



North Kesteven Academy

Sixth Form Prospectus

2024

Introduction to the North Kesteven Academy Prospectus for 2024

We are excited to present the North Kesteven Academy Sixth Form course choices information within this booklet. We hope you will find a comprehensive source of information as you make important decisions about which subjects you will study at Key Stage 5. Making the right choices in Year 11 will ensure opportunity and possibility in the future whatever pathway you eventually choose. Every student now needs to stay in education or training until they are 18 and we would encourage you to see Sixth Form as your natural next step.

It is important that you consider your choices carefully and discuss the subjects you are interested in with your teachers and parents/carers. Over the coming weeks, students will learn more about the options available to them through their lessons and tutor time. We have scheduled a full day on 5th December where you can experience four sixth form subjects from the prospectus to assist you in making informed choices. In addition, we have also planned a parent and student sixth form event which will take place on 16th November. We believe in developing the whole student here at the Academy and you will find more information about life as a sixth former in this booklet.

Over the last few years the examination system has changed and an overview is provided within this booklet to help you to understand the changes. There is also information about the different types of qualifications on offer and where they sit on the UCAS tariff system. If you have any questions about the content of a course or the way in which it will be examined, please do not hesitate to ask any of your teachers. There will be further opportunities to discuss your options as we will be having meetings with all students, individually, in January and February.

Mrs J Tunnicliffe
Headteacher

Miss K Warburton
Assistant Headteacher

Mr A Bains
Head of Sixth Form

Key Dates:

Thursday 16th November 2023	Sixth Form Open Event
Tuesday 5th December 2023	Sixth Form Taster Day
Thursday 16th November 2023	Online applications open for North Kesteven Academy Sixth Form
Commencing Monday 15th January 2024	Y11 student meetings to discuss post 16 applications
February 2024	Course Offer Review*
Monday 1st July & Tuesday 2nd July 2024	Sixth Form Induction Days
Thursday 22nd August 2024	GCSE Results Day

*The 'Course Offer Review' is where we look at the number of applications for each course and may decide to withdraw the course from our offer due to lack of interest.

The courses offered are those that we can deliver. We reserve the right to withdraw a course from the offer at anytime up until the start of the academic year 2024.

Key Contacts:

Mrs J Tunncliffe	Head Teacher
Mr A Bains	Head of Sixth Form
Miss K Warburton	Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum)
Mrs P Calder	SENDCo
Mrs S Ayre	Head of PHSE, Careers and Timetabling

Being a Sixth Form Student

Life at North Kesteven Academy Sixth Form.

Life in the sixth form is full. You will be productive in your studies, engaged in enrichment activities, organising projects and attending events and focussing on making plans for the future. Here at North Kesteven Academy we want to support you in all of these endeavours and have founded our sixth form on these principles. We feel that the knowledge, skills and personal qualities that you gain from being a sixth former, will set you up for the next stages in your life and the sixth form team work very hard to ensure that it is tailored to your individual needs as much as possible.

You can expect to work hard at your studies as you will be studying three or more Level 3 courses. You will have non-teaching periods that will be used for both recreational and study activities and as a sixth former you will be expected to contribute fully to the life of the school. You are young adults and as such have a responsibility to be the role models and leaders that the lower school look up to.

Sixth form is a time of growth and development, which extends to your personal lives through endeavours such as part time work, driving lessons and work based training. We will support such activities, as long as you ensure that your primary focus is your study, as that is the ultimate passport to your future.



Qualification Types and Grading

In England there are a number of different types of qualification on offer to suit the learning needs of everyone. A list of high quality qualifications is published each year by the Department for Education and we ensure that the qualifications we offer at North Kesteven Academy are on this list to enable our students to progress successfully onto appropriate post-16 provision.

What is the difference between A Level, CTEC and BTEC Courses?

Level 3 BTEC and CTEC courses are comparable to A Level courses. The BTEC and CTEC content generally includes more practical and vocational elements. All courses have an examined element, but in some A Levels, this counts as 100% of the qualification, whereas with BTEC and CTEC it is a smaller percentage.

The individual BTEC and CTEC courses offered in Sixth Form are the equivalent of one A Level. In some cases these courses can be combined into a larger qualification that is the equivalent to two or three A Levels. Please speak to the Head of Department if you wish to discuss the possibility of a larger qualification.

You can study a combination of BTEC, CTEC and A Level courses whilst at NK Academy. When considering your course choices, you should look at what suits your learning style. The BTEC and CTEC courses are not the easy option - while the exam element is a smaller percentage of the qualification of that in an A Level course, there are constant deadlines for coursework that need to be met.

What do the levels mean?

Level 1 means a GCSE passed at a grade 1 to 4, or an equivalent qualification.

Level 2 means a GCSE passed at a grade 5 or above. There are also BTEC, OCR Nationals, Awards and Certificates on offer at North Kesteven Academy at Level 2. This is the level that we would expect the vast majority of our students to be achieving at the end of Year 11.

