

Beths Grammar School

Sixth Form Subject Choices 2024

TTT:

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Subject Entry Requirements 2024-2025

Art & Design: Fine Art	Grade 6 in Art
Art & Design: Digital Photography	Grade 6 in Art or Photography
Biology	7 in Biology (or 7/7 Combined Science) and 6 in Maths
Business Studies	Grade 6 in Maths and English or 6 in Business Studies
Chemistry	Grade 7 in Chemistry or 7/7 in Combined Sciences
Chinese Mandarin	Grade 6 in Mandarin
Classical Civilisation	6 in English Literature or Language
Computer Science	Grade 6 in Maths or 6 in Computer Science
Design Technology	Grade 6 in Design Technology
Drama & Theatre Studies	Grade 6 in English
Economics	6 in Economics or Business Studies (or a 6 in English Literature or Language if not studied)
Electronics	Grade 7 in Maths and 6 in Physics or Combined Science 6/6 or 6 in Electronics
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Literature
Film Studies	Grade 6 in English or a humanities subject
French	Grade 6 in French
German	Grade 6 in German
Geography	Grade 6 in English or Geography
Government and Politics	Grade 6 in English or a humanities subject (except Geography)
History	Grade 6 in English and History
Law	Grade 6 in English
Maths	Grade 7 in Maths
Further Maths	Grade 8 in Maths
Music	Grade 6 in Music or 5 in ABRSM Practical and Theory
PE	Grade 6 in PE or Biology or Sociology or Psychology
Philosophy	6 in English or RS
Physics	Grade 7 in Maths and 7 in Physics or 7/7 in Combined Science
Psychology	6 in Psychology (or Grade 6 in English if not studied at GCSE) and Grade 6 in Biology (or 6/6 in Combined Science)
Religious Studies	6 in RS (or a 6 in English Literature or Language if RS not studied at GCSE)
Sociology	6 in Sociology (or 6 in English if Sociology not studied at GCSE)
Spanish	Grade 6 in Spanish

Due to the significant challenges that A levels present, and the additional challenges of taking subjects that were not covered during GCSEs, Beths will not allow students to do multiple 'new' subjects unless their GCSE average grades suggest the academic ability to do so.

Students wishing to do multiple new subjects will be expected to have grades 7 or above in the relevant subjects, and even higher if they wish to do three new subjects.

For example, a student wishing to study business, sociology, and psychology who has not studied any of these at GCSE would be expected to have secured 7s and 8s in the relevant GCSE subjects.

What do our students say?

"Beths is by far the most multicultural school in the area and you instantly feel a part of a community" "Teachers have been inviting and have always been available to help me when I have asked questions"

"The friendly students and staff, the opportunities to get involved in sports and other activities and the freedom to work in all available workplaces." *"I have attended many enrichments and they*

are great fun to get to

know people"

"Beths has showed me

what opportunities there

are and what I need to do

to get to the standards

required"

"The students are hardworking and strive to meet their full potential; it makes me want to work even harder"



"The school has more support for my personal needs at Beths than my previous school"

"The inclusive nature of the school in regards to girls and externals relative to other schools in the borough sets them apart"

"Beths has assemblies showing me what I need to do to prepare for university and has helped me to gather what lies ahead after sixth form." "Beths has widened my horizon on the different experiences available to me"

> "Given me a clear and practical understanding of what it would take to go down my chosen career path"

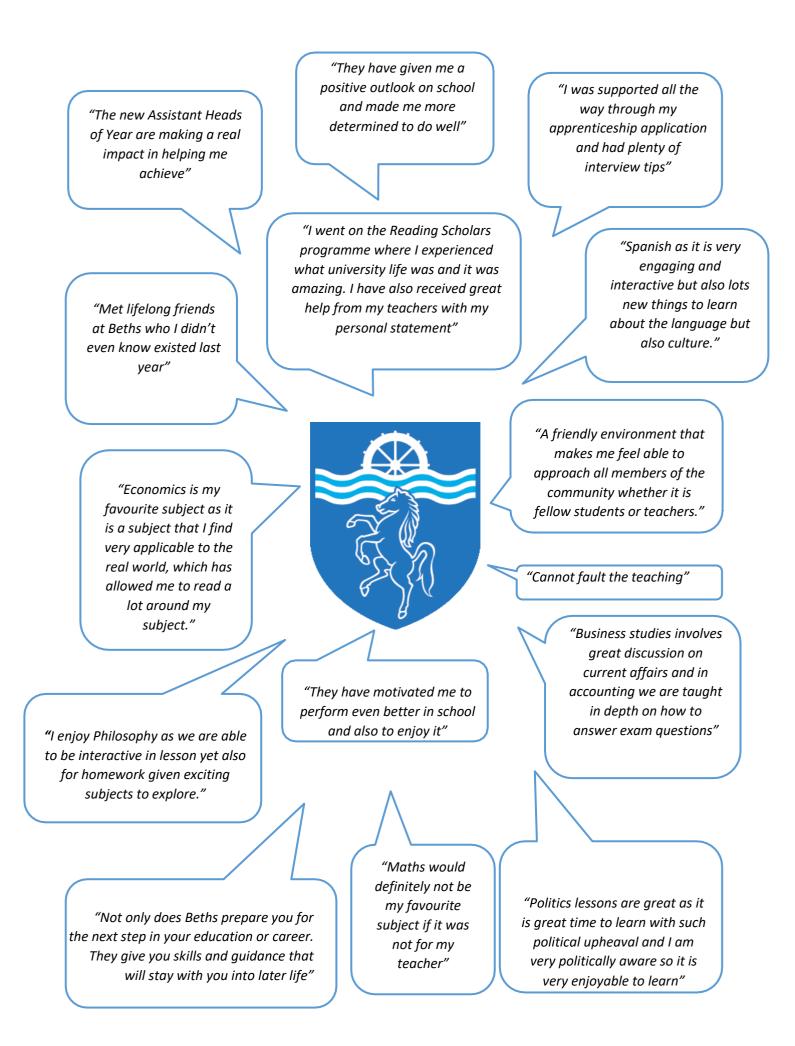
"I enjoy the respect and trust for our independence in study periods yet also how we are challenged."

"Sport has helped me to take a break from revision and enjoy some exercise whilst also helping me reachmy physical goal for DofE gold"

> "They have helped me to know how to improve my personal statement by introducing activities I could do that universities would love"

"The help in developing my career goals is high for the short period that I have been in the school due to the career interviews and setting up work experience."

Sixth Form Subjects



What will I Study at Beths Sixth Form?

3 A Levels:

Most students in Year 12 will begin on a core programme of at least three A Levels; however for our most able students there is the option to study four. Those students embarking on Further Mathematics and Mathematics, we expect four A Levels.

Independent Study:

Students are encouraged to study outside of their lessons in our dedicated Sixth Form Study Centre, Learning Resource Centre or outside of the school site. For example, at home or in one the local libraries. We believe that, as our students mature into adulthood and prepare for life at university or beginning their careers, the opportunity to learn how to prioritise and work independently is a valuable quality that we encourage at every opportunity.

Sixth Form Enrichment:

In addition to A Levels, we provide a splendid Sixth Form Enrichment Programme. We call this your LEAP entitlement - **Lead, Enrich, Act, Participate**. This means that you may be able to benefit from some of the following:

- 1. Community placements in local primary schools
- 2. Assisting students from the Marlborough Special Educational Needs School
- 3. Subject Mentoring with younger Beths students
- 4. Volunteering as a Road Safety Ambassador
- 5. Volunteering on the Keep Bexley Tidy scheme
- 6. Completing an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- 7. Completing a *MOOC* (Massive Open Online Course) with Future Learn or EdX
- 8. Completing a Duke of Edinburgh award
- 9. Completing a National Citizen Service award
- 10. Representing the school in one of our school sports teams
- 11. Participating in school concerts and drama productions

Art and Design: Fine Art

Examination board:	Pearson Edexcel
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 at GCSE in Art
Subject Co-ordinator:	Mr G Hayman

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You should have successfully completed a GCSE course in Art. Moreover, you need a passion, a flair and a commitment to the subject. You should have an understanding and a good knowledge of practical art and design based skills, built up through a range of experiences with different artistic mediums.

What will I learn on this course?

