

North Kesteven Academy

Sixth Form Prospectus

2026

Introduction to the North Kesteven Academy Prospectus for 2026

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, where you can experience four sixth form subjects from the prospectus to assist you in making informed choices. In addition, we have also planned our sixth form open evening which takes place on 13th 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.

Ms H Thomas
Headteacher

Mrs K Buttimer
Assistant Headteacher

Key Dates:

Thursday 13th November 2025	Sixth Form Open Event
Friday 2nd December 2025	Sixth Form Taster Day
Friday 2nd December 2025	Online applications open for North Kesteven Academy Sixth Form
Commencing Monday 26th January 2026	Y11 student meetings to discuss post 16 applications
February/March 2026	Course Offer Review*
June 2025	Sixth Form Induction Day
Thursday 20th August 2026	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 2026.

Key Contacts:

Ms H Thomas	Headteacher
Mrs K Buttimer	Assistant Headteacher
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?

All courses on offer in our Sixth Form are Level 3 courses.

Level 3 BTEC and CTEC courses are comparable to A Level courses. The BTEC and CTEC content generally includes more practical and coursework 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 (AAQs) 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, OCR National and other AAQ qualifications are all Level 3 qualifications that are alternatives to A Levels. 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 2025.

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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Course Listing continued

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29	Sociology	Social Science
30	3D Design	Art



Art

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level

Contact: Mrs S Gilbride

Examined Component: 40%

Controlled Component: 60%

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.

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: Mr Epie Nanje

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.

Business



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.

Structure of year one: There are two papers. Each paper has a distinctive approach to ensure the assessment of a full range of academic skills. The exam papers also get progressively more challenging for learners. Paper 1 (75 minutes, 60 marks) Paper 1 combines short-answer questions with data response questions. The paper assesses the content in Unit 1 only. Paper 2 (120 minutes, 80 marks) Paper 2 includes a number of data response questions, some requiring extended responses, to assess all the content.

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Business

Contact: Mr L Athersych

Examined Component:

A Level:100%

Structure of year two: This comprises some of the units from year one and it is assumed that learners can draw upon their knowledge and understanding of the content from year one. Paper 3 (135 minutes, 80 marks) includes a number of data response questions, some short and some requiring extended answers to assess business analysis and strategy. The content from the year one units will be called upon to underpin the responses in this paper. This paper will naturally call upon learners' quantitative skills in order to answer the questions. Paper 4 (135 minutes, 80 marks) has two distinct sections. Section A will include a number of questions, mostly requiring extended answers, based on a case study.

Progression and Career routes:

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.

How to access this course:

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

Chemistry

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Chemistry

Contact: Mr Epie Nanje

Examined Component: 100%

Controlled Component: 0%

Summary of course content:

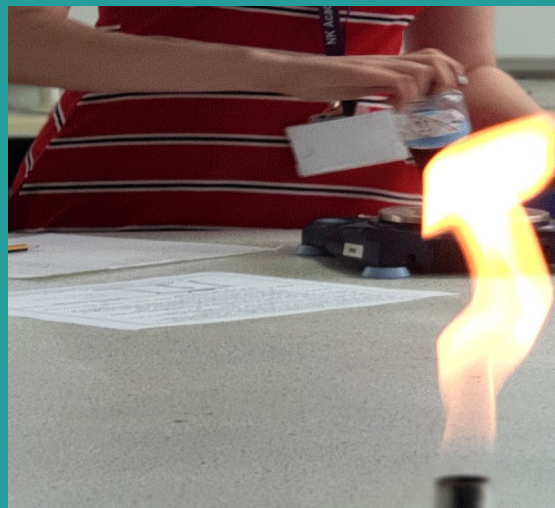
A Level Chemistry – a content-led approach. A flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of chemistry. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they're assessed both through written papers and, for A level only,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

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 Social Science learning.

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



Progression and Career routes:

- The course is often a spring board for access to higher education degree courses
- And may lead to any number of careers including:
- Police officer
- Detective
- Lawyer
- Social worker
- Prison officer
- Crime analyst
- Forensic Scientist

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.



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

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 follow the EPQ course as part of our core offer to develop their study skills. As the course progresses students will discuss with staff whether they wish to be entered for the EPQ qualification.