Level 3 qualifications are A Levels or an equivalent BTEC, CTEC etc. This is the level studied in our sixth form.

Level 4 to 8 qualifications are available at universities and other higher education providers.

What grades are awarded if the qualification isn't a GCE (A Level)?

BTECs and OCR National qualifications are all "vocational" qualifications. This means that they relate more directly to the world of work. They all have a portfolio of units and assignments to successfully complete and all have at least one examination. The grades on offer from a Level 3 qualification are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

Qualification Types and Grading Systems continued...

What do Universities look for?

All the Level 3 qualifications on offer at NK Academy have UCAS (University Colleges Admissions Service) points associated with them. When looking at University courses for life after Sixth Form there is generally a number of UCAS points required in order to access the course. We will provide regular updates as to progress and the grade we believe can be achieved at the end of your two years with us. This will allow you to research university courses with the knowledge of the number of UCAS points you are expected to achieve.

The table below shows the comparison between Level 3 A Level, BTEC and CTEC qualifications and the associated UCAS Points.

This information has been taken from UCAS entries for September 2024.

A Level Grade	BTEC National Extended Certificate	CTEC Introductory Diploma Grade	UCAS Points
A*	Distinction *	Distinction *	56
A	Distinction	Distinction	48
B			40
C	Merit	Merit	32
D			24
E	Pass	Pass	16

Course Listing

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15	English Literature	English
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Course Listing continued

Page	Course	Department
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27	Psychology	Social Science
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Art



Summary of course content:

The A level Art course offers you the opportunity to develop your skills in a wide range of materials and techniques before pursuing your own ideas and interests within Fine Art. Workshops include innovative approaches to drawing, painting, print making, ceramics and 3D sculpture and digital ways of working. The course provides you with the freedom to experiment and take risks with your work whilst developing your own creative voice. A component of the course is a written element where you will explore the work of other artists, designers and craftspeople who inspire you and your work. This will allow you to develop your skills in critical analysis and reflection.

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level

Contact: Mrs S Gilbride

Examined Component: 40%

Controlled Component: 60%

Progression and Career routes:

Many of our students go on to study creative courses at a higher level including Fine Art, Sculpture, Photography, Advertising, Scenic Art, Fashion and Graphics.

These courses also lend themselves well to apprenticeships in the creative sector.

How to access this course:

You will need at least a grade 5 in GCSE Art. or 3D Design. A grade 4 or above in English language is preferable due to the written element of the course.

Biology

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Biology

Contact: Mrs T Green

Examined Component: 100%

Controlled Component: 0%



Summary of course content:

The course consists of 6 modules of work, the first 3 of which are studied in year 12 and the remaining 3 during year 13.

The unit titles are:

1. Development of practical skills in Biology
2. Foundations in Biology
3. Exchange and transport
4. Biodiversity, evolution and disease
5. Communication, homeostasis and energy
6. Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

The practical skills element (module 1) will be conducted during both years and will be assessed in the terminal exams.

A Level Assessment

There are three terminal exams at the end of the A level course. Paper 1 assesses content from units 1, 2, 3 and 5 and is worth 37% of the final marks; paper 2 assesses content from units 1, 2, 4 and 6 and is also worth 37% of the final marks; paper 3 assesses content from units 1 to 6 and is worth 26% of the final marks. Papers 1 and 2 are 2 hours and 15 minutes in length, while paper 3 is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.

Progression and Career routes:

A Level Biology is used in many different areas. This course could lead to careers in areas such as Medicine, Nursing, Forensics, Veterinary Science, Environmental Science, Dentistry, Pathology, Biochemistry, and Physiotherapy or as an A-level to accompany other non-science subjects. Due to the demands of the course it is respected by Universities as a preferred subject for both science and non-science based courses at University or College.

How to access this course:

You will require two Science or individual science subject grades at Grade 6. A grade 6 in Maths would also be desirable. You will need to have a genuine interest and a desire to understand in more detail, how the body works, and about the complicated relationships that exist between the living things on our planet. You must also have a willingness to read around the subject and appreciate that lessons are only a starting point for the development of their knowledge and understanding. You must be highly motivated and be able to work both independently and within a team. You must show a willingness to constantly learn and revise the content covered during the course.



Business

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Business/CTEC Business

Contact: Mr L Athersych

Examined Component:

A Level:100% CTEC:40%

Controlled Component:

A Level: 0% CTEC: 60%

Summary of course content:

A Level: A Level Business Studies is a course which will enable you to focus on the dynamic nature of the contemporary business world, providing opportunities for exploring real business situations and researching topical business issues. You will investigate business issues and concepts from initial business start-up, right through to large multinationals.

