GCSE if they have not attained at least a Grade 4 prior to entering the 6th Form.



# What to expect

At Highams Park we understand that each student is different – some will want to go to university and others will want to go to do an apprenticeship. We support every student to get to the place they want to through different means of support and guidance. Students are provided with a 6th Form Bulletin weekly which gives details of a number of ‘super-curricular opportunities’ such as Year 12 University schemes, taster days and mini courses to help them get into the best university possible. In addition, our 6th Form Bulletin gives details of the different types of apprenticeships that are already open for applications and careers fairs that are happening around London. This is sent to tutors however this is also available for students on Firefly so they can access the various hyperlinks and is sent to parents and guardians. Additionally, at the end of Year 12 there are a number of days off timetable to help students make those all-important choices in regards of what they do at the end of Year 13 with a specific focus on university choices and help with UCAS. This support continues into Year 13 with sessions to explain Student Finance and help with exam success.

To ensure every student is as successful as possible we have a regular tracking scheme. Each student is given a minimum grade target based on their GCSE scores and every term teachers will report on how each student is achieving at the stage of that course. This means that trends can be observed quickly and underachievement can then be acted upon through support. These reports are sent home to parents in addition to the pastoral team.

Each student is assigned to a Form Tutor when they enter the 6th Form who is one of your first ports of call for important information and any issues. Form Tutors, who students see every morning, are responsible for creating a positive environment for each student but they will also get to know each student and their performance in each subject very well which is imperative for those UCAS references. The 6th Form pastoral team is available to all students for support and encouragement but also, if necessary to contact parents and find solutions to problems.

## Highams Park Key Pastoral Staff

<b>Mr N Armsby</b>	Head of 6th Form
<b>Mrs D Stephens</b>	Deputy Head of 6th Form - Head of Year 13
<b>Ms J Whitehead</b>	Deputy Head of 6th Form - Head of Year 12
<b>Mrs C Alexander - Stafford</b>	Deputy Head of 6th Form - Director of Progress
<b>Ms J Browne</b>	6th Form Secretary
<b>Miss S Arif</b>	6th Form Study Centre Supervisor

## Expectations

- Commitment and dedication to your studies, utilising the Study Centre to ensure you keep on top of your work
- Working hard in lessons, meeting homework deadlines, re-reading class notes throughout the academic year
- Arriving at 08:30 every day in order to attend registration
- An attendance record of 96 – 100%
- Act as a role model for the students in Yrs7-11, demonstrating a courteous manner towards both staff and students
- To dress in a professional manner, adhering to the 6th Form Dress Code

Gentlemen	Ladies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal suit or jacket and formal trousers – all dark-coloured</li> <li>• Formal collared shirt and tie</li> <li>• Dark socks</li> <li>• Formal dark-coloured shoes (not boots)</li> <li>• A plain dark jumper or cardigan may be worn; however, we do not allow students to wear roll neck jumpers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A formal shirt or blouse with a collar must be worn at all times</li> <li>• Skirts must be of a reasonable length and trousers should not be skin-tight</li> <li>• Formal dark-coloured shoes (not boots)</li> <li>• Plain, un-patterned, dark tights may be worn</li> </ul>

# Facilities

6th Form students currently have their own Study Areas with extensive ICT provision. The 6th Form also has it's own new block with seven purpose built classrooms to give the 6th Formers space away from the younger years

Sports facilities already include an AstroTurf, two sport halls and a fitness suite that 6th Form students have access to after school. Highams Park has a good reputation from its 6th Form football team who were 2018 winners in the Borough Finals however we encourage all students to do physical exercise for its proven benefit to wellbeing, health and focus.



Fitness suite



Year 13 Study Area



Group Study Area



Year 13 Study Centre

# Enrichment opportunities

Our aim at Highams Park 6th Form is to help students succeed not only in academia but also in developing competencies such as leadership and team work. These skills are essential for entering Higher Education or employment and therefore we encourage students to get involved in opportunities outside of the classroom as much as their study commitments will allow.

## Student Leadership Team

Is a team made up of students in Year 13 who wish to make the 6th Form the best place it can be and ensure Student Voice is heard. This not only gives students the opportunities in leadership and working as a team but also in an application and assessment process. The Student Leadership Team meet at least every half term to discuss ideas and issues in the 6th Form. However, initially they have to write letters outlining why they want to join the team and what they can offer. Applicants then have to complete a group activity and if successful are then interviewed by members of the school Senior Leadership Team.

## Community Involvement/Volunteering

Highams Park School prides itself on being a community and the 6th Form is key in this. 6th Form students volunteer at school events such as Open Evenings and offer to be part of the Peer Mentoring programme and Paired Reading programme to younger students in addition to raising awareness of many issues that affect our surrounding community. For example, last year a number of 6th Formers volunteered to take part in a mental health awareness day to raise awareness throughout the school of how you can help those with mental health issues.

## Drama

6th Formers bring experience and maturity to school productions however you do not have to be studying Drama & Theatre studies to be involved in the school productions. We have 6th Formers backstage, helping creating scenery in addition to creating those powerful tunes.

## Travel

Students entering the 6th Form have the chance to experience the world through a variety of free overseas opportunities. For example, two students each year are selected via application to go to Poland on the Lessons to Auschwitz Programme where you meet Holocaust Survivors, are prepped for the visit and then are part of workshops to decide how you will educate others. This not only develops their humility, empathy and respect but also leadership and teamwork skills whilst seeing a key part of our world's history. Additionally, within the last two years students have taken part in the Sutton Trust US Programme where students get an opportunity to spend a week in the US at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University or Harvard and support to make informed choices about applying to an American University.

## ICT

Throughout the lower school and 6th Form we use Firefly which is a site that allows access to learning resources 24/7 from anywhere with web access. 6th Formers who have an interest in ICT can apply to be a Digital Leader and then work as a team to add interesting resources and improve the platform to make it the best possible resource for other students.

## ORBYTS Project

A level science students at Highams Park have the opportunity to take part in ORBYTS (Original Research By Young Twinkle Students). They work with PhD and post-doc scientists from UCL on quantum molecular astrophysics related to exoplanets. Together they perform original research associated with the Twinkle Space Mission and work towards publication in a peer-reviewed journal. In February 2017 three students (Samuel Sheppard, Lizzy Sandeman and Zak Schofield) became named authors in a peer reviewed scientific journal. Since then Highams Park students have continued to work on quantum molecular astrophysics, with each group of students being responsible for one molecule of astronomical interest in the hunt for exoplanets. The 2016-17 cohort gave presentations at their Graduation Ceremony on Monday 10th July 2017. We hope that their work will lead to further papers being published



Student Leadership Team 2018-2019

# Subject Entry Requirements

In addition to the requirements below each student will need to achieve a minimum of a Grade 4 in 5 of their GCSE subjects.

	6th Form Subject (A level/BTEC)	Subject Entrance Minimum requirements
<b>A</b>	Art (A Level)	GCSE Art grade 5.
<b>B</b>	Biology (A Level)	GCSE Biology grade 6 needed if a student has completed Triple Science, or if a student has done GCSE Double Award Science grade 6, 6 and GCSE Maths grade 6.
	Business Studies (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) and Maths grade 5.
	Business Studies (BTEC)	5 4 – 9 GCSE grades including a minimum of a 4 in either GCSE English Literature or English Language and a minimum of a 4 in GCSE Maths.
<b>C</b>	Chemistry (A Level)	GCSE Chemistry grade 6 needed if a student has completed Triple Science, or if a student has done GCSE Double Award Science grade 6, 6 and GCSE Maths grade 6
	Computer Science (A Level)	GCSE Maths grade 6 or GCSE Computer Science grade 5.
<b>D</b>	Dance (A Level)	GCSE Dance grade 5 and GCSE English Literature grade 5.
	Design & Technology (A Level)	GCSE Design & Technology grade 5.
	Drama & Theatre Studies (A Level)	GCSE Drama grade 5 and GCSE English Literature grade 5.
<b>E</b>	Economics (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) and Maths grade 6.
	English Language (A Level)	GCSE English Language grade 5.
	English Literature (A Level)	GCSE English Literature grade 6.
<b>F</b>	Film Studies (A Level)	GCSE English Language grade 5, or GCSE English Language grade 4 and English Literature grade 5.
	French (A Level)	GCSE French grade 6.
<b>G</b>	Geography (A Level)	GCSE Geography grade 5.
	Government & Politics (A Level)	GCSE English grade 5 (either Literature or Language) and a grade 5 in a GCSE Humanities Subject (History, Geography or Full Course RE).
<b>H</b>	Health & Social Care (BTEC)	5 4 – 9 GCSE grades including a minimum of a 4 in either English Literature or English Language.
	History (A Level)	GCSE History grade 5 or GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 6.
<b>I</b>	IT Technicals/Cisco (BTEC Double)	GCSE Maths grade 5 and GCSE Computer Science grade 4.
	IT Technicals (BTEC Single)	GCSE Maths grade 5 and GCSE Computer Science grade 4.
<b>M</b>	Maths (A Level)	GCSE Maths grade 7.
	Maths (Level 3 Core)	GCSE Maths grade 5.
	Further Maths (A Level)	GCSE Maths grade 8. Students with a grade 7 will be considered upon successful completion of an entrance exam.
	Media Studies (A Level)	GCSE English Language grade 5, or GCSE English Language grade 4 and English Literature grade 5.
	Music (A Level)	GCSE Music is not essential, but will be a real advantage. If you do not have a GCSE Music qualification, you will need to be at Grade 7 standard on your instrument/voice and have a Grade 5 theory qualification too. Otherwise, you need to be at a minimum Grade 5 level. You must be able to confidently read staff/music notation as well as have regular instrumental/singing lessons with an instrumental teacher.
<b>P</b>	Philosophy (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 6.
	Physics (A Level)	GCSE Physics grade 6 needed if a student has completed Triple Science, or if a student has done GCSE Double Award Science grade 6, 6 and GCSE Maths grade 7. Or students with a grade 7 in Physics (or 7, 7 in Double Award Science) will require a minimum of GCSE grade 6 in Maths
	Psychology (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 6 and GCSE Maths grade 5.
<b>S</b>	Sociology (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 5.
	Sport (BTEC)	GCSE PE grade 5 / Merit or higher in Sport BTEC Level 2 or Five 4 – 9 GCSE grades including a minimum of a 4 in either GCSE English Literature or English Language.

# Advanced Level Subjects

## Advanced Level Subjects for University Courses

In order to help advise students on which subjects to study, the accompanying table is intended to act as a guide of Advanced Level subjects required for university courses.

University Course	Advanced Level Subjects Required or Preferred	Additional Information
<b>Accountancy, Finance, Business, Management</b>	Mathematics and Economics are required for many top universities. Business Studies is advantageous.	Interested candidates should visit <a href="http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch">www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch</a> since requirements vary considerably depending on the institution.
<b>Architecture</b>	Mathematics usually specified, plus one additional science (Physics preferred due its numerical nature).	A portfolio of drawings and sketches must be developed, and is required for interview.
<b>Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fashion Design, Textiles, Fine Art, Sculpture, Animation, Photography</b>	A level Art & Design (or relevant subject above) and Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (1 year course).	A portfolio of drawings and sketches must be developed, and is required for interview.
<b>Biochemistry</b>	Chemistry and two from Biology, Physics or Mathematics.	Ideally suited if you have a strong interest in experimental work and cutting edge research.
<b>Biological Sciences</b>	Biology and Chemistry.	For non-traditional qualifications, interviews may be applicable.
<b>Chemistry</b>	Chemistry and Mathematics to at least AS; A Level for Oxbridge and top universities.	A level in Biology and/or Physics useful and preferred by some universities but not essential.
<b>Computer Science</b>	Often Mathematics and/or Computing/ Computing Science.	Further Mathematics or another science would also be highly recommended.
<b>Dentistry</b>	Chemistry and Biology required to A Level. Psychology also identified as advantageous by some dental schools.	A candidate must complete 3-14 days' work-shadowing experience preferably within a General Dental Practice setting. Applicants will need to be able to show evidence of manual dexterity, good communication skills, the ability to work in and lead a team.
<b>Drama</b>	English Literature and Drama are advantageous subjects.	For university and Drama School candidates will be asked to attend a group audition and prepare 2 contrasting monologues for performance to the admissions panel.

