



THE SIXTH FORM

Oaklands Catholic School



COURSE GUIDE

THESIXTHFORM@OAKLANDSCATHOLICSCHOOL.ORG



WELCOME TO OAKLANDS

Thank you for your interest in joining the Sixth Form at Oaklands Catholic School. It is a privilege to lead this wonderful community and I do hope you will consider joining our flourishing and successful Sixth Form.

Choosing the right post-16 pathway can be challenging, and the information in this brochure is designed to give you an overview of the wide variety of courses we offer. The Sixth Form is a thriving community rooted in a culture of love and service where people grow and develop whilst feeling cared for and valued. At the heart of the Sixth Form and wider school lies our Catholic ethos, which underpins everything we do. Sixth Form teachers build positive relationships with students and really get to know them, this enables them to give excellent student feedback; achieve fantastic public examination results, and post-18 destinations. This has included Oxbridge success and a record number of students securing places to study medicine, the arts and a vast range of other courses at leading universities. I am also proud of the growing number of post-18 apprenticeships our students have accessed across leading industries.

The Sixth Form allows every student to achieve their full potential through high-quality education and academic success. Smaller class sizes and designated tutors enable us to identify each student's gifts and find opportunities to develop them in a climate where shared and personal achievement can be maximised.

Amy Bonnington, Head of School

Welcome from the Director of Sixth Form

A very warm welcome to the Sixth Form at Oaklands Catholic School. Thank you for your interest in exploring us as a possible destination for your post-16 pathway. Deciding your next steps after GCSE can be daunting and I hope you find the following information of use. The course information summaries in this prospectus will give you an idea of the wide range of subjects we offer.

Your time in the Sixth Form is a special yet surprisingly short time. It is a bridge between the world of compulsory schooling and university study or employment. You will have many unique opportunities and challenges, but you can be confident that if you join Oaklands Sixth Form you will be guided and supported throughout your journey by highly experienced and committed teachers and support staff.

I like to refer to us as the Sixth Form with a soul and this can be read in variety of ways. On one level it is an acknowledgement of our Catholic ethos which is the bedrock of all we do. This is reflected in our commitment to love and service and this is something you will benefit from on a daily basis. As a smaller Sixth Form we are also a close community and this means each individual is known and cherished. You will see this manifest in many ways, not least of which will be in the close relationship you will forge with your tutor and the wider Sixth Form team. I do hope you will also be able to join us for some of our open day events which will be advertised on our website. In the meantime, please do feel free to contact us directly if you have any questions or to arrange an informal visit.

I wish you every success with your current studies and look forward to meeting you soon.

Dave Godwin, Director of Sixth Form

Please note that whilst our prospectus outlines a wide range of subjects we have recently offered, we reserve the right not to run a particular course in any given year depending upon demand and staffing.

Entry Requirements

The minimum grade requirements for entry to the Sixth Form are five grades 9 – 4 at GCSE, including Maths and English. However, specific entry requirements vary according to the subject, so please refer to the following course information.

Please note that whilst our prospectus outlines a wide range of subjects we have recently offered, we reserve the right not to run a particular course in any given year, depending upon demand and staffing.

Application Process

Specific dates will be confirmed on the Sixth Form website for any given year.

Open Evenings and Application Online	October Open Evening – Applications online open on this evening December – Application deadline
Offer Confirmation Letter	February
Sixth Form Applicant Day	July
GCSE Results and Final Enrolment	August
Induction and Courses Start	September

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Philosophy, Ethics & Theology (Religious Studies) A Level

Course Overview

This course aims to engage learners and develop an interest in Philosophy, Ethics and Theology, which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world in which we live. It is an interesting and challenging course, which allows you to explore some of life's big questions: Does God exist? What does it mean to be moral? Did Jesus really rise from the dead? You will develop skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religious, philosophical and ethical ideas.

If you are interested in debating and have an open mind then this course is right for you. It builds on Religious Studies GCSE but goes into much greater depth, focusing more on scholars and philosophy of religion and ethical theories rather than just a religious application.

Assessment

This course is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of the course in Year 13. There will be three two-hour exams which will include shorter knowledge and understanding questions and extended analytical and evaluative writing. The course comprises of three written papers all of equal weighting:

Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion

Paper 2: Religion and Ethics

Paper 3: New Testament

Where could it take you?

This course allows students to gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers; particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media.

This subject is highly regarded by many of the top universities in the country.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths.



