



Sixth Form Course Guide for September 2027 entry



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St Gregory's is a proudly Catholic, inclusive and caring co-educational school, welcoming students of all faiths and none. We help young people to succeed, not just academically, but as well-balanced individuals.

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant, happy and successful community where our students can pursue and progress their academic studies, becoming confident, engaged and articulate, so that they will thrive in our rapidly changing world.

We offer a broad range of subjects with all the support needed to springboard into higher education, apprenticeships and employment. A combination of quality teaching and incredible pastoral care, together with a range of experiences outside the classroom, will inspire, build self-esteem and the confidence to achieve. Our Sixth Formers achieve consistently good examination results enabling them to move on to their chosen path, including Oxbridge, Russell Group universities, and degree apprenticeships at international companies.

Our dedicated Sixth Form Centre includes specialist classrooms, a silent study hall, small seminar rooms, a large common room with a café and outdoor seating areas.

Sixth Form staff have an open-door policy for students because the wellbeing of our students is paramount to their academic studies.

Important dates

15 October 2026 - 6pm to 7:30pm

Sixth Form Open Evening.

Booking and further information available on the school website:

www.sgschool.org.uk

2 November 2026

Applications open on Applicaa

17 November 2026

Sixth Form Taster Day

An opportunity for current St Gregory's students to experience Sixth Form lessons.

2 November 2026

to 31 January 2027

External students may need to complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF).

Visit the Sixth Form Admissions page on the school website for further information.

31 January 2027

Applications close on Applicaa

Reasons to join St Gregory's Sixth Form

- First-class subject-specialist teaching
- A broad range of subjects to choose from - A Levels, Applied Diplomas and BTEC Level 3
- Additional academic activities, such as EPQ and STEP Maths
- Excellent support, pastoral care and progress monitoring
- Extensive support with university and job applications, and careers guidance
- Competitive admissions mentoring with Oxbridge
- A dedicated Sixth Form Centre with exclusive facilities including specialist classrooms, a silent study hall, small seminar rooms, a large common room with a Costa café and outdoor seating areas.
- Fantastic enrichment opportunities - sport, arts and leadership opportunities
- Consistently high examination results

“I learned more than I ever imagined I would during my time at Sixth Form and the staff were always so wonderfully supportive throughout the learning process.”

Alumni studying at
Warwick University

“I am going to miss my time at St Gregory's. The teachers in Sixth Form are amazing and are always there if you need help with anything.”

Alumni studying at
Bath Spa University

“Staff listened to my challenges, understood them and motivated me to push harder. Overall, I was awarded ABB and it has allowed me to get into my first choice university!”

Alumni studying at
Nottingham Trent University





At St Gregory's Sixth Form, our priority is to provide students with as much flexibility and choice as possible. For September 2027 entry, we are trialling a block structure to help us create a timetable that meets the needs and aspirations of the widest range of students.

Students will enrol on a full-time Level 3 programme, with most studying **three subjects**. A small number of students may be able to study **four A Levels**, although this will be considered on an individual basis in light of prior attainment, academic suitability and future aspirations. As university offers are typically based on three A Levels (or equivalent qualifications), there is generally no advantage in studying a larger number of subjects. Studying three courses allows students to focus fully on achieving the highest possible grades while making the most of the wider enrichment, leadership and extra-curricular opportunities available in the Sixth Form.

The blocks published in this prospectus on the following page indicate our planned curriculum structure; however, they are not fixed. Following the application process, we will carefully review students' subject choices and may adjust the placement of subjects within blocks where demand suggests this would allow more students to access their preferred combinations.

If you wish to study two subjects that currently appear in the same block, please let us know as part of your application. While we cannot guarantee that every combination of subjects can be accommodated, we will do our utmost to explore alternative arrangements wherever possible. Our aim is to retain flexibility and maximise student choice. As part of this commitment, some lessons may be scheduled during lunchtime or after school in order to support a broader range of subject combinations.

We are committed to offering a broad and ambitious curriculum. However, where the number of students applying for a particular course is too low, it may not be viable to run the subject. Such decisions are never taken lightly, and we will always explore every possible option before withdrawing a course. Should this be necessary, students will receive guidance and support in selecting an appropriate alternative pathway. Our goal is to ensure that as many students as possible can study their first-choice subjects and follow a programme that best supports their interests, talents and future aspirations.

Course choices and timetabling



Provisional option blocks 2027			
Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Mathematics	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
English Literature	History	Psychology	Geography
Core Maths	Sociology	Criminology	French / Spanish
Art	Photography	Medical Science	Film Studies
PE	BTEC Sport	Further Maths	Travel & Tourism
Creative Media	Computer Science	Music	Philosophy & Ethics
	Business		English Language

Subject to demand, we will also offer a one-year Level 2 pathway for students who need to resit GCSE English and Maths. Alongside small-group tuition in these subjects, students will work towards a Level 2 vocational qualification and take part in a range of enrichment activities. Entry onto the programme is subject to a positive attitude to learning, strong attendance, and a good work ethic throughout Year 11.

Entry requirements

Subject	Course	Minimum additional entry requirement
Art and Design: Fine Art	A Level	5 in Art
Biology	A Level	6 in Biology or Trilogy Science
Business	A Level	5 and 6 in English and Mathematics
Chemistry	A Level	6 in Chemistry or Trilogy Science
Computer Science	A Level	5 in Computer Science; or 6 in Mathematics
Creative Digital Media Production	BTEC	4 in English
Criminology	App'd Diploma	4 in English
English Language	A Level	6 in English Language
English Literature	A Level	6 in English Literature
Film Studies	A Level	5 in English
French	A Level	6 in French
Further Mathematics	A Level	7 in Mathematics
Geography	A Level	5 in Geography
History	A Level	5 in History
Mathematics	A Level	7 in Mathematics
Medical Science	BTEC	4 in Trilogy Science
Music Performance	BTEC	4 in Music with a good standard of instrumental or vocal ability
Philosophy, Ethics & RE	A Level	5 in RE
Photography	A Level	5 in Art or portfolio
Physical Education	A Level	5 in Physical Education; or Merit in Sport
Physics	A Level	6 in Physics or Trilogy Science; 6 in Mathematics
Psychology	A Level	6 in English and 6 in Science
Sociology	A Level	5 in English Language
Spanish	A Level	6 in Spanish
Sport	BTEC	4 in Physical Education; or Pass in Sport
Textile Design	A Level	Merit in Textiles; or 5 in Art
Travel and Tourism	BTEC	4 in English Language

To enrol in our Level 3 pathway, Sixth Form students must have gained at least five GCSE passes at grade 4 or above.

There are also specific entry requirements for all subjects and these are listed in the table shown here.

Please discuss any specific concerns about entry requirements with the relevant subject leader or contact the Sixth Form team.

It is important that students choose a range of courses that are appropriate to their GCSE results and future career plans.

Careers advice and help to select courses is available for all students in school time and also at the Sixth Form Open Event.

Students interested in the Level 2 pathway should discuss this with the Sixth Form team on Results Day.

Our curriculum programme



St Gregory's Sixth Form offers more than just academic study. Our curriculum programme develops our students into well-rounded young people, preparing them for the world of university, apprenticeship, employment and beyond.

Tutor time – Each day we have 'Tutor time', dedicated to helping students improve their study skills. Communication skills are developed through student presentation, participation in debates and discussions with visiting speakers. Careers education, citizenship, mental health and wellbeing, and an awareness of moral and social issues are also built into the programme using PSHE resources.

Core RE – Students follow spiritual development, a programme designed to expose them to a range of issues, consider their beliefs and the beliefs of others, and use an awareness of these to develop their own opinions. Students engage with topics such as Stewardship and Vocation with a range of guest speakers to generate discussion about these topics in a modern world. This programme of faith exploration and faith development for 16–18-year-olds helps develop communication and emotional intelligence, which are useful skills for the future.

