

Year 12 and Year 13 Curriculum



Subject: Art and Design

Introduction:

The A Level Fine Art courses use the methods and marking scheme used at GCSE. It encourages intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive powers, investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement. Students develop independence of mind in relation to developing their own ideas, refining their own intentions and personal outcomes. They should have an interest in, enthusiasm for, and enjoyment of art, craft and design and will gain experience of working with a broad range of media. They will also develop an understanding of the interrelationships between art processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

Edexcel A Level in Fine Art

Course Content:

The full course is a four unit course.

In Year 12 students study: Unit 1 Obsessions and Unit 2 Externally Set Assignment.

In Year 13 students study: Unit 3 Own work and Unit 4 Externally Set Assignment.

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

From common theme students develop their own portfolios with regular tutorials to give guidance and technical help.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Work is ongoing and students will be expected to work extensively in their own time to develop their work between lessons, using their own studio spaces.

Support:

Parents will be contacted about concerns and progress, often by email to give detailed feedback and work to be completed. Sketchbooks and final pieces will be brought to parents evening.

Extra-curricular Opportunities:

We have trips to Ely and the Cambridge Museums to offer students. Each year students work with younger classes to develop their skills.

Future Opportunities:

Students who take art at AS and A Level, as well as going on to study Art and design could also be interested in pursuing a career in;

Fashion; Textiles; Advertising; Photography; Animation; Games design; Film making; Theatre design; Art therapy; Art conservation; Illustration; Art teaching; Craft making; Architecture; Special effects designing; Arts administration; Magazine layout; and any career that requires fine motor skills, presentation skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking.

Subject: Biology

Introduction:

Biology A-level will give you the skills to make connections and associations with all living things around you. Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is?

Awarding Body and Course Details:

AQA A Level in Biology

Course Content:

AS Biology is one year long, with exams at the end. A-level Biology lasts two years, with exams at the end of the second year. The table below shows the topics you will study in each year Year 12 students study:

AS and first year of A-level:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

Second year of A-level:

5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

Biology, like all sciences, is a practical subject. Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including:

- using microscopes to see cell division
- dissection of animal or plant systems
- aseptic technique to study microbial growth
- investigating activity within cells
- investigating animal behaviours
- investigating distributions of species in the environment.

These practicals will give you the skills and confidence needed to investigate the way living things behave and work. It will also ensure that if you choose to study a Biology-based subject at university, you'll have the practical skills needed to carry out successful experiments in your degree.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly by each teacher. Submission of homework on time is expected.

Support:

Teachers are available throughout the academic year to support students studying Chemistry. Revision sessions and intervention sessions are offered when needed.

Extra-curricular Opportunities:

Many students studying for Biology have been supported in successfully completing the Nuffield Research Placements during their summer holiday.

Future Opportunities:

According to bestcourse4me.com, the top seven degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in Biology are:

- Biology
- Psychology
- Sport and exercise science
- Medicine
- Anatomy
- Physiology and Pathology Pharmacology
- Toxicology and Pharmacy Chemistry.

Possible career options Studying A-level Biology at university gives you all sorts of exciting career options, including:

- Doctor
- Clinical molecular geneticist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist
- Vet
- Secondary school teacher
- Marine biologist
- Dentist.

Subject: BTEC Level 3 Applied Law

Introduction:

The law changes all the time. It is fast paced, challenging and applies to us all to exist in a society. Headlines we see in newspapers and magazines often only represent one area of law but this is an incomplete picture and the law deals with many different topics. This Btec provides an introduction to the subject and a new opportunity for students to understand the way our legal system works through the study of some of the many different areas.

Studying BTEC Level 3 Applied Law will encourage students to:

- develop a fuller understanding of the scope and structure of the legal system in England and Wales.
- develop an awareness of the complexity of some of the aspects of law and the procedures required to obtain success.
- develop a critical awareness of the systems in place and assess their validity in our country.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Law

Students will complete four units over two years:

- Units 1 and 3 are externally assessed in summer of Year 12 and winter of Year 13
- Units 2 and the optional unit are assessed internally through coursework

Course Content:

Year 12 units: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 1 Dispute Solving in Civil Law• Unit 3 Applying the Law	Year 13 units: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit 2 Investigating Aspects of Civil Law and the Legal System• Optional Unit: Tort, Family Law, Consumer Law, or Contract Law as selected by staff
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Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

Students will undertake a range of activities during lessons. These will include:

- A range of written activities, including descriptions and explanations
- Responding to various sources including case material, statutes, and video clips
- Presenting information via reports and presentations
- Discussion and debate of important issues
- Constant development of evaluation and analysis techniques

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed externally on cases that they prepare for under guided time with their teacher prior to writing in exam conditions in units 1 and 3. These units are spread out in order to allow students the best chance of success. Students are assessed internally by staff on written coursework for the other 2 units. Homework will tie into a particular criteria element and is issued regularly.