Art and Design - Fine Art A Level and/or Photography A Level

Course Overview

This course aims to cultivate your intellectual, imaginative, creative, and intuitive abilities. You will develop investigative, analytical, experimental, technical, and expressive skills, along with aesthetic appreciation and creative judgment. In Year 12 the focus is on experimentation with a variety of techniques and materials.

You will also gain a deeper appreciation of art work and learn how to discuss and express your own opinions about art. This knowledge will be applied to developing your own artistic style through various projects, culminating in a mock exam. The learning continues in a Personal Investigation, where you have the opportunity to tailor the course to your personal interests and media choices, further enhancing your creativity and technical skills. The final exam in Year 13 is externally set and will further push your creative drive.

Assessment

Students will undertake a combination of practical projects and end of course tests. This will include small skills-based projects, a Personal Investigation and an essay worth 60% of the course. An externally set test worth 40% is assessed at the end of the course.

Paper 1 and 2: Internally assessed

Paper 3: Personal Investigation and 1,000-3,000-word essay (60%)

Paper 4: Controlled test (40%)

Where could it take you?

Fine Art is a dynamic subject, recognised for entry to university degree courses. Careers in Art and Design include fine artists, fashion, interior design, graphic design, textiles, printmaking, theatre, film, photography, animation, art therapy, art education, museum curator, art conservation, product design, illustration and architecture.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. Also, GCSE grades 9-4 in Art, Textiles or Photography is preferred, but not essential.

A portfolio of private work is required for any student wishing to study these subjects without a prior GCSE in Art or Photography.



Biology A Level

Course Overview

The Biology A Level course is designed to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of biological principles, from the molecular level to entire ecosystems. This course is ideal for those who are passionate about the natural world and are considering further studies or careers in biological sciences, medicine, or related fields. The course is divided into eight core topics, each building on knowledge gained at GCSE. It includes both theoretical and practical components, ensuring you develop a well-rounded understanding of biology. Practical work is an integral part of the Biology A Level course.

You will complete a series of required practical activities that will develop your experimental skills and enhance their understanding of biological concepts. These practicals are assessed through written exams and a separate endorsement of practical skills.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. There will be three two-hour exams which will include short answer and extended writing, in addition to 12 assessed and required practical experiments throughout the course.

Paper 1: 35% of A Level, Year 1 content

Paper 2: 35% of A Level, Year 2 content

Paper 3: 30% of A Level, Year 1 and 2 content and a 25-mark synoptic essay

Where could it take you?

Biology is a highly respected A Level, known for its depth and challenge, making it an excellent choice for university and beyond. It opens doors to a wide range of science-based careers, from medicine and veterinary science to marine biology, physiotherapy, and biotechnology.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE, including English. In addition, grades 7, 6 and 6 in any order in GCSE Maths and Science are required.



Business A Level

Course Overview

Business A level is concerned with the management and decision-making of businesses both at an operational and strategic level. You will become aware that business activity is an integrated process and that decisions made in one area always have an impact on other areas. There is a strong element of numerical work and you will learn to apply quantitative methods to a range of business contexts.

You will gain an insight into the internal functions of business in areas such as marketing, human resource management, operations and finance. Furthermore, you will develop an appreciation of how the external environment influences business performance by studying aspects of economics, law, international relations and ethics. It is a dynamic subject and is best understood when it is applied to real life contemporary businesses.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. There will be three two-hour written exams:

Paper 1: 35% Marketing, People and Global Businesses (Themes 1 and 2)

Paper 2: 35% Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy (Themes 3 and 4)

Paper 3: 30% Investigating Business in Competitive Environment (Synoptic)

Where could it take you?

Business has equal status with other A levels as an entrance qualification to higher education and is highly desirable for business and management degree courses. There are an enormous variety of courses with business or management content ranging from languages to fashion and marketing. Business Studies also provides practical skills and knowledge of value to most employment opportunities and higher apprenticeships.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including Maths. A grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature is required.



Chemistry A Level

Course Overview

Chemistry A Level offers you a comprehensive exploration of chemical concepts, focusing on both theoretical understanding and practical application. You will cover a broad spectrum of topics, including atomic structure, energetics, kinetics, equilibrium, periodicity, organic nomenclature and analysis. You will study the properties and reactions of organic and inorganic compounds, along with the principles behind chemical reactions and mechanisms. This course will provide an opportunity to develop scientific inquiry skills through practical experiments which are embedded throughout the curriculum helping you develop critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear meaning students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13 with three two-hour exams assessing the following topics:

Paper 1: Physical and Inorganic

Paper 2: Organic and Physical

Paper 3: Organic, Inorganic and Physical with emphasis on assessment of required practical experiments

Where could it take you?

