



**HIGHSTED SIXTH FORM
2024 - 2026
INTRODUCTION**

Dear Potential Sixth Form Student

Highsted Grammar School welcomes you to the Sixth Form Information Guide. This prospectus intends to help you understand the courses on offer and about Sixth Form life. The subject guides will inform you of specific course information relevant to the academic year 2024 - 2026.

At Highsted Grammar, we always strive for excellence, with a proven record of outstanding results and the highest standard of teaching. At Highsted you will be joined by likeminded students who really want to learn and will be supported by teachers who will strive to make you competitive in the world of higher education or work. Highsted Grammar School is one of the most successful Post-16 providers both in Kent and nationally!

In choosing to join our Sixth Form you will enrol on a Post-16 study programme which is coherent, flexible and enjoyable. Our Post-16 study programmes will offer you every opportunity to achieve more than the minimum, with a flexible enrichment option designed to develop your skills of independent learning and enhance your competitiveness after two years of study.

If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact our Sixth Form Team on the school's number 01795 424223, or alternatively you can send an email to admin@highsted.kent.sch.uk.

We would love for you to join what we believe is an outstanding Sixth Form.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Gina Evans
Assistant Headteacher



**HIGHSTED SIXTH FORM
2024 - 2026
COURSES AND ADMISSION**

Courses Available for 2024 - 2026

As a grammar school, Highsted offers a wide range of Advanced Level subjects, taught by exceptionally well-qualified, experienced staff. Subject to sufficient demand, we plan to offer the following courses in Year 12:

Art, Craft & Design	German
Biology	History
Business	Mathematics
Chemistry	Media Studies
Computer Science	Music
Drama and Theatre Studies	Photography
Economics	Physics
English Literature	Politics
Film Studies	Psychology
French	Sociology
Further Mathematics	Sports Studies
Geography	

A range of Enrichment options are available, including:

Cultural Enrichment	Open University Course
Elective	Volunteering
Level 3 Extended Project	Work Experience

Plus, a range of other courses in collaboration with Borden Grammar School and Fulston Manor School, including:

Certificate of Financial Services	Health & Social Care
Design Technology	Spanish

Details of these courses are available on request.



HIGHSTED SIXTH FORM 2024 - 2026 COURSES AND ADMISSION

Choosing courses

You will be expected to choose four subjects for Year 12 and one enrichment option.

We are able to offer an extensive range of course combinations by working in partnership with Borden Grammar School and Fulston Manor School, so there should be few problems in meeting your needs. If there are concerns, then you should start discussions with Mrs Evans or Key Stage 5 Head of Year Ms Coles as soon as possible.

Research your options carefully, using the careers provision and the advice of your subject teachers. There is no such thing as an easy A Level but some will suit your strengths and ambitions better than others. If in doubt, try to find a logical combination which includes subjects you excel at and enjoy as you are likely to work harder on these.

Some careers need specific subjects, but others accept graduates and A Level students from a wide range of courses. Employers often mind less about the subject combination than they do about your total achievement and character.

Admission to courses

This is based on your needs and staff advice, but you should be aware of these points:

1. You will need to obtain a minimum of **six GCSE passes at grade 5 or above including Mathematics and English** (a **minimum of a grade 5** in the reformed GCSE qualifications in English and Mathematics) and grades 9 - 6 in their preferred A Level subjects or nearest equivalents.
2. Subjects have clear entry requirements. You will find these under the course details or from Subject Heads.

Sometimes it is possible to study a subject which you did not study at GCSE, although this is **exceptional**. If you are considering this, you must discuss it with the Head of Subject. This of course is not compulsory for subjects that are **new to everyone** in the Sixth Form, such as Psychology or Media Studies.

Please note: We aim to provide as broad a curriculum as possible to full A Level. On occasions it may be necessary to change to a different subject block in Year 13. Courses on offer are subject to minimum and maximum numbers and may not run if there is insufficient take up, or may become full and therefore unable to take further students. By working in partnership, we have been able to resolve such problems in virtually every case.

With the changes to the organisation and examination of Advanced Level subjects, our standard expectation in Year 12 remains that you will study **four** subjects as well as an enrichment course. The **expectation** is that students will normally take their four subjects though to full A Level over two years. Individual programmes of study will be discussed and planned with students as appropriate to their progress on their courses over the two years.



**HIGHSTED SIXTH FORM
2024 - 2026
Programme**

Based on Student A's attainment at GCSE, they are able to pursue a Four A Level programme with EPQ. EPQ will be assessed in Term 5 of Year 12, allowing the student to focus on their A Levels in Year 13* and still giving them the opportunity to present their EPQ success in their UCAS / Degree Apprenticeship applications in Year 13.

Based on Student B's attainment at GCSE, they are able to pursue a Three A Level programme with EPQ. EPQ will be assessed in Term 5 of Year 12, allowing the student to focus on their A Levels in Year 13 and still giving them the opportunity to present their EPQ success in their UCAS / Degree Apprenticeship applications in Year 13.

*Note: Student programmes are reviewed in Term 6 of Year 12 to ascertain the most effective pathway for individual students.

		Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E
Student A	Year 12	English Literature	History	Sociology	EPQ	Economics
	Year 13	English Literature	History	Sociology	Study	Economics
Student B	Year 12	English	Geography	EPQ	Study / Enrichment*	Politics
	Year 13	English	Geography	Study	Study / Enrichment*	Politics



SIXTH FORM PARTNERSHIP

The Sixth Form Partnership between Highsted, Borden Grammar School and Fulston Manor School is designed to increase student choice Post-16, particularly at Advanced Level. This document is designed to give students and parents the information they need to use the advantages of the Partnership wherever it is helpful to do so.