Support:

Additional support will be offered outside of lessons as appropriate. There will be a range of additional revision sessions offered outside of lesson times to support students with appropriate presentation of their coursework folders as needed.

Future Opportunities:

BTEC Applied Law allows for progression into a wide range of further education and career opportunities. This includes higher level vocational qualifications, business and law foundation degrees and law honours degrees.

Subject: Business

Introduction:

The OCR A Level in Business will encourage learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It provides insight into, and experience of, how businesses work, stimulating learners' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with commerce in their everyday lives and to make informed choices about further study and about career choices.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

OCR A level Business

Course Content:

The course is split into three modules (Operating in a local business environment, The UK business environment, and the global business environment), each of which is assessed by a 2 hour written examination. Each unit explores the following content from differing perspectives:

- Business objectives and strategic decisions
- External influences facing businesses
- Marketing and marketing strategies
- Operational strategy
- Human resources
- Accounting and financial considerations
- The global environment of business

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

We stimulate pupils' through active and engaging lessons. Pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of the past using a wide range of resources and techniques centred around the higher level source skills, analysis and critical thinking required at A-Level.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly. Submission of homework on time is expected. Students will also complete independent research to support their coursework.

Future Opportunities:

This course will lead directly to a degree with a Business component or any other qualification where the use of Business is a main focus. Alternatively due to the nature of the course this qualification will support entry to an apprenticeship or work place.

Subject: BTEC Business (Level 3)

Introduction:

The BTEC Level 3 in Business will encourage learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It provides insight into, and experience of, how businesses work, stimulating learners' curiosity and encouraging them to engage with commerce in their everyday lives and to make informed choices about further study and about career choices.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business

Course Content:

The course is split into four modules. Each unit explores the following content from differing perspectives:

- Exploring Business – Assessed internally.
- Developing a marketing campaign – Assessed through an external task set by Pearson.
- Personal and business finance – Assessed by a 2 hour written examination.
- The recruitment and selection process – Assessed internally.

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

We stimulate pupils' through active and engaging lessons. Pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of the past using a wide range of resources and techniques centred around the higher level source skills, analysis and critical thinking required at level 3.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly. Submission of homework on time is expected. Students will also complete independent research to support their coursework.

Future Opportunities:

The course is suitable for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business-related subjects.

Subject: Chemistry

Introduction:

A-level Chemistry builds on the knowledge gained at GCSE, but with more opportunity to develop a detailed understanding of concepts and processes. Theoretical ideas are supported and developed by practical work, students improve and learn experimental techniques. Chemistry links very well with other A-level subjects, in particular Biology and Physics, but due to mathematical content it is also highly complemented by Mathematics.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

AQA A Level in Chemistry

Course Content:

In Year 12 students study:

- Physical Chemistry: Atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle and K_c , oxidation, reduction and redox equations.
- Organic Chemistry: Introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols and organic analysis.
- Inorganic Chemistry: Periodicity, group 2 and group 7.

In Year 13 students study:

- Physical Chemistry: Thermodynamics, rate equation, equilibrium constant for homogeneous systems, electrode potentials and electrochemical cells, acids and bases.
- Organic Chemistry: Optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and derivatives, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, nuclear resonance spectroscopy and chromatography.
- Inorganic Chemistry: Properties of period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals and reactions of ions in aqueous solution.

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

Chemistry lessons will incorporate the teaching of theory supported by practical work, with plenty of opportunity to apply the knowledge taught to exam questions. Regular, detailed feedback is provided both in lesson and via homework. There is always the opportunity for students to ask questions to improve or extend their understanding.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly by each teacher. Submission of homework on time is expected.

Support:

Teachers are available throughout the academic year to support students studying Chemistry. Revision sessions and intervention sessions are offered when needed.

Extra-curricular Opportunities:

Many students studying for Chemistry have been supported in successfully completing the Nuffield Research Placements during their summer holiday.

Future Opportunities:

The analytical skills gained studying Chemistry at A-level are highly valued for many further education courses such as accountancy, law, engineering and other science courses, not just a degree in Chemistry. A-level Chemistry is an essential A-level for students wanting to study medicine. However, moving on to University is not the only option. A-level Chemistry can prepare students for the work place too, skills developed at A-level can provide the foundations for work in laboratories, food industry, accountancy and many others.