Chemistry A Level is essential for courses such as veterinary science, dentistry, pharmacy and chemical engineering. Whilst many opportunities specifically using Chemistry require higher qualifications, most laboratory-based jobs benefit from a Chemistry qualification. Success at A Level Chemistry can be a clear indication of sound academic ability.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE, including English. In addition, grades 7, 6 and 6 in any order in GCSE Maths and Science are required.



Computer Science A Level

Course Overview

Computer Science A Level is not just about learning to code. You will also learn the components of computer systems, how they operate, and how they are managed and maintained. You will study data technology, covering data structures, database management, and the principles of data security. Theoretical concepts, topics such as computational thinking, algorithms, and the theory of computation will provide you with an understanding of the principles behind computing technologies.

This course covers both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. You will learn to program in Python, focusing on coding, software development, and algorithm design. Computer networking will enable you to apply your learning to better understand the frameworks that provide the foundation of connected systems.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. There will be two two-hour and thirty-minute exams, as well as an independent project.

Paper 1: Students answer short questions and write/adapt/extend programs in an electronic answer document.

Paper 2: Short and extended-answer questions.

Independent Project (NEA): Assesses the student's ability to apply their knowledge and skills gained to solve a practical problem.

Where could it take you?

Computer Science equips you with technical skills, from programming languages to algorithm design, opening a range of career opportunities. Whether you see yourself developing cutting-edge software applications or pioneering advancements in artificial intelligence, Computer Science offers limitless possibilities.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English. A grade 6 or above in GCSE Maths is required.

While a GCSE in Computer Science is desirable, this is not a requirement and students without the GCSE are welcome to apply.



Drama A Level

Course Overview

The Drama A Level specification inspires you to become an independent theatre maker with the skills you need to go on to higher education, whether that is to study a course in drama and theatre or another subject. This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. You will learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for yourself. You will be introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles as you explore plays practically and devise your own performances. You can choose to develop as a: performer, designer (set, costume, puppets), director or a combination of these. Whichever option you choose, you will gain many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand your horizons.

Assessment

This course is assessed through a combination of a written exam, practical work and performance.

Component 1: Written exam (3 hour) worth 40% of A Level

Component 2: Creating original drama (practical) worth 30% of A Level

Component 3: Making theatre (practical) performance as a final assessed piece worth 30% of A Level

Where could it take you?

Students of Drama develop skills that are applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. Drama refines collaborative skills, analytical thinking and research. Career pathways include performance for stage and screen, technical theatre, journalism, theatre in education, drama therapy and teaching.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths.

Practical drama work and written analysis are both key components of this academic A Level. From time to time, theatre trips and rehearsals form essential elements of work outside of college hours.



Economics A Level

Course Overview

A Level Economics will give you an excellent understanding of how economies allocate their scarce resources to meet the needs and wants of their citizens. You will develop a greater understanding of the economic problems which face individuals, firms and governments on a local, national and global level and the alternative ways these problems can be resolved. You will investigate microeconomic topics such as how individual decisions impact economic outcomes, the importance of competition, how markets operate and why they fail and how the distribution of income and wealth is affected. At the same time, you will learn about macroeconomics, looking at the 'big picture' of how our national economy fits into the global context, the global impact of financial markets and monetary policy and the operation of the international economy.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. There will be three two-hour written exams which consist of multiple-choice questions, data analysis questions and longer essay style response questions.

Paper 1: Markets and Market Failure

Paper 2: National and International Economy

Paper 3: Economic Principles and Issues

Where could it take you?

A Level Economics is highly respected and the skills you acquire in this subject will help you no matter what degree course you choose. However, an A Level in Economics is of specific benefit if you are looking to go on to study economics, business or finance.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including Maths. A grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature is required.



English Language A Level

Course Overview

English Language A Level is your chance to study the world's leading language from its early formalisation in the 1600s to its future in our world. You will learn about human speech, the impact of language on our perceptions; the power of language in a variety of global, national and regional contexts. You will hone your analytical and evaluative skills, learn to write like a journalist, and conduct forensic linguistic investigations into aspects of the English language.

Your subject knowledge of English will advance and you will learn how it is significant in other academic fields such as Sociology, Psychology, Media, Law, Childhood Studies, etc. English Language A level has no relationship to the GCSE. It is raw, relevant and remarkable.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. These examinations test a range of writing skills and knowledge of language topics. You will also complete an independent project.

Paper 1: Language, the individual and society

Paper 2: Language diversity and change

Independent project (NEA): Language in Action

Where could it take you?