# Advanced Level Subjects

University Course	Advanced Level Subjects Required or Preferred	Additional Information
<b>Economics</b>	Mathematics essential for top universities, with Economics being highly advantageous.	You are strongly advised to take Further Maths for Cambridge, UCL, Warwick, LSE and Oxford.
<b>Engineering</b>	Physics and Mathematics required, with Chemistry also needed for Chemical Engineering.	Due to the variety of engineering courses students should visit <a href="http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch">www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch</a> to find out the requirements for specific courses.
<b>English Literature</b>	Students should read to have extensive range of literary movements, genres and forms to develop a detailed analytical overview of the development of both literature and critical theory through time as essential for UCAS applications.	Literature degree courses tend to place the emphasis firmly on independent study, often with a minimum of lectures and classes to attend, but an expectation that students can produce dissertations of up to 10,000 words, largely made up of their own research.
<b>History</b>	History is essential, English Literature is advantageous.	Russell Group universities favour students who have studied English literature or a foreign language and can demonstrate they have the ability to make analytical judgements, be able to think laterally, discriminate critically, enjoy reading, and show an enthusiastic curiosity about the past.
<b>International Business</b>	Many top Universities require a foreign language as a requirement to pursue a career in these fields. A Level French would be an asset.	Students may have to spend one year abroad to widen their scope of French with a particular focus on the communicative approach of language learning.
<b>Journalism</b>	Philosophy, English Language, History and English Literature provide students with the skills needed for a degree in journalism, and therefore are viewed favourably by many universities. Many journalists have a Philosophy background due to the need for clear and convincing writing.	Due to the competitive nature of journalism courses, students are advised to seek a period of work experience prior to submitting their UCAS application in order to provide evidence of a real passion for the subject.  Work experience is not essential but is looked on favourably by the top universities.
<b>Law</b>	None specified – although subjects such as History and English Literature provide students with the skills required to succeed in a Law degree.	A small number of universities may ask you take a Sixth Term Exam Paper (STEP) or Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT) or Advanced Extension Award (AEA) as part of their conditional offer.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Mathematics required. Further Mathematics required for Oxbridge, and frequently preferred for other top universities. Physics is advantageous	Further Mathematics required for certain top universities and Oxbridge colleges.

# Advanced Level Subjects

University Course	Advanced Level Subjects Required or Preferred	Additional Information
<b>Medicine</b>	Chemistry required to A Level. Biology usually required to at least AS Level. Some medical schools actively seek a broader academic base with one non-science subject.	Students looking to study medicine need to be aware that places on these courses are highly competitive, and students need to have almost exclusively a mixture of 8 and 9 grades at GCSE. Students need to obtain a period of medical-related work experience prior to their UCAS application. This could be work experience in a hospital, or also in a care home as it indicates an interest in caring for others.
<b>Philosophy</b>	A Level subjects involving essay writing such as History, English Literature and Philosophy would be highly beneficial.	Students looking to study Philosophy at university should develop an awareness of both classic and modern philosophers.
<b>Physics</b>	Physics and Mathematics are required.	Further Mathematics at AS or A Level is an advantage.
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	Biology required. Sport BTEC would be beneficial.	One further science often preferred.
<b>Politics</b>	None specified, but Economics and History are helpful.	Students must have an up to date understanding of the political climate, which would need to be evidenced in their personal statement.
<b>Primary Education</b>	Many institutions require students to have studied at least one national curriculum subject at A Level. Core National Curriculum subjects are Maths, English and Science.	A minimum of 2 weeks work experience is mandatory for entry on to many Primary Education programmes. There is no requirement to carry out the work experience all in one go, it can be gained over time, such as half a day a week.
<b>Psychology</b>	Psychology A-level preferred but not essential. If applying for a BSc Psychology degree Biology is also preferred.	Students wishing to specialise after their degree should be looking to get work experience with people in different circumstances and particularly the field of psychology they are interested in (i.e. occupational, forensic, child, sports etc.)
<b>Sports Science</b>	One science often preferred (usually Biology). PE and Sport BTEC would be beneficial.	Students should have a keen interest in sport and sports performance, matched with good academic skills and an application for science.
<b>Veterinary Science</b>	Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics/Physics are required.	A minimum of two weeks (or occasional days over a substantial period) work or shadowing experience with a vet and that they are comfortable with large animals (cows/horses). Broad experience of and contact with a wide variety of animals is viewed favourably.

Note: Students must be aware that universities often change or make additions to entry requirements on a yearly basis. Students must carry out their own research regarding entry requirements for the course(s) they are interested in studying.

## Course Outline

Our Art Department is very successful, with a large percentage of our students progressing on to Art and Design related Foundation and Degree courses. Part of this success is due to our experienced department with staff who have specialisms in fine art, applied processes and illustration techniques including print and new media. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences to enable them to explore a chosen theme in range of traditional and contemporary processes and techniques. They will explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media in varying scales, using sketchbooks and journals to underpin their work. Students will explore relevant sources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and present, incorporating other cultures. Students' responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

The new two year A Level course in Art & Design allows for more in-depth enquiry into a broad range of Fine Art and applied processes. Gallery and location work form an essential part of the course, and students are expected to complete some of this work in their own time. Most importantly, Art at A Level requires a considerable amount of time dedicated to personal development and exploration in addition to timetabled studio time.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

This is a two year course and will result in a full GCE at the end of the two years of study. We welcome students with a lively intellect who are keen to develop research techniques, critical and contextual evaluation and technical competence in Art, Craft and Design through thematic enquiry and personal responses.

## Why Study Art?

Students who pursue Art at A Level gain an enjoyable creative education which moves on from GCSE at a rapid pace and demands of students a much deeper level of investigation. The course encourages students to develop commitment, perseverance, creativity and expression. As they mature, they become adept at communicating personal ideas through visual means.

Traditionally, after A Level study students move onto an Art Foundation Diploma which leads in turn to a specialist BA Honours Art Degree. Many students apply directly to their chosen Degree, particularly those applying to Architecture, some also use their Art A-level qualification towards their points scores in applying for other Degree courses. We provide a great deal of guidance and portfolio preparation to students applying to go on to further study, including mock interview situations. The majority of our students are successful in gaining a place at their first choice institution and each year we have 15-20 students moving into university for Art & Design. Last year, places were gained at Oxford Brookes and UCL for Architecture alongside all the major London colleges for Art Foundation. Some students apply out of London, particularly those interested in Interior Design, Textiles and Fine Art.

## Assessments

**Component 1:** Personal/Independent Study including a written component (60%).

**Component 2:** Externally set assignment and 15 hour supervised time (40%).





## Course Outline

The Biology B specification is a concept-based course that combines the teaching of traditional elements and more modern biological ideas. The course has been designed to engage and inspire students by showing how an understanding of many contemporary issues requires a grasp of fundamental biological ideas.

Students will study a wide range of living things with an emphasis on the biochemistry of biological processes. Some of the topics covered include inheritance, evolution, cell structure, transport in animals and plants, photosynthesis, respiration, nervous system, hormones and infectious diseases.

Studies include theory work, laboratory investigations, ecology fieldwork and microscopy.

A strong emphasis is placed on developing practical skills and understanding the process of how science works. This is assessed through written examination papers rather than coursework or a separate practical exam at the end of the course. The course also offers Practical Endorsement leading to practical competency as an addition to the A level.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Students should have a keen interest in Biology, an enquiring mind, together with the ability and willingness to carry out independent background research. Biology at A Level could be essential if you want a career in health and clinical professions.

Biology is a diverse subject – from molecular biology to the biosphere, a qualification in Biology equips you with valuable skills: literacy, numeracy, social awareness and an ability to make connections between natural, social, economic, political and technological fields.

A level Biology provides a useful complement to other subjects including other Sciences, Sports studies and Maths. It provides a firm foundation for a whole range of careers such as: Biochemistry, Dentistry, Ecology, Forensic science, Genetics, Medicine, Microbiology, Nursing, Pathology, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Veterinary Medicine and many others.

## Assessments

### AS

**Paper 1:** Biological molecules; Cells, viruses and reproduction of living things

**Paper 2:** Classification and biodiversity, Exchange and transport.

Paper 1 and 2 carry 50% of the weighting each.

### A Level

**Paper 1:** Energy for biological processes, Microbiology and pathogens and Modern genetics.

**Paper 2:** Origins of genetic variation, Control systems and Ecosystems.

**Paper 3:** General paper assessing topics across the AS and A level qualifications

Paper 1 and 2 will carry 30% of the weighting and paper 3 the remaining 40%.

All AS and A Level papers will include assessment of experimental methods (including questions on core practicals) and mathematical skills, the latter making up 10% of the assessment.

There are 16 **core practicals** that cover all of the 12 techniques required for the **practical competency measure**. This will be teacher assessed and reported alongside the A level grade.

## Course Outline

Business Studies aims to make you think critically about business. Business at this level encompasses many disciplines and covers different forms of organisation and business activity. The course integrates ideas drawn from various disciplines, including Economics, Accounting, Law, Government and Politics, Sociology and Psychology. The course focuses on small to medium sized businesses operating within national and international markets. It includes the teaching and learning of transferable skills such as calculations, interpreting and analysing data, applying knowledge to unfamiliar situations, developing arguments and making judgements and decisions.

The Business Studies AS/A Level course is concerned with a problem solving approach to business issues and enterprise. It will provide a theoretical and practical understanding of business operations and industry and the impact on them of external factors. This course deepens knowledge gained from the GCSE, but previous study is not necessary. However, an interest in the business world is essential.

At AS level in Year 12, areas of study include the importance of the context of business in relation to decision making, how technology is changing the way decisions are made and how businesses operate and compete and the competitive environment and the markets in which businesses operate.

At A Level in Year 13, areas of study include the importance of assessing feasibility and risk when making strategic decisions, the influences of Corporate Social Responsibility, ethical and environmental issues on strategic decisions and the impact of technology on strategic decision making.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

The course requires a good standard of English and maths. Students are encouraged to develop an awareness of business topics which can

be used as examples in written work. Students do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE.

## Why Study Business Studies?

Business Studies is a multi skilled subject, that gives students an insight into the difficulties of setting up a business, as well as developing their knowledge of Marketing, Accounting, Human Resources, Production and Economics. It is a useful for a wide choice of Business and Management related degrees, as well as Media, Law, Economics, Accounting, and Finance.

It can also lead to a wide range of careers, for example, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Public Relations, Advertising, Events Management, Retail Management, Banking, Finance, Publishing and Law.

Combined with a modern foreign language, Business Studies can also lead to international business careers.

## Assessments

The AS and A Level exams are 100% exam based.

The AS Level exam consists of two papers. Paper 1 contains multiple choice, short answer and extended answer (essay) questions and Paper 2 contains short answer and extended essay questions. Each paper is worth 50% of your mark.

The A Level exam consists of all three papers at the end of the two year course with similar content to the AS exam but longer essay questions. Each of the three papers is worth a third of your final grade.





## Course Outline

The BTEC National Diploma in Business uses a combination of assessment styles to give students the confidence to apply their knowledge and succeed in the workplace whilst developing the study skills to continue learning on higher education courses and throughout their career. The range of vocational assessments – both practical and written – mean students can showcase their learning and achievements to best effect when they take their next step, whether that's supporting applications to higher education courses or potential employers.

The BTEC National Diploma is equivalent to two A Levels and it is assessed both internally and externally through coursework, tasks and a written exam. So if coursework brings out the best of your skills and abilities, then this may be suitable for you. Coursework can include written assignment work, team working activities, presentations, financial calculations on spreadsheets and website design.