Games – Wednesday afternoons are for sports and activities and the PE team ensure that all students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum. Access to excellent facilities allows students the freedom and flexibility of choice from a variety of activities, including: football, 7-a-side football, basketball, rugby, athletics, rounders, netball, softball and cricket.

Enrichment – Students complete 60 hours of Enrichment that develops the skills and opportunities for university and the world of work, but also embodies the Catholic ethos by giving back to the school and local community.

Students complete activities across four main areas: Academics, Faith, Sport and Culture. Opportunities include supporting in Key Stage 3 lessons, completing the CAFOD Young Leader course, running a sports club or being involved in charity days such as #helloyellow for Young Minds. Enrichment allows students to develop their soft skills and to impress on their personal statements and applications in the future.

All aspects of the curriculum are compulsory and need to be attended.

We also offer the EPQ, STEP Maths and university entrance exams for students aspiring towards competitive admissions and Russell Group universities.

Extra-curricular activities

Sixth Form is not just about the subjects. We offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities that will allow students to develop their skills, gain relevant experience for future pathways and be part of our Catholic community.

During Sixth Form, we encourage all students to get involved and participate. Some of the activities below are compulsory whilst others are voluntary.

These include:

- Senior Prefect Team
- Public speaking competitions
- Student mentoring (virtual and in person)
- Work experience
- Online seminars and MOOCs
- Career-related guest speakers
- Sports teams
- Student Council
- Tour guiding
- Fundraising
- Leading a club for lower school
- Year 7 literacy support



The Sixth Form process



We don't just teach at St Gregory's, we allow our young people to thrive and every student is known, loved and inspired to excel. Students are fully supported to make informed decisions about their next steps and, from September 2026 onwards, students in Year 11 undertake a programme of events to help them understand what St Gregory's Sixth Form has to offer.

November 2026	Year 11 Taster Day	Internal students select four subjects and attend Sixth Form lessons for the day.
November–December 2026	Year 11 Interviews and Careers Meetings	Internal students receive a one-to-one interview with a member of the Sixth Form Team to discuss their future plans. They can also be recommended for a careers meeting with our independent careers' advisor.
31 January 2027	Deadline for submission of Applicaa application to St Gregory's Sixth Form	All students, both internal and external, should submit their Applicaa application for the school.
March 2027	Students receive outcome of application	All internal students who make an application will receive an offer to study at Sixth Form. External students will be invited for a meeting with the Head of Sixth Form and then potential offers will be made.
April 2027	Students finalise their offers	Students confirm the offer they would like to select as their first choice on Applicaa.
August 2027	GCSE Results Day	Students will receive their results with confirmation about their place in Sixth Form.
September 2027	Induction Day and PSHE	Year 12 students complete an induction day about Sixth Form and PSHE lessons for Term 1 are designed to help students take the leap from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5.

Looking ahead

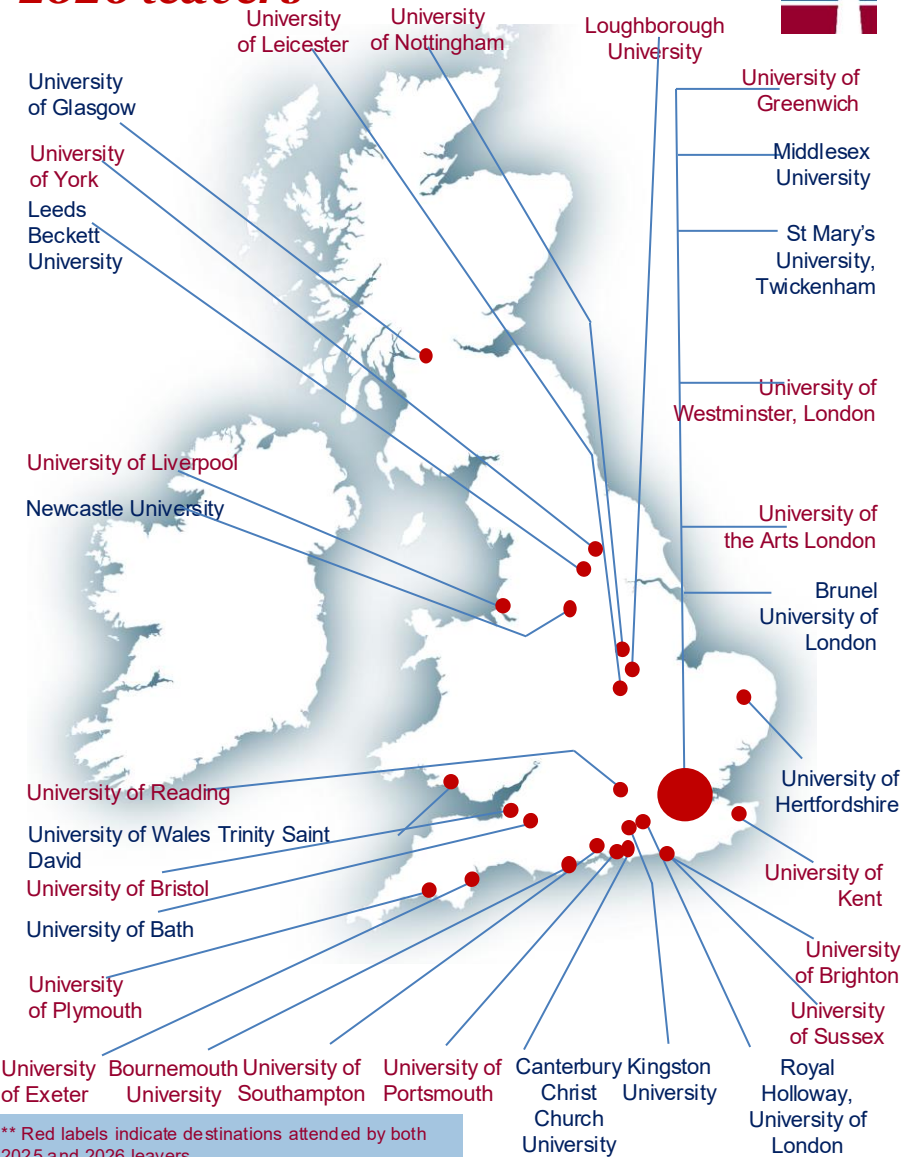
We offer a range of programmes to help our students make the right choices for their future. We advise and help our Sixth Formers based on their needs, aspirations and abilities and provide all the support needed for applications for university, apprenticeships and employment.

Each year students attend a UCAS Discovery Day, where they meet representatives from all 140 universities, a multitude of major employers from the UK and gap year companies.

'Futures Week', after the Year 12 exams, is dedicated to preparing students for beyond Sixth Form. During the week, visitors from higher education and employment give presentations and run seminars. Students will learn how to write successful application forms, personal statements, CVs, letters of application and even have mock job interviews. 'Futures Week' enhances work and study-related skills, such as problem-solving, lateral thinking and teamwork. There's even a session on cooking on a budget!

All students will receive careers information from our independent careers advisor, who provides impartial advice and guidance. Plus, we have a team of staff who are highly experienced in advising and helping students through the university and apprenticeship application process. For those who intend to apply for places at Oxford or Cambridge universities, there is a dedicated Oxbridge programme which includes advice and a series of mock interviews and tests. In addition to this, we have a 'Competitive Admissions Programme' for those wishing to study courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and law. We also have an apprenticeship and employment programme that focuses on psychometric testing, cover letters and interview skills, allowing our young people to access the best opportunities.

University destinations for our 2026 leavers



** Red labels indicate destinations attended by both 2025 and 2026 leavers.

How to apply – September 2027 entry



Applications for internal and external students will open on Monday 2 November 2026 and will close on Sunday 31 January 2027. All applications will be processed via Appicaa.