English Language is a highly regarded A Level for entry to university and higher education. It is a facilitating subject meaning that it is of benefit to any future course or career. It is specifically useful for speech therapy, education, journalism, publishing, politics, law, forensic linguistics, marketing, radio, television, etc.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including Mathematics. A GCSE grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature is required.



English Language and Literature A Level

Course Overview

English Language and Literature A Level offers a deep dive into diverse texts, from novels and plays to advertisements and online forums. You will explore different writing modes and refine analytical, comparative, and evaluative skills through an independent investigation on a topic of your choice; be it power structures, gender roles, or mental health. But it is not just about analysis! You will also develop your creative writing, mastering language techniques for specific effects. Plus, you will sharpen your ability to write clearly, critically, and concisely, preparing you for university, apprenticeships and beyond. Whether you are drawn to the rich literary world of *The Great Gatsby* or the power of modern media, this course unlocks a world of literary and linguistic discovery. Challenge yourself, unleash your creativity, and see language in a whole new way!

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. There will also be an independent project (NEA).

Paper 1: A Level. 3 hour exam

Paper 2: A Level. 2 hour and 30 minutes exam

(Non-Examined Assessment) NEA Making Connections: 20% of A Level. Coursework Task of 2,500-3,000 words

Where could it take you?

English Language and Literature A Level opens doors to careers in journalism, law, marketing, publishing, teaching, and media. Its strong analytical and communication focus is valued by universities, leading to degrees in English, creative writing, linguistics, and humanities. This A Level equips you with skills for endless opportunities!

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including Mathematics. A GCSE grade 5 in English Language or English Literature is required.



English Literature A Level

Course Overview

This is a course for those who are curious, independent readers. You will enjoy reading and discussing a wide range of texts. Conveying arguments and critical analysis in clear, focused writing is at the heart of the assessment method. You will become a strong, independent thinker able to write compelling and illuminating essays. Genre study is at the heart of the specification; the four broad genres available for study are tragedy, post-colonial, feminist and socio-political writing.

Some of the texts we study in English Literature include Othello, The Great Gatsby, Richard II, The Kite Runner, The Handmaid's Tale and Songs of Innocence and Experience. These texts all provide thought-provoking and stimulating insights into a range of historical periods and cultures.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear; students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. There will be two exams and two pieces of coursework.

Paper 1: Aspects of Tragedy (closed book)

Paper 2: Social and Political Protest (open book)

Independent Project NEA: Post-colonial novels and Feminist/Ecocritical poetry

Where could it take you?

English Literature is a traditional, facilitating subject that is highly valued by universities. Many of our students have gone on to study at Russell Group universities, including Oxbridge. English Literature helps develop critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills, which are invaluable skills for virtually every career.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including Mathematics. A GCSE grade of at least a grade 6 in English Literature or English Language is required.



Film Studies A Level

Course Overview

You will study mainstream American films from the past and the present; a range of recent and contemporary British films, American independent and global films, both non-English language and English language. The historical range of film is extended by the study of silent film and significant film movements so that you can gain a sense of the development of film from its early years to digital present. Studies in documentary, experimental and short films add to the breadth of the learning experience. Production work is a crucial part of this specification and is integral to the study of film. Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts includes the opportunity to apply your knowledge of how films are constructed to your own filmmaking and screenwriting.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit two exams at the end of their course in Year 13. There will be an independent project (NEA).

Paper 1: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking exam

Paper 2: Global Filmmaking Perspectives exam

Independent Project (NEA) - produce short film or screenplay

Where could it take you?

Many students go onto study film at university level and then into a career in the film industry. The course also teaches you transferable skills that can be useful in a range of industries as it encourages critical thinking and analysis of a range of film texts from different cultures.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. You do not need to have studied Film at GCSE.



French A Level

Course Overview

This course will enable you to develop your linguistic skills alongside your cultural understanding of French speaking countries by exploring the issues and influences which have shaped them. You will work with authentic materials, using mainly French in lessons. You will learn grammar and vocabulary, developing skills in reading and listening, translation, summaries and essay writing. You will consider French-speaking artistic culture: Francophone music and cinema, the changing nature of family, 'cyber-society' and voluntary work. You will also learn about political life in the French-speaking world, the positive features of a diverse society, the life of the marginalised and how criminals are treated. You will study a literary text and/or a film in French and carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

Paper 2: Writing

Paper 3: Speaking

There is an option to take French as a fourth subject for one year, taking AS exams at the end of Year 12. This gives you an AS qualification.

Where could it take you?