The course draws together the business functions and the external environment to study the objectives and strategies that businesses adopt, for example recent merger activities and globalisation. A variety of approaches are used.

Units include Marketing, Finance, Operations, Human Resources and Management.

The assessment is based on three exams of equal weighting that cover all the topic areas over the two years and test a variety of skills from multiple choice to extended writing and data analysis.

CTEC: You will study the business environment which includes ownership, finance and functional areas. After this examination, you have the business knowledge to then complete portfolios in marketing, business communication, human resources and a work experience based research project.

Year 1:

Business Environment (examination)

Working in Business (examination)

Year 2:

Portfolio work (3 units)

Customers and communication

Marketing and market research

Human resource management

Progression and Career routes:

A Level: Students who study Business go on to higher education or high level apprenticeships. There are many degree and sandwich courses in business, or combinations with other subjects such as languages. There are career opportunities both inside and outside the UK in both the private and public sectors.

CTEC: A Ctec in Business leads to a wide range of degree courses in business and related subjects. Universities praise the study skills students with a vocational A level leave with. Higher level apprenticeships and employment are also other routes for which this Ctec would help support.

How to access this course:

A Level: If you have studied business/finance at Key Stage 4 a grade 5 /merit is required Grade 5 in both English and Maths are also required.

CTEC: If you have studied business at Key Stage 4 a 5 is required. Grade 5 in English is also required.

Chemistry

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Chemistry

Contact: Mrs T Green

Examined Component: 100%

Controlled Component: 0%

Summary of course content:

A Level Chemistry – a content-led approach. A flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of chemistry. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they're assessed both through written papers and, for A level only, the Practical Endorsement.

The course content is split into six teaching modules:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

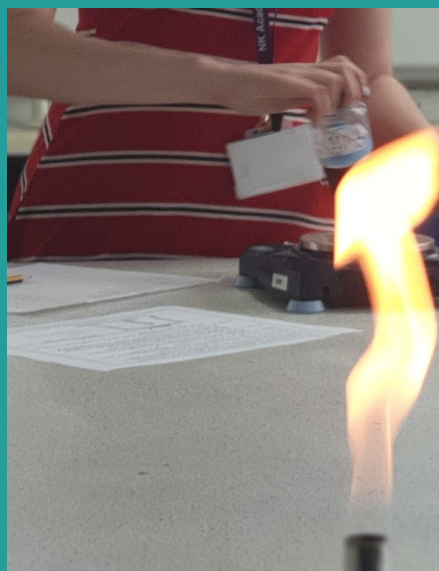
Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

The A Level in Chemistry aims to encourage learners to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods.
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills.
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject.
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.



Progression and Career routes:

The A Level Chemistry course will prepare learners for progression to undergraduate courses in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Pharmacy, one of the other sciences or related subjects. For learners wishing to follow an apprenticeship route or those seeking direct entry into chemical science careers, this A level provides a strong background and progression pathway.

How to access this course:

A Level Chemistry – You will be required to achieve at least a grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or GCSE Combined Science. A grade 6 In GCSE Mathematics is also advisable.

Criminology

Course Details

Course Type:

WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology

Contact: Mrs S Allen

Examined Component: 50%

Controlled Component: 50%

Summary of course content:

The Applied Diploma in Criminology comprises of four units, two to be studied in year 12 and a further two to be studied in year 13. Students will study the Changing Awareness of Crime, Criminological Theories, Crime Scene to Courtroom and Crime and Punishment. The purpose of the WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology is to provide learners with an introduction to criminal justice and to give a context for humanities learning.

Together with other relevant qualifications, such as Psychology and Sociology, it develops the understanding to support entry to higher education courses in the humanities sector.



Progression and Career routes:

The main purpose of the course is to use the qualification to support access to higher education degree courses, such as:

- BSc Criminology
- BA Criminology
- BA Criminology and Criminal Justice
- BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
- LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology
- BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology
- BA (Hons) Criminology
- BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology

How to access this course:

In order to access this course you will need five GCSEs at grade 5 or above or equivalent BTEC qualifications including English and Maths.



Dance

Course Details

Course Type:

BTEC Performing Arts: Dance

Contact: Miss A Markland

Examined Component:

BTEC: 25%

Controlled Component:

BTEC: 75%

Summary of course content:

This course offers a vocational and practical approach to developing knowledge of dance theory and practical performance skills. Practical assessments will be completed in groups as public performances, with the opportunity to take these to regional and national showcases and competitions. You will develop your technique and expressive skills in a wide range of different dance styles. You will gain understanding of the work of influential practitioners through analysis, in addition to performing professional repertoire. The course is made up of four units that will be completed throughout both years, spreading out the assignments and performances. This course will suit dancers of all styles as it gives you the opportunity to develop and showcase your skills through workshops, choreography and performances throughout both years 12 and 13.

