Sixth Form Options For 2026 Entry

Wallingford SCHOOL 1659

Key Dates

Open evening	Wednesday 12th November
Applications open	13th November 2025
Internal students Year 11 Option meetings	w/c 19th January 2026
Applications close	Friday 30th January 2026
External Students Year 11 options meetings	Depending on school, these will take place during spring term or the week of taster days.
6th Form offer	Before Easter Break
Taster Days	Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd June 2026
GCSE results day	Thursday 20th August 2026
6th form results clinic	Friday 21st August 2026

Contents

Curriculum

The courses described in this booklet are those we intend to run, given sufficient take-up. As in any school, or college, we would have to reconsider the viability of a course if the take-up were very small. However, this is something that has happened rarely.

Do take the opportunity to find out as much as you can about the courses you are considering, by reading this booklet carefully and by talking to subject teachers.

We offer two types of courses at Wallingford Sixth Form: A levels and Level 3 Vocational (BTEC & AAQ) courses. These qualifications are equivalent in terms of their value for progress on to higher education, apprenticeships or employment.

Most students study three courses, although we ask for reserve subjects to be chosen during the application process. Some students take a fourth option, usually when Further Maths is taken alongside Mathematics. Core Maths is a one year course that is offered as a fourth subject.

A Level Courses

A 2-year academic course with final examinations at the end of Year 13. Some subjects may have a practical element or some form of externally-assessed work (coursework), but far less so than in previous years.

Vocational Courses (BTEC & AAQ)

Wallingford School offers a range of Sixth Form courses that have a more vocational content, and significantly more coursework than traditional A level subjects. They provide a wider range of options to suit as many students as possible. These are high quality courses, very well-respected by employers, colleges and universities and we strongly recommend them to those students who feel they are more suited to coursework than exam-based subjects and/or already have a very clear idea of the career path they wish to take.

We offer these courses at extended certificate level, also known as a single option (equivalent to one A level). Students can take a mixture of vocational and A level courses – they do not need to stick to one or the other.

Other Courses

Alongside three Level 3 courses, we offer a one year Core Maths qualification which is equivalent to half an A level, and the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), also equivalent to half an A level in UCAS points and well received by universities as evidence of independent research work.

Entry Requirements for Sixth Form Courses

Each student is considered as an individual and entry on to Sixth Form courses is not set in stone – but these are the usual requirements:

For entry onto Level 3 courses (Vocational and A Level) students need to achieve five grade 4s, including English and Maths, at GCSE.

Vocational: The majority of Vocational courses can be studied if these criteria are met, although Applied Science requires 5s in Science and Maths.

A levels: Students should have a GCSE grade 6 in the subject they are looking to study at Sixth Form. The exceptions are A levels that have not been taken at GCSE level (e.g. Psychology; Media Studies; Philosophy; Politics; Sociology). For these courses we will use the most appropriate GCSE qualification to make a decision. For example, GCSE Maths grade 6 to study Psychology and GCSE English grade 6 to study Media Studies, Philosophy, Politics and Sociology.

Any student with grades below the minimum entry requirements for Level 3 course can be considered for the ‘Access Course’. This is a one-year package of courses that provides students with the opportunity to achieve higher grades in English and Maths GCSE whilst at the same time picking up a number of additional qualifications and skills in areas such as Public Services, Travel and Tourism, sports leadership and employability skills.

Please look at the individual requirements on page 34. All applications will be looked at on an individual basis.

How to Apply

1. Student applications for 6th Form entry September 2026 are made formally online via 6th Form on the Wallingford School website.

   Current Year 11 students will be sent a link via their school email to do this and should use this link rather than applying via the website.

   Applications open following Open Evening in November 2025 and close on 30th January 2026.

   External applicants will need to provide details of a Tutor/Teacher/Head of Year for reference purposes.

   For more information, please contact us using the details below.

   Telephone: 01491 829702

   Email: sixthform@wallingfordschool.com

2. Our Options Blocks for 2026-2027 will be created in the first week of February, based on applicants' requirements. Whilst every effort is made to facilitate all students being able to study their first choices, there may be some clashes which mean that this is not possible. If this is the case, we will contact you in February to discuss your reserve options.

   Choose three subjects and two reserves. If you choose Further Maths or Core Maths there will only be room for one reserve; you will be prompted to put them in priority order. Although we ask for interest in the EPQ, this is something that we will organise once the students have started in September.

3. All Wallingford students will have an Options Meeting with a member of SLT during January 2026.

   External applicants will be offered Options Meetings during the Spring Term or during the week of Taster Days in June 2026.

4. During the Options Meetings, applicants are made aware of the courses that would suit them best and of the entry requirements of the courses. Most offers are subject to you achieving the required GCSE grades.

5. Sixth Form offers will be sent out before the Easter holidays. With this offer we will send you information on how to accept your offer – you must do this to secure your place.

6. Taster Days will be held on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd June 2026. All internal and external applicants are expected to attend to get a taste of their chosen courses (including the reserves), sixth form life and to receive the preparatory work to complete over the summer. Please inform us if you are unable to attend the Taster Days.

7. Other important dates are **GCSE results day, Thursday 20th August 2026** and our **Options Clinic, Friday 21st August 2026**. It is vital that all students wishing to start with us in September 2026 make contact and confirm their place on one of these days, either in person, via our online application service – Applicaa – or via email sixthform@wallingfordschool.com.

   Students and parents should keep an eye on the Wallingford School website, Twitter feed and Facebook account, which will keep you informed of the important key dates.

   Website: www.wallingfordschool.com

   Facebook & Twitter: @wallingford4140

Applied Science

Pearson AAQ Level 3
Extended Certificate (Single Option)

Why study Applied Science?

The Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate) is designed for students with an interest in science and who aim to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment. Equivalent to one A level, it is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in science alongside two A levels or BTECs.

It is designed to offer an option for students who enjoy science in its entirety and don't want to narrow their options. It is a great course to take as a route into more vocational Science careers from Paramedic Science, Nursing or Midwifery to Applied Sport and Exercise Sciences.

What will I study?

This course covers a wide variety of different scientific topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, building on what you have learnt at GCSE, as well as a large emphasis on practical and investigative work in many areas of science, enabling you to develop significant practical skills.

How will I study?

The course lends itself to practical investigations, independent research, and more traditional class based activities, which will all contribute to you developing a clear understanding of how science in the classroom can be applied in the wider world.

How will my work be assessed?

There are 5 units that make up this BTEC qualification. The available grade range is P – D* (Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*).

Units 1 to 3 cover key scientific theory taken from the A level specifications of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. External exams on each of these is worth 16.7% of the qualification and are taken throughout the course.