What are the advantages of the Partnership?

- Students are able to select subjects from their own school and also have access to subjects from either of the two Partnership schools should there be a **timetable clash** at your home school.
- As a result of three schools **working together in partnership**, students can select their Sixth Form course from over thirty Advanced Level subjects.
- In addition, Fulston Manor School offers a suite of one year Level 2 courses.

Combining resources in this way gives more than a broader initial choice. It also enables a greater number of subject combinations within a system of five option blocks operated by all three Sixth Forms. No Post-16 system can offer an unlimited permutation of subject combinations, but the Partnership schools can often help in making a particular combination of subject choices possible.

How does the Partnership work?

- Year 11 students from each school, and their parents / carers, are given information about the courses at all three schools. They may also attend Partnership schools' Sixth Form Information Evenings.
- When Year 11 students are asked about their provisional choices for A Level courses they need at this point to indicate whether they wish to access a course at a Partnership school that is not offered at their home school.
- The Assistant Headteachers in charge of the timetable at each school share this information and use it as part of their planning data.
- Students wishing to make use of the Partnership may select '**one**' or in exceptional circumstances '**two**' courses at a neighbouring school. In normal circumstances students remain in their home school. **In exceptional cases** a student may wish to transfer to another Sixth Form within the Partnership. These circumstances should be discussed with the Headteacher of the Year 11 student's home school.

What are the entry qualifications?

Borden, Fulston Manor and Highsted operate a Sixth Form Partnership rather than a joint Sixth Form. Work is in progress to harmonise as many aspects of day to day working as possible to achieve an efficient and productive environment for Sixth Formers. Discussion is also taking place regarding policy decisions to widen and strengthen Post-16 co-operation across Swale. There are, at present, elements which differ between the three schools, one of which is the entry qualification for starting Advanced Level courses. The current minimum requirement may be found in each school's Sixth Form Prospectus.



**ANALYSIS OF GCE A LEVEL
RESULTS: JUNE 2023**

GCE A-LEVEL

<i>Subject</i>	No. of Entries	Number achieving each grade						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U and below
Art	8	1	1	4	1	1		
Biology	20		2	3	7	4	3	1
Business	14	3	2	5	2	1	1	
Chemistry	7			2	1	3	1	
Computing	4			1		2	1	
Drama & Theatre Studies	6		3	1	2			
Economics	21	3	4	5	5	3	1	
English Literature	28	2	7	8	7	3		1
Extended Project	72	20	34	12	6			
Film Studies	14		5	8	1			
Further Maths	6		3	2				1
Geography	33	4	6	10	12	1		
Government & Politics	15		3	6	3	2	1	
History	22		4	6	8	3	1	
Mathematics	23	2	2	5		7	2	5
Media Studies	14	1	2	5	4	2		
Photography	10	2	1	3	2	1	1	
Physics	3		1		1		1	
Psychology	45	1	5	13	8	12	6	
Sociology	49	5	13	17	10	3	1	
Sports Studies	6	1	2	1	2			



ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

What does the course involve?

The A Level in Art, Craft and Design is a two-year course, which has two components. Coursework which counts for 60% of the final grade, and an exam which takes place at the end of the second year which counts for the remaining 40%. Component one starts with a field trip to Margate and Turner Contemporary to investigate the theme of 'A Sense of Place' and covers a range of media and techniques including painting, sculpture, photography and mixed media. Then, students will embark on a series of technical drawings from life based on 'The Figure'. They will be given the opportunity to develop their ideas, culminating in a personal outcome. For the latter part of Year 12, students will begin the Personal Investigation and use Amsterdam or London as a spring board for their personal starting point. They will research and gather relevant visual stimulus to enable them to develop and refine a range of ideas leading to a creative finished piece of work in a media of their choice. They will also undertake an in-depth written study and analysis of an aspect of artist's work that relates to their practical work. Candidates receive the exam paper (component two) at the beginning of February of the second year and after a planning and preparation time of approximately twelve weeks will undertake a fifteen-hour exam during which they produce a finished piece of work.

Why study Art, Craft and Design?

Art, Craft and Design develops many creative and problem-solving skills which are important in university courses such as Fashion and Textile Design, Graphic Design, Product Design, Painting, Sculpture, Interior Design, Animation, Photography and Ceramics. It is also helpful for careers in Architecture, Teaching, Exhibition Design, Conservation, Web Design, Marketing, Television Production and Journalism.

Course entry requirements:

To study Art, Craft and Design at A Level, students are required to achieve a minimum of a grade 6 at GCSE Art and Design.

Success rate:

In 2023 100% students achieved A - D grades.



BIOLOGY

What does the course involve?

Biology looks in depth at the processes underlying the functioning of living organisms, and the interactions of organisms, including humans. Biology emphasises the application and interpretation of factual information in different biological situations. It requires students to recall and use GCSE material as well as that which is learnt during A Level teaching, in situations that may be unfamiliar. Practical work involves 12 detailed and assessed experiments carried out over two years. Students must attain competencies in five areas during these experiments. This involves researching, following methodology, recording data, reporting, referencing and communicating with others, as well as discussing current issues of ethical, medical and environmental research. There is an increased emphasis on the Mathematical elements of Biology. These skill areas enable students to develop essential knowledge and understanding of biological concepts and to apply these in novel situations.

Why study Biology?