The main purpose of the Art & Design course is to develop your ability to appreciate the visual world around you and to enable you to respond in a personal and creative way. The Art Department staff will devise and implement projects which encourage you to:

- Question all preconceived notions of art and personal ability
- Trust your creative instincts
- Express your ideas and feelings through the controlled use of a broad range of materials and techniques
- Investigate and relate to all the evolutionary processes that are inherent in the development of good artwork
- Articulate issues relating to the work of other artists from a variety of cultures, past and present **You will learn:**
- How to record observations, experiences and ideas in visual and other forms
- How to analyse and evaluate sources and objects, showing understanding of purposes, meanings and contexts
- How to develop your ideas through sustained investigations and explorations, selecting and using materials and processes, interpreting relationships and analysing methods and outcomes
- How to present a personal, coherent and informed response realising your intentions and articulating and explaining connections with the work of others

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for any student who has good artistic skill and who is prepared to work hard both practically and independently towards the rewards from their endeavours.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to complete a range of supporting tasks in your work journal that will enhance your own practical skills as well as your ability to develop ideas, explore a range of media and research contextual evidence from art history. Students are also encouraged to visit a variety of art galleries to aid their research.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

A high percentage of our students go on to study at Art College. The diversity of the course makes it ideally suited if you are intending to go on to Foundation Art & Design and degree courses specialising in many aspects of Art such as Fine Art, Fashion/Textiles, Architecture, Film/Animation, Ceramics, Graphic Design, Furniture, Interior, Jewellery Design and Teaching.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

This is a 2 Year Linear A-Level (No AS Level) and comprises of:

Component 1: Personal Investigation. 60% of A Level

This unit incorporates two linked elements:

- a) Practical work
- b) Personal study (essay). Independently graded at 12%
- A. **Practical work:** this aims to provide opportunities for students to pursue their own creative and visual ideas in a chosen area of Art & Design. Students will demonstrate the ability to resolve issues and ideas that emerge as an inevitable part of the process of creating art & design work. The development of ideas, reviewing and refining a process will be an intricate part of realising a personal response resulting in a range of final outcomes.
- B. **Personal study:** The personal study should be closely related to the knowledge and understanding gained from aspects of the practical work part of this unit. Students are required to research, evaluate, analyse and establish coherent sustainable links between their own work and with that of historical and contemporary references.

The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. The personal study comprises 12% of the total qualification and is marked out of 18. This is externally marked. Through the personal study, students will demonstrate understanding of relevant social, cultural or historical contexts. Students will also express personal interpretations or conclusions, and use technical and specialist vocabulary. The focus of the personal study can be on any concept or movement the student finds interesting.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment. 40% of A Level



Art and Design: Digital Photography Lens Based Media

Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Subject Co-ordinator Pearson Edexcel A Level Grade 6 at GCSE in Art or Photography Mr G Hayman

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Ideally you should have successfully completed a GCSE course in Art. You need a passion, flair and a commitment to the subject. You should have an understanding and a good knowledge of Photoshop or similar software as well as practical art skills which allow you to show a creative approach to using media within photography.

What will I learn on this course?

The main purpose of the Photography course is to develop your ability to appreciate the visual world around you and to enable you to respond in a personal and creative way. The Art Department staff will devise and implement projects which encourage you to:

- Question all preconceived notions of photography and personal ability
- Trust your creative instincts
- Express your ideas and feelings through the controlled use of a broad range of techniques
- Investigate and relate to all the evolutionary processes that are inherent in the development of good photographic work
- Articulate issues relating to the work of other photographers from a variety of cultures, past and present

You will learn:

- How to record observations, experiences and ideas in visual and other forms
- How to analyse and evaluate sources and objects, showing understanding of purposes, meanings and contexts
- How to develop your ideas through sustained investigations and explorations, selecting and using materials and processes, interpreting relationships and analysing methods and outcomes
- How to present a personal, coherent and informed response realising your intentions and articulating and explaining connections with the work of others
- The use of light as the most important element of photography
- The use of image acquisition hardware and software and image manipulation

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for the type of student who has good artistic skill and who is prepared to work hard both practically and independently to achieve a reward from their endeavour.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to complete a range of supporting tasks in your work journal that will enhance your practical skills as well as your ability to develop ideas, explore a range of photographic approaches and develop software applications related to digital photography. Explore media and research contextual evidence from photographers, designers and artists.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

A high percentage of our students go on to study at Art College. The diversity of the course makes it ideally suited if you are intending to go on to Foundation Art & Design and degree courses specialising in many aspects of Art such as Fine Art, Fashion/Textiles, Photojournalism, Architecture, Film/Animation, Graphic Design, Furniture Design, Interior Design and Teaching.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

This is a 2 Year Linear A-Level (No AS Level) and comprises of:

Component 1: Personal Investigation. 60% of A Level

This unit incorporates two linked elements:

- a) Practical work
- c) Personal study (essay). Independently graded at 12%.
- A. Practical work: this aims to provide opportunities for students to pursue their own creative, visual ideas in a chosen area of Photography. Students will demonstrate the ability to resolve issues and ideas that emerge as an inevitable part of the process of creating art & design work. Development of ideas, review and refinement of process will be an intricate part of realising a personal response resulting in a range of final outcomes.
- B. Personal study: The personal study should be closely related to the knowledge and understanding gained from aspects of the practical work part of this unit. Students are required to research, evaluate, analyse and establish coherent sustainable links between their own work and with that of historical and contemporary references.

The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. The personal study comprises 12% of the total qualification and is marked out of 18. This is externally marked. Through the personal study, students will demonstrate understanding of relevant social, cultural orhistorical contexts. Students will also need to express personal interpretations or conclusions, and use technical and specialist vocabulary. The focus of the personal study can be any concept or movement the candidate has an interest in.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment. 40% of A Level

Biology



Examination board:	Pearson Edexcel
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 7 at GCSE in Biology <i>or</i> Grade 7/7 in Combined Sciences and 6 in Maths
Head of Department:	Mr G Ramessar

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

The course builds on the knowledge and understanding of GCSE Additional Science or GCSE Biology. If you have followed the GCSE Biology course, it would be helpful to have also followed a GCSE course in Chemistry and Physics.

You will need to be able to communicate effectively and understand how to research information from a variety of sources. As you will be expected to handle and interpret data, grade 6 or above in Mathematics is preferable.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn to:

- Develop a greater understanding of biological facts, with an appreciation of their significance in new and changing situations
- Develop greater expertise in the area of practical work and the link between theory and experimental work
- Continue to enjoy and further develop a personal interest in the study of living organisms
- Learn to recognise the responsible use of biology in society
- Reinforce your awareness of developments in biology in the changing world of the new millennium

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You should:

- Have an interest in the study of living organisms
- Enjoy carrying out investigations in the laboratory or as fieldwork
- Be interested in the developments of "new" biology topics such as genetic engineering and the impact on society
- Want to use Biology to support the study of other qualifications such as Geography

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to carry out background reading, research and essay writing. You will be expected to go through the notes you have made in lessons and complete a variety of coursework, field work and practical reports, which will include the analysis of data. You will also be expected to undertake background reading.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

You could follow a degree course or a higher national course in Biology as well as those courses with a direct link to biology such as environmental science, medicine, nursing, dentistry, psychology and pharmacy. Possible career openings are pharmacy, biotechnology, and catering and land management.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

A Level

Unit 1:

Topic 1 - The role of diet and other lifestyle factors in the maintenance of good health; with particular reference to the heart, circulation and cardiovascular disease.

Topic 2 - The properties of and transport of materials across cell membranes and gaseous exchange surfaces, DNA structure and replication, protein synthesis, enzymes and monohybrid inheritance through the context of the genetic disease cystic fibrosis.

Unit 2:

Topic 3 - Cell structure and ultrastructure, cell division, the importance of fertilisation, the roles of stem cells, gene expression, cell differentiation and tissue organisation.

Topic 4 - The topic focuses on biodiversity and the wealth of natural resources used by humans. Why there are so many different species is considered first, with the concept of niche and adaptation explored.

Unit 3:

Topic 5 - This topic builds an appreciation that photosynthesis is the primary process that underpins the majority of ecosystems, and provides students with an understanding of how ecosystems work.

Topic 6-This topic starts by looking at how forensic pathologists use a wide variety of analytical techniques to determine identity and the time and cause of death of an organism, including humans. It then considers how bacteria and viruses use a variety of routes into their hosts and how hosts have evolved barriers and internal mechanisms to combat infections.

Unit 4:

Topic 7 - This topic is centred on the physiological adaptations that enable animals and humans, particularly sports people, to undertake strenuous exercise. It explores the links between an animal's physiology and its performance.

Topic 8 - The scene is set by considering how the working of the nervous system enables us to see. Brain imaging and the regions of the brain are considered. The topic also demonstrates how an understanding of brain structure and functioning is relevant to issues such as the response to stimuli, the development of vision and learning.

The A Level exam papers are:

Paper 1- The Natural Environment and species survival, topics (100 marks - 2 hours)

Paper 2- Energy, Exercise and Coordination (100 marks - 2 hours)

Paper 3- General and Practical applications in Biology (100 marks - 2 hours)

All three A Level papers are taken at the end of the second year.

Science Practical endorsement (Internally assessed and externally moderated by Pearson Edexcel)

The AS exam papers are:

Paper 1: Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health Paper 2: Development, Plants and the Environment

Business Studies



Examination board:	AQA
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 at GCSE in Maths AND Grade 6 at GCSE in either English Language or English Literature or a Grade 6 in Business Studies
Head of Department:	Mrs T Tolhurst

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

A Business Studies qualification at GCSE is not an essential requirement, however you do need to be able to express yourself clearly and to organise written work in a logical order, as the course requires a lot of written and numerical work. You will also need to be able to interpret data.

What will I learn on this course?