Internal applicants to Sixth Form (current St Gregory's students)

Our current students will experience a Sixth Form Taster Day during Term 2 which is an opportunity to experience Sixth Form subjects and lessons. All students will receive ongoing support and guidance with the online application process through discussions with dedicated members of staff, subject leaders and members of the Sixth Form team. Students will also receive a session with an external Careers Advisor.

External applicants to Sixth Form

Students not currently attending St Gregory's should apply for a Sixth Form place via Appicaa using the link, which will be available on the school website from 2 November 2026.

External applicants will also need to complete a Sixth Form Supplementary Information Form (SIF) if they are Catholic or 'Looked After' children. This can be found on the school website (www.sgschool.org.uk/Sixth-Form-Admissions) and must be returned to sixthformadmissions@sgschool.org.uk, or handed in at our school office, by the closing date.

Prospective students will be invited into school for a meeting with the Sixth Form team.

Our Admissions Policy can be found on our website.

Important information

Attendance

Sixth Form at St Gregory's is full-time study and students will be expected to attend daily. It is essential that students attend each day as attendance records may be requested in the future. Sixth Form students will have periods of independent study within their timetable, for which they will be expected to work in the Sixth Form Study Hall. However, when students do not have a lesson during Period 5, they are permitted to leave school at lunchtime.

Look smart – be smart!

Students attend Sixth Form to work and prepare themselves for their future careers. Our students will play an important role in our community, providing leadership and acting as role models for younger students. Smart appearance is an essential part of this and being well-dressed has a positive impact on students' attitude to their studies.

We require all students to conform to our dress code. Students are expected to wear a smart suit in any colour; a shirt or top with tie for males; a plain V-neck jumper or waistcoat can be worn underneath the jacket in cold weather; comfortable, smart shoes or boots. Skirts and dresses should be mid-thigh length. The full dress code and exclusions are available on our website.

All students must wear their lanyard with photo ID at all times for safeguarding purposes.

Transport

In Years 12 & 13, students living in Kent can apply for a 16+ Travel Pass, details of which are available on the KCC website. Students living outside Kent should apply to their Local Authority regarding transport passes.

Financial help

The Government has set aside funding for schools to allocate to young people who need financial support for their education between the ages of 16 and 19, called the 16-19 Bursary. The fund is available to help with education-related costs that may arise. Full details and information on how to apply are on our website.



Art & Design: Fine Art A Level



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mrs A Vamplew

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel Art and Design:
Fine Art A Level

Independent study commitment:

A passion for Art, a motivation to explore and experiment and a continuous commitment to independent study is essential.

What does it combine well with?

Many subjects complement Art: English, History and also Mathematics for those considering Architecture and Design.

Entry requirements:

5 in Art

Course outline and assessment

The Art & Design A Level course enables students to develop their creative, analytical, technical and expressive skills. Students experience a broad range of media and processes and are encouraged to experiment with working in two and three dimensions. Taking risks and leading an in-depth exploration is key in creating a successful portfolio of work. Independent project work is informed by artist research and gallery visits provide an essential source of inspiration.

Students make personal and critical judgements in their choice of artist influences and materials.

Component 1: Personal Investigation

Students compile a substantial portfolio of practical work, supporting studies and outcomes which develop from a range of personal starting points over the two years. The initial thematic unit, 'Inside Out' is workshop led and introduces new techniques as well as encouraging students to be experimental in their approach to drawing. Students then pursue a major practical enquiry following their own individual area of interest. The Personal Study is a 3,000-word illustrated dissertation which demonstrates depth of research, as well as critical and contextual understanding alongside this extensive practical investigation.

Assessment: 60% of A Level.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

The Externally Set Assignment is released to Year 13 on 1 February and contains a theme and an array of suggested starting points.

Students research their own choice of contextual sources, record observations and experiment with media and processes. This unit enables them to work to their strengths as they independently lead their development and refinement of ideas towards a final piece of work. The preparatory studies are submitted at the start of a 15-hour timed assessment during which students create their final outcome.

Assessment: 40% of A Level.

Why study Art & Design?

The Art & Design A Level course opens opportunities across the design industries. Students will have the chance to pursue personal interests whilst developing their ability to record, research, design and make.

They will create work across a number of disciplines including painting and drawing, photography, graphic design, sculpture, mixed media and ceramics.

In addition, this course provides the opportunity to develop personal expression, imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability.

Where can it lead?

Previous A Level Art students have made careers in fashion, graphics, photography, filmmaking, textile design, car design, art curation, art conservation, architecture, fine art, product design, animation and teaching.

Biology A Level

Course outline and assessment

The Biology A Level course has been designed so that students study biology in topics, each covering different key concepts of biology, in a traditional content-led approach.

Paper 1 - Biological processes

- Multiple choice (5.5% of A Level).
- Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (31.5% of A Level).

Paper 2 - Biological diversity

- Multiple choice (5.5% of A Level).
- Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (31.5% of A Level).

Paper 3 - Unified biology

- Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills (26% of A Level).

Practical endorsement for biology

This is a teacher-assessed component where students will be awarded pass or fail. Candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. Performance is reported separately to the A Level grade.

Why study Biology?

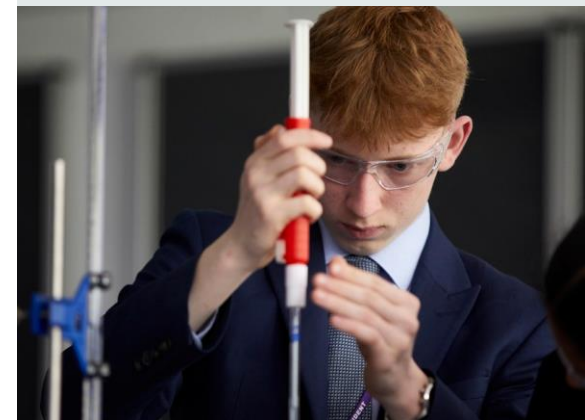
Biologists try to understand how animals and organisms work (including humans), how we evolved and the things that can make us sick or improve our health. Biologists use this knowledge to try to stop the spread of disease, track down natural resources, improve public health, animal care and conservation and work out the true impacts of things like pollution.

Whilst studying Biology, students will acquire the following skills:

- Knowledge and understanding of biological facts and principles.
- Ability to apply these in constructing hypotheses and testing them.
- Ability to communicate biological information.
- Ability to carry out experimental work.
- Working independently and working with others.
- Essential mathematical skills.

Where can it lead?

Biology, zoology, botany, biochemistry, medicine, veterinary science, nursing, agriculture, food science, sports science, environmental science.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Ms Mc Garry

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
OCR Biology A – H420

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geography, Psychology and Physical Education.

Entry requirements:
6 in Biology or Trilogy Science



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr T King

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel A Level Business

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
All subjects, especially Mathematics.

Entry requirements:
5 and 6 in English and Mathematics

Course outline and assessment

Business A Level focuses on problem-solving, decision-making and developing a range of business skills.

Students will gain an understanding of business in a range of contexts. They will develop an understanding of organisations and their ability to meet society's needs and wants, whilst being aware of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and individuals.

Business behaviour is studied from a range of perspectives and students are encouraged to generate enterprising and creative approaches to business opportunities, problems and issues.

Students will acquire a range of relevant business skills, challenging assumptions and critical analysis together with the ability to apply numerical skills in a range of business contexts.

Paper 1:

Marketing, people and global business (35% of A Level).

Paper 2:

Business activities, decisions and strategies (35% of A Level).

Paper 3:

Investigating business in a competitive environment (30% of A Level).
For Paper 3, there will be a pre-released context document.

Why study Business?

Students will develop skills which will enable them to understand the real world of business together with problem-solving, decision-making and teamwork skills which are applicable to a wide range of career opportunities.

Where can it lead?