The department staff will assess your work and you will be given a final grade, that will be equivalent to A Levels and which have UCAS points. The grades range from Distinction\*Distinction\* (equivalent to A\*A\* at A Level) to Double Pass (equivalent to CC).

A number of topics are studied that include:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Digital Marketing
- Personal and Business Finance
- Principles of Management
- Creative Product Promotion
- Managing an Event

- International Business

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

The course is practical and you will develop independent learning skills through research, planning and organising your work. You may be required to work in a team. Business lessons incorporate a range of activities including case studies, group work, discussions, presentations, role play and using ICT applications.

The department has a successful pass rate for its BTEC Diploma in Business. A number of our students achieve a double distinction award and have successfully gained places at university and in employment.

## Assessments

BTEC Nationals uses three types of assessment: assignments, tasks and written exams.

In year one, you will complete two assignments, one task and a written exam.

In year two, you will complete three assignments and one task. Each assignment varies in their weighting towards your final grade.

## Course Outline

Students of our Edexcel A level in Chemistry will develop their interest in and enthusiasm for Chemistry, and explore how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society. Plenty of practical experience is included to encourage enjoyment of the study of Chemistry and enhance understanding.

Edexcel A level Chemistry specification has a six-unit structure that provides the fundamental key concepts of chemistry, including the core and general principles and laboratory skills, in motivating contemporary contexts. With a realistic, manageable level of content and assessment, the specification is designed to inspire and engage teachers and students in the learning experience.

Studies include both theory work and laboratory investigations.

A strong emphasis is placed on developing practical skills and understanding the process of how science works. This is assessed through written examination papers rather than coursework or a separate practical exam at the end of the course. The course also offers Practical Endorsement leading to practical competency as an addition to the A level.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Students should have a keen interest in Chemistry, an enquiring mind, together with the ability and willingness to carry out independent background research.

Chemistry is a diverse subject – from environmental studies to the polymer revolution, a qualification in Chemistry equips you with valuable skills: literacy, numeracy, social awareness and an ability to make connections between natural, social, economic, political and technological fields.

A level Chemistry provides a useful complement to other subjects including other Biology, Physics and Geography. It provides a firm foundation for a whole range of careers such as; Dentistry, Forensic

Science, Medicine, Pharmacy, Analytical Chemist, Chemical Engineer, Healthcare Scientist, Toxicologist, Veterinary Medicine and many others.

## Assessments

### AS

**Paper 1:** Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding and structure, Redox, Inorganic chemistry and the periodic table, Formulae, equations and amounts of substance, Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

**Paper 2:** Formulae, equations and amounts of substance, Bonding and structure, Organic chemistry, Modern analytical techniques, Energetics, Kinetics, Equilibrium, Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals).

Paper 1 and 2 carry 50% of the weighting each.

### A Level

**Paper 1:** Equilibrium, Acid-base equilibria, Energetics, Redox, Transition metals and some AS content

**Paper 2:** Kinetics, Organic chemistry, Organic chemistry, Modern analytical techniques and some AS content.

**Paper 3:** General paper assessing across the AS and A level qualifications and Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

Paper 1 and 2 will carry 30% of the weighting and paper 3 the remaining 40%.

All AS and A Level papers will include assessment of experimental methods (including questions on core practicals) and mathematical skills, the latter making up 20% of the assessment.

There are 16 **core practicals** that cover all of the 12 techniques required for the **practical competency measure**. This will be teacher assessed and reported alongside the A Level grade.



## Course Outline

Our modern world would be inconceivable without Computer Science. From Engineering to Business Management, Medicine to Biology, and language processing through to Psychology, Sociology and Archaeology – all the sciences today need computer science in some form or another. This is exactly what makes the subject so exciting and is opening up ever more employment opportunities for computer scientists. Computer Science, therefore, is a forward-looking discipline that offers excellent prospects.

Computer Science at Highams Park School will enable every student to a broad technical knowledge with the ability to write their own programs and software in the Python and Visual Basic Programming Languages – some of the most popular languages used in industry today.

## Why Study Computer Science?

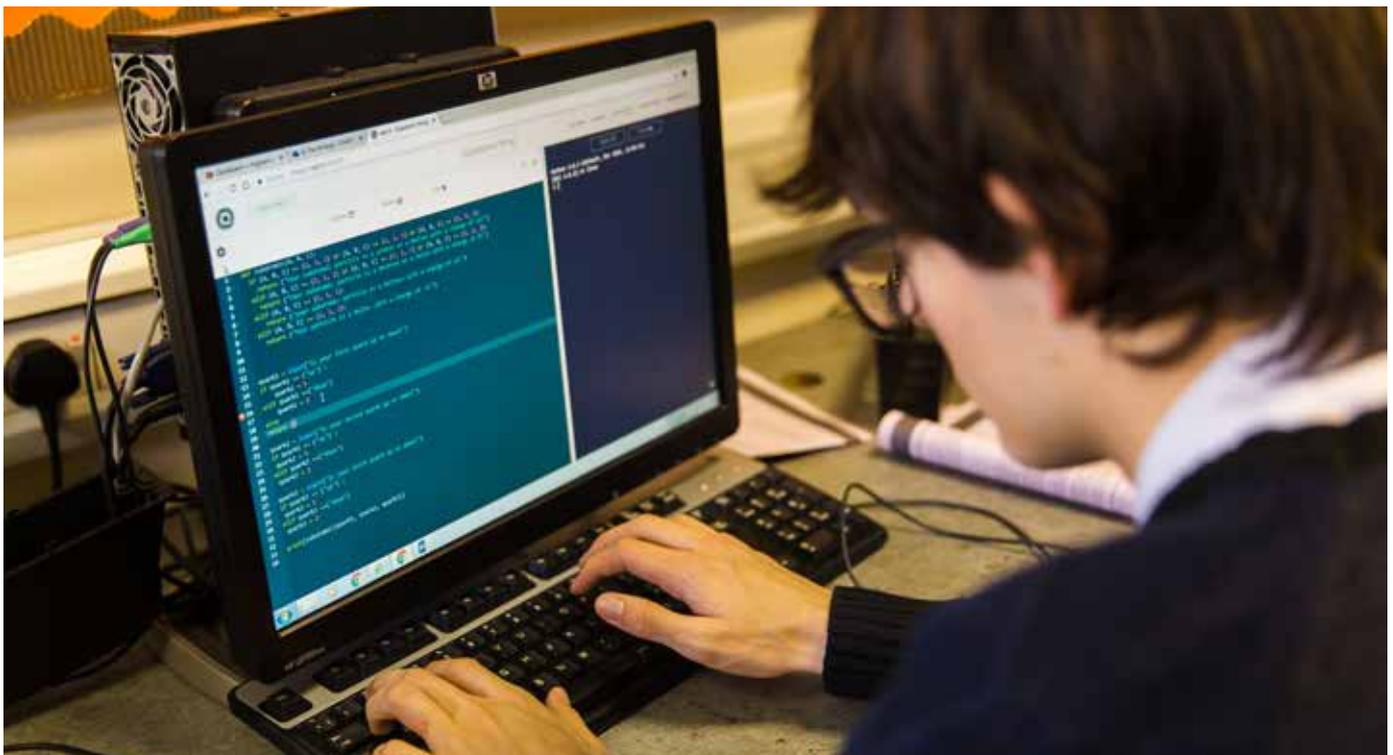
- Computing is part of everything we do!
- Expertise in computing enables you to solve complex, challenging problems.
- Computing enables you to make a positive difference in the world.
- Computing offers many types of lucrative careers.
- Computing jobs are here to stay, regardless of where you are located.
- Expertise in computing helps even if your primary career is something else.
- Computing offers great opportunities for true creativity and innovativeness.
- Computing has space for both collaborative work and individual effort.
- Computing is an essential part of well-rounded academic preparation.
- Future opportunities in computing are without boundaries.

Computer Science students have careers in variety of fields: System Analysts, Stock Brokers, Bankers, Gaming industry, Architecture, Software Engineers, App Developers, Web Designers, Media, and many more.

With Computer Science A-level you can go on to university courses like: Computer Science, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, or may be combined with other degrees such as Architecture, Engineering and so forth.

## The course is subdivided into the following sections:

Topic	Assessment	Weighting	Course	Year
Computing Principles	Exam	50%	AS Computer Science	Year 12
Algorithms & Problem Solving	Exam	50%	AS Computer Science	Year 12
Computer Systems	Exam	40%	A Level Computer Science	Year 13
Algorithms & programming	Exam	40%	A Level Computer Science	Year 13
Computing Project	Coursework	20%	A Level Computer Science	Year 13





## Course Outline

At AS level in Year 12, you will focus on the development and performance of your own choreography and performing within a duo/trio. You will develop knowledge and understanding of a specific area of study which is currently Rambert Dance Company.

**Component 1: Performance and choreography.** Choreography and Performance: You will choreograph and perform a solo dance, between two and three minutes in duration. You are also required to demonstrate performance skills in a duo/trio. The dance must be between three and four minutes in duration.

**Component 2: Critical engagement.** A written exam with three sections comprising of, short answer questions on own practice, short answer questions on the compulsory area of study (Rambert Dance Company) and two essay questions on both areas of study – compulsory essay and an essay from a choice of four (The romantic ballet period/ American modern dance/American jazz dance/The independent contemporary dance scene in Britain)

At A Level in Year 13, you will develop skills and knowledge gained at AS level. The focus of choreography is shifted towards group dance. You will develop knowledge and understanding of a specific set works: which include Rooster by Christopher Bruce

**Component 1: Performance and choreography.** You will choreograph a group dance, of three to four minutes, in which you do not perform. You will also perform a solo dance, of two to three minutes, which demonstrates understanding of a performance style linked to a practitioner and perform in a quartet of any style. The solo and quartet dance may be choreographed by the student, teacher or both.

**Component 2: Critical engagement.** This is a written exam where you have to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and critical

appreciation of two set works. One work is compulsory (Rooster by Christopher Bruce) and the other is optional from a choice of four (Giselle by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot/Appalachian Spring by Martha Graham/Singin' in the Rain by Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly/Sutra by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui)

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Please see the Subject Entry Requirements on Page 8. Additionally, practical experience in performing or attending regular dance classes is an advantage.

## Why study Dance?

Dance A Level is accepted as an entrance qualification to all universities.

- Some students continue to study Performing Arts at professional stage school.
- Some students continue to study degrees in different areas of the Performing Arts, alternatively Dance degrees can be combined with other subjects leading to a BA Honours degree.

This course would give an insight into becoming a professional dancer or dance teacher. It is a useful course for many aspects of the cultural & leisure industries for careers such as; Physiotherapist, Journalist, Designer, Dance Movement Therapist or Choreographer for Theatre, Film or Media.

## Assessments

The AS course is assessed by 50% internal controlled assessment and 50% written exam.

The A Level course is assessed by 50% internal controlled assessment and 50% written exam.

## Course Outline

The Design and Technology (Product Design) GCE course is designed to give students opportunities to engage in technological problems, realise quality solutions and produce quality working prototypes. This course is intended to be a progression from all areas of GCSE Design & Technology however, students who have followed Resistant Materials, Graphic Products or Electronic Components will have an advantage.

**Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology.** Students will be required to apply knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials, including modern and smart materials, and the industrial processes used in product design and manufacture. Students will also develop a full understanding of digital technologies along with a full understanding of the influence that past designers and design movements have had on contemporary design. Students will also have a full appreciation of the wider issues in design and technology including, the social, moral, ethical and environmental impact that technological developments, both current and historical, have had on society.

**Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project.** The purpose of this component is to undertake a substantial design, make and evaluate project which will test students' skills in designing and making a functioning prototype. Students are required to individually and/or in consultation with a client identify a problem and design context from which they develop a range of potential solutions and then realise one through practical making activities. The project must allow candidates to apply knowledge and understanding in a product development process to design, make and evaluate prototypes.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

This is a two year course and will result in a full GCE at the end of two years of study (there is no AS after the completion of year one). Students considering this course will need to be capable of following it through to completion and therefore be highly motivated and able to demonstrate a high level of ability in Design & Technology but most importantly display an interest and passion for design and manufacturing.

## Why study Product Design?

The manufactured world would be a far less interesting without the influence of designers. Designers influence the way we dress, the homes we live in, the food we eat, the cars we buy, the TV we watch and the newspapers and magazines we read. As a society we all rely on a wide range of products for survival and for making our lives comfortable, and it is the few creative and innovative people who have the biggest influence on our lives without us even realising it.

By following this course at A Level and then onto degree level at university, many students will pursue excellent and rewarding careers within the Design and Technology sector and by undertaking the A Level Product Design course at Highams Park 6th Form you will be given the foundation for further study in a wide range of Design related courses at university and a resulting future career.

Some design related facts (source Design Council at <http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/>). The current UK design sector is made up of:

- 12,450 design consultancies employing 60,900 designers and 348,300 non-designers.
- 47,400 self-employed and freelance designers.
- 77,100 in-house designers in 5,900 businesses with at least 100 or more employees.
- 31% of design businesses are based in London - that's 20,436 businesses.



## Assessments

**Component 1:** Principles of Design and Technology:  
Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes,  
120 marks & 50% of the qualification.

**Component 2:** Independent Design and Make Project:  
Non-examined, internally assessed,  
120 marks & 50% of the qualification.

All components will be assessed at the end of the second year.

## Course Outline

This two year course is an examination of Drama and Theatre throughout history and requires students to develop their skills as a director, designer and performer. Whilst there are some performance tasks, this is not solely an acting course and students must be prepared to undertake independent research and develop an understanding of how theatre relates to the societies and time frames in which it was, and is, created.

**Unit 1: Drama and Theatre.** You will explore and study two set plays, from contrasting areas of theatre history, both practically and theoretically. You will also visit the theatre and develop the skills to evaluate live theatre analytically. You will then apply this knowledge to a written exam.

**Unit 2: Creating Original Theatre.** You will explore the work of one theatre practitioner (Brecht, Berkoff or Artaud). You will then research, develop, devise and perform your own piece of theatre from a clear stimulus.

**Unit 3: Making Theatre.** You will explore three plays practically. For two plays, you will perform a small extract, for one play you will take part in a larger group performance, which will be performed to an invited audience and practical examiner.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

An interest and willingness to perform is essential! However, this is not a solely acting course, you need to be prepared to watch, analyse, discuss and approach lots of different aspects of theatre.

## Why study Drama & Theatre Studies?

Drama and Theatre Studies A Level is accepted as an entrance qualification to all universities.

- Some students continue to study degrees in different areas of the Performing Arts, alternatively Drama and Theatre Studies degrees can be combined with other subjects leading to a BA Honours degree.
- Many students use the skills from this course to gain employment in the creative industry, which is one of the biggest growing employment sectors in the UK.

Whatever career you pursue, an A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies will develop clear transferable skills and enhance your employability within any field.

- Empathy, teamwork, following direction, public speaking, creativity, resilience, project management, problem solving, leadership, negotiation, memory, confident, communication, responding to feedback, listening.

## Assessments

The A Level course is assessed by 30% internal controlled assessment, 30% by external visiting examiner and 40% written exam.



\*When attending external workshops students are allowed to wear non-school uniform



## Course Outline

Economics looks at how societies deal with the scarcity of resources and the role of government in dealing with the economic problems that stem from this. Microeconomics considers the rationale behind the behaviour of consumers and firms, whilst macroeconomics investigates issues such as inflation, unemployment and international trade. Students will apply economic theories and concepts to current issues such as Austerity, the EU financial crisis, financial markets, global warming, globalisation and the growing inequality in modern economies.

Economics is the branch of social science that deals with the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services, and their management, alongside the various related problems of labour, finance, taxation, etc. You don't need to have studied the subject before to be successful.

The AS course is divided into two discrete areas of study:

1. **Microeconomics:** involving scarcity & choice, markets (demand & supply), resource allocation and market failure.
2. **Macroeconomics:** involving macroeconomic objectives, aggregate demand & aggregate supply, policy instruments and international trade.

At A Level these themes are explored in greater detail.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

The course requires a good standard of English and Maths. Students are encouraged to develop an awareness of business topics which can be used as examples in written work. Students do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE.

## Why study Economics?

Economics is a highly respected subject at A Level, which provides a useful background for a wide variety of degree choices. These include: Banking and Finance, Accounting, Management Science and Law. It can also lead to many well paid careers in the city, such as international or corporate banking, trading in the commodities or money markets, stock broking, as well as careers in the media, advertising, accounting, charity work, government, and business consultancy. Economics combines well with an unusually wide range of A Levels, providing increased breadth and relevance to a Science or Art option. Especially worthwhile combinations with AS Economics, Mathematics, History or Politics. Students who intend to study Economics at university should also take AS/A level Mathematics, which is a requirement for most economics degree courses.

## Assessments

The AS and A Level exams are 100% exam based.

The AS Level exam consists of the first two papers (Unit 1 Microeconomics & Unit 2 Macroeconomics) and contains multiple choice, short answer and extended answer (essay) questions. Each paper is worth 50% of your mark.

The A Level exam consists of all three papers at the end of the two year course with similar content to the AS exam but longer essay questions. Each of the three papers is worth a third of your final grade.

## Course Outline

English Language will enable you to develop your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of English.

### Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

We will start by exploring and understanding spoken and written language in use, analysing textual variation and representations in everyday spoken and written texts. You will consider the huge linguistic diversity that exists within these texts, as well as what factors contribute to the language varieties. One factor that will be prominent is the dynamic and ever changing nature of language. This paper comprises two sections.

**Section A** consists of three questions. The first two questions will require you to analyse a text each; one of the texts to be analysed will be contemporary and the other will be an older text. The third question will require you to compare the two texts. One of the elements to consider with the older text and with the comparison question will be one of language change, both contextually and linguistically.

**Section B** requires you to write a discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of questions where the data will focus on spoken, written and multi-modal language.

### Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

You will explore a range of language topics, including occupational groups, gender, social groups, accent and dialect, global English and ethnicity. You will also be exposed to different attitudes held about many different aspects of language in use, focusing on the techniques used by writers to convey their viewpoint on a language topic linked to diversity and change. You will also be given opportunities to consider and voice your own attitudes and opinions.

**Section A** gives you a choice of two questions, requiring you to write an evaluative essay on either language diversity or language change. For this section of the exam there will be no springboard text for you to use, instead you will be expected to draw upon your understanding of key concepts and theories surrounding language use and recall examples from texts studied in class.

**Section B** will present you with two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change, and you will be required to analyse how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions. You will also be required to complete a directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts provided.

### Non-exam Assessment: Language in Action

You will produce two pieces of writing. In the first you will investigate and analyse a language topic using data through a variety of methods. This investigation may be chosen from topics covered during the course. For the second piece you will be given the opportunity to produce a piece of original writing with an accompanying commentary.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

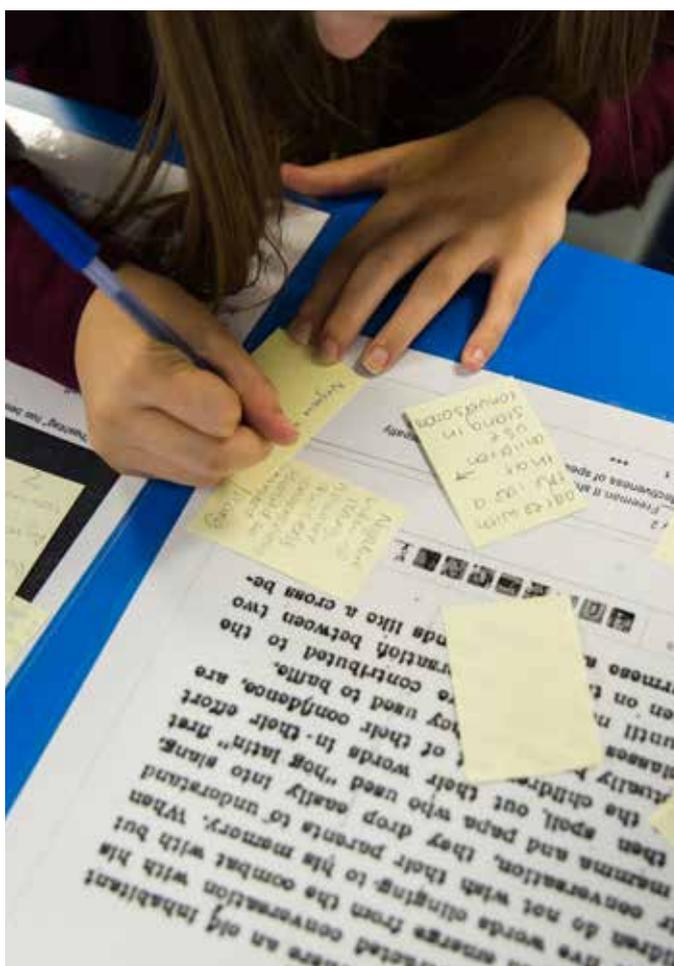
The course suits those with an aptitude for English Language and those who enjoy analysing a wide range of texts from everyday sources. Strong writing and analytical skills are required.

## Why study English Language?

English Language links particularly well with other Arts subjects such as English Literature, Media Studies, Film Studies and Sociology. The breadth of the course means that it complements many other subjects including, for instance: History, Theatre Studies and Psychology. The breadth, depth and diversity of English Language will complement a range of Higher Education courses and may be of value to those seeking employment within Journalism, Publishing and Advertising.

## Assessments

The A Level also consists of two papers, each with a duration of 2 hours 30 minutes. Each paper is worth 40% of the A Level with a non-examination component, which is worth 20%.



## Course Outline

A level Literature focuses on different ways of reading and on the connections which exist between texts. Our specification (AQA B) is based on the genres of Tragedy and Crime Writing. In the exam there are two papers and also a Non Exam Assessment (NEA).

### Paper One - Aspects of tragedy

You will study Othello, Death of a Salesman and the narrative poems of John Keats.

### Paper Two - Elements of Crime Writing

The crime writing texts are Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, Kate Atkinson's *When Will There Be Good News?* and a selection of crime-related poetry.

The A-Level Course also contains a Non Exam Assessment (NEA), which aims to encourage you to develop your passion for literature independently, through a range of critical frameworks. You will produce two pieces of writing on two separate texts, applying two different critical frameworks to them. This process is supported by the AQA Critical anthology, which has accessible extracts on the following critical methods and ideas:

- Narrative theory
- Feminist theory
- Marxist theory
- Eco-critical theory
- Post-colonial theory
- Literary value and the canon.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

The course is designed for students who enjoy reading and who enjoy the study of Literature. You will need good analytical skills and the ability to write coherent essays.

## Why study English Literature?

English Literature is classified as a facilitating subject by The Russell Group (a group representing 24 leading UK Universities). This means it is a subject more frequently required for entry to degree courses than others. Choosing English Literature at advanced level leaves open a wide range of options for university study.