By taking a holistic approach to the subject, you will learn about the interrelated nature of business using business models, theories and techniques to support your analysis of contemporary business issues and situations to provide a dynamic specification. The content is designed to engage you through topics and issues that are relevant in today's society; for example, you will study key contemporary developments such as digital technology and its effects on business ethics.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- Want to find out about the role of businesses in society
- Are interested in current affairs involving businesses
- Want to develop their skills of analysing and evaluating business problems

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

Background reading is an essential part of the course: you will be expected to use the course textbook in order to follow up work done in class and read a quality newspaper on a regular basis. Written work will be set weekly and include assignments that require you to show you can apply key terms and concepts, as well as analyse and evaluate information. You will carry out short investigations into topics, requiring you to collect information from a variety of sources and organise this information in a logical order. You will need to read case studies and show you can apply relevant concepts and theories.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Many students go on to university, studying business and management courses; these subjects can be combined with many other subjects. The Careers available are varied, including personnel management, retail management and public sector jobs in the Civil Service or Local Government as well as careers in finance such as banking, insurance and stock broking.

A Level:

The A Level incorporates the following ten topics:

- 1. What is business?
- 2. Managers, leadership and decision making.
- 3. Decision making to improve marketing performance.
- 4. Decision making to improve operational performance.
- 5. Decision making to improve financial performance.
- 6. Decision making to improve human resource performance.
- 7. Analysing the strategic position of a business;
- 8. Choosing strategic direction;
- 9. Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies;
- 10. Managing strategic change.

A Level assessment

The A Level is assessed by three two hour written exams at the end of the course:

Paper 1: Multiple-choice questions, short answer and two essays.

Paper 2: Three compulsory data response questions;

Paper 3: One compulsory case study consisting of six questions.

Testing quantitative skills:

The Business Studies A Level assesses quantitative skills, making a minimum of 10% of the overall marks. The skills tested include ratios, averages, fractions, percentages and calculation of profit and loss.

Chemistry



Examination board:	OCR
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 7 at GCSE in Chemistry or grade 7/7 in Combined Sciences and 6
	in Maths
Head of Subject:	Dr M Salem

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You are required to revisit the course content of GCSE Chemistry. The course starts with a few concepts already studied at GCSE. It is advisable that students whose GCSE in chemistry is not from the OCR (gateway) programme acquaint themselves with the GCSE course content.

What will I learn on this course?

In year 1 the role of electrons in the reactivity of elements, trends in reactivity of elements in their groups and periods are studied. Chemistry of the element carbon (organic chemistry) including the chemical reactivity of compounds such as alcohol and carboxylic acid are studied.

In the second year a deeper understanding of various concepts and the ability to explain why and how certain reactions proceed the way they do rather than a mere answer is required.

Advanced areas of Analysis and Organic Reaction Mechanisms as well as mathematical (physical chemistry), where Rate and Order of reactions are also studied.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This is an essential course for students wishing to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science at university, as well as anyone wishing to study chemistry, biochemistry or chemical engineering.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

Chemistry students are closely monitored to ensure they complete at least four hours of independent work including: a) research, b) extra notes and c) mind maps. These are checked on a weekly basis. Students are also required to spend at least a further two hours on home work (usually chemistry questions) and this is monitored once every two weeks.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

There are numerous courses at university that would require an A Level chemistry. Some of these are as follows:

Medicine, dentistry, optometry, pure and applied chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering. Furthermore any courses in which minerals, metals, pharmaceuticals, all materials and polymers are concerned chemistry A Level would be required.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

A Level (H432):

Paper 1: Weighting. 2 hours 15 minutes. 37% of A Level.

- Section A, multiple choice (15 Marks)
- Section B, structured questions covering theory and practical skills (85 Marks)

Paper 2: Weighting. 2 hours 15 minutes. 37% of A Level

- Section A, multiple choice (15 Marks)
- Section B, structured questions covering theory and practical skills (85 Marks)

Paper 3: Weighting. 1 hour 30 minutes. 26% of A Level.

• Structured questions and extended response questions, covering theory and practical skills (70 Marks)

Non-Exam assessment, endorsing 'practical skills in chemistry'.

• Students are given a pass/fail by the teacher

AS Level (H032):

Paper 1: Weighting. 1 hour 30 minutes. 50% of AS Level.

- Section A, multiple choice (20 Marks)
- Section B, Structured questions covering theory and practical skills (50 Marks)

Paper 2: Weighting. 1 hour 30 minutes. 50% of AS Level.

• Structured questions and extended response questions, covering theory and practical skills (70 Marks)

Chinese Mandarin



Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department: Cambridge A Level Grade 6 at GCSE in Chinese Mandarin Ms Cato-Sargeant

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You should feel confident at this Level in the four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. You must also have an interest in understanding the culture and way of life in China and Chinese Mandarin-speaking countries. You will need to understand the concepts behind Chinese writing and grammar (for example particles like 的 and 了, and stroke order).

What will I learn on this course?

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher Level in Mandarin. Your reading skills will develop through extensive reading, and you will improve the quality of your speaking and writing. You will also develop insights into the culture and civilisation of countries in which Mandarin is spoken.

The Pre-U course is designed to:

- Enable students to develop and build on the skills acquired at GCSE
- Enhance employment prospects
- Help students form a sound base of skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure
- Provide an in-depth insight into a major world culture and society
- Further intellectual and personal development by promoting learning and social skills

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You should be interested in languages and communication, and enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life. You need to be interested in developing this understanding and exploring the topic areas that you will have covered at GCSE. You should be keen to spend time working or studying in China in later life. You should have a good capacity for critical thinking and for processing and analysing information. If you are interested in the business world, travel or tourism, literature, translation, or in journalism then you are likely to find the course appropriate.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to practise all four language skills on a regular basis: You will be expected to read as much Mandarin as possible, work with the Hanban Chinese Language Assistant on a weekly basis to develop your spoken skills and use appropriate websites suggested by your teachers to practice listening as well as vocabulary and grammar. You will be expected to dedicate enough time to each of the skills. Written homework is also an important part of the course, as you will improve your essay-writing skills both in English (for research and analysis) and Chinese (for communicative ability).

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The Pre-U course opens a wide range of opportunities to you. Particularly welcomed by Russell Group universities and with full UCAS accreditation, this course allows students of Mandarin to access a broad range of university courses, whether in Chinese Studies or in other fields. Mandarin candidates may go on to find work in business, industry, consulting, translation, the media, academia, politics, international relations, law – the possibilities are endless. For complete information on UCAS Tariff points and university acceptance, please see

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

Topic areas:

- Family
- Young People
- Education
- The media
- Work and leisure
- Equality of opportunity

At the end of the course, you will be examined on the four skills as follows:

Speaking

• Speaking test, externally assessed by a visiting examiner, 20%

Listening, Reading and Translation

• Written paper, externally assessed, 30 %

Writing and Usage

• Written paper, externally assessed, 25 %

Chinese Culture

Written paper, externally assessed, 25 %

Classical Civilisation

Examination board:	OCR
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 in GCSE English and in a Humanities subject.
Subject Co-ordinator:	Mr E Papakostas

What do I need to know before taking this course?

To study Classical Civilisation at A Level, a good History and/or English GCSE grade is vital. An interest in Ancient History and a willingness to read and critically analyse material is also important. Independent learning, an appreciation for the value of learning and a desire to engage in classroom discussion are also necessary to enjoy the course to its full potential.

What will I learn on this course?

Classical Civilisation will provide you with a broad, coherent and rewarding introduction to the classical world. It offers you the unique opportunity to study the literature, visual and material culture and thought of the classical world. As well as acquire an understanding of the social, historical and cultural context.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The course is suitable for any student with a desire to delve deeper into different areas of History. You should have an interest in the ancient world that you wish to expand on or be eager to discover the classical world for the first time. As a student of Classical Civilisation, you will have the opportunity to develop your analytical skills verbally, in the form of discussion and debate, and in your written work.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

The assignments in Classical Civilisation will vary in nature, but will include:

Reading original texts; research; written analysis; presentations; preparation for debates.

It is essential to read and research beyond the set texts of the course to gain a broader and better understanding of the literature and material culture studied. This could include popular literature, historically accurate fiction or television documentaries.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Classical Civilisation is the only subject at A Level that allows students to discover and engage with content from the classical world. The course is highly academic but nurtures key skills that are crucial to higher education and offers an exciting opportunity to delve into Ancient History not available to all students. Classical Civilisation provides a strong supporting option alongside English Literature and History as possible options for higher education as well as offering a taster for popular university courses such as: Archaeology, Classics, Ancient History and Art History.

Component Group 1: The World of the Hero

Written exam. 2 hours 20 minutes. 100 marks 40% of A Level

Content

- Homer's Odyssey
- AND Virgil's Aeneid

Component Group 2: Culture and the Arts

Written exam. 1 hour 45 minutes. 75 marks 30% of A Level

Content

- The study of the historical and cultural context surrounding both tragic and comedic theatre. Focusing on three plays:
 - 1. Oedipus Rex
 - 2. Bacchae
 - 3. Frogs

Components from this group involve the study of visual and material culture. This component will also involve the study of literature in translation.

Component Group 3: Beliefs and Ideas

Written exam. 1 hour 45 minutes. 75 marks 30% of A Level

Content

Components in this group involve study of an area of classical thought, in combination with the study of literature in translation and visual/material culture.

- The evolution of ancient Athenian democracy and what this meant for the Greek city states including its idealisation and shortcomings
- You will examine the works playwrights, contemporary historians and philosophers. This includes Aeschylus, Euripides, Aristophanes, Thucydides and Plato

Computer Science

Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department: OCR A Level Grade 6 at GCSE in Mathematics Mrs S Aziz

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

No previous knowledge of Computing is assumed, although this course builds upon the aims of GCSE Computer Science by broadening the range and scope of the concepts studied. The ability to think logically is vital to succeeding in the course, as is the understanding of mathematical principles taught at GCSE Level.