On completion of this qualification students will have developed the skills, knowledge and understanding which will prepare them for entry into higher education or employment.

A Level Business allows students access to Economics, Business and Finance, or related subjects at degree level. Alternatively they can seek training or enter employment.

Chemistry A Level

Course outline and assessment

A Level Chemistry involves the study of the fundamental processes behind a huge range of natural and man-made phenomena and provides a range of skills that are relevant to a wide variety of fields. There is an emphasis on numerical, communication and problem-solving skills, in addition to the teamwork involved in the practical situation.

While there is a need for learning facts to provide the groundwork for the subject, the emphasis is on the understanding and application of ideas; so students will be challenged by the subject and learn to think for themselves.

There are three written papers, all two hours long.

Paper 1:

Inorganic chemistry with relevant physical chemistry and practical skills.

Paper 2:

Organic chemistry with relevant physical chemistry and practical skills.

Paper 3:

All content and practical skills.

Practical work will be assessed in the written papers. 15% of the total A Level marks will be for practical knowledge and understanding. A separate 'endorsement' of practical work will be assessed by teachers. This will not be graded. If students pass, it will be reported on their certificate.

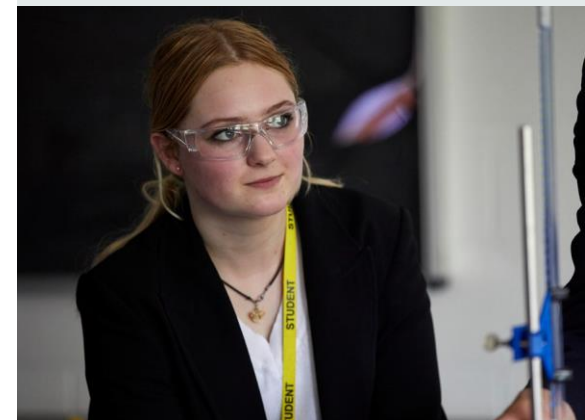
Why study Chemistry?

The wide range of skills developed during A Level Chemistry means that it is a highly regarded qualification for a vast range of courses in higher education, both science and non-science based.

Where can it lead?

Chemistry is a great choice for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as medicine, nursing, biochemistry, dentistry or forensic science.

It will also equip learners for a career in the industry, for example the pharmaceutical or petrochemical industries.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Ms C McGarry

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
AQA

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with? Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Psychology and PE

Entry requirements:
6 in Chemistry or Trilogy Science



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr N Ronan

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
OCR H446

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
Mathematics, Further Mathematics
and Physics

Entry requirements:
5 in Computer Science;
or 6 in Mathematics

Course outline and assessment

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems.

Paper 1: Computer Systems

- The characteristics of contemporary processors.
- Software and software development.
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.
- Data types, data structures and algorithms.

Assessment: Written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes. (40% of A Level)

Paper 2: Algorithms and programming

- Elements of computational thinking.
- Problem-solving and programming.
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.

Assessment: Written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes. (40% of A Level)

Non-exam assessment: Programming project

Students will choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification. This is an internal assessment with external moderation. (20% of A Level)

Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems.

It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

The course develops organisational and project management skills which are widely valued across many subjects and careers.

Where can it lead?

This qualification is suitable for students intending to pursue any career or higher education course in which an understanding of technology is needed, such as computing or computer science, programming, software design, robotics, networking, gaming, multimedia and systems analysis.

Course outline and assessment

This BTEC course provides a coherent introduction to the study of creative digital media production. Learners develop an understanding of the media industry through analysing media representations and pitching and producing media projects. This qualification is designed to provide a technical introduction to digital content publishing. Learners develop skills in areas such as digital magazine production, image manipulation techniques and coding for web-based media.

The course focuses on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education.

Learners take three mandatory units (83% of the marks):

- Media Representation (examination in Year 12)
- Pre-production Portfolio
- Responding to a Commission

In addition, learners take one unit from a choice of five (17% of the marks). Optional units will introduce learners to sector specialist areas, including working in particular environments, and will link with relevant technical roles.

The optional units cover areas such as:

- Digital magazine production
- Web and app production

The course is externally assessed for the Media Representation exam and mandatory Responding to a Commission unit (33%); and internally assessed and subject to external standards verification for the other two units.

Learners are given the opportunity to:

- demonstrate practical and technical skills
- complete realistic tasks to meet specific briefs or particular purposes
- write up the findings of their own research
- use case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations
- carry out projects for which they have choice over the direction and outcomes.

Why study Creative Digital Media Production?

This BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate provides a coherent introduction to the study of creative digital media production at this level. Learners develop an understanding of the media industry through analysing media representations and through pitching and producing media projects.

The course is designed for post-16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the media industries, as part of a programme of study alongside other BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

Where can it lead?

Higher education – opportunities to study media as a practical course at university or college.

Careers – the media industry is a significant employer both in the UK and internationally. This qualification can lead to an apprenticeship or employment in roles such as junior content producer, web coordinator and digital assistant.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr F Bohacek

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National
Extended Certificate in Creative
Digital Media Production 601/7467/5

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
English Language, Finance and
Languages.

Entry requirements:
4 in English



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Ms S Bayley

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
WJEC 600/3082/3 Applied Diploma in Criminology (QCF)

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with? Many subjects are suitable, particularly English, RE, History and Sciences.

Entry requirements:
4 in English

Course outline and assessment

The WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is a qualification with elements of psychology, law and sociology that complements studies in humanities. This is an Applied General qualification. This means it is designed primarily to support learners progressing to university.

The course offers exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning for students through applied learning, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the criminal justice system.

The course covers a range of topics such as crime and media, crime and punishment and covers aspects of sociology and law.

Students complete four mandatory units:

- Changing awareness of crime
- Criminological theories
- Crime scene to courtroom
- Crime and punishment

Assessment: Two units are externally assessed by an examination each of 90 minutes. Two units are internally assessed by controlled assessment.

Why study Criminology?

An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work and sociology and psychology.

This is an exciting course which will allow students to gain a wealth of knowledge linked to criminal justice. A stimulating grounding in the study of criminology can be achieved. You will have the opportunity to acquire both practical and academic skills through applied learning, and the focus of some assignments provides opportunities to learn from practitioners in the criminal justice sector.

Where can it lead?

By studying this Level 3 Diploma students will gain the required knowledge to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice sector e.g. Probation Service, or use the qualification to support access to higher/further education courses e.g. criminology, criminal justice, law, sociology and psychology in addition to apprenticeships and employment (especially within law enforcement, legal work, prison service and social work).

English Language A Level

Course outline and assessment

Students will study the English Language, its variety and history and will acquire the terminology, concepts and methodology in order to understand language and investigate it. They will develop skills as a producer and interpreter of language.

Students will study how language varies according to mode, field, function and audience, and how language choices create personal identities. Children's acquisition of spoken and written language is examined along with appropriate theories of language development.

Students will develop their research and investigation skills, and undertake their own research. They will demonstrate their own skills as writers, crafting texts for different audiences/purposes for their coursework; they will reflect on their writing in an accompanying commentary.

Assessment:

Three exam papers:

- Language Variation (35%)
- Child Language (20%)
- Investigating Language (25%)

Coursework 'Crafting Language':

Two assignments with total word count 2,500 to 3,000-words (20%)

Why study English Language?

There are many reasons but above all, students will become aware of the written language and the spoken English that surrounds them, the myths about it and the constantly changing nature of both written and spoken English language.

Where can it lead?

The student who writes accurate English, and whose sensibilities and perceptions are sharpened by close study of the language, is well equipped for a wide variety of options.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr C Sevenoaks

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel 9ENO

Independent study commitment:
Wide reading plus five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?

Any subject combines well with English. History, Art, Modern Languages and RE are the obvious ones, and Scientists and Mathematicians are welcome.