Subject: English Language and Literature

Introduction:

English Language and Literature allows students to engage with literary and non-literary texts from different cultural, social and historical perspectives, as well as different genres, to help broaden understanding and appreciation. They will be able to apply their knowledge of literary and linguistic concepts and methods throughout the course, including in their own text production.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

Edexcel A Level in English Language and Literature

Students will sit two exams (worth 40% each) at the end of Year 13 to gain the full A Level. There will also be a coursework component (worth 20%).

Course Content:

In Year 12 students study:

- An anthology of non-fictional texts entitled 'Voices in Speech and Writing' in order to complete a comparative essay of an unseen and a prepared extract.
- A theme of literature across two texts. Students study one anchor text and one other text. Both are assessed under exam conditions and both require students to look at how the theme is presented by the authors. (*The Great Gatsby, Othello*)

In Year 13 students study:

- A drama text (*All My Sons*)
- Unseen literary texts
- Coursework: study of two texts (teacher choice) to produce a folder of one non-fiction text and one fiction text based (loosely and/or specifically) on the texts studied, and one comparative and analytical commentary (based on the creative work presented). This folder accounts 20% of the total A Level grade.
- Revision of Year 12 Literature

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

This course relies heavily on students' independent and wider reading. The course is both analytical and creative. To this end students will engage in a range of activities to develop analytical skills in reading, understanding and writing; and will have considerable scope to develop their own individual responses to texts in the coursework.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly. Submission of homework on time is expected. Students will also complete interim assessment tasks on individual course components that are also submitted on Go4Schools. At least one per half term can be expected as a minimum.

Support:

A full revision programme is offered in Spring 1 after school and there is the opportunity for a drop-in time (usually Wednesdays from 3:30 – 4:30) from January onwards.

Extra-curricular Opportunities:

Students are regularly offered trips to see the performance of texts and participate in workshops and lecture programmes if and as they are available during the year.

Future Opportunities:

English Language and Literature provides students with a full background to really enjoy and appreciate literature. This is a life-long benefit.

Many students go on to study English of some description at University. This course will provide a good grounding in many aspects of literature and writing. Students have used it for entry to both literature and language courses. It is both analytical and creative, so will appeal to students from a humanities background and will support such subjects as similar skills are needed.

Because of the importance of written communication and the ability to understand text, the subject is highly regarded by employers. It is a very useful subject for those wishing to pursue a level 3 apprenticeship.

Subject: English Literature

Introduction:

English Literature is a text based subject that allows students to engage and enrich their learning providing them with the expertise to actively explore the world around them. It will provide a real background that will support any literature university course and is highly regarded with university providers and employers alike.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

Edexcel A Level in English Literature

Students will sit three exams at the end of Year 13 to gain the full A Level. These will be based on the entire course over two years.

Course Content:

In Year 12 students study:

- A set selection of modern poetry from the anthology: *Poems of the Decade* (Steghart, ed)
- A drama text: *The Duchess of Malfi*
- A prose theme (**Women and Society**): *Tess of the D'Urbervilles, A Thousand Splendid Suns*
- Study of unseen poetry

In Year 13 students study:

- Poetry study of either a named collection or poet from a given period eg. Medieval, Romantic *Christina Rossetti*
- A drama Text: *Hamlet* and *The Duchess of Malfi*
- A prose theme: All the texts for year 12 with the option of another text
- Study of unseen poetry as in year 12
- Coursework based on two texts producing a comparative and explorative essay of 2500-3000 words in length

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

A Level is taught using a variety of techniques but central to all sections of the course is the willingness to read widely and read independently. All the texts will need to be read several times and students will have to purchase copies of their texts for use in class. The texts are interesting and challenge ideas so the discussion of them will be lively and thought-provoking. Students will complete a series of essays and short writing tasks throughout the course to build up skills for the exam.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly. Submission of homework on time is expected. Students will also complete interim assessment tasks on individual course components that are also submitted on Go4Schools. At least one per half term can be expected as a minimum.

Support:

A full revision programme is offered in Spring 1 after school and there is the opportunity for a drop-in time (usually Wednesdays from 3:30 – 4:30) from January onwards.

Extra-curricular Opportunities:

Students are regularly offered trips to see the performance of texts and participate in workshops and lecture programmes if they are available during the year.

Future Opportunities:

English Literature provides students with a full background to really enjoy and appreciate literature. This is a life-long benefit.

Many students go on to study English of some description at University. This course will provide a fully accredited programme that is accepted by all the universities and colleges for all English courses. It also supports other subjects such as creative writing, journalism, and other humanities and social science subjects eg. History, Sociology.