What will I learn on this course?

This course concentrates on the technical aspects of Computing, and you will learn how to program in a variety of languages, as well as use various integrated development environments available within the industry. The course aims to deliver the fundamentals of computing and computational theory through the design, development and testing of algorithms to solve complex problems, as well as an understanding of the underlying technologies that support this discipline. You will learn to reflect critically on the role of the computer in society, and to consider the positive and negative effects of its use.

Fundamentally, you will learn how to make a computer follow the instructions you set out, and understand how to model common real-world problems in code.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students must be well motivated and willing to develop new skills. It would be useful to have a logical mind capable of analysing and solving algorithmic problems, and the willingness to want to refine and improve these solutions in order to increase efficiency and reliability. This course is particularly suited to students who wish to learn more about machine architecture and systems development.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

Students will be expected to carry out research and independent study during directed study periods, and for homework. It is expected that each student will make use of the computer facilities in school in order to practice and improve their programming skills, as well as regularly reviewing their notes to ensure an understanding of the theoretical concepts.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

In today's workplace, those with knowledge and skills in computing have the opportunity to pursue new and exciting careers, and to be instrumental in the conception of computer systems that increasingly shape work and leisure activities.

You will have gained the necessary skills and knowledge to seek employment in areas that utilise computing, as well as a strong grounding in the concepts taught at university in a variety of disciplines, from engineering and science to the arts and humanities.

A Level: Each examined module contributes 40% to the A Level course, and the coursework a further 20%.

Unit 1: Computer Systems - 2hr 30 min written paper

Students will be assessed on the use and operation of the processor and additional devices, industrial software development methodologies and programming techniques, and the legal and ethical issues regarding the user of computers.

Unit 2: Algorithms and Programming - 2hr 30 min written paper

Students will be assessed on elements of computational thinking, problem solving and programming, and the design and development of more complex algorithms.

Unit 3: Computing Project

A significant independent coursework produced over the year, involving a considerable amount of programming in a high Level language.

AS Level: Each of these modules contribute to 50% of the AS Course

Unit 1: Computing Principles - 1hr 15 min written paper

Students will be assessed on the use and operation of the processor and additional devices, software development methodologies and programming, and the legal and ethical issues regarding the user of computers.

Unit 2: Algorithms and Problem Solving - 1hr 15 min written paper

Students will be assessed on elements of computational thinking, problem solving and programming, and the design and development of algorithms.

Beths Grammar School

Design & Technology: Product Design

Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department: Pearson Edexcel A Level Grade 6 at GCSE in Design & Technology Ms J Dennis

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

A Level of competence in Design & Technology to at least GCSE grade 6 is essential or equivalent. The actual course of study you followed at GCSE is largely unimportant, but for this course, knowledge of wood, plastics and metals would be of benefit. It is also very important to be able to produce and deliver high quality presentations.

What will I learn on this course?

This course will enable you to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of technological processes and systems
- Analyse design situations and identify problems solving solutions
- Propose innovative ideas through a variety of creative media
- Design, make, test, evaluate and modify solutions and prototypes
- Demonstrate a sound knowledge of production technologies and provide a sound basis for further study in Design and Technology

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- Enjoyed Design & Technology at GCSE
- Have an interest in how products are manufactured
- Like to demonstrate their creativity
- Wish to work with design software

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

Although a reasonable amount of class work will be dedicated to the production of personal study folders and project work, you will need to work individually, on theory work. You are also expected to find and read articles or books related to the subject to advance your understanding and depth of knowledge. Visits may be arranged to help you appreciate potential areas for study and to highlight actions that are taken to address relevant problems in the modern world.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

As well as students interested in a career associated with design, the course is particularly useful as a means of demonstrating the ability to think creatively and originally in response to problems. As such it could be an excellent precursor to any creative course in higher education, or any job demanding excellent skills in, planning, problem solving, communication and the ability to think in an original way.

Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology (exam)

2 hours 30 minutes. 50% of the qualification. 120 marks

In this unit students will develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of modern design and manufacturing practices and contemporary design issues. The modern designer must have a good working knowledge of the use of ICT and systems and control technology in the design and manufacture of products. This will include fundamental maths and science skills underpin the theory and practice of design for the future.

Assessment:

- The paper includes calculations, short and open-response questions. as well as
- extended-writing questions focused on:
 - Analysis and evaluation of design decisions and outcomes, against a technical principle, for prototypes made by others
 - Analysis and evaluation of wider issues in design technology, including social, moral, ethical and environmental impacts.
- Students must answer all questions calculators and rulers in the examination.

Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project Portfolio

In this component students are given the opportunity to apply the skills they have acquired and developed throughout this course of study, to design and make a product of their choice that complies with the requirements of resistant materials or graphic product in consultation with a client to identify a problem and create a design context.

Students will develop a range of potential solutions which include the use of both Computer Aided Design and traditional modelling to develop a prototype in conjunction with the opinions of a user group or client.

Students will then realise one potential solution through practical making activities with evidence of project management and plan for production. This will incorporate issues related to sustainability and the impact their prototype may have on the environment. Throughout the production of a prototype students are expected to analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes for prototypes/products made by themselves and others whilst being aware of wider issues such as social, moral, ethical and environmental impacts.

Assessment:

- The investigation report is internally assessed and externally moderated.
- Students will produce a substantial Design, Make and Evaluate project which consists of a portfolio and a prototype
- The portfolio will contain approximately 40 sides of A3 paper (or electronic equivalent)
- There are four parts to the assessment listed below.

Part 1: Identifying Opportunities for Design

Identification of a design problem, investigation of needs and specification creation.

Part 2: Designing a Prototype

Design ideas, development of design idea, final design solution, review of development and final design and communication of design ideas

Part 3: Making a Prototype

Design, manufacture and realisation of a final prototype, including tools and equipment and quality and accuracy

Part 4: Evaluating own Design and Prototype

Testing and evaluation

Drama & Theatre Studies

Beths Grammar School



Examination board:WJECAvailable Levels:A LevelMinimum Entry Requirements:GradeSubject Co-ordinator:Miss S

WJEC Eduqas A Level Grade 6 at GCSE in English Language or English Literature Miss S Grady

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

It is useful to have taken Drama at GCSE Level but not essential. It is very important that you are interested in gaining a greater understanding of how theatre works, and that you are keen to be involved with drama performances.

What will I learn on this course?

The course demands practical, creative and communication skills in equal measure. You will extend your ability to create drama and theatre, either in a performing or production role. You will also be required to write about drama and to develop your powers of analysis to become an informed critic. The course will involve taking part in drama productions, as well as studying plays and playwrights.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You need to be curious about issues and ideas as well as a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama. You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas. Equally you will need to be interested in going to the theatre to see plays performed by different theatre companies.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

All lessons are practical in focus. You are therefore required to maintain a detailed reflective journal as continuous evidence of your developing engagement with the ideas, techniques and plays under investigation. The course obviously requires you to learn lines and explore the expressive potential of the plays set for study. Close, careful reading of the plays and related material is necessary to support and enhance your practical work in class. You must also be willing to attend rehearsals during lunch or after school.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

This course can lead to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts in Higher Education at degree level. It can be used as part of your course to broaden your studies and may lead on to a career in the performing arts industry.

The course is suitable for a wide range of degree courses in the Arts & Humanities, including English, Psychology, Media Studies, American Studies, European Studies, Law and Philosophy. A qualification in Drama & Theatre Studies is also valued as evidence of a creative, multi-skilled individual who can actively engage with the extra-curricular life at university.

<u>Overview</u>

This is a two-year A level course.

The WJEC Eduqas specification is designed to promote a balance between practical theatre making and the theoretical understanding of drama and theatre. This stimulating and engaging course of study encourages learners to make connections between dramatic theory and their own practice.

Learners study **five performance texts** (two complete texts and three key extracts from three different texts, studied in the context of the whole text) representing a range of social, historical and cultural contexts. The complete texts are studied for the written examination and the key extracts are divided between all three components.

Learners also study two influential theatre practitioners (individuals or companies) and produce three performances; one text performance, one devised performance and one performance based on a creative reinterpretation of an extract from a text. This content is divided as follows between the three components:

<u>Component 1</u>: Theatre Workshop Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of:

- One reinterpretation of an extract from a text, using the working methods and techniques of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company.
- A creative log between 1200 and 1500 words of annotation and/or continuous prose
- Non-exam assessment: Internally assessed and externally moderated by WJEC -20% of qualification (60 marks)

<u>Component 2</u>: Text in Action Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of:

- One devised piece using the working methods and techniques of a second different influential theatre practitioner or recognised theatre company
- One extract from a text in a contrasting style to the devised performance.
- A process and evaluation report one week after the practical exam (up to 3,000 words).
- Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner 40% of qualification (120 marks)

<u>Component 3</u>: Text in Performance Learners explore:

- Two complete performance texts from different historical periods
- One extract from a third contrasting text. Learners are given the opportunity to develop performing and/or design skills as appropriate to their interests and the facilities available in the centre.
- Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 40% of qualification (120 marks)

Learners must choose one skill from the following list for each of Components 1 and 2. These may be the same skill for both Components 1 and 2.