Progression and Career routes:

This is a brilliant subject to develop life skills vital to any career: team work, communication, time management, problem-solving, organisation and self-confidence. For those wishing to pursue a career in the creative industries, the course would lead into higher education opportunities such as studying Dance or Performing Arts. With outstanding subject specialists teaching the course, students will be fully equipped with the confidence and skills necessary for successful auditions for Higher Education courses. The course would help to prepare students for careers in performing, choreography, production design, theatre management, teaching, community dance or dance therapy. With jobs in the creative industries adding new posts at twice the rate of the rest of the economy, it is a fantastic career

How to access this course:

BTEC: Grade 4 at GCSE or merit at level 2
BTEC or equivalent dance experience.

Drama & Theatre

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Drama and Theatre/ BTEC Performing Arts

Contact: Mr M Robinson

Examined Component:

A Level: 60% BTEC: 25%

Controlled Component:

A Level: 40% BTEC: 75%

Summary of course content:

A Level: This is both an academic and practical approach to both drama and theatre. Over the two years, you can expect to study a variety of plays and practitioners, leading to an understanding of how plays can be interpreted for performance. There is also a large performance element where you are taught the art of devising theatre for performance and approaching a role as both actor and director.

BTEC: This course offers a vocational approach to developing your knowledge of drama/ musical theatre theory and practical performance skills. You will gain understanding of the work of influential practitioners through analysis and performance of plays and devised work. You will develop your performance skills in a variety of theatrical styles. Practical assessments will be completed as public

**Progression and Career routes:**

All of the courses that we offer are suitable for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the performing arts business, which incidentally is the third largest industry in this country, that is a given. We are highly trained specialists offering teaching and training that is second to none in the county and is often of a university standard.

However for those of you who are still undecided about your future, or are thinking, 'I don't want to be an actor, singer, dancer etc.' taking a drama course will still benefit you because of the wealth of skills that you will learn from the experiences that you have with us. Many of the jobs that will exist in the next twenty years do not even exist yet as the rate of technological development moves apace every day. These employers will be looking for creatively minded problem-solvers who are confident and able to adapt in the face of change.

How to access this course:

A Level: Grade 5 at GCSE or merit at level 2 BTEC or equivalent drama experience.

BTEC: Grade 4 at GCSE or merit at level 2 BTEC or equivalent drama experience.



English Literature

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level English Literature

Contact: Mr Hatfield and Mrs Larken

Examined Component: 80%

Controlled Component: 20%

Summary of course content:

The focus for this subject is to enable the exploration of different reading processes to enrich one's understanding of literary texts. Texts range through all genres and all ages, from the contemporary to the archaic.

Aspects of Tragedy will be explored through the study of three texts, one of which will be a Shakespeare play, for the first examined unit.

The second examined unit will cover three further texts focussing on Elements of Crime Writing.

The Non-Examined Assessment requires close analysis of poetry and prose and application of critical theory to those texts. One text will be the student's own choice and will reflect their own reading preferences. Students will need to produce two 1500 word essays using critical theories to explore their chosen texts.

The independent study unit empowers students to analyse texts while also exploring, investigating and probing critical thinking thus extending their understanding of different interpretations and viewpoints.

Progression and Career routes:

Further literary study and careers in the written arts are the obvious outcomes and this course is highly respected academically by top universities. A student of literature is a reader for life and the analysis and experience of a range of literary texts will be transferable to almost every profession.

How to access this course:

Grade 6 or above in both your English Language and English Literature GCSEs

EPQ

Course Details

Course Type:

AQA: Extended Project Qualification

Contact: Mrs S Allen, Mrs J Ferrier

Non-examined assessment

Summary of course content:

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is popular with students and teachers alike. It provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond their sixth form course of study, stand out and prepare for university or their future career

The Extended Project will develop and extend from one or more of the student's study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student and agreed as appropriate by the centre.

Delivery of the Extended Project Qualification in centres will involve some teaching of the necessary skills, supervision and assessment of the student's progress. It will involve extended autonomous work by the student. It will require in total 120 guided learning hours.

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non specialist audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment



Progression and Career routes:

An EPQ will help you develop a useful range of extra study skills, helping you prepare for the demands of university and / or the world of work.

It is valued by both higher education institutions and employers as it demonstrates your dedication to independent learning and is often included in offers made by institutions to applicants.

How to access this course:

All students will be entered for this qualification.