## Assessments

The A level qualification is 80% exam based, 20% non-exam assessment (NEA)

### Paper One: Aspects of tragedy

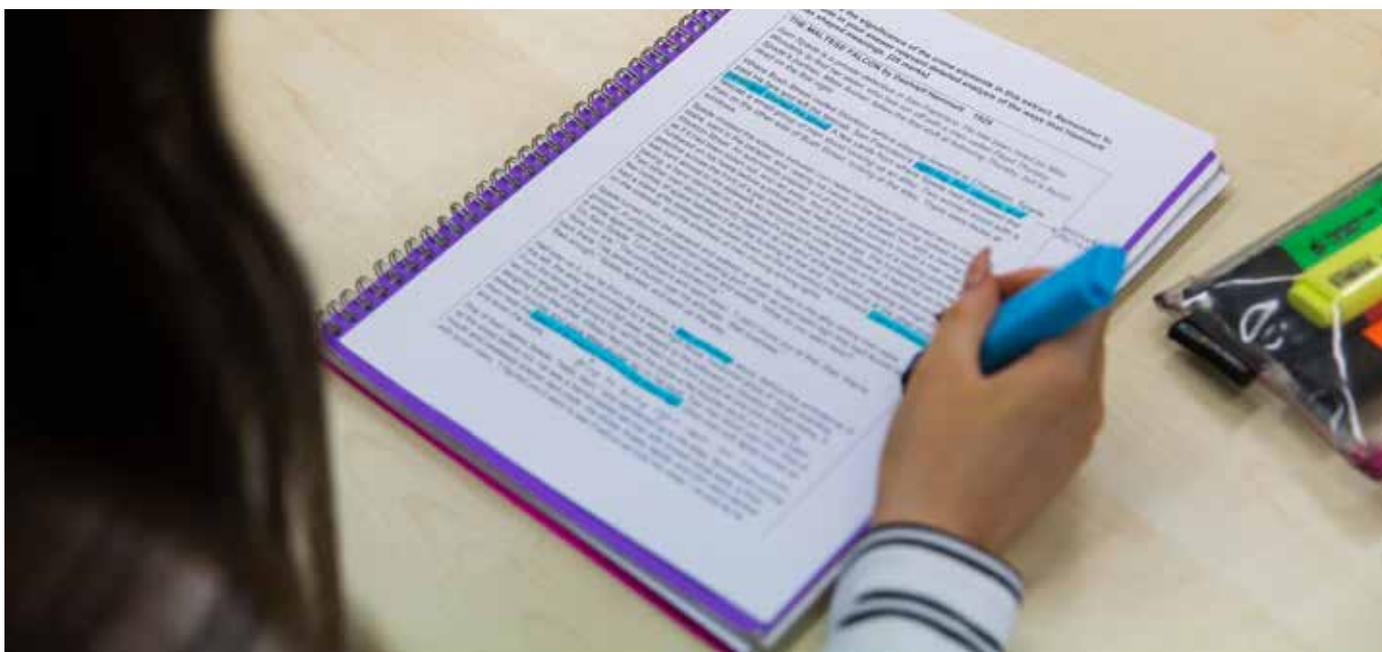
- Two hour closed book examination
- One passage and one essay based question on Shakespeare
- One essay based question linking other two tragedy texts
- 40% of A level

### Paper Two: Elements of Crime Writing

- Three hour open book examination
- One passage based question on unseen text
- Two other essay questions, one on a set text, one linking other two texts
- 40% of A level

### Non-Exam Assessment

Two essays of 1250-1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology.





## Course Outline

Throughout the course you will study a variety of film styles, movements and genres across 12 film texts. The films will encompass global, European, British and, of course, American cinema. They will present you not only with an exciting array of viewpoints and stories but they will also serve as inspiration for your own filmmaking. Your production brief will be established early in the course and, as you study the various film texts, you will begin to incorporate ideas and plan to use techniques you've seen on screen in the preparation and planning of your own short film.

You will also explore a number of theoretical concepts through the analysis of the film texts. From the conflicting concepts that make up the study of 'spectatorship' to the application of auteur theory and representation, you will aim to develop a real confidence with film theory.

### The Syllabus overview is as follows:

**Component 1:** American and British film – This component assesses knowledge and understanding of six feature-length films. Section A: Classical Hollywood. Section B: Hollywood since the 1960s (two-film study). Section C: Contemporary American independent film. Section D: British film (comparative study).

**Component 2:** Varieties of film – This component assesses knowledge and understanding of five feature-length films and one compilation of short films. Section A: Film movements (two-film study). Section B: Documentary film. Section C: Global film (two-film study). Section D: Short film.

**Component 3:** Production Non-exam assessment – This component assesses one production and its evaluative analysis. Learners produce: either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) and a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay and an evaluative analysis (1250-1500 words).

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Ideally, you will have a genuine interest or passion for film, though a curiosity and a willingness to develop a passion for film is enough. You will need to be prepared to watch a range of films and grasp a range of new concepts. Assessment is predominantly essay based so good written skills are important.

## Why study Film Studies?

The most significant artistic development of the last 200 years, film is everywhere; from multiplexes to your iPhone; from independent art-house cinemas to your Netflix subscription; from Sight and Sound magazine to the gossip columns of the tabloids. There is no other art-form that transcends so many boundaries to invade our lives in quite the way that film does. And yet, at the heart of all the gossip, the popcorn and the merchandise is a complex and beautiful way of telling stories that, once you begin to scratch beyond the surface, becomes even more exciting and intriguing. Film Studies is a wonderful companion course for any of the English-based subjects. It helps you to develop close analytical skills, critical thinking skills and essay writing skills. Film Studies also compliments art, and the humanities. Every year we send plenty of students off to study Film at University. Film Studies is a great course for pupils wishing to work within the film industry but also for those who want to study a range of degrees at University.

## Assessments

70% exam (2 Papers, 35% each) and 30% NEA (Non Examined Assessment) film production.

## Course Outline

The French AS/A Level course is the perfect way to continue with a language, either as a full A Level or as an AS Level accompaniment to other subjects. It is the route to language specialism and can also enhance your career prospects.

Following on from what you have learnt at GCSE level in AS French you use the language as a tool to express complex ideas and points of view about the topics studied on the course.

Some of the topics covered in Year 12 and 13 are:

- Political and artistic culture in French speaking countries
- Social change in French speaking countries
- Study of a French novel
- Study of a French film

The emphasis of the course is developing listening and reading skills as well as becoming able to speak and write fluently and with a high level of grammatical accuracy about the topics studied.

On top of these topics, you are encouraged to explore French culture through films, music and literary works.

## Required Individual Study

During the course, on top of the time dedicated to homework, you will be expected to learn vocabulary and revise grammar on a weekly basis. Moreover, you should immerse yourself within the language by reading French newspapers, listening to French radio or watch a video or a film in French.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

To be successful students need to show genuine commitment and interest in all aspects of the language and culture of the country.

Before starting AS French, you should have a good grasp of basic tenses and grammar.

## Why study French?

Studying modern languages will give you excellent and varied career opportunities and life-long skills. Language skills are in short supply and can be used in almost any job. Studying a language clearly makes you an effective communicator, both orally and in writing.

French AS and A Level combine well with essay based subjects like English, History and Philosophy but it is also an ideal subject to balance out a mathematics or science course.

With an A Level in French you can do a degree in Modern Languages with another language or a mixed degree involving French e.g. Law and French, Biology and French. A Level qualifications in Languages are well regarded by employers and universities even if you are not going to study a language further.

## Assessments

The AS and A Level exams are 100% exam based.

### The AS Level exam consists of:

A reading, listening and writing exam - 45% of AS grade.

A written exam (an essay on a film or a novel studied and grammar) -25% of AS grade.

Oral exam (a discussion based on 2 stimulus cards) – 30% of AS grade.

### The A Level exam consists of:

A reading, listening and writing exam - 50% of A Level grade.

A written exam (two essays on a novel and a film studied and grammar) – 20% of A level grade.

Oral exam (a discussion based on a stimulus card and presentation and discussion of individual research project) – 30% of A level grade.



## Course Outline

Components within the A Level in geography will consist of;

### Physical systems

The Physical systems component is built around two main topics, Landscape Systems and Earth's Life Support Systems. Learners will explore one chosen landscape from three options, coastal landscapes, glaciated landscapes and dryland landscapes, as well as Earth's Life Support Systems, which encompasses the water and carbon cycles vital to our planet.

### Human systems

Learners will explore Human interactions through the study of Global Connections, with a choice between focusing on the systems of trade or migration and the governance of human rights or sovereignty on a global scale, and Changing Spaces; Making Places.

### Geographical debates

Geographical debates allow learners to explore in depth two from a choice of five of the most challenging, dynamic and fascinating issues of the 21st century. With choices between such wide-ranging topic areas as climate change, disease, food security, oceans and tectonic hazards, there are debates to appeal to all with the implications on people and the environment being at the heart of this component.

### Investigative geography

The Investigative geography component allows learners to undertake an independent investigation linked to any aspect of the specification. This component is designed to encourage learners to deepen their knowledge and understanding of their chosen topic whilst developing a number of geographical and study skills relevant to Higher Education or within the world of work.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

To get a top grade you will need to read around the subject in newspapers and through magazine and internet articles. TV and radio documentaries are a rich source of current issues too.

## Why study geography?

Geography education should encourage learners to develop a sense of wonder about the world. Geography is potentially the most relevant subject for any learner in the 21st century.

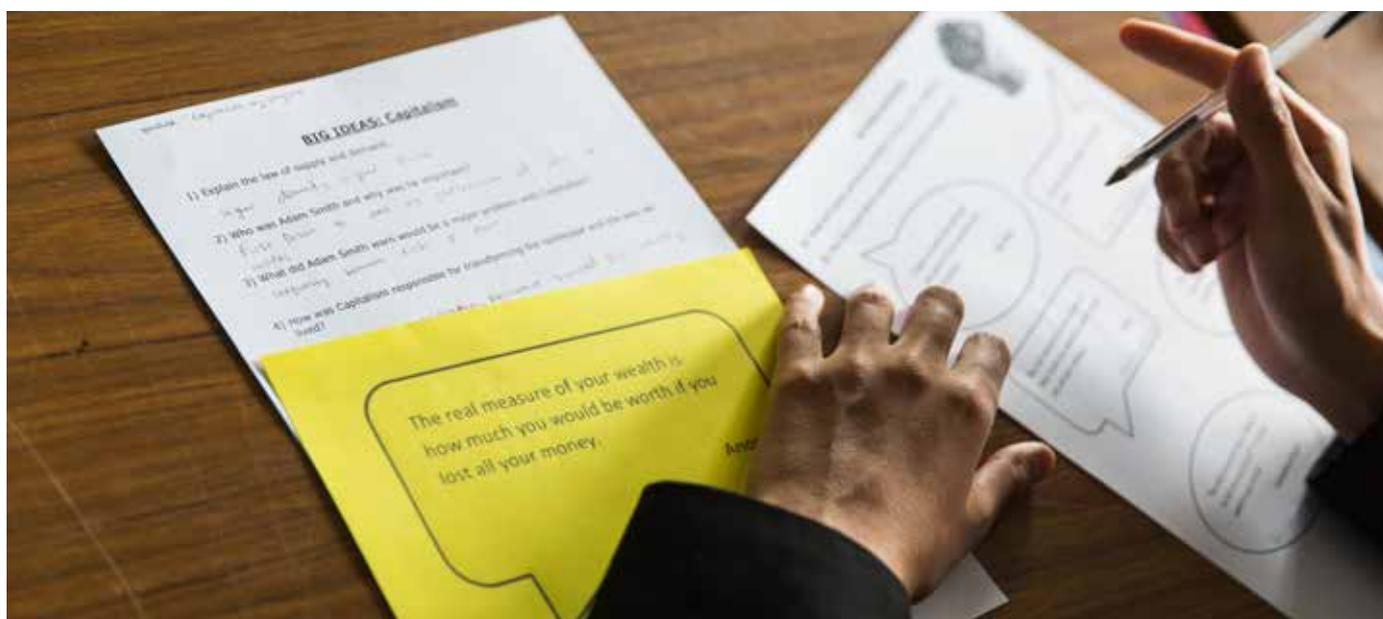
For careers in the world of Business, an understanding of Global Economics forms an important part of geography. If you are thinking of a career in Law, Human Rights, International Relations or Welfare then geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant issues such as; How do we measure development? What are the consequences of migration on societies?