- Performing
- Sound design
- Lighting design
- Set design (including props)
- Costume design (including hair and make-up).

Economics



Examination board:	AQA
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 at GCSE in Maths AND Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature
Head of Department:	Mrs T Tolhurst

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

No previous knowledge of economics is required. However, you will need to have good communication and numeracy skills. You will need to have a logical mind, be capable of handling data and take on board abstract concepts in order to become an effective Economics student. You will also need to be organised and be committed to work to deadlines.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn microeconomic and macroeconomic concepts, use theories and models to show an understanding of the behaviour of economic agents, and analyse and evaluate how these agents are affected by and respond to economic issues.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- Want to understand how the UK economy works
- Want to understand how economics affect business decisions and government policies
- Are interested in current affairs
- Are logical thinkers

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You should be prepared to do follow-up reading each week to develop an interest in economics issues as reported by the media. You will also be involved in carrying out research into various topics in order to further your understanding.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The majority of students go on to Higher Education to read Economics or a joint economics based degree. Economists are then employed as private consultants or by central and local government and by organisations such as the Bank of England. The qualification is also invaluable in careers such as accountancy, politics, banking, surveying, insurance and management.

A Level content:

For the A Level, students will study all of the following topics:

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure:

- Economic methodology and the economic problem
- Individual economic decision making
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
- The Labour Market
- The distribution of income and wealth: Poverty and monopoly
- The labour market
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets
- The national and international economy
- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macro economy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis and related concepts
- Economic performance
- Financial markets and monetary policy
- Fiscal policy and supply-side policy
- The international economy

A Level assessment: The A Level has three, two hour written exams.

Paper 1: Markets and market failure: students answer two questions: Section A – students choose one context from a choice of two Section B – students choose one context from a choice of three

Paper 2: National and international economy: students answer questions:Section A – students choose one context from a choice of twoSection B - students choose one context from a choice of three

Paper 3: Economic principles and issues:Section A- multiple choiceSection B - extended writing questions

The A Level specification will assess students' quantitative skills applied in the context of economics. This will include an understanding and application of ratios, fractions, percentages, revenue and profit and other factors, tested across the assessment objectives. At A Level this forms a minimum 20% of the assessment.

Electronics

Subject Co-ordinator:



Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Eduqas A Level Grade 7 at GCSE in Maths AND grade 6 at GCSE in either Physics or in Combined Science Mr R Morgan

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You do not need to have studied electronics at GCSE to enrol onto this course.

If you have studied GCSE D&T Electronic products, GCSE Electronics or GCSE Physics (Science), you already have the fundamentals for which this course will reinforce and augment your knowledge, skills and understanding. You will need to be comfortable with simple algebra, logarithms and sin, cos and tan operations. Before embarking on this course, it would be useful to familiarise yourself with basic circuit theory & components.

What will I learn on this course?

This course is about learning the practical and theoretical skills to design, build and analyse a broad range of circuits, including audio systems, robotics, computers, radio and TV transmission and control systems.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- Have enjoyed learning about Electricity-based topics in Science or Design & Technology at GCSE.
- Have an aptitude to solving problems using logical and methodical methods.
- Like to demonstrate their technical creativity.
- Want to design interfaces for computers to interact with the real world.
- Enjoy being challenged academically.
- Are thinking about an Engineering, Computing, Robotics, Science or Digital Art degree.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

As well as classroom based activities, students will be issued with homework assignments. These will allow students to apply their knowledge and understanding from work already studied, to accomplish the requirements of the tasks.

With project activities, students are expected to spend time researching and using department facilities to enhance the quality and depth of their work.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Students of electronics tend to study Science, Engineering or Electrical Engineering courses at university. Possible career paths cover anything to do with Electronics and Computing, including Robotics, CAD/CAM, Film and TV/Radio engineering, Automotive and Aeronautical design, Mobile Communications, Scientific and Medical equipment design, Special Effects, Digital Art, Gaming and Virtual Reality.

Electronics is accepted by all universities as a valuable academic qualification for a wide combination of subjects.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

Year 1

Principles of Electronics. 40% of A level

System synthesis (the building blocks of circuits), DC Electrical circuits, Input and output sub-systems (how to get your circuit to interact with the world), Energy and power, Semiconductor components, Logic systems, Operational amplifiers, Timing circuits, Sequential logic systems, Microcontrollers. Mains power supply systems. Assessed by written examination at the end of year 2.

Year 2

Application of electronics. 40% of A Level.

AC circuits and passive filters, Signal conversion (between analogue and digital), Communication systems, Optical communication, Wireless transmission, Digital communications, Instrumentation systems (measuring the real world), High power switching systems (controlling large amounts of power), Audio systems

Assessed by written examination.

Design, Build & Investigate Electronic Circuits. Coursework. 20% of A Level.

This A2 practical unit will assess a candidate's ability and skill in designing, building, testing and reporting on two advanced electronic systems of their own choosing. The first is a microprocessor system and is worth29% of the unit, the second is a "substantial" system including analogue and digital electronics, and makes up 71% of the unit. This unit is internally assessed and externally moderated.

English Literature



Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department:

Pearson Edexcel A Level Grade 6 at GCSE in English Literature Mr S Slinn

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You will need an enjoyment of reading coupled with an interest in learning to how analyse and communicate effectively and accurately. You will be asked to show an understanding of how writers use form, language and structure to create a narrative within a genre. You must also be prepared to engage in classroom discussion about texts with other learners and should be prepared to support the study of texts by engaging in literary theory and textual criticism.

What will I learn on this course?

You will study a selection of drama, poetry and prose from different eras. You will gain an understanding of the significance of the author's life, literary movements and historical factors and how those things can affect the narrative. You will learn to evaluate texts and use critical theory to further your understanding, whilst incorporating a range of critical interpretations into your own analysis. The coursework unit will draw on your own literary interests, requiring a significant amount of independent research and study.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The course is suitable for keen and passionate readers. Students of English Literature should be dedicated, have a desire to widen their analytical skills and should aspire to broaden and refine debating skills. The subject is also suitable for those students who wish to develop their ability to construct a compelling argument, both orally and in writing, to further enhance communicative skills.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

Students will obviously be expected to pursue their own literary interests outside the classroom and read widely beyond the texts set for examination. Most of the core reading and essays will be done outside of class time. Those students aiming for the top grades should be prepared to use their own time to explore different genres of literature. Students will also be expected to do a significant amount of research and independent study outside of lessons to prepare for class tasks and discussions.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Many of our students go on to study English at university however due to the versatility of English literature, the course is suitable for those who wish to study a wide range of degree courses. For example, those wishing to study in the Humanities, including English, European or American Studies, Law and Philosophy would find English Literature invaluable. The course also combines well with all arts and social science subjects.

Paper 1: Drama - 9ETO/01

Written Exam. 2hr 15mins. 30% of A Level. Section A: Shakespeare – one essay question, incorporating ideas from critical reading (35 marks). Section B: Other Drama – one essay question (25 marks).

Paper 2: Prose - 9ETO/02

Written Exam. 1 hr. 20% of A Level. One comparative essay question from a choice of two on thematically linked novels (40 marks).

Paper 3: Poetry - 9ETO/03

Written Exam. 2hr 15 mins. 30% of A Level. Section A: Post-2000 specified poetry: one comparative essay on named poem from Anthology and an unseen contemporary poem (30 marks). Section B: Pre- or post-1900 poetry: one essay question (30 marks).

Coursework - 9ET0/04

Internally assessed. 20% of A Level. Externally moderated.

One extended comparative essay referring to two texts (2500-3000 words – 60 marks.) Chosen texts must be linked by theme, movement, author or period. Texts may be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction.

Film Studies



Examination board:	WJEC
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 at GCSE in English Language <i>or</i> English Literature <i>or</i> a humanities subject
Subject Co-ordinator:	Mr G Russell

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You should have the required language skills as demonstrated by your GCSE English Language or English Literature grade 6, and a proven ability in textual study, such as in literature or humanities studies at GCSE Level.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn:

- How a film communicates meaning and engages audiences
- How cinema functions as a business
- How to develop a critical understanding of audience participation as consumers, critics and fans
- How to identify messages and values in films, with special reference to British or Irish cinema
- How to apply your knowledge and understanding gained from textual study in the process of completing practical work such as storyboarding and screenwriting.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for students with a lively interest in all types of film and the cinema experience, and those who enjoy expressing their opinions and justifying them. Students of Film should be prepared to work collaboratively with others and to engage in on-going research and reading round the subject.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to do background reading from various sources such as books, magazines and the internet, and will be expected to keep a scrapbook as a record of your reading and research. You will need to write analytical essays and produce practical coursework such as storyboarding and screenwriting. You will need to complete homework assignments and meet the deadlines and you may be required to attend after school film screenings.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

This course will aid progression to undergraduate courses in Film, Media, Visual Culture and Humanities and will develop a range of transferable critical, analytical and research skills for application in employment.

Component 1: American and British film

Written exam. 3 hours. 35% of A Level.

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of **six** feature-length films.

Section A: Classical Hollywood: One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to one US Hollywood Studio film.

Section B: Hollywood since the 1960s (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **two** American films, one produced between 1961 and 1990 and the other more recent.