Further Maths

Course Details

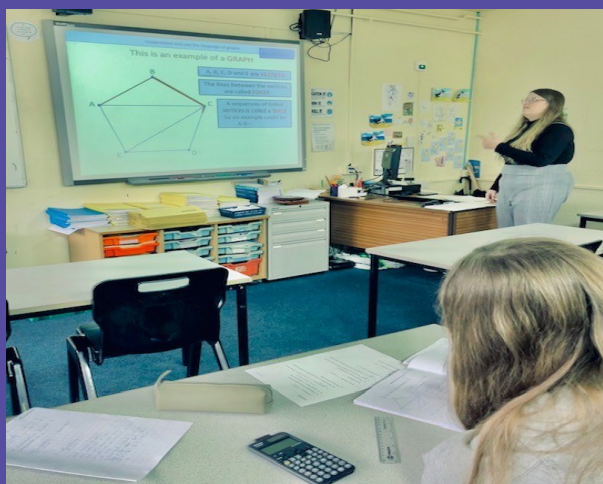
Course Type:

Further Maths

Contact: Mr Roberts, Miss Munson

Examined Component: 100%

Controlled Component: 0%



Summary of course content:

Further Mathematics is designed to broaden and deepen the mathematical knowledge and skills developed in A-Level Mathematics. It aims to stretch and challenge those high-achieving students who have good mathematics skills and enjoy the subject. The topics are more sophisticated and advanced than those in Mathematics. It is a necessity for degrees such as Engineering, Sciences, Computer Sciences or Economics at top universities. Further Mathematics is an essential requirement for entry.

The subject builds on algebra and calculus introduced in A level mathematics, the AS further mathematics core content introduces complex numbers and matrices, fundamental mathematical ideas with wide applications in mathematics, engineering, physical sciences and computing. AS further mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in highly mathematical disciplines that require knowledge and understanding of sophisticated mathematical ideas and techniques.

Year 1 - AS Exams

2 x 1.5hour 80 mark exams 50% each

Paper 1 – Pure

Paper 2 – Discrete and Statistics

Year 2 A-Level Exams

3 x 2hour 100 mark exams 33.3% each

Paper 1 – Pure

Paper 2 – Pure

Paper 3 - Discrete and Statistics

Progression and Career routes:

AS further mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in highly mathematical disciplines that require knowledge and understanding of sophisticated mathematical ideas and techniques.

How to access this course:

To do A-Level Mathematics and one of the following combinations:

GCSE Maths or Further Maths at grade 7 or above.

Or

GCSE Maths and Further Maths at Grade 6

Geography

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Geography

Contact: Miss R Bellamy

Examined Component: 80%

Controlled Component: 20%



Summary of course content:

The course consists of three elements

Physical Geography – Water and Carbon Cycles, Coastal Systems and Landscapes, Ecosystems Under Stress.

Human Geography – Global Systems and Governance, Changing Places, Contemporary Urban Environments.

Geography Fieldwork Investigation – students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected by the student.

Progression and Career routes:

A Level Geography students have found that:

- Employers and places of further education value Geography as a good academic subject. They are seeking out employees or students with the skills Geography helps develop.
- Geography leads to many career opportunities. A few examples are chartered surveyor, town planner, diplomat, teaching, utilities manager, accountant, social worker and tourism based careers.

How to access this course:

GCSE Geography at a grade 5 or above. GCSE Maths and English at a grade 5 or above to cope with the literacy and numeracy demands of the A level course.

Health & Social Care

Course Details

Course Type :

CTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Contact: Mrs S Allen, Mrs J Ferrier

Examined Component: 58%

Coursework: 42%

Summary of course content:

This course is the equivalent to one A Level. Its content covers four mandatory (m) and two optional (o) unit, and looks at:

Unit 1 – Building Positive relationship (m internal assessment) 60 GLH

Unit 2 – Equality, diversity and rights in H&SC (m external assessment) 60 GLH

Unit 3 – Health, safety and security in H&SC (m external assessment) 60 GLH

Unit 4 – Anatomy and physiology for H&SC (m external assessment) 90 GLH

Chosen by the centre:

Unit 10 – Nutrition for Health (internal assessment) 60 GLH

Unit 13 – Sexual health and early development stages (internal assessment) 30 GLH

This course compliments a variety of other subjects (including Biology, Psychology, English, History, Sport or any other Social Science) for progression into Higher Education or Employment in the relevant sector.

The skills you will develop include:

- Cognitive and problem-solving *critical thinking, creative solutions, use of technology*
- Intrapersonal skills *communication, working collaboratively, negotiating, influencing, self-presentation*
- Interpersonal skills *self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development.*



Progression and Career routes:

This course can help with progression to BSC (Hons) Nursing, BA (Hons) Primary Education, BSc (Hons) Social Work, supports further and higher education in health and social care.

The employability skills developed throughout the course and its mapping to recognised standards make it ideal for students wanting to seek employment in the sector.