There are a number of career opportunities that can be followed in diverse areas of the biological sciences, including Medicine, Ecology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, Food Technology, Forensic Science, Pathology, Agriculture and Animal Behaviour. Lawyers and patent agents seek good Biotechnologists with an interest in intellectual property.

Course entry requirements:

The examination board is AQA. Entry to the A Level requires students to have a grade 7 in separate Biology or a grade 7 in the Trilogy examination due to the challenging nature of the subject. At least a grade 7 in Mathematics is beneficial. It should be emphasised that the A Level course builds on knowledge acquired, understood and remembered from GCSE Science courses since much information is not re-taught. All exams are taken at the end of Year 13.

Mathematical skills are an important part of the Biology course. Students will be expected to learn a great deal of detailed factual information and be able to describe and explain data and concepts concisely, using the relevant biological vocabulary. This subject requires high and consistent effort throughout both years.

Success rate:

In 2023 25% of students achieved A* - B grades and 95% of students achieved A* - E grades.



BUSINESS

What does the course involve?

Business was one of the first subjects to be part of the new specifications of A Level. The course is a two-year linear course and students are now examined over three examinations at the end of Year 13. The course is broken down into four themes across the two years. Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. This includes four main business functions; marketing, finance, operations and human resources. In Year 2 themes 3 and 4, require students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues both nationally and globally

Why study Business?

Business can be combined with almost any other subject and over recent years a high proportion of Business students have continued with a related subject at University. These have included; Accounting and Finance, Business Management, Marketing and Public Relations. Other subjects that combine well include Law, Psychology, Politics and Geography.

Course entry requirements

Grade 6 or above in both English Language and Mathematics at GCSE. Due to the change in specification requiring an increased focus on Quantitative Methods and an element of prior business knowledge, those students who have not studied Business at GCSE will be assessed on an individual basis. Students who have taken the subject at GCSE must have achieved Grade 6 or above.

Success rate:

In 2023 34% of students achieved A* - A grades and 87% of students achieved A* - C grades with a 100% overall pass rate.



CHEMISTRY

What does the course involve?

Chemistry at A Level is interesting, stimulating and academically challenging. The AQA course will enable students to appreciate the inter-linking patterns that are a distinguishing feature of Chemistry, recognise the value of the subject to society and how it may be used responsibly. The specification fosters imaginative and critical thinking, as well as the acquisition of knowledge, together with an appreciation of the intellectual discipline that the subject provides. There are 12 required experiments carried out over two years, where students develop skills such as researching, following a methodology, data collection, reporting and referencing. As well as this there are more hands-on experiences offered throughout the course. These skills help students develop transferable skills and the knowledge and understanding of key concepts in Chemistry.

Why study Chemistry?

A Level Chemistry is an essential qualification for students wishing to pursue a degree/career not only in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Food Technology, Pharmacology and Forensic Science, but has many transferable skills for other non-science careers. A Level Chemistry is essential for certain career paths, but it is also valuable for students studying A Level Biology and can provide support for aspects of A Level Physics and Geography.

Course entry requirements:

Minimum entry requirements to A Level are a grade 7 in separate Chemistry or a grade 7 in the Trilogy examination. Furthermore, grade 7 in Mathematics is expected. Chemistry at A Level is academically demanding. The students who perform best are those with good mathematical skills and an in-depth understanding of the fundamental principles of the science studied at GCSE level. Successful Chemistry students have good independent learning strategies and skills and tend to also work well in a group, benefiting from the strengths of others as well as making a positive contribution to the group dynamics. Attention to minute details and ability to recognise patterns is highly desirable.

Success rate:

In 2023 100% of students achieved A* - E grades.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

What does the course involve?

Computer Science is an intensely creative course that combine both invention and excitement. At A-level learners are free to choose a programming project of their choice thus bringing in their creativity and knowledge. The A-level course will provide an insight into how computers work and encourage learners to explore everyday technology.

The course runs over a 2-year period where learners will cover a range of topics including data representation, computers system architecture, data structures, web technologies and python programming. There will be an in-depth emphasis on problem solving and mathematical skills. Students will gain practical skills in advanced python programming such as in Object Oriented programming techniques. At the end of year 12, students will start their coursework which is 20% of their final grade covering how to solve a problem to producing a working solution.

Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the academic principles learned in classroom to real world systems. Computer Science is relevant to the modern and changing world of technology. Every industry uses computers; thus, learners can pursue any sector after their studies. It is a very completive industry and the benefits are also worth it. Most employers seek people with computing experience to work with them such as hospitals, schools and the e-commerce sector. Careers can include IT consultant, Game Developer, Computer Law, Data Mining, IT Technicians, AI developer, UX researchers, machine learning engineer and many more.

Course entry requirements:

Grade 6 or above in both English Language and Mathematics at GCSE. These are necessary as the course requires mathematical skills as well as skills in written communication. Learners will submit a project that is self-directed at the end of the course thus a good quality of writing is required. Learners should be able to demonstrate they can program to a high standard.

Success rate:

In 2023 25% achieved A* - C grades with an overall pass rate of 100%.



DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

What does the course involve?

Theatre Studies enables students to pursue their interest in and enjoyment of drama and the theatre, exploring the practical and theatrical aspects of the subject at an academic level. The A Level course involves practical exploration of the subject through devised drama, play 'in production' and performance. This work is set alongside the study of set texts and theatre practitioners, such as Stanislavski, Katie Mitchell, Brecht, Frantic Assembly and Max Stafford Clark. They will also explore the works of Henrik Ibsen and Timberlake Wertenbaker.

Why study Theatre Studies?