Section C: Contemporary American independent film

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **one** American independent film.

Section D: British film (comparative study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring a comparison of **two** British films, one produced between 1930 and 1960 and the other more recent.

Component 2: Varieties of film

Written exam. 3 hours. 35% of A Level

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of **five** feature-length films and **one** compilation of short films.

Section A: Film movements (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to at least **one** film from the silent era.

Section B: Documentary film

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **one** documentary film.

Section C: Global film (two-film study)

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to **two** global films, **one** European and one produced outside Europe.

Section D: Short film

One question from a choice of two, requiring reference to a compilation of short films.

Component 3: Production

Non-exam assessment. 30% of A Level.

This component assesses one production and its evaluative analysis. Learners produce:

- Either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) and a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay
- An evaluative analysis (1250-1500 words)

French



Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department: AQA A Level Grade 6 at GCSE in French Ms Cato-Sargeant

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You should feel confident at this level in the four language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. You must also have an interest in understanding the culture and way of life of France and French-speaking countries. You will need to understand the concepts behind grammatical rules (for example tenses, adjectives, and gender).

What will I learn on this course?

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher Level in French. Your reading skills will develop through extensive reading, and you will be able to perfect your knowledge of grammar and improve the quality of your speaking and writing. Regular extended listening tasks will provide you with advanced skills. You will also learn about a wide range of aspects of the countries in which French is spoken, such as politics, pop culture and literature.

The course is designed to:

- Enable students to develop and build on the skills acquired at GCSE
- Enhance employment prospects
- Facilitate foreign travel
- Provide an insight into another culture and society
- Provide students with a sound basis for further study.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You should be interested in languages and communication, and enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life. You need to be interested in developing this understanding and in exploring in depth the topic areas that you will have covered at GCSE. If you are interested in current affairs, history, politics, global issues and media and literature, then you are also likely to find the course appropriate.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to practise all four language skills on a regular basis: You will be expected to read as much French as possible, work hard to develop your spoken skills and use appropriate websites suggested by your teachers to practise listening as well as vocabulary and grammar. You will be expected to dedicate enough time to each of the skills. Written homework is also an important part of the course.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

There will be a range of opportunities open to you. Some students choose to do degree courses in languages; others choose to pursue a Higher Education course in another subject, but choose a language option alongside it. Having a language at A Level will certainly improve your employability, in particular with companies that have international branches.

There are speaking, writing, listening and reading tests in the areas listed below. There is no coursework element.

- Social Issues and trends
- Political and Artistic culture
- Grammar
- A second work from a prescribed list (must be literature)

Exam and grade breakdown:

Listening, reading and writing paper - 2 hours 30 min paper = 50% of grade Speaking exam - 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) = 30% of grade Writing paper - 2 hours = 20% of grade

Geography



Examination board:	AQA
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 at GCSE in Geography <i>or</i> grade 6 in English Literature or English Language.
Head of Department:	Ms R Ewing

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

In order to study Geography at A Level a good Geography and/or English GCSE grade is vital. A keen interest in the world around you and an appreciation for the variety of viewpoints that exist is also a requirement. You must also be keeping up to date with current affairs and subject specific developments.

What will I learn on this course?

The A Level Geography course is an enquiry based approach, focusing on people and their environments through issues such as:

- Who is responsible for governing the world's oceans?
- Why do more people die in earthquakes in the poorer countries of the world?
- How do different groups of people experience places in different ways?

You will learn how to research and evaluate these, and similar topics.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The Geography course will suit anybody with an inquisitive mind, who would like to develop a variety of skills to investigate current issues and concerns. You will need to be numerate, and willing to use different styles of writing for reports. In the new specification there is now a strong statistical thread running through the core of the subject involving key mathematical skills such as: Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient and Chi Squared.

You should have an interest in what is going on around you, from the local to the global Level. Examiners appreciate a personalised approach, and look for evidence that you are in touch with local current affairs and events.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will be expected to undertake five hours of reading and individual research per week. During the course of the year there will be 4 short fieldwork expeditions and a 4,000 word coursework on either the London Docklands or Foots Cray Meadows as part of Component 3: Geographical Investigation.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The skills developed in Geography lend themselves to a wide range of professions and further study areas. At university you could study for a single honours university degree in Geography or combine Geography with another subject. Geographers are numerate, literate, communicative, and capable of making balanced judgements and writing cohesive reports. The all-round skills you will develop on this course are very valuable to employers in many fields. A Level Geography lends itself to being paired with other subjects such as Physics, P.E, Biology and Economics – all of which are popular combinations nationally.

Component 1: Physical Geography Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. 120 marks. 40% of A Level

Section A: Water and carbon cycles Section B: Either Hot desert environments and their margins or Coastal systems and landscapes Section C: Either Hazards or Ecosystems under stress or Cold environments

Component 2: Human Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes. 120 marks. 40% of A Level.

Section A: Global systems and global governance Section B: Changing places Section C: Resource security

Component 3: Geographical investigation 3,000-

4,000 words. 60 marks. 20% of A Level.Marked by teachers. Moderated by AQA

What's assessed?

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

German



Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department: AQA A Level Grade 6 at GCSE German Ms Cato-Sargeant

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You should feel confident at this level in the four language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. You must also have an interest in understanding the culture and way of life of Germany and Germanspeaking countries. You will need to understand the concepts behind grammatical rules (for example tenses, adjectives, and gender).

What will I learn on this course?

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher Level in German. Your reading skills will develop through extensive reading, and you will be able to perfect your knowledge of grammar and improve the quality of your speaking and writing. Regular extended listening tasks will provide you with advanced skills. You will also learn about a wide range of aspects of the countries in which German is spoken, such as politics, pop culture and literature.

The course is designed to:

- Enable students to develop and build on the skills acquired at GCSE
- Enhance employment prospects
- Facilitate foreign travel
- Provide an insight into another culture and society
- Provide students with a sound basis for further study

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You should be interested in languages and communication, and enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life. You need to be interested in developing this understanding and in exploring in depth the topic areas that you will have covered at GCSE. If you are interested in current affairs, history, politics, global issues and media and literature, then you are also likely to find the course appropriate.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to practise all four language skills on a regular basis: You will be expected to read as much German as possible, work to develop your spoken skills and use appropriate websites suggested by your teachers to practise listening as well as vocabulary and grammar. You will be expected to dedicate enough time to each of the skills. Written homework is also an important part of the course.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

There will be a range of opportunities open to you. Some students choose to do degree courses in languages; others choose to pursue a Higher Education course in another subject, but choose a language option alongside it. Having a language at A Level will certainly improve your employability, in particular with companies that have international branches.

What is the course content and how is it assessed

There are speaking, writing, listening and reading tests in the areas listed below. There is no coursework element.

- Social Issues and trends
- Political and Artistic culture
- Grammar
- 2 works from a prescribed list (one film, one piece of literature)

Exam and grade breakdown

- Listening, reading and writing paper- 2 hours 30 mins = 50% of grade
- Speaking exam 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) = 30% of grade
- Writing paper- 2 hours = 20% of grade

Government & Politics



Examination board:	Pearson Edexcel
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 in English and a humanities subject (except Geography)
Head of Department:	Ms E Leonard

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Politics is a rigorous academic subject, which requires a great deal of commitment to study both in school and outside school. You need to respond to a learning ethos conducive to high academic achievement and the high expectations the department has. A good English language grade at GCSE is a necessity, and preference is also given to those who have gained a grade 6 or above in History.

What will I learn on this course?

The Government and Politics course will help you understand the nature of politics by giving you the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in the context of the politics of the UK, including its local, national and European Union dimensions. You will acquire knowledge and understanding of basic political ideas and develop the ability to interpret and analyse political information presented in various ways, and evaluate arguments, theories, values and ideologies. You will also learn to organise and presenta critical argument with relevance, clarity and coherence.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The course covers many aspects of British and global politics and therefore anyone wishing to study Government and Politics must have a keen interest in politics in general and the power structures in society. An interest in current affairs is essential. Politics affects us all and therefore any student on this course should want to learn, question and enquire.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

The assignments set will take many formats including research; essays; timed questions; source analysis; data response; projects and preparation to lead seminars and give presentations. Independent reading is a requirement. You will need to read a quality newspaper regularly and watch high quality current affairs programmes on TV, especially Panorama, Newsnight and Question Time. You need an up to date knowledge of current politics in order to place political theories into practical situations.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Politics, at its root; is the study of power. A qualification in Government and Politics will give you the power to choose any career which requires you to act independently, to have ideas and implement them. By having knowledge of politics you are automatically empowered as a citizen and therefore well suited to a career in politics, government or law but also in business, where companies are increasingly looking towardspolitics graduates for their communication skills. Politics as an academic subject at university level is an extremely valuable qualification in a wide range of sectors.

The aims of the Politics course are to provide you with an awareness of the structures of authority and power in your own and other societies and how different interests are articulated and reconciled. It covers political events and issues, and understanding of the main political viewpoints

Paper 1: UK Politics (Paper code: 9PL0/01)

Written exam. 2 hours. 33¹/₃ % of the A Level.

Content overview:

1. Political Participation, students will study:

Democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.

2. Core Political Ideas, students will study:

Conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Paper 2: UK Government (Paper code: 9PL0/02)

Written exam. 2 hours. $33\frac{1}{3}$ % of the qualification.

