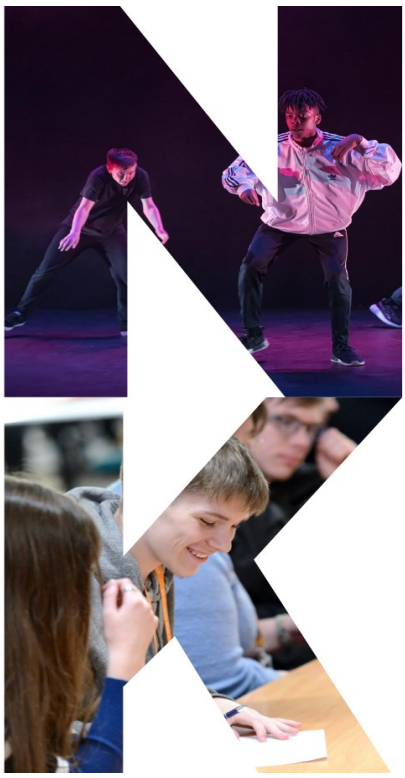


North Kesteven Academy Sixth Form Prospectus 2027–28

Introduction to the North Kesteven Academy Sixth Form Prospectus for 2027-28

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 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 19th November from 5.30-7.00pm.

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. As we become more aligned with the Priory Academy Trust our students will have even more access to post-16 provision both academic and vocational. Our offer this year takes this additional provision into account and ensures that the NK sixth form offer is tailored to need and bespoke.

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 Spoors — Headteacher

Mrs Ayre — Key Stage 5 Progress Lead

Key Dates:

Thursday 19th November 2026	Sixth Form Open Event
Commencing December 2026	Sixth Form Taster Days
	Online applications open for North Kesteven Academy Sixth Form
Commencing January 2027	Y11 student meetings to discuss post 16 applications
February/March 2027	Course Offer Review*
June 2027	Sixth Form Induction Day
August 2027	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 2027.

Key Contacts:

Mrs Spoors	Headteacher
Mrs Ayre	Key Stage 5 Progress Lead

Being a Sixth Form Student

Life at North Kesteven Academy Sixth Form.

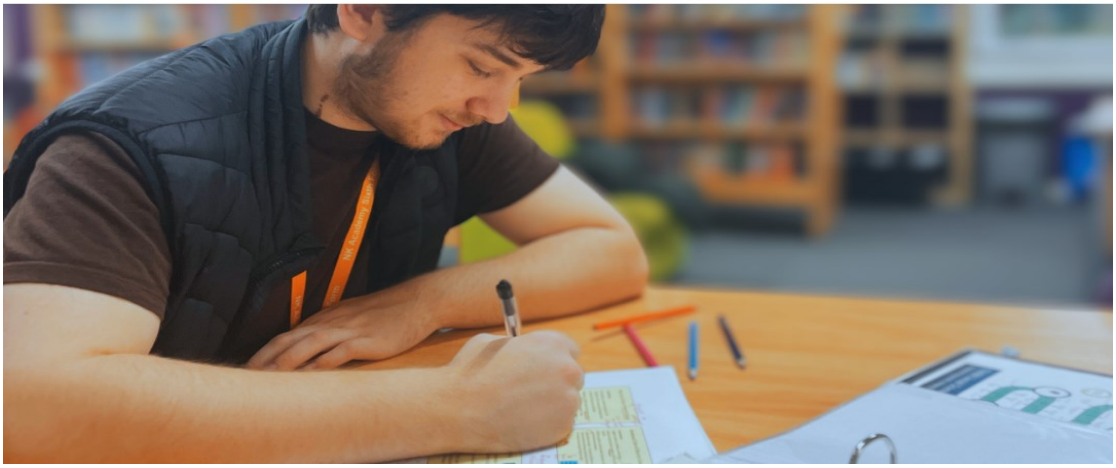
Life in the sixth form is full. You will be productive in your studies, engaged in enrichment activities, organising projects and attending events and focussing on making plans for the future. Here at North Kesteven Academy we want to support you in all of these endeavours and have founded our sixth 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

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 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.

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 grade 5 in English and a grade 4 or above in maths or equivalent BTEC qualifications.



English Language/Literature

Course Details

Course Type:

A Level

Contact: Mr Hatfield and Mrs Buttimer

Examined Component: 80%

Controlled Component: 20%

Summary of course content:

Telling Stories (40%) (closed/open book elements)

- Remembered Places (non-fiction anthology)
- Imagined Worlds (one prose Fantasy text)
- Poetic Voices (poetry anthology)

Exploring Conflict (40%) (Open Book)

- Writing About Society (recreative writing and commentary)
- Dramatic Encounters (drama text)

Making Connections NEA (20%)

- Investigation into literary and non-literary texts (student choice)

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Theatre visits and workshops.
- Experience of a range of theatrical/cinematic productions.
- Conferences.

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE?

The Language and Literature A-Level offers an integrated English Literature and English

Language course, which draws together literary and non-literary discourse. The study

of both Language and Literature enables students to explore shared concepts about

the way language choices create representations, in both literary and non-literary

texts: words create worlds, both in literature and elsewhere.

'I loved doing English at GCSE, but A Level is so much more exciting. You get to be more independent, think for yourself and explore texts in much more depth.'

English Student

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Students will be given the opportunity to develop their expertise in English by

engaging creatively, critically and independently with a wide range of texts. Students

will analyse literary and non-literary texts from a range of modes and genres,

developing their own skills as text producers and interpreters of language by creating

texts themselves and reflecting on their own creative process

Key areas of learning will include:

the representation of place, point of view and genre in prose;

the forms and functions of poetic voice;

the role of the individual in society;

conflict in drama;

creative transformations of texts

How to access this course:

Grade 5 in both English Language and English Literature GCSEs

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:

- Grade 4 or above in both English, Maths and Science plus 3 other subjects at least grade 4
- Or BTEC qualifications at Level 2



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 5 or above is desirable. Other circumstances or teachers recommendation will however be considered.

GCSE English Language or English Literature at grade 5 is also a requirement.

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 Conservatisms 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 5 in English and another Humanities subject is desirable, teacher recommendation will however be considered.

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 Language/English Literature would also be considered.

Notes



North Kesteven Academy

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