- With this qualification students will be able to enter all institutions of higher education including the very best courses at university and drama schools.
- Will develop dramatic skills across all areas from acting, directing, costume and set design.
- Students will also gain knowledge in responding to live theatre seen during the course and develop journalistic skills.
- Interpret plays from different genres and periods. Develop writing styles.
- Work as a team to create own unique theatre as well as scripted play.
- Enjoy a varied, dynamic and exciting course developing creativity.
- Gain confidence in public speaking a skill which is required in many careers.
- Become a key contributor to enrichment and leadership activities within the drama department

This course combines well with other arts and humanities subjects such as English, History and Sociology. It offers essential grounding for degrees and other courses in Drama and Theatre Studies and unlike Performing Arts courses is recognised by all universities and colleges.

During the courses there are opportunities for theatre visits, workshops and lectures to support the study of set texts.

Course entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 or above in English Literature and preferably GCSE Drama (however, this is not essential. Many past students have successfully studied Theatre Studies without a GCSE in Drama).

Although no previous knowledge or experience of drama is required, it is essential that students have an enthusiastic, genuine interest in drama and the theatre, and be prepared to participate in all activities in practical lessons.

Students will be required to attend/ view at least three theatrical productions over the two year course.

Success rate:

In 2023 50% of students achieved A* - A grades, 67% of students achieved A* - B grades and 100% of students achieved A* - C grades.



ECONOMICS

What does the course involve?

Students with A Level Economics gain access to a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. You develop and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course, including:

- Collecting and analysing economic data from a variety of sources
- Communication and presentation
- Problem solving and evaluation
- Numerical skills
- Use of ICT

These skills are well recognised by, and in great demand from, employers and universities alike. Economics combines well with a range of science, social science and humanities subjects and may lead to university courses and careers in such areas as Law, Business, Accounting, Politics and, of course, Economics.

In Years 1 and 2 students cover both microeconomics and macroeconomics. In Year 12 students cover in theme one an introduction to markets and market failure, and theme 2 UK economic performance and policies. In Year 13 students cover theme 3 business behaviour and the labour market, and theme 4 students cover the global economic perspective.

Why study Economics?

Economics is concerned with some of the most important issues which affect us all - employment, prices, housing, poverty, the distribution of income and wealth, the environment and pollution, leisure, government spending on services such as health, education and transport, competitiveness, investment, productivity and growth, international trade and finance. In the aftermath of the world financial crisis, Brexit and post-pandemic world, economics has never been more relevant.

Course entry requirements:

GCSE grade 7 or higher in Mathematics, and GCSE English Language at grade 7 or Higher. These are necessary as the style of assessment requires both mathematical skills including use of a calculator, as well as favouring those with skills in written communication.

Success rate:

In 2023 34% of students achieved A* - A grades and 86% A* - C grades with an overall pass rate of 100%.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

What does the course involve?

At Highsted, we follow the Edexcel/Pearson A Level course. It offers the rigour and challenge that suits our students, as well as a degree of flexibility and choice, so that teachers can match their expertise and interests to the programme followed. In the first year of the course, students will study two dramatic texts: Shakespeare's *Othello* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. Also, in the first year, with their other teacher, students will read fiction texts such as *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison or *Dracula* by Bram Stoker. In Year 13, we'll be looking at poetry (*Christina Rossetti*, as well as the anthology *Poems of the Decade*) and writing an extended coursework essay: comparing a text chosen by each student, based on their own interests and ideas, to *The Bloody Chamber* by Angela Carter.

Why study English Literature?

English Literature A Level is a credible, exciting and challenging subject to study. As one of the Russell Group facilitating subjects, the qualification carries a great deal of weight with universities and employers, whatever your degree subject. A good grade in A Level English Literature says a number of valuable things about you: that you are a clear, concise communicator; that you are able to analyse and evaluate complex information and re-present it to others; that you add to your other skills a fascination for words, culture, ideas and history. It is important to realise that A Level English Literature does not merely set you up for Journalism, Publishing or Teaching. Many Maths, Science and Business graduates have found that A Level English contributes well to their analysis and communication skills.

Course entry requirements:

GCSE grade 6 or above in English and English Literature.

It is essential to have a genuine interest in literature, to be able to express ideas clearly and effectively on paper and be willing to undertake extensive and personal research outside the classroom. Students must be prepared to read challenging set texts and manage detailed, well-written responses.

Success rate:

In 2023 61% of students achieved A* - B grades.



EXTENDED PROJECT

What does the course involve?

The Extended Project is a qualification which promotes the ethos of independent study in one of the four areas available for study. (Dissertation / Investigation / Performance / Artefact) The qualification provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of a selected topic in much greater depth and helps prepare students for the work demands at university.

Why study an Extended Project?

There are many reasons why the Extended Project is important to the academic development of students:

- Many universities like the qualification because it demonstrates a student's ability to work independently and in much greater depth in their chosen area of study.
- Students demonstrate that they can identify, plan and manage a project; they can undertake research, collect evidence, draw conclusions and write up results into a finished project at an academic level; they are able to present findings, conclusions and evaluate their work to an audience.

Course entry requirements:

Admission to Highsted Sixth Form will be the main requirement as it is expected that all students will study an enrichment route. Students will need to submit a project proposal form that is assessed by the self-directed learning tutor before agreement is given to continue with the Extended Project.

Success rate:

In 2023 100% of students achieved A* - C grades.



FILM STUDIES

Why study Film Studies?