French is a facilitating subject that will enhance any degree and job application. It is highly regarded for the range of communication and analytical skills that you will gain. It opens doors to numerous career paths such as the diplomatic service, industry, government agencies, development agencies, journalism, publishing or tourism.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 GCSE grades 9-4 including French, English and Maths. An alternative to the French GCSE is that you should have a sound working knowledge of the language.



Geography A Level

Course Overview

Geography explores the complex interactions between people and the environment, helping you to understand the world's most pressing challenges. How do natural and human processes shape our planet? What are the causes and consequences of climate change, globalisation, and urbanisation? Studying Geography A Level will develop your analytical and critical thinking skills as you investigate diverse topics, from hazards and coasts to urban and global development. You will take part in debates, conduct fieldwork, and apply geographical theories to real-world issues. The course covers both physical and human geography, including topics such as water and carbon cycles, changing places, and global governance.

Assessment

This A level qualification is linear, meaning students will sit all exams at the end of Year 13. Assessment consists of two written exams and an independent investigation.

Paper 1: Physical Geography exam covering three topics

Paper 2: Human Geography exam covering three topics

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) - an independent geographical investigation of 3,000-4,000 words.

Where could it take you?

Geography is a highly respected A Level that opens doors to university and a wide range of careers. It is relevant to fields such as environmental science, urban planning, sustainability, business, and international development. Specific careers include environmental consultant, town planner, GIS analyst, climate scientist, and roles in government, education, and global organisations.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. A grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature is required. A grade 4 or above in GCSE Geography is preferred, but not essential.



History A Level

Course Overview

History focuses on developing your understanding of developments, events and individuals within our period of study. You will be able to track how changes happen over time and be able to argue which events are most important. You will gain an understanding of the key historical terms and concepts and be able to recall, select and deploy appropriate knowledge and communicate this clearly and effectively. History asks students to become expert debaters who are able to look at evidence critically by analysing their purpose and agenda. The course will offer a range of different time periods and geographic scales ranging from modern and medieval History, with units on Britain, Europe and the wider world.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. They are essay based with multiple extended writing tasks. We also have a 3,000-4,000-word essay which is the coursework element of the A Level.

Paper 1: Britain (2-hour exam)

Paper 2: The Crusades and Crusader States (1-hour exam)

Paper 3: Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964 (2-hours and 30 minutes)

Independent Project (NEA): Topic based essay

Where could it take you?

History is a highly regarded A Level subject for entry to university and higher education. History is relevant to a range of careers including education, police service, law and legal work and politics. Other specific jobs include lawyer, conservator, heritage officer and museum curator.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including Maths. A grade 5 or above in English Language or English Literature is required. A grade 4 or above in GCSE History is preferred, but not essential.



Law A Level

Course Overview

A Level Law provides an overview of criminal law, contract and tort principles, as well as the legal skills required for progression to a law degree or to enter employment. Throughout the course you will learn to develop the ability to utilise legal terminology, use statutes and cases to arrive at sustainable legal outcomes. You will also learn how to write evaluative essays about legal issues.

A key focus of the course is applying a knowledge of the law to advise on the likely verdict of a scenario. There is the opportunity to visit local courts to see the law from a practical perspective. Although most students will be new to A Level Law at the start of the course, within a few weeks you will be speaking and thinking like a lawyer.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. There are three two-hour exams which include a range of short answer questions, problem questions and essays.

Paper 1: The Legal System and Criminal Law

Paper 2: Sources of Law and Tort Law

Paper 3: Human Rights

Where could it take you?

Law is a highly respected A Level subject for entry to university and higher education. A large number of students progress to a university degree in law. Alternatively, the course is suited to a wide range of other university subjects and careers.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including Maths. GCSE grade 5 in English Literature or Language is required.



Mathematics A Level

Course Overview

A Level Mathematics is a challenging and rewarding course that deepens your understanding of mathematical concepts while developing your problem-solving and logical reasoning skills. You will explore topics such as algebra, calculus, and statistics, applying mathematical techniques to a range of abstract and real-world problems. The course encourages you to think critically, recognise patterns, and construct clear mathematical arguments. You will learn how to model real-life situations mathematically, refining your ability to analyse and interpret data.

Mathematics is a discipline that underpins many aspects of the world around us, from science and technology to everyday decision-making. Throughout the course, you will develop confidence in handling complex problems, using mathematical notation effectively, and communicating your reasoning with precision. A Level Mathematics provides a stimulating and structured approach to exploring the power and beauty of mathematics.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. Each paper is calculator based and carries equal weighting.