- Unit 1: **Principles and Applications of Biology** – Structure and function of cells and tissues, biological molecules, enzymes and their role in organisms.
- Unit 2: **Principles and Applications of Chemistry** – Structure of the Periodic Table and its implications on physical and chemical properties of substances, through analysis of different bonding methods.
- Unit 3: **Principles and Applications of Physics** – Waves and their applications; force principles and their application in transportation and construction of electrical circuits.
- Unit 4: **Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques** – (Internally assessed through coursework, worth 25% of the qualification)
    - This unit introduces you to standard laboratory equipment and techniques, including titration, colorimetry, chromatography, calibration procedures and laboratory safety.Through the practical tasks in the unit, you will develop proficiency in the quantitative analytical techniques of titration and colorimetry, including learning to calculate the concentration of solutions.
    - You will use measurement of temperature to study cooling curves, be introduced to paper and thin-layer chromatography (TLC), techniques to investigate plant growth and designing circuits to investigate resistance and solar panels. You will also have the opportunity to calibrate equipment and will be encouraged to be aware of the safety aspects of given laboratory procedures and techniques.
    - The experience you gain will be invaluable in scientific higher education where there is a requirement for you to follow written scientific procedures and a desire to ensure accuracy by utilising correct technical procedures. Additionally, calibration procedures may be beneficial for related health profession routes, where pipettes, balances, pH meters and thermometers may be appropriate to use.
- Unit 5: **Scientific Investigation Skills** – (Internally assessed through coursework, worth25% of the qualification)
    - In this unit you will carry out investigative research, including planning, data collection, analysis and evaluation.
    - You will carry out an individual investigative project that you have chosen in collaboration with your teacher. You will carry out a scientific literature search and review, considering the project's aims and objectives and formulating a suitable hypothesis that you can test by using practical work. You will then produce a realistic plan and submit it to your tutor for the first assessment and feedback.
    - Once you have approval to continue, over the course of several weeks you will carry out the project safely using your scientific investigation skills, project management skills and what you have learnt from the other units.
    - Finally, you will prepare an evaluative report that will consider the project outcomes and suggest amendments that may have improved those outcomes. Completing an investigative project is an excellent way for you to develop independent learning skills, primary and secondary research skills, along with communication and critical thinking skills to facilitate an understanding of the science-related workplace. Of considerable benefit for progression to higher education in a variety of science and science-related courses and to employment in the science or applied science sector.

What are the entry requirements?

5 Grade 4s at GCSE including English, Maths grade 5, Combined Science 5/5 or Triple science 5/5/5

Art and Design

AQA A Level

Why study A Level Art and Design?

A Level Art and Design gives a broad and coherent introduction to the study of Art and Design at this level. The course is designed to develop the learners own artistic practise through a range of art projects which explore and experiment with a variety of 2D and 3D art materials and processes. Learners will also be introduced to a range of artists, designers, art movements and genres both through classroom-based study and gallery and exhibition visits.

What will I study?

Learners will produce a portfolio of work over the course. The emphasis of this component will be on the development of understanding and skills using an appropriate range of materials, processes and techniques. Many of the projects will be based upon an idea, concept, theme or issue.

How will I study?

There will be workshops where you will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of 2D and 3D materials and techniques, gallery visits to explore the work of other artists and regular homework to encourage research and investigative skills. You will have unlimited access to a studio dedicated to your course. In addition, contextual studies lessons will take place regularly, enhancing your knowledge and understanding of practical issues and contemporary practices in the visual arts. You will have the opportunity to attend Life Drawing classes run by the Department.

How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed through:

a) Portfolio of artwork completed over the two year course

b) Externally set examination - where learners will respond to a choice of theme through an art project.

What are the entry requirements?

Art GCSE Grade 6 or above

Art and Design: Textiles

AQA A Level

Why study Textiles?

Textiles offers you the opportunity to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of these subjects and to develop your designing and making skills through a variety of practical activities.

This course provides a logical progression into a wide range of degree courses and careers that include Fashion Design, Styling, Clothing Manufacture, Marketing, Fashion Retailing, Textile Design, Costume Design and Interior Design.

What will I study?

This course encourages you to take a broad view of Fashion and Textiles. You will enjoy developing your understanding of the visual world, learning practical skills and responding to ideas and issues in ways that are personal to you. You will study and work with a wide variety of fabrics and components used in the design and manufacture of fashion and textile outcomes. Practical activities will include sketching and designing techniques, pattern cutting, decorative techniques and product manufacture. These are all supported by critical evaluation and an awareness of contemporary and historical influences.

How will I study?

This is a practical course in which you learn by doing, so you will be able to create imaginative personal work. You will find out about a whole range of media, techniques and processes. You will develop your creativity and independent thought, learn to express yourself visually and let your imagination flourish.

Throughout Year 12 the emphasis will be on a series of workshops and projects designed to expand your knowledge and understanding of contemporary sources and historical styles, whilst exploring a wide range of practical techniques, processes and making skills.

In Year 13, you will conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, that is personal to you. You will further research, develop and refine your ideas and produce a final practical outcome. You will also have an externally assessed project set by the exam board that involves a 15 hour practical exam.

How will my work be assessed?

This is a linear course with all assessment taking place at the end of Year 13.

In Component 1 you will develop work for a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total A-level marks.

In Component 2 you will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total A-level marks.

What are the entry requirements?

Art or Textiles GCSE Grade 6 or above

Biology

AQA A Level

Why study Biology?

Biology is an A Level subject that will develop not only your understanding of the world around you but will also allow you to develop a range of skills that can then be applied to any situation. Throughout the course you will learn a range of study and note-taking skills, you will learn how to analyse data and you will develop your research skills. You will also develop your interest and enthusiasm for Biology and appreciate the impact of scientific decisions on wider society.

What will I study?

We will be following a specification which builds on the knowledge and understanding developed in the AQA triple and Combined Science GCSEs.

Students study the AQA specification. This includes topics such as cells, transport in animals and plants, gas exchange, cell division, disease control, energy, reproduction and populations, genetics, control and homeostasis. Throughout your lessons practical activities will be used to help support your understanding.

What will my lessons be like?

We aim to provide a range of learning activities that will stimulate all students. In class, discussion and note taking occur alongside group work and independent study. Essays and questions are frequently set to consolidate learning in class. We also expect students to develop their understanding and interest by reading material outside of the curriculum.

How will my work be assessed?

This course is assessed through written examinations which will include a combination of short answer and extended response questions. Practical work must be completed over the academic year although it does not directly contribute towards the final grade you achieve.

What are the entry requirements?

Biology Grade 6 or above, or Combined Science GCSE Grade 6/6 or above

Maths GCSE Grade 6 or above

Business

Pearson BTEC Level 3
Extended Certificate (Single Option)

Why study Business?

The qualification gives a broad overview of the business sector. Learners will develop their knowledge through the application of current business and economic topics. Students complete four units over two years. The extended certificate is the equivalent to 1 A level.

This course is designed for post 16 learners who aim to progress to higher education or training in business and as part of a programme of study alongside other BTEC Nationals and or A Levels.

What will I study?

You will study four units of which three are mandatory:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance

and one of the following options:

- Recruitment and Selection Process
- Investigating Customer Service
- Market Research

How will I study?

The units will be studied in depth over the two years of the course through classroom teaching, discussion, tutorials and seminars alongside portfolio workshops to assist with coursework presentation. Students are reminded that a good deal of time is set aside for research inside and outside of school, therefore management of time and independent study is essential to ensure the quality of work required to pass the course.

How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed using a variety of methods including: written assignments, controlled assessment and a written examination. All units are graded on Pass, Merit or Distinction criteria.

The following units are set and marked externally:

Unit 2: Developing a marketing campaign – controlled assessment

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance – examination

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSE Grade 4s or above including English & Maths

Chemistry

OCR A Level

Why study Chemistry?