Film Studies enables students to explore the colourful history of cinema throughout the past century. With moving media being such a significant and sensational artistic development during the late 19th Century, the subject incorporates significant areas of historical context when considering how the medium has progressed. Students study films from a range of different cultural, political, institutional and social contexts, which aids their understanding of the wider world. Film Studies encourages students to think critically, through detailed analysis and application of a range of theoretical frameworks. The coursework component will enable students to have the freedom to demonstrate their creative skills in this medium.

What does the course involve?

In A Level Film Studies, students will study a range of global examples of thought-provoking cinema to develop their enjoyment, knowledge and appreciation of the medium. Candidates will explore crucial developments in the industry, particularly in Hollywood, from the advent of sound following the initial commercial success of film during the Silent Era, to the impact of the Motion Picture Production Code's authority over appropriateness in the 1930s-1960s, to innovative uses of previously unacceptable leitmotifs in the 1960s-1990s. Students will also study the films and signature techniques of famed auteurs such as Douglas Sirk and David Lynch. When studying global cinema, students will have the opportunity to learn about significant political context in other countries through studying *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Parasite*. From short films to feature length, from documentary to experimental, an eclectic range of forms and genres will be explored.

Course entry requirements:

Students wishing to study Film Studies at A Level should have achieved grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

Success rate:

In 2023 100% students achieved A* - C grades and 36% received A* - A grades.



FRENCH

What does the course involve?

The A level course in French is designed to help you develop your reading, listening, speaking, translation and writing skills and to deepen your understanding of the French culture and society. You will study topics relevant to contemporary life such as the changing role of the family, the multicultural society and aspects of political and artistic life in France. In addition, you will explore France and French culture through film and literature.

Why study French?

Studying languages at A level opens you up to a whole world of opportunities. As well as degrees in French, many universities offer the opportunity to take up a different language, be it Spanish, Italian, Portuguese or Mandarin Chinese *ab initio*. It is also a highly sought after skill by many employers, with lots of companies offering higher salaries to those who can speak more than one language.

Languages teach you how to communicate effectively, not only in French, and they are a way of developing deeper cultural awareness and understanding. It also helps to improve your memory, enhance your logic and mathematical skills and provides opportunities to travel in a new way.

Course entry requirements:

The minimum entry requirement is a grade 6 at GCSE. You will need resilience in the early stages of the course as you build your confidence in using and manipulating the French language. To ensure that you get the most out of the course and achieve the best grades possible grades, you will also need to take an interest in wider aspects of life in France or other French-speaking countries. During Years 12 and 13, you should be starting to read articles from French newspapers and magazines regularly, to watch films or television and listen to the radio to broaden your knowledge both of vocabulary and of the society you are studying.

Success rate:

In 2021 80% of students achieved A* - B grades and 100% of students achieved A* - C grades.



FURTHER MATHEMATICS

What does the course involve?

Over the two years, students cover two units of Further Pure Mathematics, combined with additional units in applied Mathematics. These can include additional modules in Statistics, Decision or Mechanics. The latter is highly recommended for students wishing to pursue careers physics or engineering. All units will be examined at the end of Year 13.

Why study Further Mathematics?

This is an enjoyable and rewarding course full of new and challenging concepts. It will be of particular interest to those aiming to pursue their mathematical studies in Higher Education, and is equally valuable for Physics and Engineering. It is a highly regarded qualification, in which to succeed students must show initiative, commitment and resilience, qualities that are extremely valued both in education and employment.

Course entry requirements:

Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics and, of course, to be studying the A Level in Mathematics.

Double Mathematics should only be studied by people with a great deal of enthusiasm for the subject. However, most students find it a rewarding though demanding experience.

The teaching approach is similar to that at GCSE but students are expected to study more on their own and read around the subject, in particular study of online lectures to supplement class teaching.

Success rate:

In 2023 5 out of 6 of students achieved A* - B grades.



GEOGRAPHY

What does the course involve?

Geography is a dynamic and diverse subject which bridges the gap between the Arts and the Sciences. In examining the complex nature of people's interaction with the environment it encompasses political, economic and demographic studies with an understanding of physical and environmental processes. Geography develops the ability to combine scientific principles with economic and political awareness, environmental concern and an appreciation of people's attitudes and values. This gives students a more balanced and holistic approach to understanding the concerns of the world today from a local to a global scale and they become adept in the use of skills and new technologies both inside and outside the classroom. The course also has a compulsory coursework element (NEA) which contributes 20% of the overall mark. This involves students taking part in teacher led and individual fieldwork in a coastal (Herne Bay) and urban environment (Stratford, London) to collect data.

Topics include: Year 12: Globalisation, Diverse Places, Hazards, Coasts. Year 13; Superpowers; Health and Human Rights; Water issues; Carbon Cycle and energy

Why study Geography?

Geography helps prepare students for the future by giving them the opportunity to develop the transferable skills of enquiry, data analysis, GIS, research, problem solving, decision making as well as oral and written communication. Some professions make direct use of geographical knowledge, such as Tourism, Business Management, Teaching, Social Work, Town Planning and Environmental Management whilst others such as Medicine, Law, Banking, Accountancy and Architecture value the subject's synoptic insight and analytical rigour.

Course entry requirements:

The normal entry requirement is a grade 6 in Geography at GCSE standard but candidates who have not studied the subject before or have failed to attain this grade may be considered on an individual basis.

It is important that those students considering this subject have an enquiring mind and are willing to explore new ideas through individual research and discussion. Reading widely and keeping abreast of current developments applicable to the specification is also desirable.