Entry requirements:
6 in English Language



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr C Sevenoaks

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel 9ETO

Independent study commitment:
Wider reading, at least an hour each day, plus five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?

Any subject combines well with English. History, Art, Modern Languages and RE are the obvious ones, and Scientists and Mathematicians are welcome.

Entry requirements:
6 in English Literature

Course outline and assessment

English Literature A Level encourages reading across a wide range of literary forms. Students learn to be critical and creative in their response and interpretation of text and will develop the skills of literary analysis.

Texts studied include *Othello*; *A Streetcar Named Desire*; Edexcel's *Shakespeare - A Critical Anthology*; *Mrs Dalloway*; *Tess of The D'Urbervilles*; Victorian Poetry and a post-2000 poetry selection.

In the poetry examination, students compare a poem they have studied with an 'unseen' poem; we practise this kind of criticism.

For coursework, students read the novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and agree with their teacher a text with which to compare it.

Study is literature-based. You must be a student who likes reading. We select texts to ensure a balance of drama, poetry and prose.

Assessment:

Three exam papers:

- Drama (30%)
- Prose (20%)
- Poetry (30%)

Coursework:

One coursework essay of 2,500 to 3,000-words on two texts of any genre (20%)

Why study English Literature?

English Literature encourages students in the enjoyment and wider appreciation of literature and therefore of people. Students will grow in their powers of analysis, criticism and expression.

Where can it lead?

The student who writes accurate English, and whose sensibilities and perceptions are sharpened by close study of Literature is well equipped for a wide variety of options, professionally and in higher education.

Film Studies A Level

Course outline and assessment

Students are introduced to a wide variety of films in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of film and the range of responses films can generate. This specification offers opportunities to study mainstream and independent American and British films from the past and the present, as well as more recent global films, both non-English language and English language.

Students learn to apply critical approaches to a diverse range of film, including documentary, film from the silent era, experimental film and short film. They will be able to apply knowledge and understanding of film through either their own filmmaking or screenwriting.

There are two components that are externally assessed, and one coursework component that is assessed by the centre and externally moderated.

Component 1 - Film History

- Film form in US cinema from the Silent Era to 1990
- European cinema history

Assessment: Two-hour examination (35% of A Level)

Component 2 - Critical Approaches to Film

- Contemporary British and US Film
- Documentary
- Ideology

Assessment: Two-hour examination (35% of A Level)

Component 3 - Making a short film

Students will be required to produce either an individual short film (fictional or experimental) or an equivalent screenplay with a digitally photographed storyboard (20% of A Level). Students will carry out an evaluation of their production in relation to the set short films they have studied in preparation for their production (10% of A Level). This is a coursework component, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated, representing 30% of the marks for the A Level.

Why study Film?

Students will engage with film's broad, cultural and historical heritage and understand how meaning is created through film, from the silent era to the present day, as an art form and medium of communication. They will explore historic European film movements that helped shape filmmaking in the 20th century; how film represents different cultures and societies; the ideologies that shape film and the ideologies that are shaped by film.

Students will learn about production processes, technologies and the significance of both viewing conditions to the spectator and the digital in film. They will be able to apply academic and theoretical knowledge into their own production of a short fiction or experimental film or screenplay and produce an evaluation of the production.

Where can it lead?

Higher education courses at university or college, as well as careers in film and related industries.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr F Bohacek
Exam board and course/syllabus no: OCR H410

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
English Literature, History and Languages.

Entry requirements:
5 in English



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mrs J Barraud

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
AQA 7652

Independent study commitment:
5 hours a week minimum, ideally 30–60 minutes daily

What does it combine well with?

Other subjects which would help with developing your language and organisational skills could be English Language for grammar and History or RE for essay writing.

Entry requirements:
6 in French

Course outline and assessment

The A Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends and issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
- Grammar

Assessment: Written examination of two hours 30 minutes. (50% of A Level)

Paper 2: Writing

- One text and one film, or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

Assessment: written examination of two hours. (20% of A Level)

Paper 3: Speaking

- Individual research project. Students must identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to them and relating to the French speaking world. The project involves research, analysis and presentation.
- One of four sub-themes: aspects of French-speaking society - current trends; aspects of French-speaking society - current issues; artistic culture in the French-speaking world; aspects of political life in the French-speaking world.

Assessment: Oral examination: 21 to 23 minutes (including five minutes preparation time). (30% of A Level)

Why study French?

The French and English languages are entwined and are part of our culture. Learning French is a stepping stone to other languages and will help students learn about their own language.

A knowledge of French gives you access to French-speaking countries such as Canada, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Belgium. The ability to speak French enhances appreciation of art and culture and is a life-long asset.

Where can it lead?

Language degrees can open up interesting opportunities and language skills are increasingly in demand across many business and industry sectors: teaching, translating and interpreting, as well as foreign civil service, airline services, advertising, editing and publishing, subtitles and voice overs, event management, nursing, sommelier, import/export specialist and hotel management.

Further Mathematics A Level

Course outline and assessment

Further Mathematics A Level encourages students to develop logical and methodical thought, the ability to persevere with a task and to employ mathematics confidently in order to analyse and solve problems.

Students cover modules in pure mathematics, mechanics and decision mathematics.

The course involves teacher-directed lessons and exercises set for homework. Students are expected to work at their homework and to follow up difficulties that arise with it between lessons.

Assessment: four examinations of one and a half hours.

- Two Pure Maths exams (75 marks each)
- One Further Mechanics exam (75 marks)
- One Decision Maths exam (75 marks)

Why study Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics is excellent preparation for a mathematics degree or other mathematical courses at university. If you enjoy and are good at mathematics, this course provides the opportunity to study more complex mathematical concepts.

Where can it lead?

Further Mathematics is useful for students wishing to read mathematics, the physical sciences and engineering at the leading universities. It is also useful for law, finance and any mathematical, statistical or computer science course.

It is an excellent subject for developing problem solving, logic, critical thinking and reasoning skills, as well as dealing with abstract concepts.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr J Newland

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE
in Further Mathematics 9FM0

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
Mathematics (compulsory) and any
other subject. _____

Entry requirements:
7 in Mathematics



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr N Sammons

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
OCR H481

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?

Geography combines well with most other subjects, science or arts based.

Entry requirements:
5 in Geography

Course outline and assessment

The A Level specification presents a dynamic, contemporary and exciting opportunity for students to engage with the world around them. It presents an exciting and fresh approach, offering a strong foundation in both human and physical disciplines, inspiring a love of geography for lifelong learning, drawing on issues that are relevant to a student's own learning of the subject.

Paper 1: Physical systems

- Landscape systems
- Earth's life support systems
- Geographical skills

Assessment: written exam of 1 hour 30 minutes. (22% of A Level)

Paper 2: Human interactions

- Changing spaces; making places
- Global connections
- Geographical skills

Assessment: written exam of 1 hour 30 minutes. (22% of A Level)

Paper 3: Geographical debates

- Hazardous earth and disease dilemmas
- Geographical skills

Assessment: written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes. (36% of A Level)

Unit 4: Independent Investigation: Investigative Geography

A compulsory part of the A Level course consisting of a written report which provides students with the opportunity, through fieldwork, to develop a wide range of skills which are applicable not only to study but also to the world of work and higher education.

Assessment: internal assessment with external moderation. (20% of A Level)

Why study Geography?

Here's what Dr Rita Gardner, Director of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), says about the value of studying Geography: "There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, Geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geographers are also highly employable. Whatever your passion for the world - fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality - Geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally."

Where can it lead?

The study of Geography develops a range of useful research and analytical skills and methods of organisation, including statistical skills and essay writing. Geography helps us to understand the world around us. It is highly regarded and will lead to a variety of degree courses and careers.

Course outline and assessment

The course covers a range of historical periods, each examined by a separate paper.