Because of the importance of written communication and the ability to understand text, the subject is highly regarded by employers. It is a very useful subject for those wishing to pursue a level 3 apprenticeship.

Subject: BTEC Level 3 Forensic and Criminal Investigation

Introduction:

This course in forensic investigation has been developed in collaboration with employers and representatives from higher education, with the sole purpose, of preparing students for a vocational career in the sciences. It brings together knowledge & understanding with practical & technical skills, designed to arm you, the student, with the transferable skills so desired by employers, i.e. communication, teamwork, research & analytical skills.

The new course includes a solid foundation of mandatory content. That means employers and higher education providers can be confident BTEC qualified students demonstrate the same skills and understanding and still have the opportunity to gain specialist knowledge through studying optional units.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Criminal and Forensic Investigation

Course Content:

4 mandatory units:

- Principles & Applications of science I (exam)
- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques (internally assessed)
- Science Investigation Skills (externally assessed)
- Forensic procedures and techniques

Plus 2 optional unit:

- Physiology of human body systems
- Forensic fire investigation

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

This course is taught through practical work and the building up of academic skills through learning activities which include a variety of independent and teacher led strategies.

The new BTEC Nationals in forensic science use a combination of assessment styles to give students confidence that 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.

Assessment and Mastery:

Each BTEC Nationals unit is individually graded (Pass, Merit, Distinction) and contributes towards a learner's final qualification grade. Each unit contributes points proportionally to the overall grade. This allows students to gain recognition for strong performance in areas they excel. A learner's final grade is decided by their performance across the qualification, based on a combined total of points earned from assessments. However, students need to pass most (and in some cases, all) mandatory content to remain eligible for an overall qualification pass.

Unit 1 consists of a written exam that can be taken 3 times in the academic year.

Units 2 & 4 are internally assessed assignments

Unit 3 is an investigative unit that is set and assessed externally.

Support:

Drop-in sessions are available where students need extra support.

Future Opportunities:

This course is excellent preparation for students who wish to enter employment at a technician level in a general or forensic science laboratory or students.

Subject: Geography

Introduction:

Are you interested in our changing planet - the physical and human environments we live in and have the opportunity to experience? What are they like? Why are they the way they are? How and why are they changing? If these are issues which interest you, then Geography could be the subject for you.

Studying A level Geography will encourage students to:

- develop and apply an understanding of geographical concepts and processes to understand and interpret our changing world
- develop an awareness of the complexity of interactions within and between societies, economies, cultures and environments
- develop as global citizens who recognise the challenges of sustainability and the implications for people's lives
- improve as critical and reflective learners aware of the importance of attitudes and values
- become adept in the use and application of skills and new technologies
- be inspired by the world around them.

Awarding Body and Course Details: AQA A Level in Geography

Students will sit exams as follows:

- Paper 1 – Physical Geography (40% of A level)
- Paper 2 – Human Geography (40% of A level)

Students will also complete an individual fieldwork investigation worth 20% of the A level.

Course Content:

Physical Geography:

- Water and carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Natural hazards

Human Geography:

- Global systems and governance
- Changing Places
- Population and the Environment

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

Students will undertake a range of activities during lessons. These will include:

- A range of written activities, including descriptions and explanations
- Responding to various sources including maps, photographs, and video clips
- Presenting information via maps graphs and diagrams
- Discussion of important issues
- Practising examination questions

Fieldwork is an important part of the A Level, and there will be residential fieldwork during the course.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed twice a year and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, often based on exam questions, is set regularly.

Support:

Additional support will be offered outside of lessons as appropriate. There will be a range of additional revision sessions offered outside of lesson times to support students with their preparation for examinations.

Future Opportunities:

A Level Geography allows for progression into a wide range of further education and career opportunities. This includes Geography related areas such as planning, architecture, environmental sciences, engineering, geology, and meteorology, as well as a wide range of other areas including law, business, accountancy and other humanities or science based subjects.

Subject: OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma in Health and Social Care

Introduction:

Studying Health and Social Care will involve you exploring key issues that have influenced health, social and early year's education in the 21st century. Fundamental questions ranging from 'what does good health mean?' to 'how we can best help the most vulnerable in society?' will be covered. In addition you will develop your knowledge and skills in key areas which will enhance your employability in a range of careers.