It is also important to note that the course has a compulsory field element (NEA) which contributes 20% overall mark. This involves students taking part in teacher led and individual fieldwork in a coastal (Herne Bay) and urban environment (Stratford, London) to collect data. There are four compulsory fieldwork days which students must undertake which will incur a cost. Students must also note additional fieldwork may be required which they will undertake on an individual basis outside of school time.

Success rate:

In 2023 64% of students achieved A* - B grades and 97% of students achieved A* - C grades.



GERMAN

What does the course involve?

The A Level course in German is designed to help you develop your reading, listening, speaking and writing skills and to deepen your understanding of German culture and society. You will study topics relevant to contemporary life such as the changing role of the family, the multicultural society and aspects of political and artistic life in Germany. In addition, you will learn to translate both from and into German and will study a film and a literary text.

Why study German?

Research shows that languages graduates are more likely to find themselves in well-paid, high-status jobs than graduates in any other discipline except Medicine. As well as degrees in German, many universities offer the opportunity to take up a different language, be it Spanish, Italian, Portuguese or Mandarin Chinese *ab initio*.

Course entry requirements:

The minimum entry requirement is a grade 6 at GCSE. You will need to work hard in the early stages of the course to build up your confidence in using and manipulating German grammar, in order to succeed in the translation and writing components. To achieve really good grades, you will also need to take an interest in wider aspects of life in Germany or other German-speaking countries. During Years 12 and 13, you should be starting to read articles from German newspapers and magazines regularly, to watch films or television and listen to the radio to broaden your knowledge both of vocabulary and of the society you are studying. You also need to develop the ability to use resource material such as a dictionary effectively.

Success rate:

In 2022 100% of students achieved A grades.



HISTORY

What does the course involve?

This course is taught as a full A Level across two years. Units that are studied in Year 12 are (Paper 1) Britain, 1625-1701 covering the English Civil War to the Glorious Revolution, (Paper 2) Russia in Revolution, 1894-1924, covering the reign and fall of Nicolas II to the Bolshevik seizure and consolidation of power. In Year 13 students will study: (Paper 3) Civil Rights in the United States 1850-2009, from emancipation to the election of Barack Obama and (Paper 4) the compulsory coursework unit concerning responsibility for the Holocaust.

Why study History?

There is abundant evidence that History is of enormous importance in that it is central to any concept of citizenship. It fosters the spirit of independent thinking and inquiry that is essential to any society. All national cultures are deeply rooted in perceptions of history and thus the study of History enables students to have an understanding of the world in which we live.

Course entry requirements:

Grade 6 or above in GCSE History. For students that did not study History at GCSE; six GCSE passes at grade 6 including English Literature.

Success rate:

In 2023 students achieved 45% A - B grades.



MATHEMATICS

What does the course involve?

Each year, one unit of core mathematics and one unit of applied mathematics are studied. This provides students with both a broad experience of key mathematical ideas and the opportunity to extend their technical skills to a sophisticated level.

The core units cover a variety of algebraic, numerical and calculus techniques. These include the binomial theorem, summation series, and the theory of logarithms and the process of differentiation. The modules explore how these techniques can be used to solve graphical and contextual problems.

The applied units provide students with an understanding of modelling and the techniques used to analyse and predict using mathematical models, both in Statistics and Mechanics.

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a highly regarded A Level, both by universities and employers, because it develops students' abilities to reason, explain and analyse purposefully and efficiently. These skills are valuable in nearly all subjects and so Mathematics combines well with a wide variety of other A Levels. It is particularly supportive for further study in Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Computing, Economics and Finance.

Course entry requirements:

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics is essential. You should be able to demonstrate a proficiency in algebraic technique, an ability to abstract and generalise, a willingness to apply theory to problem solving and a capacity to persevere. Students who have enthusiasm for Mathematics, don't give up easily on a problem and review their work regularly, will do very well in Mathematics at A Level.

It is essential for students to be prepared to attend the lunch time 'clinic' for extra help as necessary.

Success rate:

In 2023 40% of students achieved A* - B grades.



MEDIA STUDIES

What does the course involve?

A Level Media Studies is designed to encourage candidates to:

- Enhance their enjoyment and appreciation of the media and its role in their daily lives
- Develop critical understanding of the media through engagement with media products and concepts and through the creative application of production skills.
- Explore production processes, technologies and other relevant contexts.
- Become independent in research skills and their application in their production work and in developing their own views and interpretations.

Why study Media Studies?

This course aims to provide candidates with a framework for analysing the media and requires them to explore representations and audience/user responses. Candidates will be encouraged to explore the media through the study of genre, narrative, representation and to make connections between the texts. In the developing area of interactive media, this involves considering users and their interaction with texts. It will be important for candidates to be provided with a range of global examples which will enable them to understand and interpret the media independently. The representations of social/cultural groups, events, issues and their underlying messages and values will be explored, using a range of approaches. A coursework component will challenge candidates to produce their own media texts, demonstrating their command of theoretical content and digital applications.

Course entry requirements:

Students wishing to study Media Studies A Level should have achieved a grade 6 at GCSE in English Language or English Literature.

Success rate:

In 2023 100% students achieved A* - D grades and 23% students achieved A* - A grades.



MUSIC

What does the course involve?

A Level Music is an interesting and rewarding course that is unique in its combination of academic study and creative opportunity. The course is based around developing three key skills; performing, composing and listening and appraising. You will continue to develop as a performer through refining your practical skills and present a recital of 8 minutes minimum. You will study and practice composition to present 1 free composition of 4 minutes duration and a composition to a brief which will be the completion of a Bach Chorale.