Further Maths

Course Details

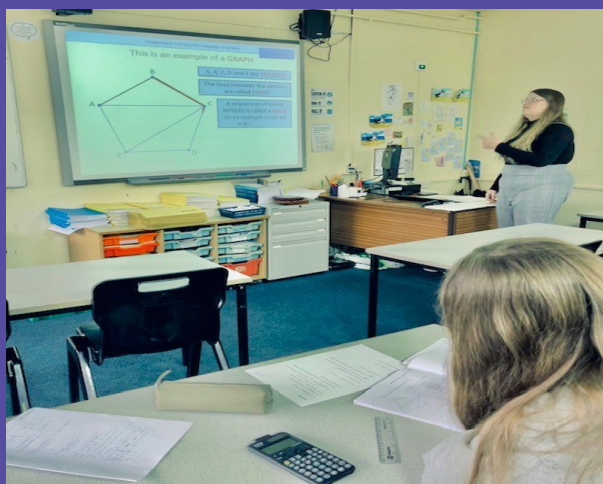
Course Type:

Further Maths

Contact: Mr Warriss, 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 students must have GCSE Maths or Further Maths at grade 7 or above. Students must also be studying A Level Maths

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 :

Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care (AAQ)

Contact: Mrs S Allen, Mrs M Price

Examined Component: 2 external exams

Coursework: 4 internally assessed coursework units

Summary of course content:

THERE ARE 4 MANDATORY UNITS:

Principles of HSC - How you can support equality, diversity and rights in health and social care settings?

Anatomy and Physiology: What are the different body systems and the structure and function?

Person-centred care: What principles and values underpin a person-centred approach?

Mental Health Conditions: How can you care for people with mental health needs?

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE 2 OPTIONAL UNITS CHOSEN FROM:

Long-term physiological conditions

Diagnosing, monitoring and treating

Public health

Benefits and challenges of a achieving a healthy society

Sexual Health, Pregnancy and Postnatal Health

Advice, law and guidance for all aspects of sexual health

Nutrition and Lifestyles

Guidelines for healthy living and nutritional eating.



Progression and Career routes:

University: Nursing (Adult, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities), Midwifery, Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Physiotherapy

Apprenticeships: Podiatry, Clinical Apprentice, Radiology Assistant, Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship

Employment: Health Care Assistant, Residential Care Home

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: Mrs S Ayre

Mr A 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 C Warriss

Miss B Munson

Examined Component: 100%

Controlled Component: 0%

Summary of course content:

A Level Mathematics is a two-year linear course that develops advanced analytical, reasoning, and problem-solving skills. It is divided into three main strands: Pure Mathematics, Statistics, and Mechanics, each building on GCSE knowledge and introducing new areas of mathematical thinking.

The Pure Mathematics strand extends algebra and geometry into more advanced topics such as Calculus, Trigonometry, Sequences and Series, Exponentials and Logarithms, and Functions and Graphs, forming the foundation for higher-level study and underpinning applied areas.

The Statistics strand focuses on understanding and interpreting data through topics such as probability, data presentation, measures of spread, correlation, and hypothesis testing. These skills support subjects like Psychology, Biology, Geography, and Economics, and careers involving data analysis.

The Mechanics strand applies mathematics to the physical world, studying forces, motion, acceleration, and Newton's Laws. You will model real-life situations, resolve forces, and analyse projectiles, which are particularly useful for subjects like Physics and Engineering.

Problem-solving and mathematical modelling are central throughout. You will apply mathematics to new contexts, interpret results, and communicate solutions clearly. Assessment is through three two-hour exams at the end of Year 13, with no coursework.



Highly regarded by universities and employers, A Level Mathematics supports progression into degrees in Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, Economics, Finance, and beyond. It suits students who enjoy algebra, logical thinking, and independent study, and who are willing to persevere with challenging concepts to achieve success.

Progression and Career routes:

As well as degree opportunities in mathematics, this course can lead to further study in fields such as science, engineering, finance, or any discipline involving data analysis. Many university courses with a strong mathematical component either require or recommend A Level Mathematics for entry. The qualification is highly valued by universities and employers alike as it demonstrates advanced problem-solving ability, logical reasoning, and critical thinking skills that are transferable across all areas of study and professional careers.

How to access this course:

Students will need GCSE Maths at grade 6 or above to access this course.

Medical Science

Course Details

Course Type:

Level 3—AAQ
BTEC Medical Science
Extended Certificate

Contact:

Mr Epie Nanje (Head of Science)
Ms H Thomas (Headteacher)



Summary of course content:

The course consists of 3 compulsory modules and a further, optional choice, module.

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 specific specialist areas in which they wish to develop their knowledge and skills:

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

Assessment

There are 4 units in total to complete
3 units are mandatory (see above) and 2 are externally assessed (exams). Mandatory content (83%); External assessment (58%).

Internally assessed units are assessed by a Pearson Set Assignment Brief (PSAB), which is set by Pearson, marked by the school and subject to external standards verification.

Progression and Career routes:

Synoptic assessment requires students to demonstrate that they can identify and use effectively, in an integrated way, an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories and knowledge from across the whole sector as relevant to a key task.

This enables a wider variety of career and qualification based routes to be accessed. Those interested in working in the medical field, e.g. through nursing or research based roles would particularly benefit from this course as it also includes access to, and development of, practical science, laboratory skills.

NB: If you are planning to apply for Medicine, as a university course, to become a doctor, you must take A Level Chemistry as one of your options.