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

What will I study?

At Wallingford we currently study the OCR Chemistry (A) Specification. Many of the topics we will explore at KS5 will be familiar from your GCSE studies such as atomic structure, rates or reaction and chemical equilibria, moles and organic chemistry. We will simply develop your understanding of these concepts further as well as introducing new concepts such as organic synthesis, analytical techniques, such as spectrometry and spectroscopy, enthalpy and entropy. During your first year you will master lots of new skills, both practical and theoretical, which we will then build on further in the second year of your course

How will I study?

Chemistry develops a wide range of skills which stem from the range of learning and teaching activities that are used. These include:

- Practical work to illustrate theory
- Practical work to develop investigative and manual skills
- Note-taking
- Presentations
- Modelling
- Independent study and research
- Group work

How will my work be assessed?

This course is assessed through written examinations which will include a combination of multiple choices, short answer and extended response questions. Practical work must be completed over the academic year although it does not directly contribute towards the final grade you achieve.

What are the entry requirements?

Chemistry GCSE Grade 6 or above, or Combined Science GCSE Grade 6/6 or above

Maths GCSE Grade 6 or above

Drama and Theatre

Edexcel A Level

Why study Drama and Theatre?

If you choose A Level Drama and Theatre, you are someone who:

- Enjoys working creatively in a team with other students
- Is very imaginative and adventurous when it comes to learning and using new drama skills
- Is keen to explore their own ideas on how to direct plays from Ancient Greece to contemporary practitioners.
- Appreciates the importance of acting, lighting, costume, sound and space in performance
- Wants to improve their own confidence when performing before an audience

What will I study?

The subject content for A-level Drama and Theatre is divided into three components:

Component 1: Devising

- 40% of the qualification
- Devise an original performance piece using a key extract from text & theatre as stimuli
- Two parts include a portfolio (written or verbal) and the performance.

Component 2: Text in Performance

- 20% of the qualification
- A group performance of one key extract from a performance text.
- A monologue or duologue performance from one key extract from a different performance text.

Component 3: Theatre makers in Practice

- 40% of the qualification
- 2.5-hour examination
- An evaluation of live theatre piece.
- Practical exploration & study of a complete performance text
- Practical exploration & interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen theatre practitioner

How will I study?

As with many subjects we have discussions, make notes, write up the notes, use the library to research, offer presentations - but we are different in our insistence on practical work to generate ideas and energy, movement and blocking, directing scenes and visiting out of school performances and workshops to enhance and develop your skills and experience. A really successful student reads plays and books about the theatre in addition to any text set by the teacher as well as being part of a department that will create and present performances both within and outside of school.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1 is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 2 is externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3 is assessed through a written examination.

What are the entry requirements?

Drama GCSE Grade 6 or above

DT: Product Design

OCR A Level

Why study Product Design?

Product Design is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. The exam board (OCR) has worked closely with Higher Education and industry to ensure that the direction of the qualification supports progression beyond A level.

There has also been a focus on ensuring the content reflects authentic practice, giving an insight into the way that creative, engineering and/or manufacturing industries function. The course will require you to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills and reflects the importance of Design and Technology as a pivotal STEM subject.

Materials and components are studied from the perspective of analysing modern consumer products that are designed to meet identified consumer needs, their design and manufacture, and taught within the context of product development and industrial and commercial practices. The wider issues affecting design decisions are also covered.

You will gain skills including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing a project. You will build and develop on your knowledge and understanding from GCSE whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of design and technology that most interests you. This allows access to a range of future career aspirations in the design and engineering industries, leading to future careers in product design, engineering, architecture, fashion and graphic design.

What will I study?

During the two year course you will study a range of materials. You will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of your own design solutions. You will learn about wider design principles and the effect of design on users and the world we live in. You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products. You will develop your subject knowledge, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. You will develop a critical mind through enquiry and problem solving, exploration, creation and evaluation of iterative designs. OCR encourages freedom in approaches towards designing and making so as not to limit the possibilities of project work or the materials and processes being used.

How will I be assessed?

1. A non-examined ‘Iterative Design Project’ is a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate. It is worth 50% of the A Level qualification. You will be required to identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of your own choice, and create a chronological portfolio supported by real–time evidence of your project development. Innovative approaches will be required resulting in a final prototype that can be tested against the user and the market.

2. The Principles examination paper is worth 25% of the A Level qualification and assesses analysis of existing products, technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques and allows you to demonstrate your understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries. The paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long.

3. The ‘Unseen Challenge’ is worth 25% of the A Level qualification and focuses on the application your knowledge, understanding and skills of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products through a set design task, then reflecting on your design solution in relation to wider factors and other theoretical knowledge. The paper is 2 hour 30 minutes long.

What are the entry requirements?

Design and Technology GCSE Grade 6 or above

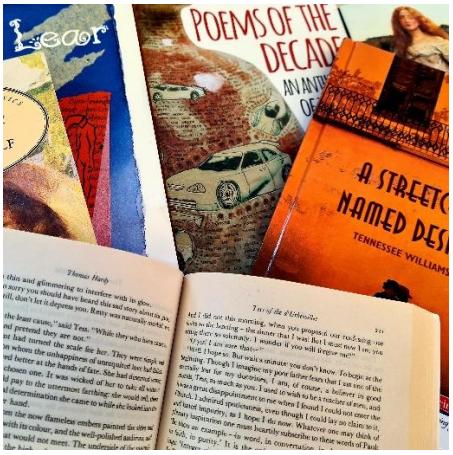
English Literature

Edexcel A Level

Why study English Literature?

Do you enjoy the following at GCSE?

- Exploring your own response to texts
- Developing new ideas
- Lively discussion and debate
- Feeling liberated by the notion that there is no one right answer
- Analysing language and its subtleties and nuance
- Approaching novels, poems and plays in a variety of ways



If so, you will enjoy the challenge of A level English Literature. If you are looking even further ahead, the skills of creative and analytical thinking, confident oral communication and clear written expression are highly prized in the fields of Law, Journalism, Publishing and the Media, amongst others.

What will I study?

You will study eight texts across the course as a whole.

Our core curriculum texts include: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *King Lear*, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, English Romantic Verse Anthology and the Forward anthology entitled 'Poems of the Decade'. A further two texts will be studied as part of your coursework, but these text choices and the corresponding comparative question will be for you to decide.

At all stages of the course, you will develop your ability to understand both the macro and micro aspects of texts, developing critical opinions and engaging with the opinions of published academics. You will engage in regular classroom discussion to find, develop and defend your own readings of texts amongst like-minded individuals.

How will I study?

Some of the approaches to texts will be familiar to you from GCSE English Literature and you will build on these to gain the confidence and experience to tackle unseen texts. A key difference is the level of independence you will be expected to demonstrate, as well as the necessity for you to develop your own, well-considered personal responses.

Much work will be discussion-based, with verbal responses and notes from lessons will be developed into essays. We run extensive extra-curricular opportunities – including residentials, theatre trips and an Advanced Reading Group – for you to enhance your understanding of our studied texts and the wider literary canon.

How will my work be assessed?