If you are working towards a future course in Medicine or Veterinary Medicine then geography is a good choice to give your A Level options the breadth that universities seek, as you will gain a clear understanding of how the environment affects health and survival of people, animals and ecosystems as well as enhancing your skills of writing essays and extended reports.

Of course many A Level students do not yet have a clear idea of what kind of career they might want to pursue. If you are in this position, remember that geography as an A Level gives you the chance to keep your options open as it covers both arts and science components. It is quite likely that when you choose geography your classmates will all be doing different combinations of A Level subjects – this adds to the interest when it comes to discussions on issues as everyone will have very different ways of thinking and expressing their opinions.

## Assessments

This specification consists of three written examinations with each including a combination of short-answer and extended response and essay questions. The independent investigation may relate to any aspect of the specification. It is a non-examined written report.



## Course Outline

Politics exists because people disagree. They disagree about how they should live (moral questions), about who should get what (resource questions) and about who should make decisions (power questions). Politics seeks to establish the general rules under which we live and it is those rules that make orderly existence possible. As such, politics is the most basic and necessary of social activities - without orderly existence, society will degenerate into a civil war of each against all.

### During Year 12 you will study the following units:

- UK Politics
- UK Government
- UK Politics with Core ideologies; Conservatism, Socialism and Liberalism

### During Year 13 you will study the following units:

- UK Government and the role of Feminism
- Comparative studies in Global Politics

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

An interest in Government and Politics and the willingness to read around the subject is essential. A genuine interest in current affairs is a key to success. Regular viewings of 'Question Time' and 'Newsnight' will provide a sound basis for progression at all levels. Good written and verbal communication skills will ensure enjoyment and provide a structure for examination success. Government and Politics is likely to

suit students who:

- Have an interest in the world around them - ones who want to know more about the society they live in, how it works and how it could work.
- Enjoy debate, discussion and argument - ones who are comfortable with the fact that in politics there are no simple 'rights' or 'wrongs'.
- Like to think for themselves - ones who want to develop their own views, rather than accept the views of others.

## Why study Government and Politics?

The short answer is that everyone should study politics - all members of society should have a better understanding of the general rules under which they live. For these rules to be effective, as many people as possible should actively participate in making them, upholding them and maybe, changing them. Government and Politics is a great companion to studying: History, Sociology, English Language, English Literature, Psychology and Philosophy.

## Assessments

### A Level - Three 120 minute examinations in June of Year 13.

Each of the three papers is worth a third of your final grade.



## Course Outline

BTEC in Health and Social Care embodies a fundamentally learner-centred approach to the curriculum, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied in project-based assessments. They focus on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education.

### A number of topics are studied including 6 mandatory units and 2 optional units including:

- Human Lifespan Development Working in Health and Social Care
- Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care
- Sociological Perspectives
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social
- Psychological Perspectives
- Promoting Public Health
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

The BTEC National Diploma is equivalent to two A Levels and use a combination of assessment styles to give students the confidence they can apply their knowledge to succeed in this this subject.

### Entrance requirements and skills needed

The course is practical and you will need to have independent

learning skills as well as be able to work with others, be able to research, plan and organise your work and be able to meet clear deadlines. Health and Social Care lessons incorporate a range of activities including case studies, group work, discussions, presentations, role play and using ICT applications.

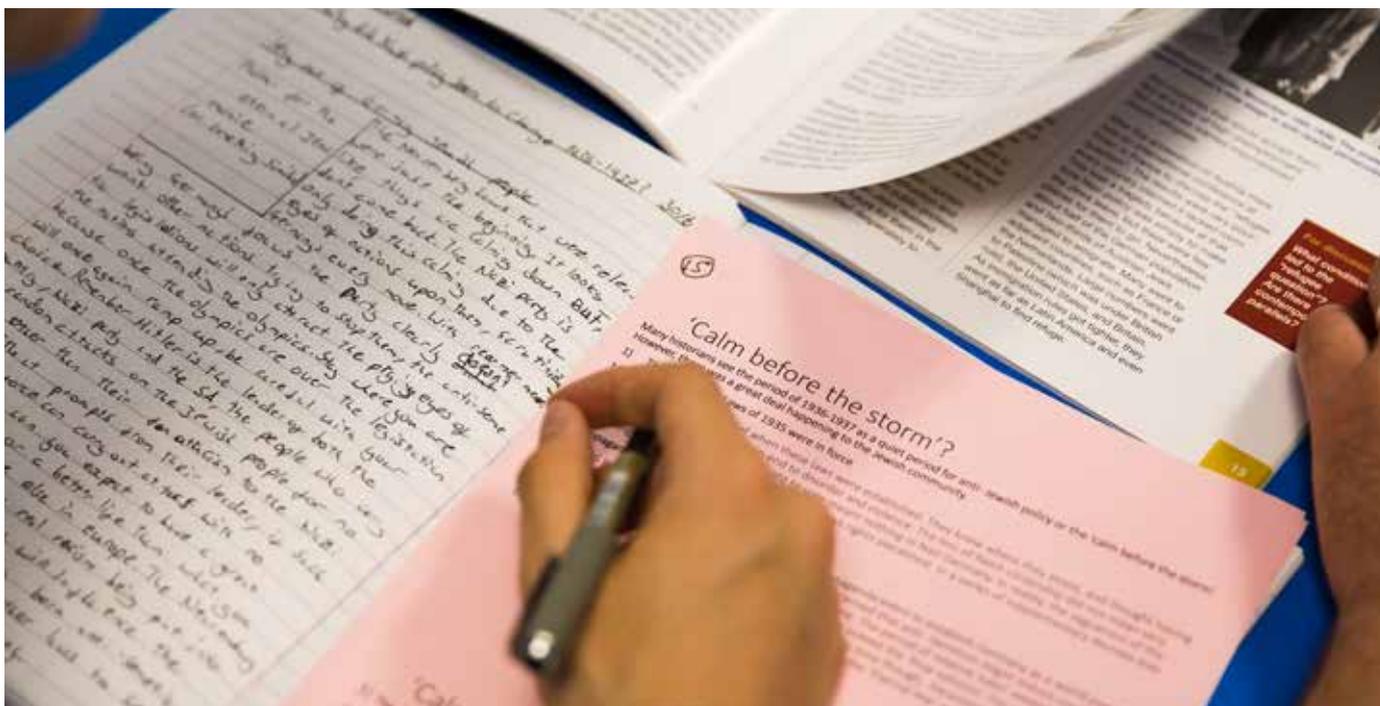
### Why study Health & Social Care BTEC

This subject is ideal for students wishing to go into the following fields: Medical including nursing, Ambulance paramedic or technician, Health visitor, Midwife, Social Services including Youth worker, Social worker, Education Welfare Officer, Teaching.

### Assessments

The department staff will assess your work and you will be given a final grade, that will be equivalent to A Levels and which have UCAS points. The grades range from Distinction\*Distinction\* (equivalent to A\*A\* at A Level) to Double Pass (equivalent to CC). The assessments are divided into 3 types; 2 externally assessed exams, 1 externally assessed written task and 8 units with internally assessed coursework tasks. Coursework can include written assignment work, team working activities and presentations.





## Course Outline

The History A Level course is suitable for students who wish to develop their skills of analysis and interpretation. The aim of the course is to study a range of topics and concepts, that have shaped our world. You will develop analytical and research skills, prized highly by universities and industry. The skills and knowledge you will develop compliment a range of other subjects.

**Unit 1** – ‘Britain Transformed 1918-97’ – including popular culture & entertainment

**Unit 2** – ‘The USA 1955-92 Conformity and Challenge’ – including the Vietnam War

**Unit 3** – ‘The Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America 1580-1750’

**Unit 4** – A coursework unit looking at a major historical controversy on Germany 1933-45

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

An interest in History and the willingness to read around the subject is essential. Good written communication skills and the ability to read fluently with good understanding are also required. You need to

have a keen and enquiring mind to evaluate conflicting opinions and formulate coherent arguments.

Students will develop the ability to provide complex explanations to key events and to critique the evidence they are interrogating. We encourage debate and require students to be able to speak clearly and with confidence.

## Why study History?

- To make sense of the world today and to understand people and their situations.
- To develop important intellectual skills, for example to develop thinking, common learning and organising skills which can help other subjects. This will help you make decisions about your future and explore historical questions.
- It is a ‘facilitating subject’ – highly valued by universities. History students go on to become Lawyers, Journalists, Writers, Managers, Teachers, Publishers, Leaders and Politicians. Employers respect and value the knowledge and skills developed in studying History.

## Assessments

This Edexcel course is comprised of 3 exam papers and 1 piece of coursework. Paper 1 looks at change in Britain 1918-97 with a special interpretations focus on the impact of Margaret Thatcher’s governments and is worth 30% of the overall A-level grade. Paper 2 is worth 20% of the A-level grade and considers the idea of conformity and challenge in the USA 1955-92, complimenting Paper 1 particularly well. Paper 3 looks at the unique period in European and North American history when thousands of women

were accused of and persecuted for the crime of witchcraft. This paper is worth 30% of the overall grade. All three papers require students to write structured and well supported essays and involve an element of source and/ or interpretations analysis. The coursework, which is worth 20% of the A-level grade, involves the undertaking of individual research and interpretation on a matter of historical controversy which culminates in a 4,000 word essay.

## Course Outline

The AQA Technical in Networking & Technical Support is an advanced level, known as a Level 3 qualification. It is designed to provide a specialist work-related qualification. It gives learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare them for employment.

An AQA Level 3 qualification in Technical Support is equivalent to one A Level and is accepted for future studies in further education at university (up to 56 UCAS tariff points). The AQA IT Networking qualification is equivalent to 2 A levels (up to 112 UCAS Tariff points). An AQA guide for parents and learners can be found on the exam board's website.

Students are given the opportunity to learn advanced features of Spreadsheets, Web design and Databases. The course is presented with a practical bias, although there is a significant theory element, covering aspects such as how IT is used, the importance and value of information, the impact that IT has had on society and the legislation relating to IT.



Course	Equivalence	Number of Units	Number of Exams
AQA Technical Support	1 A Level	4	2 Exams, & 2 coursework units
AQA IT Networking & Cisco Networking	2 A Levels	8	3 Exams & 5 Coursework units

## Why study ICT?

Information Technology is used in areas as diverse as manufacturing, education and medicine and IT skills are valued in virtually all areas of business and society. IT familiarises you with using computers for a purpose, which is a skill, which is becoming more and more useful in a world with more and more technology.

Information Technology is offered by universities either as a subject in its own right or in combination with a wide range of subjects, e.g. IT & Psychology; IT & Business; IT & Multimedia. The advanced skills you will develop will also be valuable in gaining many types of employment.

### Students said:

*"There are a range of things we do in ICT, from designing websites to creating databases for businesses. It's a hands-on and very technical subject, which you will really enjoy..."*

**Ayo-Year 13 student**

*"The support we gained from the teachers was very helpful in many ways, allowing us to keep track with the necessary deadlines. The subject is very enjoyable even though hard work and effort is essential. I strongly recommend this subject as it does teach students to become more independent, which will be useful for life after school..."*

**Michael - Year 13 student**

*"I believe that studying ICT will give me a solid basis for life after school and utilising the skills I have learnt in ICT will prepare me for work in the graphics industry..."*

**Harry - Year 12 student**

## Assessments

Each unit is equally weighted whether it is exam or coursework based.

## Course Outline

The Mathematics A Level course is suitable for students who wish to develop their interest in the study of pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics. The aim of the course is to enable you to study mathematical theories, concepts, modelling and develop your skills of analysis, interpretation, evaluation and application to modelling and problem solving.