You will build on your knowledge of musical theory to not only know the 13 set works we study from scores in detail, but also expand your knowledge of music history through listening and appraising, to be able to place music into social, cultural and historical contexts. The 13 set works fall under 6 Areas of Study:

- 1.Vocal Music ● J. S. Bach, Cantata, Ein feste Burg ● Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge
- 2.Instrumental Music ● Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1 ● Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique
- 3.Music for Film ● Danny Elfman, Batman Returns ● Bernard Herrmann, Psycho
- 4.Popular Music and Jazz ● Kate Bush, Hounds of Love ● Beatles, Revolver ● Courtney Pine, Back in the Day
- 5.Fusions ● Debussy, Estampes ● Anoushka Shankar, Breathing Under Water
- 6.New Directions ● Kaija Saariaho, Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics ● Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring

Within these 6 areas of study, A Level Music offers you the opportunity to firstly explore the use of musical devices and conventions as used in the compositions of others and thereby influence your own composing and secondly to engage with and increase your awareness and appreciation of the diverse history of music developing critical evaluation skills through appraising your own music and the music of others.

Why study Music?

A Level Music is essential if you are considering a job in the music industry, performing, composing, as an academic, as a teacher or a creative career path in production, media, development, ICT etc. and it is a strong choice if you are passionate and are curious about music. The particular skills future employers are looking for that are developed through the study of A level Music are; Non-routine problem solving, Systems thinking and Critical thinking which include, expert thinking, metacognition, decision making and reasoning along with Interpersonal skills of communication, relationship building and collaborative problem solving and Intrapersonal skills of adaptability and self-management and self-development. Some students may not want to take up a career in music but may envisage using their musical skills in amateur music circles either at university and/or afterwards. Music provides much enrichment for all our lives.

Course entry requirements:

Students need to be able to perform to grade 7 standard by the time they are in Year 13. A grade 7 or above at GCSE would be a good indicator of being suitable for A level study. Students should already be receiving individual instrumental or singing lessons. Students should be able to work on their own unsupervised – this is important for working on compositions, individual practice – preparing for performance examinations and listening to a wide variety of music to feed into the 2 essays required in the exam. Analysis is taught covering the history of music, but the curiosity to listen to an eclectic mix of music needs to be innate. The ability to write about music in such a way as the reader hears the music through your description, comes from being immersed in playing and listening and there is no short cut to knowing a lot of music other than playing and listening. The ability to write essays (history of music and on set works) is also important

Success rate:

In 2022 100% of students achieved A* grades.



PHOTOGRAPHY

What does the course involve?

The A Level in Photography is a two-year course, which has two components. Coursework which counts for 60% of the final grade, and an exam which takes place at the end of the second year which counts for the remaining 40%. Component one, starts with an investigation into a range of different photographic techniques and processes, including a field trip to Margate and Turner Contemporary. This will inspire a personal starting point, taking their own photographs using them as a basis for experimentation. This will enable them to develop their ideas and lead to a creative outcome. Students will explore the theme 'Wabi Sabi' in the next unit, developing a diverse range of ideas which will utilise their technical knowledge and understanding. During the latter part of Year 12, students will visit Amsterdam or London which will act as a spring board for the Personal Investigation. They will also undertake an in-depth written study and analysis of an aspect of photography and artist's work that relates to their ideas. Candidates receive the exam paper at the beginning of February of the second year and after a planning and preparation time of approximately twelve weeks; undertake a fifteen-hour exam during which they produce a finished piece of work.

Why study Photography?

Photography could lead to academic or vocational degrees and careers relating to Press Photography, Photojournalism, Fine Art, Editing, Fashion Photography and Styling, Film, Forensic Science, Curating and many others. You will develop skills in creative and practical problem solving, developing ideas through research, practical application, analysis and critique. These transferable skills gained through the study of photography are, in general, applicable to many walks of life.

Course entry requirements:

To gain the most from the Photography course you should be experienced in artistic analysis, have the ability to think critically, and be comfortable working in a practical context. It is important to recognise that Photography is a very demanding course, with a high level of content to be covered. Students must be prepared to undertake independent learning and demonstrate this in a portfolio of evidence which will be assessed by the lead teacher prior to acceptance on the course. It is advisable that students have their own camera.

Success rate:

In 2023 100% of students achieved A - E grades.



PHYSICS

What does the course involve?

The specification we will be following is the AQA (A) Physics course. This is a progressive and modern A Level course which builds on the skills and knowledge the students developed in Years 10 and 11. The course rewards students for using their imagination, initiative and interest in learning. The course covers a diverse range of concepts including: particle physics; quantum phenomena; electricity; mechanics; fields and nuclear physics. Assessment is exam-based and will test both your recall of knowledge and ability to apply knowledge to a range of practical situations. There are 12 required experiments carried out over two years. Students must complete 5 different competencies in this area of their studies. This involves researching, following methodology, data collection, reporting and referencing. These skills help students develop skills and knowledge and understanding of key concepts in Physics.

Why study Physics?

The study of Physics involves theories which attempt to describe the behaviour of everything from quark to a galaxy. It is often considered to be the most fundamental of sciences as it is the science that attempts to describe how the universe behaves. The technological advances which are continually changing the world in which we live in would not be possible without Physics research. For those who wish to be at the forefront of these developments, the study of Physics at A Level and University is necessary.

Course entry requirements:

Entry to A Level requires students to have Physics GCSE at grade 7 or a grade 7 in the Trilogy examination. It should be emphasised that the course builds on knowledge acquired and understood during GCSE Physics / Additional Science at Key Stage 4. Mathematical skills are of enormous benefit to A Level Physicists; although it is not requisite to take A Level Mathematics, grade 9 - 5 at GCSE is essential.