80% of the A Level course will be examined by final, public exams, whilst 20% will be assessed through a comparative coursework essay of between 2,500 – 3,000 words.

What are the entry requirements?

English Literature GCSE Grade 6 or above

French

Edexcel A Level

Why study French?

French A Level has a great deal to offer in terms of personal development:

- Immense satisfaction in gaining fluency in another language
- The ability to travel abroad with ease and to experience other cultures at a much deeper level
- Greater independence and broader horizons
- Deeper understanding of your own language, and the ability to learn additional languages more quickly
- Improved analytical skills, memory skills, ability to hypothesize, problem-solving ability and verbal dexterity (https:/www.actfl.org/assessment-research-and-development/what-the-research-shows)

French A Level can also open doors for you in your career and further study:

- Modern technology means that barriers between countries are breaking down, and competence in French A Level is becoming more attractive than ever to employers in ALL sectors. It can give you the edge over other candidates. The ability to communicate in more than one language can also enable you to market yourself internationally.
- Some universities are now actively encouraging students of STEM subjects to continue with language learning before and during their undergraduate course.
- Employers value linguists because they have a range of transferable skills and have first-hand experience of other cultures.
- French A level can help you towards careers in many areas including law, education, journalism, travel and tourism, accountancy, marketing, management consultancy, international press agencies, the media, retail management, advertising, the Foreign Office and the performing arts.
- A language A level can open up the possibility of being offered work experience or a study placement abroad, whatever you decide to study.

What will I study?

French culture, social issues and current affairs in France as well as studying a book (***No et Moi***) and a film (***La Haine***) in detail. For the speaking exam you will also prepare an Individual Research Project on a topic of your choice linked to France or another French-speaking country. Your understanding of the language and ability to use it accurately and persuasively will grow rapidly.

How will I study?

Our A Level groups tend to be small so you will have plenty of individual attention. You will develop skills such as debating, giving presentations, essay-writing, translating, analysing text, and working collaboratively. We use a variety of media (press articles, literature, television, film, songs), and the course includes an excellent online resource bank which is used in school and at home.

You will be given dedicated time with the French Assistant to improve your speaking and listening skills. We have very strong links with our partner school in France (Grenoble) and encourage A Level students to participate in our annual French Exchange. Our students take part in an annual French Literature Masterclass at Oxford University and we also organise trips to the cinema and theatre as well as the *Alliance Française* in Oxford and the *Institut Français* in South Kensington for special events.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment is through examinations at A Level. We follow the Edexcel syllabus and there are 3 papers:

Unit 1 – Listening, Reading and Translation (40%)
Unit 2 – Written Response to Works and Translation (30%)
Unit 3 – Speaking (30%)

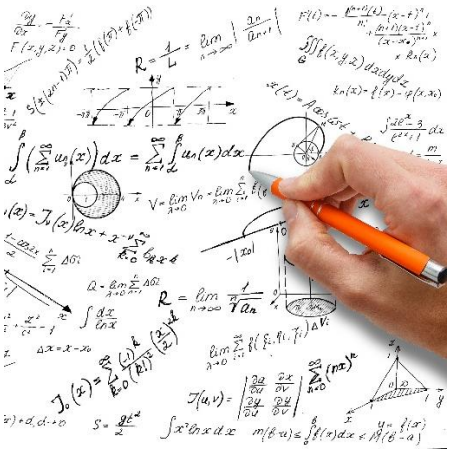
What are the entry requirements?

French GCSE Grade 6 or above

Further Mathematics

Edexcel A Level

Why study Further Mathematics?



If you would like a real mathematical challenge and, in the process, want to explore and understand the underlying concepts of much of everyday life then Further Mathematics could be a great opportunity to study at a much higher level than you have previously experienced.

In Further Mathematics, the rate and difficulty of the work means everyone can expect to be challenged. Consequently, only those with a confident grasp of mathematics and the highest grades could be expected to be successful. We recommend that you are predicted a Grade 9 at GCSE. You also need to study the Mathematics A level.

What will I study?

We deliver Edexcel Further Mathematics option H.

The course is divided into three areas which include studying the topics listed:

Core Pure Mathematics: Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus and Further Vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions and Differential equations.

Further Pure Mathematics 2; Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions and Differential equations.

Further Mechanics 1: Momentum and impulse, Work energy and power and Elastic collisions in one dimension.

Decision Mathematics 1: Algorithms and graph theory, Algorithms on graphs, Critical Path Analysis and Linear Programming.

How will I study?

During the A level course you will encounter many new concepts and skills. These are explored and explained in lessons through a variety of activities; these activities include both group work and independent study. Questions and assessments are frequently set to consolidate learning, allowing new skills to be practised and applied. Work will be marked with an action to complete to help develop the students understanding of a topic. Facing up to problems as they arise and solving them will ensure the student makes good progress.

How will my work be assessed?

Four exams, each 1 hour and 30 minutes, all equal weighting:

Paper 1 Core Pure Mathematics 1
Paper 2 Core Pure Mathematics 2
Paper 3 Further Mechanics 1
Paper 4 Decision 1

What are the entry requirements?

Maths GCSE Grade 8 or above and also studying Maths A Level

Geography

AQA A Level

Why study Geography?

Geography is the choice for anyone with an interest in the world around them. Its unique position on the arts/science divide allows students to combine Geography with, for example, English, History, Biology, Maths and Chemistry. It is a well-respected A Level choice for students wishing to enter higher education to pursue degree courses in arts or sciences.

For those who wish to continue with Geography to degree level there are numerous career options available after graduation – planning (both private and public sector), environmental management, leisure and tourism (the world's fastest growing industry), development, logistics and business services to name a few.

What will I study?

The course we study is AQA. You will study a range of topics within Physical and Human geography and you will also undertake fieldwork in order to complete an individual investigation of up to 4000 words. The topics studied include Water and Carbon Cycles, Coasts and Hazards for Physical Geography, and Changing Places, Global Governance and Population and the Environment for Human Geography.

How will I study?

The course will involve a wide range of learning activities. It will include communicating ideas though written work or group presentations. Lessons will make use of lively discussions, film clips, data, a wide range of articles, textbooks and numerous websites. You will need to keep a file or book of comprehensive notes, watch TV news, read broadsheet newspapers, and make use of our departmental library.

There is a requirement to carry out fieldwork. Some of this will take place in the local area, but there will be a week's residential in the autumn of Year 13 in order to collect data for the independent investigation. There is a cost attached to this trip and further information will be available from our Geography staff. In the past we have taken students to South Wales to visit Porthcawl and surrounding coastal environments. It is compulsory that students attend this fieldtrip. Financial assistance is available if required.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment will demonstrate knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways, most significantly in the ability to write in extended prose. This allows students to develop their ability to construct a sustained line of reasoning.

The course is formally assessed entirely through external assessment. It is a linear assessment, with exams being taken at the end of the course.

- Physical Geography accounts for 40% of A-Level (2 hours 30 minutes paper)
- Human Geography accounts for 40% of the A-Level (2 hours 30 minutes paper)
- Geography Fieldwork Investigation accounts for 20% of the A-Level (3000-4000 word report)

We will assess students in school at various points in the year to track the progress of students. This will be done both in the classroom and in exam-style settings. Students will have plenty of opportunity to practise exam answers in timed conditions.