Unit 1 The Crusades, c1095-1204

Assessment: a 135-minute examination comprising two essays and a question about evaluation of interpretations. (30% of A Level)

Unit 2 Anglo-Saxon England and the Anglo-Norman Kingdom, c1053-1106

Assessment: a 90-minute examination. One question is focused on source material, and the other will be an essay. (20% of A Level)

Unit 3 Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA 1850-2009

Assessment: a 135-minute examination. One question is based on primary source material; one question will be an essay to assess student understanding of the period in depth; and one is an essay to assess the breadth of understanding across the whole time period studied. (30% of A Level)

Unit 4 (coursework) Germany and the outbreak of the First World War

Assessment: an extended and fully referenced essay of 4,000 words.

The purpose of this coursework is to enable students to develop skills in the analysis and evaluation of interpretations of history in a chosen question, problem or issue as part of an independently researched assignment. (20% of A Level)

Why study History?

This course aims to develop a student's interest in and enthusiasm for History, and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance. It also allows students to acquire an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity through the study of aspects of British and non-British history.

Where can it lead?

The study of History helps develop research and analytical skills as well as the ability to present information and argument. These skills are valuable in a variety of careers including law, politics and economics.

A wide range of university courses accept History as a subject that proves students have the skills required to progress to the next level of study.

History A Level can lead to studying History at university, which could then contribute to a career in areas such as law, teaching, journalism, PPE. Other courses also require an essay-based subject, so History also complements applications for medicine.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Ms E Pearson

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel Syllabus 9H10

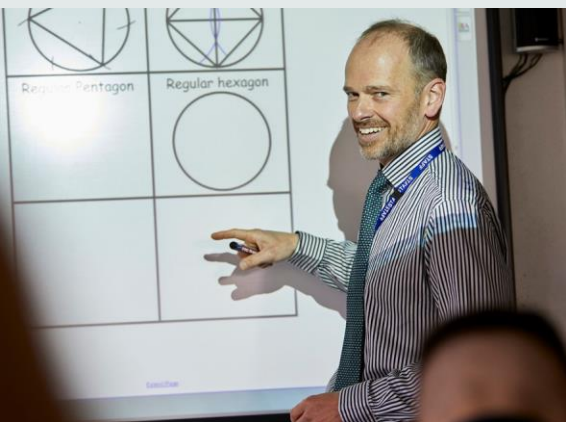
Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?

English Literature, Religious Studies, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages all complement one another at advanced level. However, History can be taken alongside any other subject to provide a balanced nature of study.

Entry requirements:
5 in History

Mathematics A Level



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr J Newland

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel Mathematics 9MA0

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
Any subject combines well with Mathematics but particularly Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Business, PE, Geography. If you are a strong mathematician you can't go wrong with A Level Mathematics. It will complement any other subject and keep options open for pathways to university and employment.

Entry requirements:
7 in Mathematics

Course outline and assessment

The course will enable students to develop logical and methodical thought, the ability to persevere with a task and to employ mathematics confidently in order to analyse and solve problems.

All students study Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics modules.

Pure Mathematics consists of calculus, algebra, trigonometry, vectors and numerical methods. Mechanics, probability and statistics are applied mathematics. Both of these applications produce models of the real world and suggest solutions to real-life problems. In Mechanics the course focuses on forces, energy and velocity and in Statistics it covers probability theory and statistical inference.

The most able students are encouraged to study Further Mathematics in addition to Mathematics A Level.

Assessment: all topics studied throughout the two-year course will be examined at the end of Year 13 in three two-hour examinations.

- Two Pure Maths examinations (100 marks each)
- One Applied Maths examination which includes Statistics (50 marks) and Mechanics (50 marks)

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a popular A Level and a high proportion of those studying it achieve an A grade. Studies have also shown that people with Mathematics A Level tend to be higher earners. Though this itself may or may not be a good enough reason to study mathematics, the skills it allows you to develop include problem-solving, logic and analysing situations. Add in the improvements to your basic numeracy skills, and that bit of creativity needed to solve mathematical problems, and you've got yourself a set of skills which would make you more desirable for almost any job.

Where can it lead?

Higher education: Mathematics A Level is necessary for most engineering and physical sciences. It is also useful for law and, of course, any mathematical, statistical or computer science course.

Medical Science Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification

BTEC National (Extended Certificate)

Course outline and assessment

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Medical Science (Extended Certificate) enables students to study the principles and applications of medical science through mandatory units, and further explore other areas in more detail via an optional unit. Students will also learn practical and investigation skills that build on this fundamental knowledge.

The mandatory units cover the following areas:

- Human anatomy, physiology and pathology
- Health issues and scientific reporting
- Practical microbiology and infectious diseases

The optional units provide opportunity for students to choose one of the following specialist areas in which they wish to develop their knowledge and skills:

- Diseases, disorders, treatments and therapies
- Biomedical science
- Human reproduction and fertility.

Assessment

This course comprises four units of which three units are mandatory and two are external.

Mandatory content (83%)

External Assessment (58%)

Why study Medical Science?

The Extended Certificate is for students who are interested in learning about the medical science sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in medical science-related subjects.

It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes A Levels.

Where can it lead?

Medical Science allows students to access degrees in the medical field such as midwifery or radiology. It is also useful for forensics and pharmacology.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Ms C McGarry

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National 610/3958/5

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
This qualification can link to A Level subjects such as Physical Education and Sport, Criminology, Chemistry and Psychology. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

Entry requirements:
4 in Science

Music Performance BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Ms V Winton

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National
Extended Certificate in Music
Performance

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?

Most other subjects combine well with this course but especially English Language or Literature, Sciences and Humanities.

Entry requirements:

4 in Music with good standard of instrumental or vocal ability

Course outline and assessment

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance suits students who play an instrument or sing. It is ideal for guitarists, drummers, bassists, keyboard players and pop, rock or musical vocalists.

It offers a specialist qualification that covers the key knowledge and practical skills required for a career as a professional musician. It consists of three mandatory units and one optional unit.

You will complete four units of study outlined below:

Mandatory units

- Ensemble Music Performance
- Professional Practice in the Music Industry
- Practical Music Theory and Harmony

Optional units

- Composing Music
- Music Performance Session Styles
- Solo Performance
- Improvising Music

Why study Music?

Music students will have the opportunity to develop as performers and learn about roles within the music industry. They will work both practically and academically in class along with carrying out their own research.

Students will also have the opportunity to enhance and develop their musicianship skills as a solo performer and their communication skills while working as part of an ensemble. Regular performance opportunities will be available during this two-year course.

Where can it lead?

Studying Music BTEC can lead to further study of the subject at university or a music college, however it can also lead to other subjects in higher education. It is desirable for employment in the arts, teaching and other types of jobs which require the skills developed on this course.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr J de Quay

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
OCR H573

Independent study commitment:
5 hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?

A Level Religious Studies complements those subjects in which analysis is a key feature, for example English, History, Psychology and the Sciences. This course tends to attract the more socially aware student and those who wish to consider the origins and developments of philosophical outlooks.

Entry requirements:
5 in RE

Course outline and assessment

The course provides the opportunity to study some of the fundamental questions which people have always asked: why are we here, how should we behave, what happens to us when we die, how do religions explain and explore their beliefs about God? Students are encouraged to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of Religious Studies and its different components.

The syllabus covers three areas of study:

Philosophy of Religion

- Ancient philosophical influences
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language

Religion and Ethics

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

Development in Religious Thought

- Religious beliefs, values and teaching, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society

Assessment: Three two-hour examination papers.

Why study Philosophy and Ethics?

This course is designed to develop greater understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the discipline of ethics and philosophy of religion. Students will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas. The course aims to engage learners thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them.

Where can it lead?