Success rate:

In 2023 100% of students achieved A* - E grades.



POLITICS

What does the course involve?

This course is concerned with the study of the government and politics in the UK. There are two compulsory components in Year 12, UK politics and UK government. Within component 1 (UK politics) students will study: Political Participation, democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media. Within component 2 (UK government) students will study: Core Political Ideas of conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

In Year 13, students will have the opportunity to study the concept of Global Governance in the 21st Century.

Students will be expected and encouraged to keep up to date with current affairs and appropriate news stories relating to UK politics and government.

Students should be willing to take part in such discussions, both to present their own views and to critically analyse those presented by others.

Why study Politics?

While all students should benefit from the better understanding gained from these elements of study, those who wish to pursue their studies further may access careers such as the Civil Service, Journalism, Law and Education.

Course entry requirements:

Although individual cases will be assessed on their merit, the general entry requirement is a grade 6 in GCSE English, History or Geography. If you are interested in learning more about this subject then please feel free to approach the Head of Department for further information. An interest in current affairs is an important pre-requisite of this course.

Success rate:

In 2023 57% of students achieved A - B grades.



PSYCHOLOGY

What does the course involve?

The A Level Psychology course offers an insight into a range of interesting aspects of human behaviour. We consider theories relating to the behaviour and associated research, incorporating the full spectrum of approaches in Psychology from biological to social.

A key element of the course is the study of research that has taken place, and we take the opportunity to recreate such studies within the classroom to offer students a clearer understanding of the scientific method. It is important that students recognise that Psychology is a science, and that the course contains a significant amount of biological content.

Why study Psychology?

Studying Psychology will provide you with an insight into an array of interesting and relevant topics, from why we forget things to diagnosing disorders such as schizophrenia. In addition to gaining this knowledge you will enhance your critical thinking skills by analysing and evaluating research. One factor that makes the subject particularly appealing is its versatility - Psychology may be beneficial in a range of careers including Health, Law, Teaching, the Police, Marketing, and Human Resources.

Course entry requirements:

Grade 5 or above in English, Mathematics and Science. To gain the most from the Psychology course you should be interested in human behaviour, have the ability to think critically, and be comfortable working in a science-based context. It is important to recognise that Psychology is a very demanding course, with a high level of content to be covered. Students must be prepared to undertake independent learning outside of the classroom to ensure that a full understanding of each topic is gained.

A number of universities now accept Psychology as a second science when applying for science-based undergraduate courses.

Success rate:

In 2023 40% of students achieved A* - B grades and 60% of students achieved A* - C grades.



SOCIOLOGY

What does the course involve?

Sociology is a subject that deals with new ways of explaining the social world - known as sociological theories. Sociology involves the political and philosophical analysis of society, how it operates and influences our lives. Sociology offers a unique and fresh insight into the world that we take for granted. Good Sociologists will be able to 'step back' from common-sense thought and instead analyse the social world in a critical, objective and rigorous fashion.

Sociology employs a wide variety of theories and concepts in order to interpret how and why humans behave as they do. Interpretation, analysis and evaluation of these theories encourage debate and curiosity.

Why study Sociology?

Sociology will provide students with a broad understanding of society. Studying Sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around class, culture, identity, religion, crime, childhood and social power. It is therefore relevant to a wide variety of careers. These include: Journalism, Teaching, the Police, Medicine, Probation, Social Work, Child Development, Law, Politics, Psychology, Government and Criminology.

Course entry requirements:

To be successful in Sociology students need to have an interest in people and how and why they behave as they do. Students should show awareness of social and political issues, listen to current affairs on the radio, engage in on line news channels, watch documentaries and be familiar with quality newspapers. They must also be prepared to challenge taken-for-granted ideas in order to develop a deeper understanding of society. An ability to respect and listen to others, communicate ideas concisely and to present a balanced and critical argument is also desirable.

It is required that students have a grade 6 at GCSE Sociology or for those who have not studied it before a grade 6 at GCSE English Language and /or English Literature. Students do not need to have studied Sociology at GCSE; however, this would prove to an advantage at A Level and give students the opportunity to be team leaders in group activities.

Success rate

In 2023 71% of students achieved A* - B grades with 36% students gaining A* - A grades.



SPORTS STUDIES

What does the course involve?

The course is broken down into two sections at A level which include the theory of sport and the practical aspects that ensure success in sport. The theory component is worth 70% over two papers. Students will study factors affecting participation in physical activity in sport and factors affecting the optimal performance in physical activity and sport. The remaining 30% based on practical performance or coaching in one practical activity.

Why study Physical Education?

The sports industry is one of the fastest growing sectors in society. You only have to look at the rise of performance analysis in elite sport or at the growth of the Olympic and Paralympic movements to see that with the right qualifications and a passion for sport, there are a huge number of exciting opportunities open to talented young people. A level PE represents the first steps towards these opportunities. The study of this subject A Level lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries that you may not have considered before, such as exercise physiology and sports medicine. For example, did you know that many nutritionists, physical therapists and sports psychologists have a degree in sport?

Course entry requirements

Grade 6 in Biology or Additional Science at GCSE level is necessary to be able to access the Biology content of this course. Students should be advised that they will be expected to pursue a particular sport which will form part of the course assessment at A level.

Success rate

In 2022 71% of students achieved A* - B grades and 100% of students achieved A* - C grades.