What are the entry requirements?

Geography GCSE Grade 6 or above

German

Edexcel A Level

Why study German?

German A Level has a great deal to offer in terms of personal development:

- Immense satisfaction in gaining fluency in another language
- The ability to travel abroad with ease and to experience other cultures at a much deeper level
- Greater independence and broader horizons
- Deeper understanding of your own language, and the ability to learn additional languages more quickly
- Improved analytical skills, memory skills, ability to hypothesize, problem-solving ability and verbal dexterity (https://www.actfl.org/assessment-research-and-development/what-the-research-shows)

German A Level can also open doors for you in your career and further study:

- Modern technology means that barriers between countries are breaking down, and competence in German A Level is becoming more attractive than ever to employers in ALL sectors. It can give you the edge over other candidates. The ability to communicate in more than one language can also enable you to market yourself internationally.
- Some universities are now actively encouraging students of STEM subjects to continue with language-learning before and during their undergraduate course.
- Employers value linguists because they have a range of transferable skills and have first-hand experience of other cultures.
- German A Level can help you towards careers in many areas including law, education, journalism, travel and tourism, accountancy, marketing, management consultancy, international press agencies, the media, retail management, advertising, the Foreign Office and the performing arts.
- A language A Level can open up the possibility of being offered work experience or a study placement abroad, whatever you decide to study.

What will I study?

German culture, social issues and current affairs in Germany as well as studying a book (***Der Besuch der alten Dame***) and a film (***Das Leben der Anderen***) in detail. For the speaking exam you will also prepare an Individual Research Project on a topic of your choice linked to Germany or another German-speaking country. Your understanding of the language and ability to use it accurately and persuasively will grow rapidly.

How will I study?

Our A level groups tend to be small so you will have plenty of individual attention. You will develop skills such as debating, giving presentations, essay-writing, translating, analysing text, and working collaboratively. We use a variety of media (press articles, literature, television, film, songs), and the course includes an excellent online resource bank which is used in school and at home.

You will be given dedicated time with the German Language Assistant to improve your speaking and listening skills. We have very strong links with our partner school in Germany (Bad Wurzach) and encourage A Level students to participate in our annual German Exchange. Our students take part in an annual German Literature Masterclass at Oxford University, a *Kneipenquiz* for local A Level German students at Radley College each year and we also organise trips to the cinema and theatre as well as the *Goethe Institut* in South Kensington for special events.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment is through examinations at A Level. We follow the Edexcel syllabus and there are 3 papers:

Unit 1 - Listening, Reading and Translation (40%)
Unit 2 - Written Response to Works and Translation (30%)
Unit 3 - Speaking (30%)

What are the entry requirements?

German GCSE Grade 6 or above

Health & Social Care

Why study Health & Social Care?

Health and Social Care AAQ is a vocational qualification in which students will continually apply their learning to Health and Social work based environments.

This qualification will allow students to gain a clearer understanding of the health of individuals and how society supports them. Students will also have the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, essential for successful performance within this sector.

The qualification provides career development opportunities based in Health and Social Care. There are also progression opportunities to higher education, degree and professional development programmes within the same or related areas of study, within universities and other institutions.

The course is assessed through assignments and examinations. Students complete 4 units over the course of two years plus work placements.

The AAQ Level 3 Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A Level.

What will I study?

Students will study elements which give a broad range of knowledge and expertise useful within Health and Social Care.

These elements include:

- Human lifespan development - Exam
- Human Biology & Health - Exam
- Health & Social Care Practice - Assignments
- Safe environments in HSC - Assignments

How will I study?

Study throughout the course will be a mixture of teacher-led lessons, group work, independent research, guest speakers and tutorials.

How will my work be assessed?

Extended Certificate students will complete four units over the duration of the course. Two units are external written examinations and two controlled assessment tasks. Written controlled assessment tasks will be internally assessed in the first instance with external moderation carried out on a sample of students' work. Assessment for both examination units and controlled assessments are continuous throughout the course.

All units are graded on Pass, Merit or Distinction criteria. It is possible to gain a Distinction* at the end of the qualification.

What are the entry requirements?

5 Grade 4s at GCSE including English and Maths

History

Edexcel A Level

Why study History?

History is about people – how they lived, decisions they made, their beliefs and values. By studying what has happened in the past we gain a perspective on the present and a deeper understanding of current conflicts, governments and power struggles. It is as varied and fascinating as human nature itself.

The skills it helps to foster include those of comprehension and analysis. Historians are clear thinkers who can judge the relevant, write concisely and present informed arguments. Such skills are valuable in many jobs but are particularly pertinent to law, journalism, the media and the Civil Service.

What will I study?

You will study the Edexcel Route C: Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe.

In paper one you will study Britain, 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement. This is a study in breadth in which you will learn about the key features of monarchical and republican rule in Britain in the seventeenth century while looking the broader social, economic and religious changes. The paper also contains a study in depth of historical interpretations about the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89.

Paper 2 is the depth study about Russia 1894-1924. In this paper you will gain an understanding of the revolutionary activity in Russia in the years 1894 to 1917, the response of the successive governments to opposition to their rule and the reasons for the Bolsheviks being able to successfully consolidate their power in the October 1917 revolution.

In Year 13 coursework will be written and you will study another examined unit Civil Rights and race relations in the USA, 1850-2009. In this course you will consider how developments have shaped contemporary America and remain a fundamental issue in US society starting with a period where millions of black Americans were in slavery and ending with Barack Obama as president.

How will I study?

Lessons are a mixture of discussion, group work and independent work. The majority of the learning is written but there will also be opportunities for presentations, visiting any relevant museums for exhibitions on topics studied and the A level History conferences where we go to a series of lectures by well-known university professors.

How will my work be assessed?

In A level all three units are examined, paper one is worth 30%, paper two is worth 20%, paper three is worth 30% and the coursework is worth 20%.

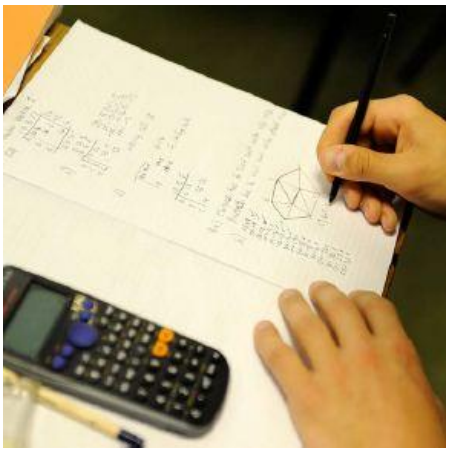
What are the entry requirements?

History GCSE Grade 6 or above

Mathematics

Edexcel A Level

Why study Mathematics?



The main reason to study Mathematics should be that you enjoy the subject. If you study something you enjoy you are likely to do better at it. You will be given the opportunity to develop a number of skills including problem solving, logic and analysing situations. Our aim is to develop interest and enthusiasm for the subject. If you are looking further ahead, Mathematics is one of the traditional subjects and a good grade in the subject should boost an application for almost every course. If you have a solid understanding of the GCSE concepts before you start you should do well in the subject.

What will I study?

We study Edexcel Mathematics.

The course is divided into two areas which include studying the topics listed:

- Pure Mathematics
  Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, and vectors.