All units have been written to reflect current health and social care practice and will help you to develop:

- Broad knowledge and understanding of a range of long term conditions, mental health needs and other disabilities and an appreciation of the impacts of living with these;
- Ability to be proactive in helping to improve the lives of individuals who require care and support;
- Transferrable skills necessary to support individuals who require care and support;
- Knowledge and understanding of how strategies to promote healthy lifestyles and positive behaviour are applied in the workplace
- Ability to learn in work-related contexts;
- Skills for independent learning and development.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma in Health and Social Care

This qualification is the equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It consists of 12 units, 5 of which are assessed by exams, with the option of exams being taken in January and June. The exams units comprises of multiple choice, short answer questions and questions requiring more extended responses.

Course Content:

The following units are mandatory:

- Building positive relationships in health and social care
- Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care (Exam)
- Health, safety and security in health and social care (Exam)
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (Exam)
- Infection control
- Personalisation and a person-centred approach to care (Exam)
- Safeguarding (Exam)

There are a range of optional units as well:

Supporting people with mental health conditions
Promoting health and wellbeing
Nutrition for health
The impact of long-term physiological conditions
Creativity and activity for children and young people

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

Each coursework unit has the opportunity to plan and carry out an activity, for example plan and carry out a health promotion campaign for Unit 15 Promoting health and wellbeing. Students will be assessed in these practical elements of their coursework.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed regularly and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions and coursework research. Submission of homework on time is expected. Students are also expected to continue with coursework and meet deadlines.

Support:

Every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after school there are coursework drop in sessions and teachers are available for further advice and guidance.

Extra-curricular Opportunities:

Students are encouraged as part of their enrichment to complete voluntary work. There are also opportunities for students to visit local NHS hospitals and early year's settings.

Subject: History

Introduction:

History is full of significant characters and events that continue to shape the world that we live in today. Throughout your A-Level study you will investigate and analyse the actions of our national hero Winston Churchill and form your own judgement about whether he deserves the reputation that History has given him. You will also study the rise and fall of Germany as the nation established democracy with the Weimar Republic and how it rebuilt and recovered from the First World War. The study then continues by looking at the dramatic rise of the Nazi dictatorship and its eventual collapse. The study culminates with the legacy of the Second World War and Germany's search to regain its national identity. The Changing Nature of Warfare unit allows you to gain an insight in to over two hundred years of warfare and the masters behind the changes in warfare such as the French leader Napoleon and the Prussian military mastermind Moltke. This thematic study will enable you to investigate how warfare shaped society as weaponry, technology, tactics, leadership and organisation radically altered warfare from the French Revolutionary wars through to the Second World War. The coursework unit centred on the war in Vietnam covers the social, political, economic and military impact of the war on both America and Vietnam and the long term impact of this conflict that can still be seen today.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

OCR A Level in History

Students will sit 3 exams at the end of Year 13 to gain the full A Level. These will be based on the entire course over two years and will include questions on source analysis and essay based questions.

Course Content:

In Year 12 students study:

- Britain 1930-1997, Enquiry topic: Churchill 1930-1951
- Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919–1963

In Year 13 students study:

- The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792-1945
- Topic based essay for coursework

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

Pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of the past using a wide range of resources and techniques centred around the higher level source skills, analysis and critical thinking required at A-Level. Through source analysis of primary and secondary sources pupils develop their enquiring minds and prepare themselves for University and a future where they are able to think critically about information they have been given. Pupils mature their writing styles with particular focus on utilising historical vocabulary and broadening their terms of expression. The History department strives to advance pupils' analytical and critical abilities so that they progress as independent learners and young adults.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly. Submission of all

homework on time is expected. Students will also complete independent research to support their coursework.

Future Opportunities:

The skills gained through studying History are applicable to many careers including Politics, the Civil Service, Teaching, Law and Journalism. History provides a fantastic opportunity to ignite and engage your passion and interests in culture, society and politics. Studying History will help you develop into an independent learner, a critical thinker and a decision maker. All of these personal assets will make you stand out as you progress to University and/or the workplace.

Subject: Mathematics

Course description:

The changes to A-level Maths qualifications represent the biggest in a generation and follow on from the changes at GCSE. We want students to see the links between different areas of maths and to apply their maths skills across all areas.

The A Level Mathematics course encourages students to: understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment; extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques; understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of mathematics are connected; apply mathematics in other fields of study and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general; use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly; reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning; generalise mathematically; use their mathematical skills and techniques to solve challenging problems which require them to decide on the solution strategy; recognise when mathematics can be used to analyse and solve a problem in context; draw diagrams and sketch graphs to help explore mathematical situations and interpret solutions; make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions by using mathematical reasoning; interpret solutions and communicate their interpretation effectively in the context of the problem; read and comprehend mathematical arguments, including justifications of methods and formulae, and communicate their understanding.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

The examining body is Edexcel, and the assessment consists of three written exam papers (2hrs each) equally weighted. All three exam papers are sat at the end of year 13 and comprise a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems.