How to access this course:

You are most likely to see success if you have:

- 5 GCSEs at good grades and / or
- BTEC qualifications at Level 2
- Achievement in English and Maths



History

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level History

Contact: Mr A Ayre

Mrs S Ayre

Examined Component: 80%

Controlled Component: 20%

Summary of course content:

The A Level History course is a 2 year A Level which comprises of 3 units:

UNIT 1: Breadth Study – The Quest for Political Stability: Germany 1871-1891

Come the turn of the twentieth century, how does one of the most democratic countries in the world transform into one of the most infamous dictatorships in modern history? The history of Germany is often synonymous with Nazism but the reality is that this period only spanned a few short years. The story is far from straight-forward. The routes of the problems can be traced back prior to 1900 and the consequences seen throughout the late twentieth century. The fantastic new course enables you to trace this complex quest for political stability from the time of Bismarck to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Study a fascinating part of the course from the perspective of different historians and their varying interpretations.

UNIT 2: Depth Study – Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906-1957 (2M)

What were the key turning points in British History which have shaped our political landscape today? How and why did women achieve the vote? What impact did both world wars have on the lives of people back home? How did the British government force the abdication of a King? Over a 50 year period you will study the social, economic, and political developments of the first half of the twentieth century and the different crises Britain faced along the way.

UNIT 3: A Historical Investigation— Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

This is your opportunity to hone your craft as an historian— independently studying the causes of the French Revolution across approximately 100 years. You will make your own judgment on the most significant factors taking into account the views and interpretations of at least two different historians, analysing and evaluating a range of primary sources and coming to a critical judgment on your chosen question.

Progression and Career routes:

An A Level in History can lead to further education routes which specialise in specific areas of History and can also provide the foundation for a route into a vast range of exciting careers in law, journalism, education, politics, the civil service, publishing, television and much more. It is an enabling subject widely valued and recognised for its academic rigour.

How to access this course:

If you have studied History at Key Stage 4 a Grade 6 is desirable. Other circumstances or teachers recommendation will however be considered. GCSE English at grade 5 is also a requirement.

Mathematics

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Mathematics

Contact: Mr T Roberts

Miss B Munson

Examined Component: 100%

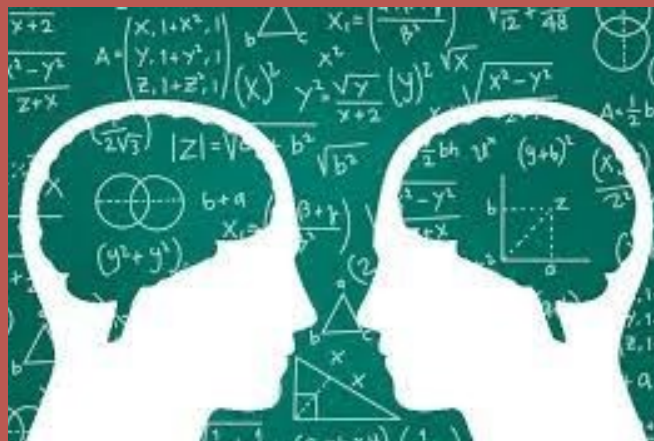
Controlled Component: 0%

Summary of course content:

Mathematics A Level is a linear course taught over two years and is divided into three broad strands of mathematics. Pure mathematics is similar to the algebra taught at grade A GCSE but extends on to new topics such as Calculus, Advanced Geometry and Functions and equations. The other two modules are in applied mathematics. The statistics element covers probability, representing data, calculating measures of central tendency and spread and hypothesis testing. The mechanics module deals with forces and mathematical interactions in the physical world. In this module you study Newtons laws, resolving forces and projectiles.

There is a strong problem solving element to all three strands and examination is by three 2 hour papers at the end of the two years. A Level mathematics is a challenging but rewarding course, and you must be prepared to put in independent study during the course to consolidate your understanding of new topics.

A Level Mathematics is challenging but satisfying and promotes logical thought and a rigorous approach to solving problems. If you enjoy algebra at GCSE this would be a good choice of course. You need to be able to persevere with demanding questions independently and be prepared to put in enough time practising questions to be secure with concepts as they are taught. The course builds week-by-week, on each piece of newly acquired knowledge or skill .



A-Level Exams - End of Year 2

3 x 2hour 100 mark exams 33.3% each

Paper 1 – Pure Mathematics

Paper 2 – Pure Mathematics and Mechanics

Paper 3 - Pure Mathematics and Statistics

Progression and Career routes:

As well as degree opportunities in mathematics, this course could lead to further study in science, engineering, finance or any subject requiring data analysis. Some university courses which have a large mathematic content may require or recommend Maths A Level for entry on to particular courses. All career disciplines and higher education establishments value the high level of thinking skills evidenced by an A Level Maths qualification

How to access this course:

GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above.

A sound understanding of the Algebra topics taught at GCSE.

An ability to reason logically and an enjoyment of problem solving.