How to access this course:

You will require a minimum of Grade 4 in English Language and maths. You will also need a minimum of 5-5 in science GCSE.

Music

Course Details

Course Type:

Music Performing

Contact: Mr M Cook

Examined Component:

50%

Controlled Component:

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:

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.

Performing Arts

Course Details

Course Type:

BTEC Performing Arts

Contact: Miss A Markland and Miss C Gillard

Examined Component:

25%

Controlled Component:

75%

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, Drama and the 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 theatre or dance or drama therapy. With jobs in the creative industries adding new posts at twice the rate of the rest of

How to access this course:

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



Summary of course content:

Our BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts program offers students an exciting, practical course to explore their talents in **Dance, Musical Theatre, and Drama**. Whether aspiring to a career in the performing arts or simply looking to develop confidence and creativity, this course provides a supportive and dynamic environment.

Students can choose any combination of Dance, Musical Theatre, and Drama for an equivalent of 1, 2, or 3 A-levels, tailoring the course to their specific interests and future goals. Each course combines hands-on performance experience with academic studies, covering essential skills in performance technique, creative interpretation, and industry insights. With a strong emphasis on personal growth and teamwork, students will have opportunities to perform for live audiences, collaborate with peers, and receive personalised coaching from experienced instructors.

Students have three options for selecting their Performing Arts course:

Option One – Students can choose one Performing Art (Dance, Musical Theatre, or Drama) and combine it with two other subjects outside of Performing Arts.

Option Two – Students can choose two Performing Arts and combine them with one additional subject outside of Performing Arts.

Option Three – Students can take all three Performing Arts (Dance, Musical Theatre, and Drama) as their full course load in sixth form.

Performing Arts (Continued)



Dance

Our BTEC Dance course offers students the chance to develop technique, creativity, and performance skills, drawing inspiration from renowned practitioners such as Kate Prince and Matthew Bourne. Through studying these influential choreographers and exploring various dance styles, students gain a deep understanding of movement, storytelling through dance, and the creative process behind successful choreography. This course is ideal for students passionate about movement and expression, equipping them with the skills needed for live performance, choreography, and further study in dance.

Equivalent of One A-Level

Musical Theatre

For those captivated by song, dance, and acting, the Musical Theatre course combines these elements to create dynamic performers. Students will study iconic practitioners like Lin-Manuel Miranda and Stephen Sondheim, exploring how they blend music, lyrics, and narrative to create powerful performances. With an emphasis on vocal technique, dance, and character development, this pathway develops well-rounded performers ready for the stage. It's perfect for students looking to expand their talents across multiple disciplines and understand the impact of musical theatre in the arts.

Equivalent of One A-Level



Drama

In the Drama course, students delve into the craft of acting and performance, examining influential techniques from Stanislavski and Brecht. This provides a foundation in acting methods, character development, and storytelling. By studying these key practitioners, students explore different approaches to performance, understanding how emotion, intention, and audience engagement shape compelling drama. Ideal for students passionate about acting, directing, and understanding theatre's impact, this pathway prepares them for the stage, screen, and further training in the dramatic arts.

Equivalent of One A-Level

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: Mr Epie Nanje

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, teacher recommendation will however be considered.

Psychology

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level Psychology

Contact: Mrs S Allen

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. It will help you understand yourself and the behaviour of others, allow you to see how we are surrounded by Psychology most of the time and encourage you to question everything.

The course is broken down in to units which are studies relating to psychological theory.

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

Three further units:

Stress

Gender

Forensic Psychology

To see success you need to have an analytical mind, and an interest in the world at large and enjoy analysing explanations for behaviours.



Progression and Career routes:

The course would lead into higher education opportunities, such as studying Psychology, Social Sciences, Criminology, Politics and social policy and Mental Health and many more.

It could also lead to careers in multiple fields in psychology—for example:

Specialised Psychologist,

Research posts,

Education and teaching,

Counselling,

Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner.

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.

Sport & Physical Activity

Course Details

Course Type:

CTEC Sport & Physical Activity

Contact: Mr G Walters/ Mrs T Hamer

Examined Component:

Extended Certificate

2 x exams

Controlled Component:

3 written CW units

**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.

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

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:

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.



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.

3D Design

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level 3D Design

Contact: Mrs S Gilbride

Coursework: 60%

Externally set task: 40%

Summary of course content:

The A level 3D Design course is a two year Art based course which allows you to be creative and expressive with your ideas and designs in both 2D and 3D forms. Early on in the course you will be encouraged to explore a range of materials and processes including paper, card, wire and ceramics as you develop skills in the design process. We have access to CAD software and a laser cutter to help you develop your ideas during the course. A component of A level 3D Design is a written element where you will explore the work of other designers, artists 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:

This course allows you pursue a range of creative courses at a higher level including Architecture, Product Design, Sculpture and Interior Design.

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.

Notes

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