Papers 1 and 2: Algebra, Polynomials, Coordinate Geometry, Calculus, Trigonometry, Sequences and Series, the Binomial Expansion, Logarithms and Exponentials
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics

Where could it take you?

Mathematics continues to be the most popular A Level nationally and is frequently cited as an entry requirement for university courses. It can open doors to a wide range of future opportunities and is highly valued in fields such as engineering, physics, economics, and computer science.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English. A minimum grade of 7 or above in GCSE Maths is required.



Further Mathematics A Level

Course Overview

Further Mathematics A Level is an exciting and intellectually demanding course that extends beyond the standard Mathematics A Level syllabus. You will explore advanced concepts in algebra, calculus, and matrices, developing a deeper understanding of mathematical structures and methods. The core modules introduce complex numbers, differential equations, and further calculus, pushing your problem-solving and analytical skills to new levels. Decision mathematics focuses on algorithms, graph theory, and optimisation - essential tools in computing, logistics, and management. Further Mathematics encourages logical thinking, precision, and creativity in tackling abstract and applied problems. This course is ideal for students who enjoy mathematical challenges and want to deepen their knowledge, providing a strong foundation for university-level study in mathematical and technical disciplines.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. Students sit four ninety-minute exams at the end of Year 13, each paper is calculator based and carries equal weighting.

Papers 1 and 2: Core – Complex Numbers, Matrices, Differential Equations, Further Calculus, Vectors

Papers 3 and 4: Decision – Graph Theory, Game Theory, Linear Programming. Travelling Salesperson Problem

Where could it take you?

Further Mathematics enhances your opportunities in highly mathematical fields such as engineering, physics, economics, and computing. It is particularly beneficial for university courses requiring strong analytical and problem-solving skills. Employers value the logical reasoning and quantitative abilities it develops, making it an excellent choice for careers in research, technology, finance, and data science.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. A minimum grade 8 or above in GCSE Maths is required.



Media Studies A Level

Course Overview

In today's digital world, the media shapes the way we see and understand everything around us. Our Media Studies A Level course provides an exciting opportunity to explore the power of media, from television and film to social media, advertising, and journalism. You will develop analytical skills to critically examine media texts, audiences, and industries while gaining hands-on experience in media production. Whether you are interested in film, digital media, or journalism, this course will equip you with the knowledge and creativity to thrive in an ever-evolving industry.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear, meaning students will sit all exams at the end of Year 13. Assessment consists of two written exams and an independent investigation.

Paper 1: Media Products, Industries, and Audiences (Written Exam - 35%)

Paper 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth (Written Exam - 35%)

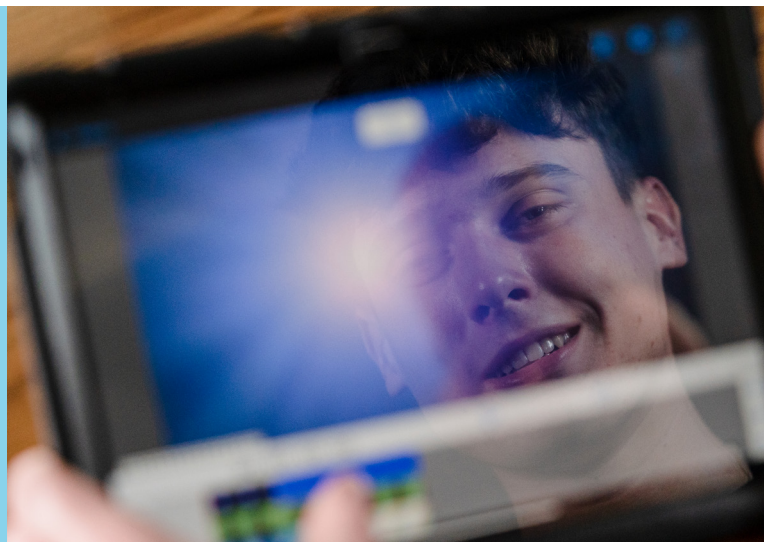
Paper 3: Cross-Media Production (30%). Students create their own media products (e.g., magazine, film marketing, TV sequences, or music videos)

Where could it take you?

Media Studies is a versatile and relevant area of study in our society. Past students have entered successful careers in media, communications, marketing and the creative industries. This course blends academic theory with practical skills to prepare you for university or the workplace.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. GCSE Media Studies is not a requirement for A Level study in this subject.