The exams will measure how well students can use and apply standard mathematical techniques; reason, interpret and communicate mathematically; solve problems within mathematics and other contexts.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 assess Pure Mathematics. Paper 3 assesses Statistics and Mechanics.

Course Content:

Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, numerical methods, vectors, statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing, quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws, moments.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed regularly and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Students will be set homework after every lesson.

The setting, marking, re-setting and re-marking approach to working through exam papers until a quality grade is scored is used to give students exposure to a wide variety of past exam questions; foster a culture of reflecting upon your work, identifying your errors and making improvements; providing excellent guidance on exam skills and technique by developing a deeper understanding of why and how marks are allocated and lost; instilling a desire within students to achieve perfection.

Support:

Additional support will be offered outside of lessons as appropriate. A comprehensive revision programme is delivered outside of lesson times to support students with their preparation for examinations.

Future Opportunities:

A Level Mathematics allows for progression into a wide range of further education and career opportunities. This includes Mathematics related areas such as accountancy, engineering, banking, financial planning and economics, as well as a wide range of other areas including chemistry, biology, medicine, computer science, management studies, aeronautics, dentistry, sports science and veterinary science.

Subject: Media Studies

Introduction:

Media Studies allows students to develop a range of skills related to media production, theory and analysis. Students learn how to analyse a range of media products including films, television programmes, and print media, in addition to gaining an understanding of media industries. Students will also be introduced to theoretical approaches to the subject, and learn to apply these to the analysis of media products.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

OCR A Level in Media Studies

Students sit one exam at the end of Year 12 and one exam at the end of Year 13. The examinations are worth 50% of the final grade in the subject. Students also complete two coursework units, one in Year 12 and one in Year 13. Coursework is worth 50% of the A Level.

Course Content:

In Year 12 students study:

- **Television Drama** – students study the representation of different social groups in television drama, analysing the use of camerawork, sound, editing, and mise-en-scene.
- **Institutions and Audiences** – a study of the key institutions in the film industry, including media ownership, film production, distribution, marketing and consumption.
- **Foundation Portfolio – Music Magazines** - students will conduct research into music magazines, then plan and produce the front cover, contents page, and a double page spread for a new music magazine including original photography.

In Year 13 students study:

- **Media and Collective Identity** – a study of media representations of young people. Students will consider how representations of young people have developed over time, as well as the social implication of media representations. Students will consider how theoretical perspectives can be applied to the media texts studied.
- **Advanced Portfolio** – This is a coursework unit in which students have a choice of briefs, including the production of film trailers, and music videos. Students complete research into their chosen product, then plan, produce, and evaluate their own media text.
- **Theoretical Evaluation of coursework** – students reflect on the development of their media production skills, and learn how to apply a range of theoretical perspectives to their own production work.

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

A Level Media Studies includes a mix of both theory-based lessons and practical lessons. Lesson will include textual analysis of a range of different media products, as well as the study of media industries and theoretical perspectives. Students will also complete practical work which will include photography, magazine production, filming, and video editing.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework is used to support students with their coursework, and to prepare them for their examinations. It is set on a fortnightly basis. Submission of homework on time is expected. Student progress with coursework is assessed regularly in order to support student

achievement. Meeting interim coursework deadlines is an important part of being successful in the subject.

Support:

Additional sessions to support students with the completion of coursework, and preparation for exam topics, run regularly after school and during school holidays.

Future Opportunities:

Media Studies will allow you to develop a wide range of skills which will be valuable in both further study and a range of careers. These include media production, time management, team work, communication skills, use of ICT, design, research, and planning. Media Studies is relevant to a wide range of career paths including: marketing, journalism, programme researcher, television/film producer, information officer, arts officers, photographer, audio-visual/broadcasting equipment officer, publishing, radio, multimedia design.

Subject: Physics

Introduction:

Physics at A-Level builds on the ideas and analytical skills learnt at GCSE. Practical work plays a key role in developing new ideas and helping model situations mathematically. It leads to an understanding of how and why things behave as they do, from the very large, such as galaxies, to the very small like sub-atomic particles, the very foundation of matter.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

AQA AS and A level Physics [syllabus codes 7407,7408]

Course Content:

In Year 12 students study:

- Mechanics and motion, electricity, material properties, wave behaviour, quantum physics and particle physics

In Year 13 students study:

- More advanced mechanics, thermal physics, fields of force, nuclear physics and a module based on key discoveries in physics that led to the modern physics theories of today.