- Statistics and Mechanics
  Statistics: statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.
  Mechanics: quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and moments.

How will I study?

During the A level course you will encounter many new concepts and skills. These are explored and explained in lessons through a variety of activities; these activities include both group work and independent study. Questions and assessments are frequently set to consolidate learning, allowing new skills to be practised and applied. Work will be marked with an action to complete to help develop the students understanding of a topic. Facing up to problems as they arise and solving them will ensure the student makes good progress.

How will my work be assessed?

Three exams, each 2 hours, all equal weighting
Paper 1 Pure Mathematics 1
Paper 2 Pure Mathematics 2
Paper 3 Statistics and Mechanics

What are the entry requirements?

Maths GCSE Grade 6 or above

Media Studies

Eduqas A Level

Why study Media Studies?

The Mass Media are the most important means by which information, ideas, aesthetic experiences and entertainment are transmitted to citizens and consumers. They are a force for social and cultural cohesion and are central to the discussion of politics, aesthetics, social identity and cultural rights. Through studying the media you will gain a greater insight into how such information is conveyed to the general public through the use of new and traditional forms of technology.

What will I study?

You will study a Theoretical Framework encompassing a wide range of concepts, theories and studies, within the following areas:

- Media Representations
- Media Audiences
- Media Language
- Media Industries

To demonstrate your knowledge you will study a range of different media texts covering: advertising, TV, film, social and participatory media, music videos and films poster. You will analyse these texts using the Theoretical Framework. In addition, you will also have the opportunity to create your own media texts through the NEA element of the course. The brief for this changes every year.

How will I study?

During teacher-led sessions there will be issue generated discussion and opportunities for oral responses and debate, but the course also requires individual background research to aid your understanding of the media. You will be expected to regularly produce set essays in your own time and during lessons. Your coursework will allow you to use a range of technology to produce audio visual and print texts.

How will my work be assessed?

70% of the course will consist of two external examinations at the end of the two-year course, and 30% will be in the form of Non-Examined Assessment.

What are the entry requirements?

English Language GCSE Grade 6 or above

Music

Eduqas A Level

Why study Music?

Musicians tend to have three things in common; a good musical ear, an appreciation and understanding of some music in some of its forms and styles, and a technical proficiency in one or more instrumental or vocal areas. As a musician you will want to develop these basic skills more fully and will be beginning to think about a specialism for the future, such as composing, arranging, performing, accompanying, analysis and criticism, or music technology. The course not only provides a structured way of achieving high proficiency in the three basic skills but also allows students to start pursuing their individual specialisms through a combination of in-depth, academic analysis, expressive performance, and creation and development of more complex musical compositions.

What will I study?

Students must study:

1. Area of study A: Western classical tradition 1750–1900 (compulsory) – detailed study of one symphony and general study of another within the social, historical and cultural context. Either Haydn Symphony 104 in D Major, 'London' or Mendelssohn Symphony 4 in A major, 'Italian'
2. Area of Study D: Jazz – studying Ragtime, Dixieland, Early Jazz, Big Band, Be-Bop and Cool Jazz.
3. Area of study E: Into the Twentieth Century 1895 – 1935 – Poulenc Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano movt 2 and Debussy Three Nocturnes, Number 1 Nuages.

How will my work be assessed?

Eduqas A level Music is split into three components:

Unit 1 - Listening

- Listening
- Analysis
- Contextual understanding

Exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music. This component is worth 40%.

Unit 2 - Performance

Musical performance of at least Grade 5 standard (10 minutes in total).

Option A: Total duration of performances: 10-12 minutes 35% of qualification

Option B: Total duration of performances: 6-8 minutes 25% of qualification

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner

Unit 3 - Composing

Option A: Composition to a brief and Free composition. Total duration of compositions: 4-6 minutes 25% of qualification

Option B: Composition to a brief and 2 x Free composition. Total duration of compositions: 8-10 minutes 35% of qualification

A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required (no more than six minutes). This component is worth 25%.

What are the entry requirements?

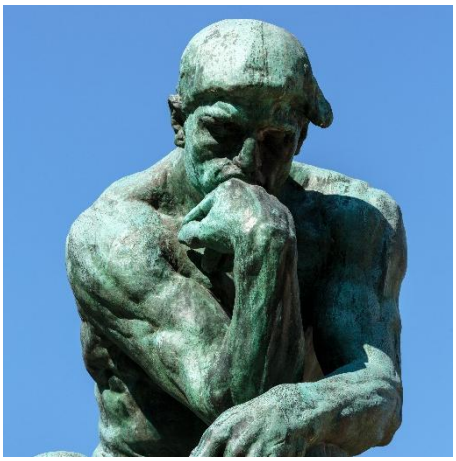
Music GCSE Grade 6 or above.

Grade 5 Theory would be useful.

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

OCR A Level

Why study Philosophy, Religion & Ethics?



In Philosophy, Religion and Ethics you will have the opportunity to investigate the bigger questions in life such as: Is there a God? Why do people suffer? Is there a right way to behave? You will study some of the most influential thinkers in Western Philosophy. The course will enable you to challenge your own preconceptions and begin to think in new ways. You will apply what you have learnt to highly debated topics like Euthanasia. You will also study the development of Christian thought throughout history, engaging with topics like feminist theology which will allow you to reflect on issues such as gender identity, equality and discrimination and the social influence of religious institutions. The course will investigate different viewpoints including both religious and secular. The subject will allow you to develop your ability to critically evaluate and form reasoned arguments. This subject will be enjoyed by those who like to debate and articulate their ideas.

What will I study?

01 Philosophy of Religion – This component is worth 33.3%

- ancient philosophical influences
- the nature of the soul, mind and body
- arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- the nature and impact of religious experience
- the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- ideas about the nature of God
- issues in religious language

02 Religion and Ethics- This component is worth 33.3%

- ethical theories
- the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance including euthanasia
- debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

03 Developments in religious thought (Christianity)- This component is worth 33.3%

- religious beliefs, values and teachings and how they vary historically and in the modern world.
- significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought.
- key themes related to the relationship between religion and society

How will I be assessed?

Each component will be assessed with a 2 hour exam worth 120 marks.

What are the entry requirements?

English GCSE Grade 6 or above

Photography

AQA A Level

Why study Photography?

A Level Photography gives a broad and coherent introduction to the study of Photography at this level. The course is designed to develop the learners own artistic practise through a range of photographic projects which explore and experiment with a variety of digital and darkroom photographic processes. Learners will also be introduced to a range of photographers, photographic movements and styles both through classroom-based study and gallery and exhibition visits.

What will I study?

Learners will produce a portfolio of work over the course. The emphasis of this component will be on the development of understanding and skills using an appropriate range of materials, processes and techniques. Many of the projects will be based upon an idea, concept, theme or issue. For the majority of the course, pupils will be following one project of their own devising.

How will I study?

There will be workshops where you will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of photographic concepts and techniques, gallery visits to explore the work of other artists and regular homework to encourage research and investigative skills. In addition, contextual studies lessons will take place regularly, enhancing your knowledge and understanding of practical issues and contemporary practices in the visual arts. There will be opportunities to explore a range of locations through photographic expeditions.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through:

a) Portfolio of artwork completed over the two year course

b) Externally set examination - where learners will respond to a choice of theme through a personal project.