Music A Level

Course Overview

Music A Level offers a comprehensive exploration of musical theory and practice. You will analyse diverse musical styles, from classical masterpieces to contemporary compositions, developing your critical listening skills. The composition module lets you explore creation of your own music, while the performance module encourages you to refine your instrumental or vocal abilities. This course emphasises understanding music in its historical and cultural context, fostering a well-rounded musical education. Expect to delve into set works, develop your compositional portfolio, and perform to a high standard, preparing you for further study or a career in music.

Assessment

Music A Level is assessed, through both written exams and performance sat at the end of Year 13, and through coursework, over the course of the two years.

Paper 1: Written exam worth 40% and focuses on set work analysis and music theory.

Paper 2: Performance is worth 30% of the overall grade and is assessed through a 12-minute recital

Independent Project (NEA): Composition worth 30%, including one free choice composition, and a composition-based task

Where could it take you?

The self-disciplined nature of the study of music makes musicians highly sought after for a wide range of careers, however, performance, composition, and production are more traditional routes. Beyond that music can take you into careers in education, sound engineering and arts administration.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. Performance standard needs to be grade 5 standard and a grade 4 in GCSE Music is preferred. You should aim to be grade 5 theory standard at the start of the course.



Physical Education A Level

Course Overview

In Physical Education A Level you will explore anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, and the effects of exercise on the body in the first component. The second component focuses on skills acquisition, examining how skills are learned and developed, individual differences, exploring how factors like personality and attitude impact performance, and sport psychology, which looks at mental factors affecting performance and motivation. The third component covers socio-cultural issues, including ethics in sport, participation, the influence of media, and the role of sport in society.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. The course includes three components:

Component 1: Physiological Factors (exam worth 30%)

Component 2: Psychological Factors (exam worth 20%)

Component 3: Socio-Cultural Issues (exam worth 20%)

Performance in PE is assessed using one sport and an EAPI task (30%), combining theory, performance, and analysis.

Where could it take you?

The course develops critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deep understanding of sport, preparing students for careers in sports science, physiotherapy, teaching and coaching, sports psychology, personal training, sports management, and rehabilitation.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English, Maths and Science. A GCSE in PE at grade 4 or above is preferred, but not essential. An active participation in competitive sport is required.



Physics A Level

Course Overview

Physics A Level provides you with a deep understanding of the fundamental principles governing the physical world. The course covers a wide range of topics, including mechanics, electricity, waves, fields and nuclear physics. You will explore concepts such as forces, motion, energy transfer in a wide range of different contexts and scenarios. Key areas include thermodynamics, electromagnetism, and the properties of matter. You also investigate quantum physics and particle physics during Year 12, helping you to develop an understanding of the universe's building blocks. The course emphasizes problem-solving, analytical and practical skills through hands-on experiments and data analysis, fostering scientific inquiry and critical thinking. AQA A Level Physics is ideal for those considering careers in engineering, physical research, medicine, or technology, providing a strong foundation for further study in physics and other STEM related fields.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13. There will be three two-hour exams which will include multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, in addition to 12 assessed required practical experiments throughout the course.

Paper 1: Written exam worth 34% of A Level, Year 1 content

Paper 2: Written exam worth 34% of A Level, Year 2 content

Paper 3: Written exam worth 32% of A Level, Year 1 and 2 content

Where could it take you?

Physics is a challenging and rewarding subject that opens up a wide range of science-based careers. In addition to knowledge, students gain analytical, numerical and problem-solving skills which are qualities suited to all types of careers. Career possibilities encompass pure research, manufacturing industries such as space, technology and electronics.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English. A minimum of grades 7, 6, 6 in any order in GCSE Science and Maths is required. It is also strongly recommended that you take Maths A Level alongside Physics A level.



Politics A Level

Course Overview

Politics A Level offers you a deep and structured understanding of both the UK and wider global political systems. The course covers UK politics and government, exploring democracy, political parties, and the constitution, alongside core ideologies such as liberalism, conservatism, and socialism. It also includes an optional ideology, where we study feminism. The global politics component, which focuses on the USA, allows students to analyse relations between the UK and USA, global governance, and key issues like human rights and climate change. With its balance of theoretical and practical political knowledge, Politics A Level is an ideal choice for students passionate about governance, diplomacy, and global affairs.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13.

Paper 1: UK Politics

Paper 2: UK Government

Paper 3: Global Politics (USA)

Assessment is exam based, testing knowledge, evaluation, and argument-building skills through structured essay responses and political analysis.

Where could it take you?

Politics A Level encourages critical thinking, debate, and essay-writing skills, preparing students for university and careers in law, journalism, international relations, and public policy. The course links well to History, Economics, Sociology, Business Studies and Law. It also supports entry into local politics and encourages involvement with political parties.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including Maths. GCSE grade 5 or above in English Literature or Language is required.