Music

Course Details

Course Type:

BTEC Music Performing

Contact: Miss R Vaughan

Examined Component:

A Level: 40% BTEC: 50%

Controlled Component:

A Level: 60% BTEC: 50%

Summary of course content:

This is a very practical and hands-on course and as such you need to be organised, self-motivated, meet deadlines, and be good at independent working. **All instruments and voices are welcome.** The course gives you a real insight into all aspects of Music.. Taught by teachers who have a wealth of performance and composition experience you will embark upon a personalised journey as you develop your skills as a musician. Everyone taking this qualification will study **three mandatory** units, covering the following content areas:

- **Ensemble Music Performance**
(Externally assessed)
- **Practical Music Theory and Harmony**
(Internally assessed)
- **Professional Practice in the Music Industry** (Externally assessed)

You can then choose one optional unit. All optional units are internally assessed. They cover content areas such as:

- Composing Music
- Music Promotion
- Music Performance Session Styles
- Solo Performance
- Music Software Skills.

Progression and Career routes:

Students doing Music tend to progress onto Higher Education or follow a more personalised career path in Music. It may set you up for a career in the music industry (e.g. performing, teaching, radio, TV, journalism, tourism, leisure and entertainment, music therapy, retail, music production, publishing and arts administration). It's an excellent subject to develop life skills vital to any career such as team work, communication, time management, organisation and self-confidence.

How to access this course:

BTEC: Grade 4 at GCSE or merit at level 2
BTEC or equivalent music experience.

Students must be able to perform on an instrument/voice and have a willingness to learn music theory.

Sport & Physical Activity

Course Details

Course Type:

CTEC Sport & Physical Activity

Contact: Mr G Walters

Examined Component:

Extended Certificate	Diploma
2 x exams	3 x exams

Controlled Component:

3 written CW units	8 written CW units
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Progression and Career routes:

Students who study sport and physical activity may go on to study a sport based course in higher education or they may move onto apprenticeships or employment in the following areas:

Leisure Industry – working in various roles within a leisure centre or private club

Personal Trainer – working with individuals to help develop personal health and fitness

Sports Coach – coaching children or adults in a specific sport

Physiotherapist - treating injuries on a local or professional level in the public or private sector

How to access this course:

Students must be able to research and apply knowledge to various 'real life' scenarios, coach small groups and apply knowledge to exam based questions.

CTEC: If students have studied a Sport Course at Key Stage 4 a grade 5/Merit grade is desirable. Grade 5 in both English and Maths are also desirable. A teacher recommendation would be considered if the course requirements were not met.

**Summary of course content:**

CTEC: The course is aimed at individuals who are looking at careers in sport or the health and fitness industry.

A passionate interest in the world of sport will help to develop a wide knowledge base and give you modern day examples to use in lessons and help deepen your understanding.

CTEC Sport and Physical Activity is available in 2 course options:

1. Extended Certificate

Unit 1 – Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity – External Exam

Unit 2 – Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership

Unit 3 – Sports Organisation and Development – External Exam

Unit 17 – Sports Injuries and Rehabilitation

Unit 8 – Organisation of Sports Event

2. Diploma—the above units plus:

Unit 4—Working Safely in Sport—External Exam

Unit 5—Performance Analysis

Unit 11—Physical Activity for Specific Group

Unit 18—Practical Skills in Sport

Unit 13—Health & Fitness Testing

Unit 19—Sport Psychology

Photography

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level

Contact: Mrs S Gilbride

Examined Component: 40%

Controlled Component: 60%

Summary of course content:

The A level Photography course offers you the opportunity to develop and extend your photographic skills. Through a series of workshops you will explore how to use a range of photographic processes and techniques including manual and digital photography, video and moving image, scanned and edited images.

Following on from teacher led workshops you will be encouraged to develop your own personal line of enquiry, developing a portfolio of work exploring different techniques and approaches on your chosen theme.

A component of the course is a written element where you will explore the work of other artists, designers and craftspeople who inspire you and your work. This will allow you to develop your skills in critical analysis and reflection.



Progression and Career routes:

Students can go on to study creative courses at a higher level including fashion photography, animation, film and television, forensic photography and visual communication.

This course also lends itself well to apprenticeships in the creative sector.

Careers using photography include commercial photographer, Photojournalist, Filmmaker, Fashion Photographer.

How to access this course:

You will need at least a grade 5 in GCSE Photography. A grade 4 or above in English language is preferable due to the written element of the course.

Physics

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Physics

Contact: Mrs T Green

Examined Component: 100%

Controlled Component: 0%

Summary of course content:

The A Level Physics enables students to build on their knowledge of the laws of physics, applying their understanding to solve problems on topics ranging from subatomic particles to the entire universe. They also have the opportunity to develop all the relevant practical skills.

The course content is split into six teaching modules:

1. Development of practical skills in physics
2. Foundations of Physics
3. Forces and Motion
4. Electrons, waves and photons
5. Newtonian world and astrophysics
6. Particle and medical physics

The A Level in Physics aims to encourage learners to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.
- develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods.
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills.
- develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject.
- understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society.