What are the entry requirements?

Art or Photography GCSE Grade 6 or above

Physical Education

Edexcel A Level

Why study Physical Education?

Physical Education links very closely to the growth of the Sports Science and leisure industries. It provides opportunities to learn and develop new physical and intellectual skills. We will study the physiology, psychology, social cultural and biomechanics of sport and use this information and knowledge to improve your practical performance or coaching ability.

What will I study?

In Unit 1 (Scientific principles of Physical Education) students will study applied “Anatomy and physiology” and “Exercise physiology and applied movement analysis”. Biomechanics is embedded into these topics too.

Unit 2 (Psychological and Social Principles of Physical Education) focuses on “Skill acquisition”, “Sport psychology” and “Sport and Society”.

In Unit 3 (Practical Performance) students will be assessed on their practical performance in one sport, of which they must compete in.

Unit 4 consists of the student producing a Performance Analysis and then developing a Performance Development Programme incorporating information learned from the previous 3 units as well as their own performance skills and knowledge.

How will I study?

Lessons will all be theory based with the expectation that students perform or coach in one sport of their choice outside of lessons.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 is an externally examined paper 2 hours 30 minutes long and is worth 40% of the qualification.

Unit 2 is an externally examined paper 2 hours long and is worth 30% of the qualification.

Unit 3 is internally assessed and is worth 15% of the qualification.

Unit 4 is internally assessed and is worth 15% of the qualification.

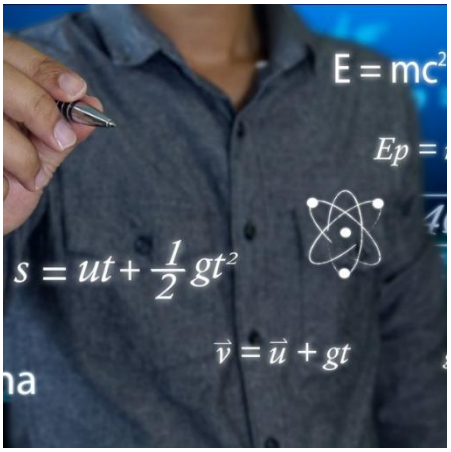
What are the entry requirements?

PE GCSE Grade 6 or above

Physics

OCR A Level

Why study Physics?



People have been fascinated in the world around them since the dawn of humanity; from the way the organisms around them have developed to be so, to the way chemical substances reacting can be used to explain that biological world all the way up to the movement of the heavens. Physics not only provides greater understanding of both these through an understanding of the world at a sub-atomic level, but it also helps further our understanding and fascination at a much larger universal level.

If you ask “why” something should be the way it is, the sciences can help you understand. If you keep asking “why” then it is Physics that helps explain the other sciences.

What will I study?

At Wallingford we study the OCR (A) Physics specification.

Physics at GCSE is mainly descriptive and sometimes leaves the inquisitive brain with many more questions than it answers. A Level Physics is an intellectual step up and is much more explanatory in nature building and requiring

a deeper level of understanding than at GCSE. A level Physics is about working it all out, putting the bits of GCSE together and coming up with a satisfying explanation.

There will be things you recognise from GCSE, but also topics your brain will thrive on such as the basics of quantum physics where matter exists as both a particle and a wave. You will encounter the world through relativistic eyes where matter warps space and time around it and the faster you move the slower time goes for you.

Though they are not directly assessed as part of your final grade, we will also equip you with the practical skills that will enable you to achieve more highly at university level should you choose an experimental subject.

How will I study?

The course is delivered largely in the Flipped Learning model, where you learn the content at home in advance of the lesson and the lesson is spent assessing your understanding.

How will my work be assessed?

Your final grade will be based entirely on three written examinations at the end of the two years. In all papers, you will also be assessed on the theory of the practical skills you have learned in class through the completion of twelve compulsory practical investigations.

What are the entry requirements?

Physics GCSE Grade 6 or above, or Combined Science Grade 6/6 or above

Maths GCSE Grade 6 or above

Politics

Edexcel A Level

Why study Politics?

A more pertinent question would be why not study politics? Politics is the tool with which we can all enact change in the world. If you're interested in developing a deeper understanding of issues such as Parliament's response to the cost of living crisis, the impact of the US elections and the constitutional consequences of the UK leaving the European Union, then this is the course for you.

By studying A Level Politics you will gain an understanding of the political process, from elections to the formation and implementation of policy. You will also develop your own informed political opinion, a wider understanding of the issues facing politics today, and a confidence in sharing these in both verbal and written communications.

Due to the transferable skills and high level of critical thinking required, Politics A level is highly regarded by universities and is a recommended course for many degrees including politics, law, history and modern foreign languages. This Edexcel syllabus reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving political environment in the UK and around the world. With both a general election and a presidential on the horizon, there has never been a more interesting time to study politics.

What will I study?

The course starts with a study of UK politics. This includes the relationship between the British government and the people, our ability to participate in the political process and the existing structure of our representative democracy. You will also learn about the major governmental processes within the UK and develop a critical understanding of the role and effectiveness of key institutions. We will go on to study the major political ideologies of the world and the impact these have had on world politics before undertaking an in-depth study of US politics, which we will compare and contrast to UK politics.

How will I study?

We will draw heavily on current affairs and news items as we learn about the different areas of politics and government. Lessons will involve note taking, discussions and debates covering a wide variety of issues. Outside of the classroom you will be asked to read articles, use a textbook and watch videos so that you can develop your understanding and take accurate notes on the course content. You will also be asked to write essays and prepare mini presentations to give to the class.

How will my work be assessed?

We follow the Edexcel Politics course. Three written exams are taken in summer of Year 13. Each paper is worth a third of the qualification and lasts 2 hours.

Component 1 – UK Politics (Political Participation & Core Political Ideas)

Component 2 – UK Government

Component 3 – Comparative Politics

What are the entry requirements?

English GCSE Grade 6 or above

Psychology

AQA A Level

Why study Psychology?

Psychology has been defined as the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. Modern Psychology is a science, which undertakes cutting edge research to try and find answers to everyday questions. A qualification in Psychology can pave the way to careers in medicine, business, health and social care professions, sports management, education, legal profession, industry, marketing and others too numerous to mention. Most of all Psychology is the profession of the 21st century and is a well-respected subject by university admissions tutors.

What will I study?

Paper 1 – Introductory topics in Psychology

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Clinical Psychology

Paper 2 – Psychology in Context

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Paper 3 – Issues and Options in Psychology

- Issues and Debates
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

How will I study?

You will be encouraged to take a proactive approach to your study of Psychology. The most important skill that you will develop is a questioning approach to your studies, the ability to think for yourself and a greater understanding and empathy towards other people. The emphasis is on active participation.

How will my work be assessed?

There are 3 exams weighted as follows:

- Paper 1: 2 hour written paper. Weighting: 33.3% of total A Level
- Paper 2: 2 hour written paper. Weighting: 33.3% of total A Level
- Paper 3: 2 hour written paper. Weighting: 33.3% of total A Level

What are the entry requirements?