**Pure Mathematics** - Includes learning about number and algebra, graphs, geometry, differentiation and integration.

**Applied Mathematics** – This unit includes both the applied modules of statistics: different methods of analysing data and mechanics: applying forces, motions and tension of particles and objects.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Students need to be genuinely interested in mathematics and have mastered the knowledge, understanding and skills required at GCSE mathematics higher level, particularly in algebra, surds, fractions and indices. Students also need to be able to confidently apply these skills to problem solving questions.

## Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is one of the most fundamental and general subjects that you can study. Although it may sometimes be difficult to see immediately the relevance of maths to a future career and perhaps to subjects you intend to study later, Maths gives you a grounding for any subject and is itself a prerequisite for many others.

For a degree in Maths, Statistics, Physics, Engineering or Actuarial Science, for example, you will almost certainly have to have a good Maths A Level and possibly a Further Maths A Level.

If you are thinking of looking for a job straight after A Levels, Maths is a great core subject. The ability to understand and manipulate numbers and mathematical concepts is extremely useful for almost any job. In particular, it is vital for careers involving Finance, Statistics, Engineering, Computers, Teaching, Medicine and Accountancy. A report from the Times Educational Supplement stated that 'Young people with A Level Maths earn 10 per cent more than their

mathematically challenged counterparts.'

Mathematics is not an easy option at A level but it is a valuable, worthwhile and interesting qualification that opens many doors for further studies or career choices.

## Assessments

### AS and A Level Mathematics: 100% exam based

The AS exam consists of two papers at the end of the one-year course.

**Paper 1:** Pure Mathematics: 67% of your grade.

**Paper 2:** Applied Mathematics: 33% of your grade.

The A Level exam consists of three papers at the end of the two-year course.

**Paper 1 & 2:** Pure Mathematics 1 & 2: each paper worth 33% of your grade.

**Paper 3:** Applied Mathematics: 33% of your grade.

### AS and A Level Further Mathematics: 100% exam based

Further Maths students will cover the A level Maths course and so will sit full A level Maths exams in Year 12:

**Paper 1:** Pure 1 & 2 (33% of grade)

**Paper 2:** Pure 1 & 2 (33%)

**Paper 3:** Statistics & Mechanics 1& 2 (34%)

In Year 13, the Further Maths content will be taught and the Further Maths exams will be sat in the summer of 2020:

**Paper 1:** Further Pure 1 (25% of grade)

**Paper 2:** Further Pure 2 (25%)

**Paper 3:** Further Mechanics(25%)

**Paper 4:** Decision Maths (25%)



## Course Outline

Core Maths is for those who want to maintain and further develop valuable maths skills, but who are not planning on taking AS or A-Level mathematics. At Highams Park the course is structured over 1 year at the end of which you will have attained a Level 3 qualification.

In Core Maths what you study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis in work, study or life and in particular the course includes a financial maths element. It will also help with other A-Level subjects – in particular with science, geography, business studies, psychology and economics. The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education; studying Core Maths will enable you to offer these skills to a wide range of sectors. It is common knowledge that students who continue to study maths after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning prospects.

## Why study Core Maths?

Core Maths enables you to improve your knowledge of maths and understand how to apply it to real world situations. Core Maths builds upon the work you have covered in GCSE and will also support you in many other subjects you may study in Sixth Form. It will also provide you with the key mathematical and problem solving skills so valued by employers and further education institutions.

The qualification equips learners to apply for university, employment or higher apprenticeships or professional training in a wide range of sectors, and offers a fresh experience with adult, context-based problem solving tasks. It will give you the mathematical skills that will take you anywhere you want to go.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

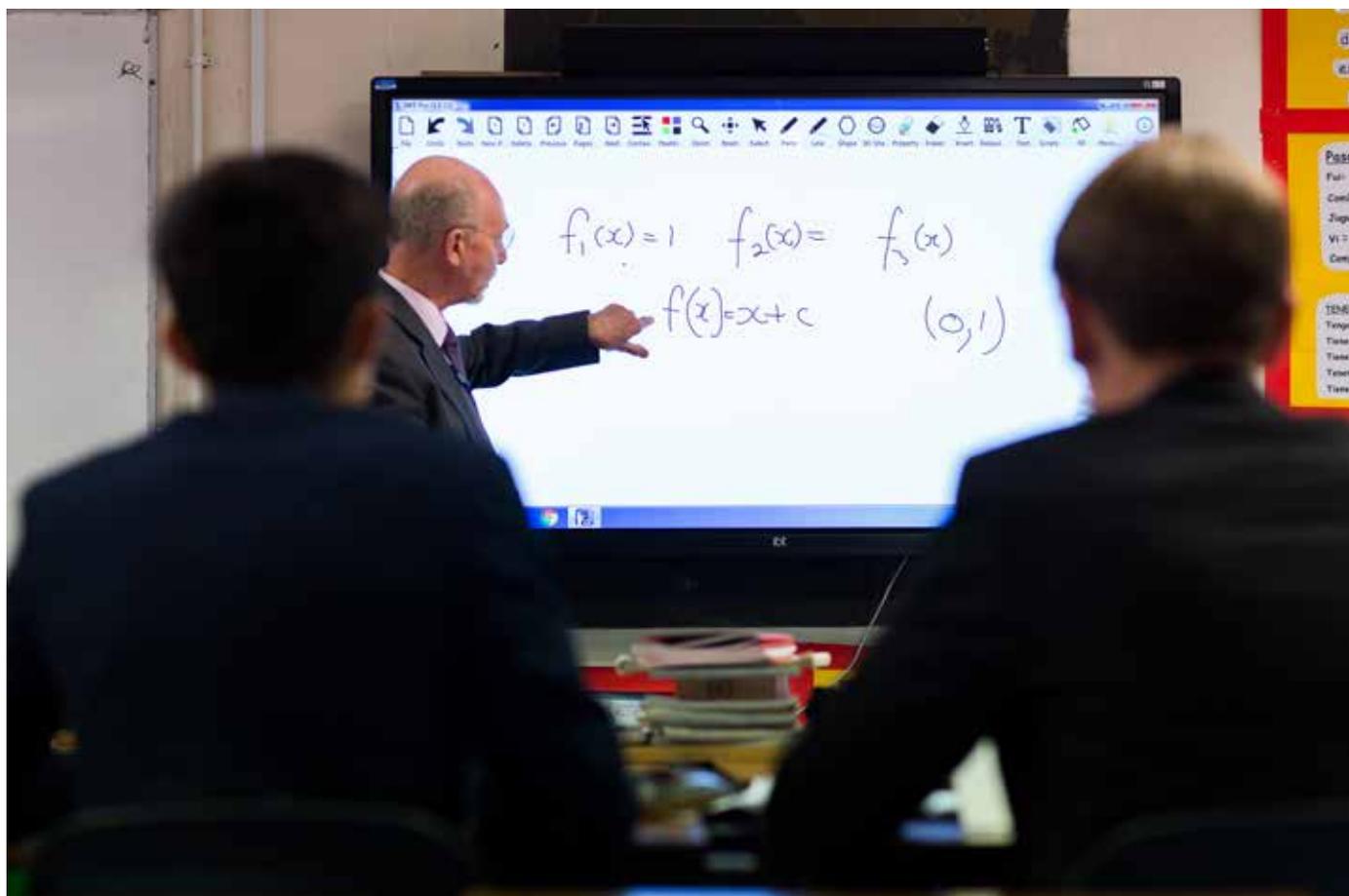
Students will need to have a secure knowledge of GCSE content as this is built on in Core Maths. Students should also have an interest in learning about how mathematics is applied in the real world.

## Assessments

The Course is entirely assessed through two 100-minute examinations

**Paper 1 - Comprehension:** involves answering questions on two real-life scenarios from a data set that will be available and studied before the exam.

**Paper 2 - Applications:** is a more traditional exam paper where you can demonstrate the mathematical and problem solving skills you have developed.



## Course Outline

The Media Studies A Level course will enable you to develop your understanding and appreciation of a variety of different media. We follow the OCR (H009/H047 2017) course, in Year 12 we will start by exploring the broad areas of Publishing, Film, Television and Radio and Computer Media. We will look at a number of Close Study Products set by the exam board during the year. Here we will analyse and explore how they are constructed and what impact they have. You will also research and plan a practical production using technical and creative skills. In Year 13 you will be introduced to a number of debates and theories relating to the Media. We will also analyse further Close Study Products through a more advanced theoretical framework. You will research an aspect of the Media and produce a more fully realised cross-platform production piece linked to your research.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

You will need the standard college requirements for entry. The course suits those with an interest in looking at a range of Media texts including TV, newspapers, magazines, films, Internet and the New Technologies.

You will be interested in exploring how media texts are made, and how they are received. You will enjoy creating your own Media Products and will be given assistance in doing this. Assessment is by both examination and coursework.

## Why study Media Studies?

Media Studies links particularly well with Business Studies and also Arts/Creative subjects such as Film Studies, English Literature and Language, Art and Design and Theatre Studies. The context of the course means that it complements many other subjects including, for instance: History, Sociology and Psychology. Media Studies will complement a range of Higher Education courses and may be of value to those seeking employment in areas of the Media, Business, Advertising, Publishing and Film and Television.

## Assessments

### A Level

There are two 2 hour written papers accounting for 70% of the marks. The first paper worth 35% will focus on close study products related to News, Media language techniques and Representation. The second paper also worth 35% will focus on analysis of Close Study Products relating to Long form Television Drama, Media Industries and Audiences. The non-exam assessment is worth 30% where students produce cross-media products for an intended audience from a choice provided by OCR.



## Course Outline

You hear music every day of our lives and it is woven into the fabric of our society, want to make a career out of it? You should be a dedicated musician, willing to do lots of practice and performance and listen to a wide range of music, from classical to film to popular. The course is designed to develop students' musical skill and understanding in terms of performing, composing and listening to and appreciating music from a wide range of genre. We follow the full 2 year course with all examinations and coursework being submitted at the end of the two-year course. Thus there are 3 components to follow:

**Component 1: Performing (30% of total A level mark)** - This unit builds on earlier skills learnt in the course of 8 minutes as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble in a musical style of your choice. You can perform using any instrument or voice.

**Component 2: Composition (30% of total A level mark)** - This unit has two sections; composition and a technical study. The composition section builds on skills learnt earlier in the course, leading to the creation of a 4 minute minimum piece of music in response to a free or free choice brief. The technical study is a new skill not learnt for GCSE. You will study how to harmonise a chorale in the style of J S Bach. A total time of six minutes is required for both pieces.

**Component 3: Appraising (40% of total A level mark)** - This section continues to focus on listening to both familiar and unfamiliar music and analysing how it works. You will study set works from a music anthology, identifying features of the work. You will be required to write two essays as well as other questions in this part of the examination and it will be assessed by a two hour exam.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

You will need the standard 6th Form requirements for entry that can be seen on page 8 in addition to the music requirements that can be seen there. There are numerous Music degrees with STEM subjects so when studying Physics and Music, both subjects will need to be taken at A level. The same applies to Maths and Music degrees.

## Why study Music?

Music generates billions of pounds each year with a vibrant industry in many different areas of society. There are also countless music careers that one can pursue with this academic subject's qualification.

- Music Performance (symphony orchestras, operas, jazz, rock, pop, theatre etc.)
- Music Education (teaching in schools, teaching privately)
- Music Therapy (using music as an aid to healing)
- Music Administration (managing symphonies orchestras, music societies, rock stars, etc)
- Composition (classical, rock, country, film music, advertising, etc.)
- Music Software Development including games
- Electronic Musical Instrument Engineering
- Recording Engineering including mixing, recording, sampling, building and repairing of electronic devices
- Record Production, Artist and Repertoire (A&R) and promotion
- Retail Music (selling music, instruments, and accessories)
- Film Music and Underscored Orchestration and Editing
- Music Publishing and Business
- Music app composition for phones and tablets
- Computer Game music composition



## Assessments

**In order to remain competitive, it is strongly recommended that a professional instrumental/vocal teacher guide you through the coursework requirements for component 1: Performing.**

The A Level exam is 30% performance coursework, 30% composition coursework and 40% written exam. Further information is contained in the Course Outline described earlier. The style and genres of music required to be studied in component 3 range from Vocal and Instrumental music, Music for Film, Popular music, Jazz and Fusions and New Directions. Composers include J. S. Bach, Mozart, Berlioz, Rachel Portman, The Beatles, Kate Bush, Debussy, John Cage, Stravinsky and Anoushka Shankar.