St Gregory's students who have studied A Level Religious Studies have gone on to study degrees in a range of subjects; most notably law, journalism, nursing, medicine, theology, history, philosophy, PPE, business, English, psychology etc.

There is a wide range of career opportunities after studying Religious Studies. Examples include: journalism, counselling, travel, environmentalist, broadcasting, current affairs, politics, lawyer, social services, architecture, computing, robotics, teacher.

Photography A Level

Course outline and assessment

Photography A Level is a creative and practical course that encourages students to explore the world through visual imagery. Students develop technical expertise, creative confidence and critical understanding while producing a personal portfolio of photographic work.

Through digital photography and image editing, students investigate themes, ideas and concepts, developing their skills in composition, lighting, camera control and visual storytelling. Areas of study may include portraiture, landscape, documentary, fashion and experimental photography. Research into the work of professional photographers and artists underpins all practical work.

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)

Students create a substantial portfolio of practical work based on a personal theme or area of interest. This includes experimentation, contextual research and a 3,000-word illustrated personal study, culminating in a series of final outcomes.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

Students respond to an externally set theme released in February of Year 13. Following a period of research and development, they complete a 15-hour practical examination to produce a final personal response.

Why study Photography?

Photography develops creativity, independence, problem-solving and digital media skills. Students learn to communicate ideas visually while building an impressive portfolio that supports progression to higher education and employment.

Where can it lead?

Photography can lead to degree courses and careers in:

Photography and Photojournalism
Film and Television
Graphic Design
Digital Media
Advertising and Marketing
Animation
Fashion and Visual Merchandising
Architecture
Fine Art



DETAILS

Please note: Photography is a new course proposed for September 2027. It will be offered subject to sufficient student interest and viability, with staffing arrangements confirmed once applications have been reviewed.

Exam board and course/syllabus no:

AQA Art & Design: Photography (7206)

Independent study commitment:

Minimum of five hours per week, including practical photography, portfolio development and research.

What does it combine well with?

Fine Art, Textile Design, Film Studies, Creative Digital Media Production, English and History.

Entry requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE Art or portfolio applications may be considered where appropriate.

Physical Education A Level

Course outline and assessment

The Physical Education A Level course has been designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the nature of physical education and sport.

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society

Assessment: written exam of two hours. (35% of A Level)

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

- Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Sport psychology
- Sport, society and technology in sport

Assessment: written exam of two hours. (35% of A Level)

Non-exam assessment

Practical performance in physical activity and sport.

Students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full-sided version of one activity, plus written and verbal analysis of performance.

Assessment: internal with external moderation. (30% of A Level)

**Students opting for PE A Level should be involved in competitive sport outside of school.*

Why study Physical Education?

The A Level in Physical Education is particularly suitable for students who wish to progress to higher education and study subject areas such as coach education, sport science, health and fitness and teaching. It is also suited to students who wish to work in the sports or health and fitness professions.

A Level PE can also be valuable for those students interested in sport who wish to study the world of health and fitness and the impact of physical education at an advanced level.

Where can it lead?

Sports science, PE teacher, physiotherapist, professional sports person, sports coach, consultant, sports policy at local and national level, diet and fitness instructor, personal trainer.



DETAILS

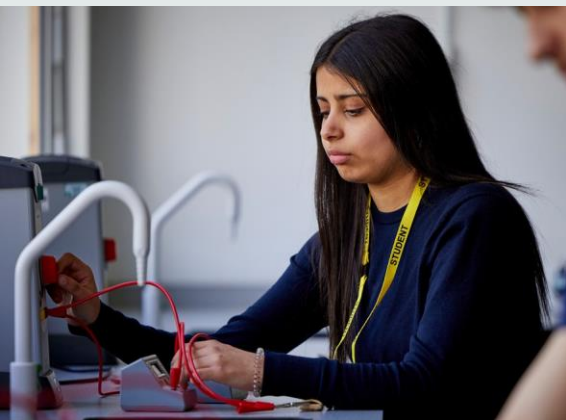
Subject Leader: Mr J Crush

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
AQA 7582

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
Biology, Psychology, Mathematics, Physics, History and English. **PE cannot be studied alongside Sport BTEC.**

Entry requirements:
5 in Physical Education;
or Merit in Sport



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Ms C McGarry

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
AQA

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?

Mathematics, Further Mathematics,
Chemistry, Biology and Computer
Science.

Entry requirements:

6 in Physics or Trilogy Science;
6 in Mathematics

Course outline and assessment

The Physics A Level course has been designed as a concept-led approach. It begins with a study of the laws, theories and models of physics and finishes with an exploration of their practical applications.

Paper 1: Advanced Physics 1

Covers half the Year 13 topics and some Year 12 content: further mechanics, electric and magnetic fields, nuclear and particle physics.

Assessment: written examination of 1 hour 45 minutes. (30% of A Level)

Paper 2: Advanced Physics 2

Covers half the Year 13 topics and some Year 12 content: thermodynamics, space, nuclear radiation, gravitational fields, oscillations.

Assessment: written examination of 1 hour 45 minutes. (30% of A Level)

Paper 3: Advanced Physics 3

Covers all the Year 12 and Year 13 topics.

Assessment: written examination of 2 hours 30 minutes. (40% of A Level)

Assessment of practical skills

Students are assessed through a series of 16 core practical experiments, reported separately to the A Level grade as pass or fail. This is a teacher-assessed component.

Why study Physics?

Physics tries to answer the really big questions. Physicists use the laws they uncover to develop new materials, machinery, and technology to improve our lives and help us explore the universe further, from computers to telescopes and spacecraft.

Where can it lead?

Physics students become good problem-solvers, can work in teams and develop research and analytical skills which can be applied to a variety of workplaces.

Physics is a highly regarded A Level by universities. It can lead to degree courses in physics, mathematics, engineering, natural sciences, astrophysics, climate science, computer science.

A Level Physics can also lead to careers in engineering, astrophysics, biophysics, medicine, food science, forensic science, nuclear physics, theoretical physics, computer game design, cosmology and geophysics.

Psychology A Level

Course outline and assessment

Psychology A Level encourages students to develop their knowledge and understanding of psychology and the variety of areas that this impacts upon. The A Level provides a broad introduction to the scope and nature of psychology as a science.

Psychology is assessed by three exams at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1 - Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper 2 - Psychology in context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods

Paper 3 - Issues and options in Psychology

- Issues and debates in psychology
- Gender
- Schizophrenia
- Forensics

All examinations are two hours long, each worth 33.3% of the A Level.

Why study Psychology?

Psychology A Level allows students the opportunity to see the world through a new perspective and to see the real-life applications of psychology.

The study of psychology satisfies the curious mind and allows us to explore and question human behaviour, asking questions to continually raise our understanding.

Where can it lead?

Higher education, particularly to study psychology, sociology, RE and law, but is also relevant for the majority of courses.

Psychology can lead to careers in the following fields: psychologist, health and social care, marketing and PR, management and human resources, education and public sector work.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Ms S Bayley

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
AQA 7128

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
Biology, Physical Education, Religious Studies and English Language.

Entry requirements:
6 in English; and 6 in Science.

Sociology A Level

Course outline and assessment

Sociology is the study of society and human behaviour. It explores how institutions such as the family, education system, religion, the media and the law shape people's lives and influence the world around us.

Students develop a critical understanding of contemporary social issues while learning to analyse evidence, debate ideas and evaluate different viewpoints.

Students study a range of fascinating topics including: Education, Families and Households, Media, Crime and Deviance, Sociological Theories and Research Methods.

This course is ideal for students who are curious about society, interested in current affairs and enjoy discussing social issues and debates.

Assessment

The course is assessed through three written examinations, each lasting two hours, at the end of Year 13. Students are assessed on their knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation of sociological theories, concepts and research.

Why study Sociology?

Sociology helps students understand the world around them and develop the skills to question assumptions, evaluate evidence and construct balanced arguments. It develops critical thinking, communication, research and analytical skills that are highly valued by universities and employers.