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

A range of learning styles are used in Physics lessons, from theoretical work to individual work but most importantly practical work. The practical work is crucial to the learning and understanding of the concepts being studied. It is used to discover relationships from which the theory is then developed rather than performing practical to 'prove' a theory. The equipment used is much more complex and technical than used at GCSE which offers an exciting challenge.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly by each teacher. Submission of homework on time is expected.

Support:

Teachers are available throughout the academic year to support students studying Physics. Revision sessions and intervention sessions are offered when needed.

Future Opportunities:

As Physics has such a central position in our understanding of how and why things happen, it is a much sought after qualification by employers and higher education establishments. For those who intend pursuing a degree course many scientific and engineering courses are available. The career possibilities arising from these are endless. Physicists and engineers can be found working at the frontiers of knowledge; others tackle the challenging problems that arise in the application of physical ideas to industrial and engineering problems. Physics graduates also find careers in other areas like accounting, finance, sales and management where their ability to reduce a problem to its component parts then apply logic supported by calculation to provide a solution is much sought after.

Subject: Politics

Introduction:

Politics is exciting because people disagree – for example about how we should live, who should get what, and how society should be organised. It is a subject about rival viewpoints and competing opinions. Therefore if you are interested in people, their motivations and concerns, and take an interest in current affairs, then this could be the subject for you. Studying A level Politics will encourage students to develop a critical awareness of the nature of politics and the relationship between political ideas and people. It also helps you to acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within the political system of the UK, and how these may differ from those of other political systems such as the US.

Awarding Body and Course Details: Edexcel A Level Politics

Students will sit three 2 hour exams as follows:

- Component 1 – People and politics and core ideologies
- Component 2 – Governing the UK and an extended ideology
- Component 3 – USA Comparative politics

Course Content:

In Year 12 you will study:

- People and Politics – democracy, political parties, elections, pressure groups, liberalism, socialism and conservatism
- Governing the UK – constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and cabinet, the judiciary and its links to the EU, and feminism

In Year 13 you will study:

- USA Comparative politics – US Constitution and federalism, Congress, the Presidency, Supreme Court and US civil rights, US democracy and participation, and comparative theories between UK and US politics

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

Students will undertake a range of activities during lessons. These will include:

- A range of written activities, including descriptions and explanations
- Responding to various sources including texts and video clips
- Discussion and debate on various political issues
- Practising examination questions

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, often based on exam questions and preparation for timed essays within lessons, is given weekly.

Support:

Additional support will be offered outside of lessons as appropriate. There will be a range of additional revision sessions offered outside of lesson times to support students with their preparation for examinations.

Future Opportunities:

A Level Politics allows for progression into a wide range of further education and career opportunities. This includes areas specifically related to politics including local government, as well as a wide range of other areas including law, business, and other humanities or social science based subjects.

Subject: Psychology

Introduction:

The aim of this subject is to enable you to understand why people behave the way they do, in given situations. It will also give you an insight into individual differences and explanations for abnormal behaviour. The course focuses on memory, attachment, social influence as well as biological factors, such as stress.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

AQA A Level in Psychology

Students will sit 3 exams at the end of Year 13 to gain the full A Level. These will be based on the entire course over two years and will include questions on theoretical explanations for behaviour as well as essay style questions of various lengths. There will be an opportunity to study the AS to the end of Year 12, but these exams will be repeated again if you continue to A Level, as they do not form part of the overall A Level award.

Course Content:

In Year 12 students study:

- Social Influence, including conformity and obedience.
- Memory, focusing on memory in everyday life and memory improvement.
- Attachment, covering development of attachments and problems associated with deprivation and privation.
- Psychopathology, covering phobias, depression and OCD.
- Biopsychology, covering responses to stress and stress management.
- Students will also learn the main approaches to Psychology alongside research methods and scientific analysis.

In Year 13 students study:

- Gender, including development of identity and gender dysphoria.
- Schizophrenia, covering all aspects of the condition and its treatments.
- Aggression both biological and environmental factors.
- Research methods, focusing on statistical analysis and presentation of data.

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

Learning activities include a variety of independent and teacher led strategies. Students will engage with individual and group research into topics and develop skills of presentation and delivery. There will also be opportunities to carry out unique research into topics of interest within the syllabus content.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly. Submission of homework on time is expected.

Support:

Ongoing support is available and drop-in sessions are available in the spring term prior to exams.

Extra-curricular Opportunities:

There will be a number of opportunities throughout the year to attend conferences and revision sessions, as well as visits of interest to relevant venues, such as the Freud Museum in London.