Content overview:

1. UK Government, students will study:

The constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive, relationships between the branches.

2. Optional Political Ideas, students will study:

One idea from the following: anarchism, ecologism, feminism, multiculturalism, nationalism.

Paper 3: Global Politics (Paper code: 9PL0 3B)

Written exam. 2 hours. 33¹/₃ % of the qualification.

Content overview:

Theories of Global Politics, sovereignty and globalisation, global governance: political and economic, global governance: human rights and environmental, power and developments.

History



Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department: Pearson Edexcel A Level Grade 6 in English and History Ms E Leonard

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

In order to study History at A Level a good History and English GCSE grade is a vital. An interest in history and a willingness to read a range of material critically is also important. Independent learning and an appreciation for the value of learning are also a requirement on the History course.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn to:

- Acquire and effectively communicate knowledge and understanding of selected periods of history
- Develop an understanding of historical terms and concepts
- Explore the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in history
- Understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians in analysis and evaluation
- Develop an understanding of how the past has been interpreted and represented
- Develop an understanding of the nature of historical study
- Develop your interest in and enthusiasm for history.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Any student with a genuine interest in History and the skills associated with the study of the past will enjoy this course. Moreover those who wish to question, analyse and learn about the past and how it has influenced the present and affected our future should take this course. Anyone with an enquiring mind and an ability to write critically is suitable for History at A Level.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

The assignments set in History will take a variety of formats, these are just a few:

Research; essays; questions and answers; source questions; data response; projects; preparation to lead seminars and give presentations. Therefore independent reading is a key requirement.

The reading of both set texts and wider reading is essential to gain an in-depth knowledge of the time periods covered and to understand the different ways in which the past can be interpreted.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

History is an excellent academic qualification to possess. By its very nature, the subject is about enquiry and analysis of information. Any career which requires the analysis of information will be open to someone with these critical skills; examples are careers in law, business, marketing, and management. History as a qualification is highly thought of by universities because at the heart of it is the ability to communicate fluently and with clarity, using knowledge and understanding.

A Level

Paper 1 Britain, 1625–1701: Conflict, Revolution and Settlement Externally assessed, written exam. 2 hours 15 minutes. 30% of A Level.

Paper 2 Russia in Revolution, 1894–1924 Externally assessed, written exam. 1 hour 30 minutes - 20% of A Level.

Paper 3 Poverty, Public Health and the State in Britain, c1780–1939 Externally assessed, written exam. 2 hours 15 minutes. 30% of A Level.

Coursework assignment: The Origins of the Cold War Internally assessed. 4,000 word essay. 20% of A Level.

Law



Examination board:AQAAvailable Levels:A LevelMinimum Entry Requirements:Grade 6 at GCSE in English Language or English LiteratureSubject Co-ordinator:Mr J McCartin

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

There are no specific requirements for the Law course, however it will help if you enjoy debating and keeping up to date with current affairs. It will prove useful if you have a logical mind capable of analysing and solving case studies. You must be prepared to have an articulate and critical approach to a variety of issues as you will be expected to read and interpret legislation and detailed trial judgments. You may also enjoy participating in a 'mock trial'.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn:

- Criminal law, Offences Against the Person, the law of tort and sentencing
- About the structure of the legal system and legal institutions in England, how law is made and enforced
- To understand how disputes are resolved ranging from the courts through to tribunals and negotiation
- To apply your knowledge of law to given factual situations
- To solve legal problems using Tort, Contract and Criminal Law

All this will assist you in developing the fundamental legal skill of thinking critically, analytically and precisely. This will then allow you to express yourself accurately and logically in written assignments where you are asked to apply your knowledge of law to scenarios and reach an informed and reasoned conclusion.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course is NOT exclusive to those students who want to go on to study Law at University and become solicitors or advocates. Law is a subject which is extremely versatile and well suited to the field of politics, banking, finance and accountancy. This course is exclusive to those students who are: motivated, hardworking and committed. You must be willing to develop new skills, have an enquiring mind and have the ability to think and write critically. Subjects which compliment Law at A Level are: History, Government and Politics, Sociology, Economics and Modern Foreign Languages.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to read cases and their judgments and carry out research into various legal principles to further your understanding. You will need to complete the homework assignments set weekly, which are designed to assist your learning and show you can evaluate case studies legally and compose a critical legal response, within the set deadlines. You will need to be organised and prepared to review your notes regularly in order to keep up with the pace of the course. You may also participate in 'mock trials'.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Of course you can go on to study Law at university and become a solicitor or a barrister, however because the Law A Level permits you to acquire and develop such a range of transferable and versatile skills you can also follow other routes and enter the political, business or banking fields. Whatever career path you choose your Law qualification will illustrate to potential universities or employers that you possess logical, analytical thought processes and have a balanced approach to intricate concepts and that you have an interest in a broad spectrum of issues.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

Written Examinations:

Paper 1:

Criminal Law and the English Legal System. Criminal law: Assault, Battery, ABH and GBH. The Course will also look at Murder and Property offences

Paper 2:

The nature of the Legal System and Tort Statutory Interpretation, Delegated Legislation, Courts, Nature of Law and Negligence

Paper 3

Law of Contract

Offer/Acceptance/Intention to Create legal relations/Consideration, Terms and Breach.

Mathematics and Further Mathematics



Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Mathematics: Further Mathematics: Head of Department:

Pearson Edexcel A level

Grade 7 or above at GCSE in Mathematics Grade 8 or above at GCSE in Mathematics Mr K Khalid

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

It is **not** possible to take only Further Mathematics as an option choice. Students wishing to study Further Mathematics must do so as a 4th subject option together with A Level Mathematics (Double option).

For this reason, students should ideally have achieved highly across the board at GCSE, in order to be able to cope with the added work load that taking four A levels will generate, as well as meeting the minimum entry requirement for Further Mathematics.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn to use your knowledge of mathematical facts, concepts and techniques in a variety of contexts. You will construct rigorous mathematical arguments and proofs through use of precise statements, logical deduction and inference and by manipulation of mathematical expressions. You will also use your knowledge of standard mathematical models to represent situations in the real world; recognise and understand given representations involving standard models and learn to discuss the assumptions made and how to refine the models. You will use the results of calculations to make predictions or comment on the context and, where appropriate, read critically and comprehend longer mathematical arguments or examples of applications.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Mathematics will be an integral part of many subject combinations and as such is suitable for students with an interest in the earth sciences of physics, biology and chemistry, the social sciences of psychology and sociology, the humanities subjects of geography, history and economics. It is also useful for students of art and music.

You will need to have good problem solving techniques and be able to 'grind out' solutions that may not be readily apparent.

Further Mathematics is for the most able mathematicians who are considering a career in mathematics or the Sciences.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to maintain your subject knowledge at all times. You will need to practise regularly in order to remain competent. You will need to be well organised to keep up with the pace of the work and be prepared to put in the necessary time at the beginning of the course to acquire the necessary mathematical study skills.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Mathematics is a prized and valuable qualification. It provides the necessary support for many university courses, including medicine, human geography, biology, architecture, engineering, accounting, psychology, sociology, computer science and environmental studies.

Further mathematics is required by a number of Russell Group Universities for Science, Engineering and Mathematics courses.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

What is the course content and how is it assessed? Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A Level are divided into three main areas: Core, Mechanics, Statistics.

Core Mathematics is the natural extension to GCSE, and ideas such as algebra and trigonometry are extended and new topics such as calculus are introduced and explored. It is theoretical, but is expected to explain 'real-life' situations.

Mechanics is the study of the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them. Many of the ideas found in mechanics are used in the fields of cybernetics, robotics, sports science, design & technology, engineering and physics.

Statistics is the analysis and representation of information along with the ability to justify your conclusions. You will extend your knowledge of probability to include distributions and perform significance tests to further your statistical processing skills.

Students who opt to take Further Mathematics as well as Mathematics will look into these areas in much greater depth over the 2 year course.

Music



Examination board:	Eduqas (WJEC)
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department:	Grade 6 at GCSE in Music or Grade 5 ABRSM Practical and Theory Ms K Marriott

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

In order to study Music at A Level, a good grade at Music GCSE is essential, as is a sound performance background. Passes in Associated Board, Guildhall or Trinity College of Music Examinations at Grade 5 or above will help you secure good results in the performance units at both AS and A Level. Experience of performing with others in groups is also helpful. The wider your listening experience the better, as this will ensure that you have aural knowledge of the range of genres of music that is required at this Level.

What will I learn on this course?

AS and A Level music courses offer you opportunities to extend your performance skills. Practice in the development of musical techniques of composition in a wide range of styles and genres are an integral part of the course, as is the development of listening and other aural skills. The course is a well-balanced and accessible course of study in Music which will enable you to develop skills, challenge and extend them.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Any student prepared to study and apply him or herself diligently is capable of securing a satisfactory grade in Music at A Level. Music demands the same requirements of rigour and application as any other subject, but it also has its own technical requirements of vocabulary and skills, and students who do well are those who are prepared to recognise these essential requirements.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You should read about and listen to as wide a range of music as possible. Study of music beyond that specified in the course is a prerequisite for achieving a good grade. Knowledge and experience of music from a wide range of genres and periods will equip you with the background necessary for a fuller understanding of music and the skills and experience to answer the questions which are set as part of the Listening and Appraising and the Aural examinations. You must not forget that time for practice and regular lessons must be built into your work schedule.