Maths GCSE Grade 6 or above

Sociology

OCR A Level

Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of how Society works, how individuals fit into it and explores our interaction with others. Sociology has been described as 'scientific study of human group behaviour' and 'the application of scientific inquiry to the puzzles of social life'.

Studying A Level Sociology will help students to gain a rounded view of our society – we will look objectively at societal issues, weighing up different viewpoints. We will look at how the different parts of Society fit together, as well as the causes and consequences of social change. It is a thought-provoking subject that enhances our understanding of the world around us. Some of the topics cross-over well with those from Government & Politics, Media Studies, Psychology, Health and Social Care, and History.

The skills required to do well on A Level Sociology are similar to those in English (essay writing), History (critical reflection) and Psychology (research). A qualification in Sociology will be useful in a huge array of future pathways, since it relates to all aspects of society. In the past, students have gone on to careers in health and care professions, education, business, journalism, social work, policing, law, public administration, academia, research, politics and the media.

What will I study?

Currently there are 6 Units that you will complete in A Level Sociology:

Socialisation, Culture & Identity	What is our Identity (Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity) and how is it formed? What are the different types of culture in Society?
Media	How are different groups represented in the Media? What is the impact of different forms of Media on Society?
Research Methods	How do Sociologists research inequalities in society and make sure that the results are meaningful?
Social Inequalities	Why are women, ethnic minority groups, young people, elderly people and the working class all disadvantaged in Society? Or are they?
Globalisation & the digital world	What is the link between globalisation & digital communication? What is the impact of modern digital communication on our society?
Crime & Deviance	Why do people commit crime? What are the patterns of crime in our society?

How will I study?

Lessons will involve plenty of discussion and you will be encouraged to develop your own thoughts and ideas. You will need to research using a range of sources, focussing on key theories, sociologists and contemporary issues. There are plenty of opportunities to evaluate, criticise and debate issues, importantly, learning from other members of the group.

How will I be assessed?

There will be a linked focus on knowledge (of the key concepts, theories and sociologies) and application (exam technique) throughout the course. At the end of Yr13, you will sit 3 separate exams covering 2 units each. The questions will require you to write extended answers – essays.

What are the entry requirements?

English GCSE Grade 6 or above

Sport

Pearson BTEC Level 3
Extended Certificate (Single Option)

Why study Sport?

BTEC Nationals in Sport use a combination of assessment styles to give your students confidence they can apply their knowledge to succeed in the workplace and have the study skills to continue learning on higher education courses and throughout their career. The range of vocational assessments both practical and written means students can showcase their learning and achievements to best effect when they take their next step, whether that's supporting applications to higher education courses or potential employers.

What will I study?

Students will study 4 units:

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology- Learners explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems function and the fundamentals of the energy systems.

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being- Learners explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and well-being.

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry- Learners explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

Unit 4: Sports Leadership – Learners study what makes a good leader, the different capacities of this role and the leadership skills and techniques necessary when leading activities with different roles.

How will I study?

Lessons will all be theory based but with practical elements imbedded within.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 is an externally examined paper 1hours 30 minutes long and is worth 33% of the qualification.

Unit 2 is externally assessed through a written task worth 33% of the qualification.

Unit 3 is assessed via an assignment and is worth 16% of the qualification.

Unit 4 is assessed via an assignment and is worth 16% of the qualification.

What are the entry requirements?

5 Grade 4s at GCSE including English & Maths

Extended Project Qualification

AQA - equivalent to half an A level

Why take the EPQ?

For this project you have the choice to study whatever you like! Any subject that you are interested in can be turned into a question that you will answer by researching at length and completing an essay or artefact to show your conclusions. You will document your journey on a log which allows you to reflect on the way you are learning. Universities are very supportive of the EPQ, recognising the advance academic studying that it involves, and sometimes make a lower offer to students who attain a high grade in the EPQ. By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project, students:

- Become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- Learn to apply technologies confidently
- Demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

How will I study?

We are looking to run this course alongside your 3 Level 3 choices and the lessons will be timetabled weekly. Please indicate your interest in this course when applying on Applicaa and we will attempt to create option blocks that will allow as many interested students as possible have access to this course.

This is an independent research task for which you will meet with a supervisor once a week. You will learn about time management and academic referencing as a group and will meet individually with the supervisor to discuss your progress. However, the onus is on you to complete the project by yourself.

How will I be assessed?

Your project will be internally assessed and externally moderated. You will be marked on the log, the final project and the presentation of your findings.

Core Maths

AQA Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies

Why take Core Mathematics?

The Mathematics in Context course is designed for you if you're aged 16+ and have achieved a 5 to 9 in GCSE Mathematics, but you've chosen not to continue your maths studies at AS or A level. This engaging and relevant qualification will improve your mathematical knowledge and show you how to apply it in real-world contexts.

It will prepare you for professional training or higher education courses, support your other subjects and equip you to apply for employment or higher apprenticeships in a wide range of industry sectors.

How will I study?

We are looking to run this course alongside your 3 Level 3 choices during Year 12 and the lessons will be timetabled weekly.

How will I be assessed?

Two written exam assessments, each 1 hour 30 minutes.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 5 at GCSE Maths

Subject Entry Requirements - September 2026

Course Title	Entry Requirements
Access Course – 1 year	No entry requirements
Applied Science AAQ (single option)	5 Grade 4s at GCSE including English Maths grade 5, Combined Science 5/5 or Triple science 5/5/5
Art A Level	Art GCSE Grade 6 or above
Art & Design: Textiles	Art or Textiles GCSE grade 6 or above
Biology A Level	Biology Grade 6 or above, or Combined Science GCSE Grade 6/6 or above Maths Grade 6 or above
Business BTEC (single option)	5 Grade 4s at GCSE including English & Maths
Chemistry A Level	Chemistry GCSE grade 6 or Combined Science Grade 6/6 or above Maths Grade 6 or above
Core Maths	Maths GCSE Grade 5
Drama and Theatre A Level	Drama GCSE Grade 6 or above
DT: Product Design A Level	DT GCSE Grade 6 or above
English Literature A Level	English Literature GCSE Grade 6 or above
French A Level	French GCSE Grade 6 or above
Further Mathematics A Level	Maths GCSE Grade 8 or above and also studying Maths A Level
Geography A Level	Geography GCSE Grade 6 or above
German A Level	German GCSE Grade 6 or above
Health and Social Care AAQ (single option)	5 Grade 4s at GCSE including English & Maths
History A Level	History GCSE Grade 6 or above
Mathematics A Level	Maths GCSE Grade 6 or above
Media Studies A Level	English Language GCSE Grade 6 or above
Music A Level	Music GCSE Grade 6 or above Grade 5 theory would be useful
Philosophy of Religion & Ethics	English GCSE Grade 6 GSCE
Photography A Level	Art or Photography GCSE grade 6 or above
Physical Education A Level	PE GCSE Grade 6 or above
Physics A Level	Physics GCSE Grade 6 or Combined Science Grade 6/6 or above Maths GCSE Grade 6 or above
Politics A Level	English GCSE Grade 6 or above
Psychology A Level	Maths GCSE Grade 6 or above
Sociology A Level	English GCSE Grade 6 or above
Sport BTEC (single option)	5 Grade 4s at GCSE including English & Maths

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