Where can it lead?

Sociology provides an excellent foundation for degrees and careers in:

Sociology
Psychology
Criminology
Law
Teaching
Social Work
Health and Social Care
Journalism and Media
Politics and Public Services
Human Resources and Business

The subject is particularly valued for the transferable skills it develops, including research, problem-solving and communication.



DETAILS

Please note: Sociology is a new course proposed for September 2027. It will be offered subject to sufficient student interest and viability, with staffing arrangements confirmed once applications have been reviewed.

Exam board and course/syllabus no:

AQA Sociology (7192)

The AQA specification covers Education, Families and Households, Media, Crime and Deviance, Theory and Methods, and Research Methods. Students develop an understanding of key sociological perspectives including Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism and Postmodernism.

Independent study commitment:

Minimum of five hours per week, including wider reading, independent research and consolidation of class notes.

What does it combine well with?

Psychology, Criminology, Religious Studies, History, English Language, English Literature and Geography.

Entry requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

Spanish A Level

Course outline and assessment

The A Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society

Assessment: written examination of 2.5 hours. (50% of A Level)

Paper 2: Writing

- One text and one film, or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

Assessment: written exam of two hours. (20% of A Level)

Paper 3: Speaking

- Individual research project
- One of four sub-themes: aspects of Hispanic society; artistic culture in the Hispanic world; multiculturalism in Hispanic society; or, aspects of political life in Hispanic society.

Assessment: Oral exam: 21 to 23 minutes (including five minutes preparation time). (30% of A Level)

Why study Spanish?

Spanish is a global language. It is the third most spoken language in the world and the most spoken language in the Americas, meaning that opportunities for immersion are all around us.

Spanish is easy to learn, easy to start speaking quickly and will enable learners to connect to the Spanish language and culture through its art, music, cinema and literature.

Where can it lead?

Language degrees can open up opportunities in areas where you may never have thought to look and language skills are increasingly in demand across many business and industry sectors.

Teaching, translating and interpreting are clear career options, but the list below aims to look beyond the obvious into the exciting potential jobs that could be available with a language degree: Foreign civil service, airline services, advertising, editing and publishing, subtitles and voice overs, event management, nursing, sommelier, import/export specialist and hotel management.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mrs J Barraud

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
AQA 7692

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum, ideally 30-60 minutes daily

What does it combine well with?

Other subjects that would help with developing your language skills could be English Language for grammar and organisational skills; and History or RE for essay writing.

Entry requirements:
6 in Spanish

Sport BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mr J Crush

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
BTEC Sport combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to higher education courses in a wide range of disciplines (depending on the subjects taken alongside it).
Sport BTEC cannot be studied alongside the PE A Level.

Entry requirements:
4 in Physical Education; or Pass in Sport

Course outline and assessment

The Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport enables students to develop their creative, analytical, technical and expressive skills. It is intended to be an Applied General qualification for post-16 learners wanting to continue their education through applied learning, and studied alongside other A Level or Level 3 qualifications. It is equivalent to one A Level and is a study programme completed over two years.

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers and professional bodies have also been involved and consulted to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners who may choose to enter employment directly in the sport sector.

Four units of which three are mandatory (83%) and two are external (67%).

Mandatory unit focus:

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Fitness Training & Programming for Health, Sport & Wellbeing
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Plus one of the following additional units:

- Sports Leadership
- Application of Fitness Testing
- Sports Social & Cultural Anthropology
- Practical Sports Performance

These units will require students to take part in both theory-based and practical sessions on a regular basis as part of the assessment process.

Why study Sport?

BTEC Sport carries UCAS points and is recognised by providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses, if taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of study.

Where can it lead?

A BTEC Sport Level 3 can lead to university degrees in sport and exercise, or direct employment in fields like sports coaching, fitness instruction, sports development, and sports therapy.

Textile Design A Level

Course outline and assessment

Are you creative and imaginative? Do you enjoy exploring ideas and looking at things in different ways? Do you enjoy making? If so, you should consider a course in textile design.

The Textiles course will encourage you to develop your understanding of the visual world, learning practical skills and responding to ideas and issues in ways that are personal to you.

Component 1: Personal Investigation

Assessment: 60% of A Level.

The initial thematic unit is workshop led allowing students to gain confidence in the studio space and encouraging experimentation with textile materials and processes and through drawing. Students create a strong portfolio evidencing research, clear development of ideas, experimentation and outcomes.

The personal investigation is a sustained piece of work allowing you to develop your own project concept with a clear narrative, evidencing your journey and creative process. This is supported by written material and investigation.

The personal study is a 3,000-word dissertation which forms part of the Personal Investigation.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

Assessment: 40% of A Level.

The Externally Set Assignment is released to Year 13 in February with a range of suggested starting points. Students are required to select one of the questions from which they lead their own research into contextual sources, evidencing their observations and practical experimentations using a wide range of media. Students work to their strengths, developing and refining their practical skills. The preparatory studies are submitted at the start of a 15-hour timed assessment during which they create their final outcome.

Why study Textile Design?

- The Textile Design course offers the opportunity to develop skills over a broad range of textile and fashion techniques and applications, such as printing, weaving, mixed media, digital applications, surface design, embroidery and installation. Practical work is produced by researching and developing ideas using drawing, digital exploration, sketchbooks and worksheets, supported by critical evaluation and an awareness of contemporary and historical influences.
- Sessions are initially delivered in a 'workshop' style, encouraging students to develop skills, creativity, imagination and independence based on personal experience, taught skills and critical understanding.

Where can it lead?

- The Textile Design specification directly supports progression to higher education in art and design/fashion and textiles related subjects, as well as providing all students with a platform to inspire a lifelong interest in, and enjoyment of, art, fashion and general design.
- Students may wish to go on to study an art based, fashion or textile related degree.



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Mrs A Vamplew

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
AQA Advanced GCE in Art and Design
(Textile design) 7204

Independent study commitment:

This course requires a real sense of curiosity, motivation and a continuous commitment to independent study.

What does it combine well with?

English, History, Science, Art and Mathematics.

Entry requirements:

Merit in Textiles; or 5 in Art

Travel and Tourism BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate



DETAILS

Subject Leader: Ms J Blackford

Exam board and course/syllabus no:
Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National
Extended Certificate in Travel and
Tourism

Independent study commitment:
Five hours per week minimum

What does it combine well with?
Most other subjects combine well with
this course, but especially Geography,
History and other BTEC qualifications

Entry requirements:
4 in English Language

Course outline and assessment

The Travel and Tourism course is designed to support learners who are interested in learning about the travel and leisure industry. There is a wide array of assessments which ensure that a variety of skills are developed. The course covers a range of topics to provide a thorough understanding of the travel and tourism sector. You will study the importance of tourism on the global economy, the roles associated with the industry, what are the global hot spots for tourism and changing trends. There is an emphasis on synoptic links between the units where students can draw upon all their learning and apply it to realistic contexts.

Students will complete four units of study from the modules outlined below.

Mandatory units:

- The World of Travel and Tourism
- Global Destinations
- Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism

Optional units:

- Visitor Attractions
- Events, Conferences and Exhibitions

Why study Travel and Tourism?

Studying the Pearson Level 3 Travel and Tourism course is beneficial for students interested in pursuing careers in the fast-growing global industry by providing essential skills like customer service, business awareness, and communication.

This qualification prepares students for employment in roles such as cabin crew, holiday rep or hotel staff, or for progression to higher education in related fields like tourism management or event management.

Where can it lead?

Either higher education, such as a degree in tourism, hospitality, or event management, or direct employment in the travel and tourism industry in roles like a travel agent, tour operator, customer service representative, cabin crew, or hotel manager. It can also be advantageous in Business-related courses and careers.



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