Future Opportunities:

Psychology is one of the most versatile of subjects, containing a number of transferable skills. Many careers are based around of knowledge of how people interact and perform within society. Media, Medical, Legal and Social careers are just a few. There are also an extensive range of university courses based around Psychology.

Subject: Sociology

Introduction:

Studying AS and A-level Sociology will help you to make sense of the society we live in and understand the cultural and identity issues that affect us all. You will learn a number of skills including the use of evidence to support your arguments, how to investigate facts, and critical thinking.

Awarding Body and Course Details: AQA A Level in Sociology

Students will sit 3 exams at the end of Year 13 to gain the full A Level. These will be based on the entire course over two years and will include short questions and longer essay questions on Families and Households, Education with Research Methods, Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

Course Content:

In Year 12 students study:

- Households and families - to include sociological theories of the family, family diversity, demographic changes, gender roles in the family, childhood, social policy and the family.
- Education – to include social class differences in educational attainment, gender differences in educational attainment, ethnic differences in educational attainment, social policy and education, sociological theories of education.
- Research methods in the context of education – to include different types of qualitative and quantitative research methods – questionnaires, interviews, participant observation.

In Year 13 students study:

- Beliefs in Society - to include sociological theories of religion, religion as a cause of social change, religious organisations, globalisation and religion, postmodernity and religion, gender and religion.
- Crime and Deviance - to include sociological theories of crime and deviance, ethnicity and crime, gender and crime, social class and crime, globalisation and crime, crime prevention and control. Sociology and science, sociological theoretical approaches to society, sociological approaches and research methods

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

A Level Sociology is taught through class work and the building up of academic skills through learning activities which include a variety of independent and teacher led strategies. Students will engage with individual and group research into topics and develop skills of presentation and delivery, including essay writing and peer teaching.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed once every half term and grades awarded will be submitted on Go4Schools. Homework, usually based on exam questions, is given weekly. Submission of homework on time is expected.

Support:

Ongoing support is available and drop-in sessions and after-school revision sessions are available in the spring term prior to exams.

Extra-curricular Opportunities:

There will be a number of opportunities throughout the year to attend conferences and revision sessions, as well as visits of interest to relevant venues, such as the Buddhist Centre in Cambridge and the Old Bailey in London.

Future Opportunities:

A degree in Sociology equips you well with a wide range of knowledge and transferrable skills which are ideally suited to a huge variety of careers. Whether you want to work in the public sector in careers such as nursing, the police or social work or the private sector, for example in the media, marketing or advertising. Sociology gives you skills of critical analysis and research as well as tolerance and understanding of different groups in society that fit well with careers such as: Social work; Human resources; Advertising Policing; Marketing; Journalism; Law; Teaching.

Subject: BTEC Sport

Introduction:

BTEC sport is a hands-on subject where we place emphasis on practical classes; fitness testing are carried out support different units of work. Although practical activities are covered where ever possible, there will be a number of theory sessions to support students learning and complete coursework.

Awarding Body and Course Details:

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport

This qualification is intended as an applied general qualification, equivalent in size to 2 A levels. It has been designed as part of a 2-year programme.

Course Content:

Over year 12 & 13 you will complete a range of units identified below.

Compulsory 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 22: Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry- Learners explore the background in business in sport and what it takes to build a successful business.
- Unit 23: Skill Acquisition in Sport- Learners explore how skills are executed for various sports and how important technique is to ensure the skill is performed and applied successfully.

Optional units:

The optional units we deliver change year on year depending on the cohort of pupils that select the course. A selection of different areas that could be covered has been identified below:

Unit 10: Sport Event Organisation

Unit 4: Sports Leadership

Unit 7: Practical Sports Performance

Unit 25: Rules, Regulations and Officiating in Sport

Learning Activities and Teaching Approaches:

BTEC sport is taught through both theory and practical. In some units your practical performance is assessed, however sometimes you may participate in practical sessions that are scaffolding your knowledge learnt in theory lessons. We are working closely with local sports providers to deliver relevant off site practical activity and to access external industry experts.

Assessment and Mastery:

Students are formally assessed in a number of assignments for each unit covered, this is done internally by the class teacher. However Unit 1 – is assessed through an externally set exam and Unit 2 & 22 are tasks set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions (Similar to a GCSE controlled assessment).

Support:

A weekly BTEC catch-up club is held throughout the year for pupils to come and get support with their coursework when they need it.

Future Opportunities:

The course give students the skills they need to progress onto future careers and training within the Sports and Fitness industries including Sports education, Sports Massage Therapies, Fitness Instruction & Personal Training to name but a few.