## Course Outline

The Philosophy AS/A Level course introduces students to some central philosophical ideas, how these ideas developed and their importance today. The course is divided into two parts with two exams at the end of the course.

**Year 12** Philosophy students will study Epistemology and Moral Philosophy. Epistemology is the study of knowledge itself: what knowledge is, whether we can have knowledge, how knowledge can be acquired and how it relates to truth, belief and justification. Moral Philosophy is a branch of philosophy that investigates questions such as “What is the best way for people to live?” and “What actions are right/wrong in particular circumstances?” The philosophical answers to these questions are then applied and tested against issues relating to stealing, eating animals, simulated killing, and telling lies.

**Year 13** Students will study Philosophy of Mind, which is a branch of Philosophy that studies the nature of the human mind and consciousness along with their relationship to the physical body, particularly the brain. In Metaphysics of God you will explore the concepts/nature of God, look at a few arguments for/against the existence of God that you may already have studied in GCSE Religious Education and question whether it makes sense at all to talk about God. In Metaphysics of God we will not study the belief of a particular religion.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Students need to have independent and inquisitive minds, good analytical skills and literacy skills. Students will be expected to read philosophical texts and follow complex arguments. They should be

able to evaluate their reading and support their own ideas effectively. For these reasons, Philosophy complements most areas of study.

## Why Study Philosophy?

Philosophy students are trained to think hard both critically and creatively.

- Skills in problem analysis and problem solving are fostered throughout the course.
- Communication skills are developed throughout the course, particularly when learning about and responding to philosophical concepts.
- Philosophy is looked at favourably by employers and academics alike. It assists in careers in government, business and the service professions.
- It is massively beneficial to careers in law, medicine and politics.
- Future studies can include further Philosophy, Theology, English, Psychology, Physics and Politics.

## Assessments

The AS and A Level exams are 100% exam based.

The AS level exam consists of one 3 hour exam.

The A Level exam consists of two 3 hour exams at the end of Year 13, one of the exams will have similar content to the AS exam. Each of the two papers is worth 50% of the final grade.

## Course Outline

Initial topics cover fundamental areas of Physics, such as motion, waves and electricity. Later topics include cutting edge Physics such as Particle Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology. These build on what has come before to give students a broad knowledge base, and allows progression to further study and the workplace, whether that involves Physics, Engineering, Maths or other related subjects.

**Paper 1: Working as a Physicist, Mechanics, Electric Circuits,** Further Mechanics, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Nuclear and Particle Physics.

**Paper 2: Working as a Physicist, Materials, Waves and the Particle Nature of Light,** Thermodynamics, Space, Nuclear Radiation, Gravitational Fields, Oscillations.

(Note: the topics in bold are assessed in the standalone AS exams in Year 12)

**Paper 3:** General and Practical Principles in Physics – **All topics** across the full A level specification. Half of the paper will also focus on testing students' knowledge and understanding of practical skills and techniques.

**Core practicals:** The above exam papers will feature questions allowing students to demonstrate investigative skills in the context of 16 core practicals carried out through the two years. Students' skills and technical competency when completing practical work will be assessed by teachers. Note: we have always and will continue to carry out way more practicals than these 16 practicals required by the exam board.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

A genuine interest in Physics, coupled with good problem solving skills and a sound mathematical background.

## Why study Physics?

### What are the progression opportunities?

Do you enjoy the challenge of trying to explain how the world around us works? Are you always asking your science teacher questions which don't necessarily have much to do with the lesson? If so, then physics may be the subject for you. As well as satisfying this intellectual curiosity, A level physics will also provide you with problem solving skills that are highly valued whatever your future ambitions, whether in further education or in the workplace. It is this ability to analyse problems and use their knowledge that makes physicists highly sought after in many areas of business and finance as well as more traditional science occupations.

## Enrichment

**ORBYTS** – Original Research By Young Twinkle Students. ORBYTS links young PhD and post-doc scientists from UCL with groups of students to work on original research associated with the Twinkle mission.

**Isaac Physics** – we make extensive use of this University of Cambridge problem solving online resource.

**British Physics Olympiad** - able students are encouraged to sit extension national exams and complete experimental projects.

**University interviews and admissions tests** – preparation and advice is available in school and through our partnership with the Physics department at nearby Forest School.



*"I reckon that physicists can do pretty much anything. Our training can be applied to almost any activity, and it allows us to see things in ways that might not be obvious to others"*

**Simon Singh, Science Writer and Broadcaster.**

## Assessments

The AS level exam consists of two 50% weighted, 1 hour 30 minute papers, each of which has two sections. The papers include questions involving data analysis, or set within an experimental context.

The A Level exam consists of Paper 1 and Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes), each of 30% weighting and Paper 3 (2 hours 30 minutes) which counts for 40% of the overall mark.

Questions assessing students' use of mathematical skills will make up 40% of the exam papers.

The **Practical Endorsement** at A level is based on the 16 core practicals. This is separate to the A level grade and, if awarded, will be reported as a 'Pass' on A level certificates for students who achieve it.



## Course Outline

The Psychology A Level course is suitable for students who wish to develop their interest in the study of human behaviour. The aim of the course is to enable you to study psychological theories and concepts and develop your skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation.

**Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology** – This unit includes learning about social influence (why we obey, conform and change the majority's point of view), memory, attachment and psychopathology (how mental health disorders affect people and how they are treated).

**Paper 2: Psychology in Context** – This unit includes learning about the different schools of psychology from behavioural to biopsychology and how human behaviour is studied as a science. Additionally you will be learning about research methods and the mathematical element of psychology.

**Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology** – This unit includes learning about psychological debates (such as nature or nurture), schizophrenia, relationships and aggression.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

An interest in human behaviour! Is it the innate or the outside influences that make us behave the way we do? Do genetics and/or hormones make us the person we are or do social influences such as our parents and friends have the biggest impact on our behaviour? These are the questions we will endeavour to try to answer.

Good essay writing and numeracy skills. Students will develop their essay writing skills, will conduct experiments and write scientific reports. You will be expected to read around the subject to enhance your knowledge.

## Why study Psychology?

Whatever career you pursue, a background in psychology will enhance your employability. Studying Psychology can;

- Develop sound analytical skills through the application of scientific method. Psychology is a science. The defining feature of any science is the objective approach that is used to advance our knowledge. In psychology we use this scientific approach to learn about behaviour and mental life. Psychology provides an excellent training in analytic thinking and scientific research methods that are applicable to a broad range of careers.
- Prepare you for a career as a professional Psychologist. Psychologists work in a wide variety of different contexts, including clinical, legal, sport, organisational, educational and research settings in both the private and public sector. The initial training required to work as a psychologist is an accredited undergraduate degree in psychology. Specialist training in different professional areas is then provided in postgraduate degrees.
- Provide excellent job prospects in a wide range of careers including a Counsellor, Market Researcher, Psychiatrist, Teacher or a role within Social Work, HR, Police, Sports Psychology, Health Care, or the Business Sector.

## Assessments

The AS and A Level exams are 100% exam based.

The AS Level exam consists of the first two papers and contains multiple choice, short answer and extended answer (essay) questions. Each paper is worth 50% of your mark.

The A Level exam consists of all three papers at the end of the two year course with similar content to the AS exam but longer essay questions. Each of the three papers is worth a third of your final grade.

## Course Outline

The Sociology AS/A Level course involves a detailed study of society, social processes and social institutions. This subject looks at what is happening in the world around us and how this affects us as individuals. You will need to be inquisitive about issues in society and current affairs.

In Year 1 you will study Education, Family & Households along with Research methods. Education includes looking at why attainment differs between class, gender and ethnicity as well as approaching it from differing theoretical perspectives. Family and Household studies how family has changed over time, why family sizes have reduced in size, changes to birth rate, death rate, divorce and marriage rates. Again the theoretical positions will also be considered. Research methods will investigate how research is carried out by Sociologists, the methods and samples used and why sociologists might choose certain methods to carry out their research.

In Year 2 you will be adding to the above units with the study of Crime and Deviance, Global Development and Sociological Theory. This will again look at differing perspectives, gender, ethnicity and class. Your year 1 skills will be enhanced and built upon in order for you to achieve the full A Level.

## Entrance requirement and skills needed

You will need to be an inquisitive person and have a real interest in what is happening in the world around us and how this motivates behaviour. A commitment to reading around the subject and keeping

up to date with social issues is essential. You would be expected to watch/read the news at least once a day. An ability to write fluent and coherent essays is essential due to the assessment requirements.

## Why study Sociology?

Studying sociology can:

- Help you understand yourself and your role in society and to question what we accept as normal.
- Develop sound analytical, research and essay writing skills.
- Prepare you for professional life. Sociologists work in a wide variety of professions, including; health service, education, advertising and marketing, police, political and legal organisations and social work. The understanding you will have gained about society is invaluable to many career paths.
- Provide excellent preparation for the skills required for success in Higher Education.

## Assessments

The AS and A Level exams are 100% exam based.

The AS Level exam consists of two papers and each paper is worth 50% of your mark.

The A Level exam consists of three papers at the end of the two year course with similar content to the AS exam but longer essay questions. Each of the three papers is worth a third of your final grade.





## Course Outline

The new BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport is a two year course, equivalent to two A Levels. The course is suitable for students who wish to gain an insight into sport as an industry and as such offers a diverse curriculum of study.

The course aims to provide a strong base of study specifically within the coaching and sport sector through a range of units.

The following mandatory units allow students to concentrate on the development of their key skills and the broad knowledge required for entrance into higher education programmes in sport:

- Unit 1:** Anatomy and Physiology.
- Unit 2:** Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being.
- Unit 3:** Professional Development in the Sports Industry.
- Unit 4:** Sports Leadership.
- Unit 22:** Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry.
- Unit 23:** Skill Acquisition in Sport.

Students will also study the following units which have been designed to support progression into specific specialist areas:

- Unit 5:** Application of Fitness Testing.
- Unit 24:** Sports Performance Analysis.
- Unit 26:** Technical and Tactical Demands of Sport

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

**Please see the subject entry requirements on page 8**

Students require a sound knowledge and interest in sport and sporting issues. To be successful, you will need to be highly organised and be able to consistently meet and achieve set deadlines throughout the two year course. Students should be able to work both independently and collaboratively, demonstrating a high quality of written communication. In addition, you will need to demonstrate good verbal communication, particularly when completing presentations.

## Why study National Diploma in Sport?

The new BTEC National Diploma in Sport has been specifically aimed at learners looking to progress to higher education or a career in the sporting sector.

The course can:

- Prepare students for a range of higher education courses and job roles related to the sporting industry, including fitness instructor, leisure and sports manager, PE teacher, physiotherapist, youth and community worker, coach or sports development officer.
- Provide up-to-date industry knowledge, in addition to practical, research and behaviour skills required to succeed in higher education and in future careers.
- Give learners transferable knowledge and skills which can enhance employability, including: interpersonal and practical thinking skills; effective teamwork; efficient time management and self-management.

## Assessments

The units covered are assessed externally and internally, and include examinations, vocational tasks and assignments.

All units contribute proportionally to the overall qualification grade with the externally assessed units equating to 45% of the total qualification..

Unit 1 is assessed through a 1.5 hour written examination.

Unit 2 and 22 are both assessed through a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions in 2.5 and 3 hour sessions respectively.

The remaining units are assessed internally through set assignments with work externally verified.



Vice Principal and Head of 6th Form:  
**Nigel Armsby**

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