Product Design A Level

Course Overview

We live in a world where good design and sound engineering is implicit in almost every aspect of our lives, from the cars we drive, the gadgets we use and the houses we live in to the medical equipment that helps save lives. This course requires you to think creatively and imaginatively and will help you develop your problem-solving abilities. You will work with a wide range of materials, developing your ideas from sketches to Computer Aided Design (CAD) and physical models through to prototypes. You will learn about the factors that influence design in the 21st Century and about designing and making in the real world.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students complete all assessment in Year 13. There will be 2 exams, which account for 50% of the A Level, and an independent project (NEA) worth 50%

Paper 1: Technical principles

Paper 2: Designing and making principles

Independent project (NEA): This requires students to design and make a product and produce an accompanying design portfolio of their work

Where could it take you?

The course provides a suitable foundation for the further study in any design or engineering discipline. The nature of the course is such that it would be very useful to students considering a wide variety of careers that are related to design, manufacturing, engineering and the arts.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including English and Maths. A GCSE grade 4 or above in a Design and Technology subject is preferred, but not essential.



Psychology A Level

Course Overview

Psychology focuses on the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Why do we think, feel, and act the way we do? What are the mental processes and motivations behind our actions? Psychology helps us understand more about ourselves and how we interact with others. You can expect to engage in class debates, to conduct independent research and address interesting questions, for example: Is behaviour shaped by our environment, or is it a product of our biology?

You will research psychological phenomena such as memory, obedience, relationships and gain an understanding of mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. You will apply your knowledge to areas of psychology such as clinical and criminal psychology. All students will develop a thorough understanding of research methodology to investigate complex human behaviour.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams the end of their course in Year 13. There will be three two-hour exams which will include multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology

Paper 2: Psychology in Context

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

Where could it take you?

Psychology is a highly regarded A Level subject for entry to university and higher education. Psychology is relevant to a range of careers including education, health, police service, marketing, personnel and also in the sciences. Other specific jobs include clinical psychologist, forensic psychologist, occupational psychologist and educational psychologist.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE. A GCSE grade 5 or above in English Literature or Language, Maths and Science is required.



Sociology A Level

Course Overview

Sociology A Level involves the scientific study of society. It explores social problems and institutions such as the media and social groups. This subject is based on sociological research and core theoretical views. You will explore crime trends, key explanations for crime and solutions such as policing strategies and reducing poverty. You will examine the influence of social change on family types and how individuals are influenced by their cultural identity. Furthermore, we will consider how class, gender and ethnicity can lead to inequality in society. In addition, you can expect to understand different research methods and design a piece of research. Expect to engage in discussions, group work, contemporary examples and essay planning tasks.

Assessment

This A Level is linear which means students sit exams at the end of the Year 13 course. There are three exam papers which include extended writing essay questions.

Paper 1: Socialisation and Culture

Paper 2: Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Paper 3: Power and Stratification

Where could it take you?

Sociology is a popular degree course which can lead to a range of job opportunities. This course is relevant to those wishing to pursue careers in teaching, social work, the criminal justice system, policing, social research, civil service, mental health, marketing and human resources.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 grades 9-4 at GCSE including Maths. GCSE grade 5 or above in English Literature or Language is preferred, but not essential.



Spanish A Level

Course Overview

This course will enable you to develop your linguistic skills alongside your cultural understanding of Spanish speaking countries by exploring the issues and influences which have shaped them. You will work with authentic materials, using mainly Spanish in lessons. You will learn grammar and vocabulary, developing skills in reading and listening, translation, summaries and essay writing. You will consider Hispanic artistic culture, Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations; technological and social change and the multicultural nature of Hispanic society. You will also learn about the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world and explore the influence of the past on present day Hispanic communities.

Assessment

This A Level qualification is linear which means students will sit all exams at the end of their course in Year 13.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing.

Paper 2: Writing

Paper 3: Speaking

There is an option to take Spanish as a fourth subject for one year, taking AS exams at the end of year 12. This gives you the AS qualification.

Where could it take you?

Spanish is a facilitating subject that will enhance any degree and job application. It is highly regarded for the range of communication and analytical skills that you will gain. It opens doors to numerous career paths such as the diplomatic service, industry, government agencies, development agencies, journalism, publishing or tourism.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 GCSE grades 9-4 including GCSE Spanish. An alternative to the Spanish GCSE is that you should have a sound working knowledge of the language.







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