Progression and Career routes:

The A Level Physics course will prepare learners for progression to undergraduate study, enabling them to enter a range of academic and vocational careers in mathematics-related courses, physical sciences, engineering, medicine, computing and related sectors.

How to access this course:

You will be required to achieve at least a grade 6 in GCSE Physics and Mathematics

Politics

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Politics

Contact: Mr A Ayre

Mrs S Ayre

Examined Component: 100%

Controlled Component: 0%

Summary of course content:

The A Level Politics course is a 2 year A Level which comprises of 3 components:

COMPONENT 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Students fast realise that there is so much more to Politics than just political parties and elections. An in-depth analysis of the different types of democracy and a consideration of how people participate beyond simply voting allows our students to evaluate the success and legitimacy of the 'democracy' in which they live. Whoever knew that CamRA (Campaign for Real Ale) was a functioning pressure group, and the rise of the internet has encouraged a movement towards a new era of 'clickocracy'!?

A study of voting systems always opens eyes to the uniqueness of our system of voting as students pit this against alternative voting systems used around the world and make up their mind on whether or not ours should be changed. A consideration of the impact of the media also forms a fascinating study of the successes and failures of various political campaigns, parties and politicians—from Jezfest to expenses scandals, newspaper bias to twitter personas, and much more!

A study of the origins of the various political parties and a more detailed evaluation of Socialism, Liberalism and Conservatism enables our students to hone their political compass and see the world of politics through the eyes of the politicians, parties and governments themselves. We aim not to draw allegiance but open up the endless debate which makes Politics such a joy to both study and teach!



COMPONENT 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

There are so many questions to be asked and answered: Who has the true power within the UK? Are we really a united kingdom anymore where politics is concerned? Are the Houses of Parliament still fit for purpose? Is it right that we have non-elected Lords that make up our parliament? How is the Prime Minister effectively challenged and held to account? There is so much more than meets the eye... not to mention our case study on Anarchism which sees lessons on a whole host of engaging topics from the miners' strikes to punk rock and the Sex Pistols!

COMPONENT 3: Comparative Politics (USA)

No course in Politics would be complete without comparing our own system to one elsewhere—and what better system to look at than that of the most powerful country in the world. Though the era of Trump is drawing to an end, there is no doubt that US politics will remain a spectacle!

Progression and Career routes:

In a world where politics undoubtedly holds influence career options and further study are far and wide: international relations, government, law, business, research, diplomatic services, marketing, executive and much more.

How to access this course:

Although there are no specific subjects required at GCSE to study Politics at A-Level, a Grade 6 in English and another Humanities subject is desirable, though teacher recommendation will however be considered.

Psychology

Course Details

Course Type:

AQA A Level Psychology

Contact: Mrs S Allen and Mrs J Ferrier

Examined Component: 100%

Controlled Component: 0%

Summary of course content:

The A Level Psychology course is 2 year A Level which comprises of 3 Units:

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour. What do you really know about the human mind? It is an academic subject which introduces you to scientific research, critical thinking, discussion and essay writing in the context of the world around you.

The course is broken down in to mandatory units which are studies relating to psychological theory. There are then optional units.

Mandatory Units cover 8 themes—Social Influence, Memory Attachment, Psychopathology, Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research methods and Issues and debates in Psychology

Optional Unit are split into 3 groups:

Relationships, Gender or Cognitive Development
Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour and Stress
Aggression, Forensic Psychology and Addiction

To see success you need to have an analytical mind, competence with statistical maths and an interest in the world at large and explanations for behaviours



Progression and Career routes:

The course would lead into higher education opportunities, such as studying psychological, social sciences, criminology, politics and social policy. It could also lead to careers in multiple fields in psychology—for example child psychology, research posts, education and teaching.

How to access this course:

Essay based assessment requires a Level 5 in GCSE English & Maths and due to the high Biology content a grade 5 in GCSE Biology or equivalent Combined Science course is desirable.



Sociology

Course Details

Course Type:
A Level Sociology

Contact: Mrs S Allen

Examined Component: 100%

Controlled Component: 0%

Summary of course content:

A-level Sociology will help you to make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues which affect us all. You will learn a number of skills including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate facts, and critical thinking. It is relevant to the society you live in so you are bound to enjoy learning about topics that are relevant to everyday life; plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers. The topics we cover are:

- Education with theory and methods
- Crime and deviance with theory and methods
- Families and households
- Beliefs in society

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

Progression and Career routes:

According to bestcourse4me.com, the top six degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in sociology are: • Sociology • Psychology • English studies • Business studies • Law • Teaching.

Possible career options studying sociology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including: • Social work • Human resources • Advertising • Policing • Marketing • Journalism • Law • Teaching.

How to access this course:

Ideally a grade 5 in GCSE REP or Sociology but a Grade 5 in English/English Literature would be considered.

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