Demands of the Performance unit of the course can only be met if you practice regularly. Financial support could potentially be available for students who meet the criteria, for this element of the course.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The choice of Music as a subject for study is looked upon favourably by higher education establishments, as it demonstrates in students a willingness to engage in cultural activities. This shows that the student has interests beyond that which are purely utilitarian.

There are many different types of degrees one can study relating to music, above traditional performance, such as, recording and studio work, music law, radio and television, music critic, film, health related industries and business studies in music. For those wishing to teach, opportunities exist to pursue joint degree courses in Music and another subject e.g. Mathematics.

Component 1 and 2: Performing and Composing

The performing element of the course will be an externally examined performance with a visiting examiner. The composition element of the course will externally examined. With these two elements you will choose from one of the two options below:

Option A:

Performing (35%)

Learners are required to give a performance consisting of a minimum of three pieces. At least one of these pieces must be as a soloist. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area of study. At least one other piece must reflect the musical characteristics of a different area of study.

Composing (25%)

Learners are required to prepare a portfolio of two compositions, one of which must reflect the musical language, techniques and conventions associated with the Western Classical Tradition in response to a brief. The second composition is a free composition. The total duration of compositions music be between 4-6 minutes.

Option B:

Performing (25%)

Learners are required to give a performance containing a minimum of two pieces either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble. One piece must reflect the musical characteristics of one area. The second composition must reflect the musical techniques and conventions of a different area of study and the third composition is a free composition. Learners will set their own briefs for compositions two and three.

-Options A and B

Where a performance is required to relate to an area of study, the piece must be selected from one the following areas of study:

Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras)

Area of study B: Rock and Pop

Area of study C: Musical Theatre

Area of study D: Jazz

Area of study E: Into the Twentieth Century

Area of study F: Into the Twenty-first Century

Component 3: Appraising : 40%

Externally assessed. 100 Marks available on a 2 hour 15min exam.

This examination will assess knowledge and understanding of music through three areas of study. Area of study A is compulsory and learners then choose two further contrasting areas of study

Area of study A: The Western Classical Tradition (The Development of the Symphony 1750-1900) Choose one from:

Area of study B: Rock and Pop

Area of study C: Musical Theatre

Area of study D: Jazz.

Choose one from:

Area of study E: Into The Twentieth Century

Area of study F: Into The Twenty-first Century

Philosophy



Examination board:AAvailable Levels:AMinimum Entry Requirements:CSubject Co-ordinator:A

AQA A Level Grade 6 in English and a humanities subject Ms G Moffat

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

- Be able to think for yourself
- Be able to challenge traditional views
- Be able to formulate your own opinions and ideas
- Be able to debate
- Be able to read widely
- Be able to write powerfully and convincingly

What will I learn on this course?

1.	Epistemology	(Study of knowledge and the limits of knowledge)
2.	Moral Philosophy	(Ethical theories and applied ethics)
3.	Metaphysics of God	(Arguments for God's existence & religious language)
4.	Metaphysics of Mind	(Questions about mental and psychological phenomena)

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Students who:

- Enjoy questioning, debating and forming logical arguments
- Love thinking and exploring ideas and concepts
- Are keen to learn about the views of world-famous philosophers
- Are able to talk about the following:

Existence of God, mental states, morality, religion, types of argument, cultural practices, reason, codes of conduct, illusions, human behaviour, vegetarianism, religious language, consciousness, evil and suffering, hallucinations and the relationship between mind and body.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will be expected to undertake background reading and individual research. Examiners expect students to demonstrate a broad understanding of concepts which can be gained by independent studies outside the classroom. Understanding the concepts of this course can take time and perseverance. You will also be expected to write regular essays in this subject. Membership of the PPE Society is also highly advised.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

English Philosopher Michael Lacewing explains the power and benefits of Philosophy:

"It's surprising just how many career paths a Philosophy degree can help with. In a nutshell, doing philosophy can make a significant contribution to any job that requires you to think well - clearly and rigorously.

Big business – the City firms, the banks, the management consultancies, the chartered accountants – are enthusiastic about people who've done philosophy, because they know how to think clearly. Philosophy students also go into law, politics, and the civil service.

Journalism is a logical career path, since you have to be able to write well and present ideas logically and clearly. Advertising is another choice, and of course, education.

Philosophy students <u>do better in verbal and writing skills</u> than students with any other degree in the standard "GRE' entrance examination for post-graduate study in the USA. So a degree in Philosophy opens doors, it doesn't close them".

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

Students will sit two 3-hour exams at the end of the 2-year A Level course.

Exam 1: Epistemology and Moral Philosophy

Exam 2: Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind

Physical Education



Examination board:	OCR
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 at GCSE in Physical Education <i>or</i> in Biology, Sociology or Psychology
Head of Department:	Mr N Temple

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

All internal students entering the course require a good pass at GCSE in PE. Students from other schools should have either a PE qualification or a good pass in Biology, Sociology or Psychology; as well as a strong interest in sport. Candidates should be of a high standard in a sport of their choice, and sustained participation at club level is essential.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn to analyse and discuss key issues in sport such as the ever increasing importance of media in sport and the issues such as drug use and deviance that occur as a result of the need to win at all costs. You will also develop your knowledge of anatomy and physiology and how the body works during exercise as well as exploring the importance of training and ergogenic aids. Finally we will look at the psychology of sport and what makes us who we are in sport. Top sports psychologists will tell you that it is in the mind, that all sports are won or lost.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You should have a keen interest in sport and have the ability to develop your own performance outside the curriculum. The ability to develop reasoned argument and challenge stereotypes are an integral part of the course and you need to have the ability to undertake independent study and contribute to classroom discussion, by presenting the opinions you have formed in the course of your individual research.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

A great deal of the work for the course, needs to be undertaken through private and individual study. In particular it is important that you undertake background reading to develop your knowledge of sport in society which can be built upon and developed in lessons and through homework.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

A number of students following the course at the moment are working towards degree courses and careers in areas such as Sport and Exercise Science, Sport Psychology and Physiotherapy, and these are also closely linked to most areas of the curriculum studied during this course.

The A Level is divided into four components. Each component is further sub divided into topic areas.

Component 1: Physiological factors affecting performance.

This includes;

Applied anatomy and physiology and how the body performs during exercise. Exercise physiology where we explore the adaptations to the body that occur as a result of training and Biomechanics and the ability to apply this to their chosen sport.

Component 2: Psychological factors affecting performance.

This includes:

Skill acquisition and the study of how we learn new motor programmes.

Sports psychology, where you will also look at the factors that affect performance, from our personality to what makes us aggressive.

Component 3: Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport.

This includes:

Sport and Society and the Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport, looking at the origins of sport and the factors that have driven the changing nature of sport in the modern day.

Component 4: Performance in physical education

This includes:

Performance or coaching of an activity. Candidates can choose from a wide range of activities and have the option of performing or coaching in their chosen role.

The Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI). This is assessed through an oral presentation where candidates will need to demonstrate the ability to apply the theoretical aspects of the course through the observation of a practical situation. This synoptic element to the assessment of A Level Physical Education will be assessed in each component.

Physics



Examination board:	OCR
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 7 at GCSE in Maths and either grade 7 at GCSE in Physics or grade 7/7 in Combined Science

Head of Subject:

Mr N Avery

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You will require a deep understanding of the topics covered during your GCSE Physics course and strong mathematical skills, including a secure knowledge of algebra. The entry requirement is a grade 7 in GCSE Physics due to the challenge and academic rigour that A Level Physics demands. A high level of mathematical ability is also essential, and students who also study AS or A Level Mathematics will find this helpful in the study of A Level Physics.

What will I learn on this course?

Unlike other sciences, Physics has no limits - everything in your life, on this planet, other planets, to the far reaches of the Universe and beyond is in Physics' job description. The A Level Physics course is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of Physics. As you progress through the course you will build on your knowledge of the laws of Physics, applying your understanding to solve problems on topics ranging from sub-atomic particles to the entire Universe. The Practical Endorsement will also support the development of your practical skills.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Do you want to investigate the limits of space, the beginning of time and everything in between? How about understanding how the technology around you works? Want to save the planet or maybe just help people get better when they are ill? Or maybe you don't care about any of this and just want to earn lots of money? Well it doesn't really matter. Whatever you do the knowledge and skills you gain by studying Physics will be useful. Physics is more than just a subject - it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries. To manage this you will need to be mathematically able, prepared to work hard, do a lot of self-study and be committed to the course.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Astrophysicist? Weather Forecaster? Renewable Energy Manager? Surgeon? Clinical Scientist? TV Producer? Sound Engineer? Solicitor? Architect? Financial Analyst?.. In the technological world in which we live knowledge of Physics is essential, no matter what career you follow. Physics is needed for all branches of Computer Science and Engineering, be it civil, mechanical, automotive or aeronautical. It is also widely accepted in the world of science and technology, business, banking and accountancy as well as for work in the media. With a qualification in Physics you might just as easily become a bank manager or accountant as an engineer.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

Throughout the course you will be expected to complete homework assignments which are designed to assist your learning and apply your knowledge. This will involve research and background reading on the topics covered. You will also be expected to be pro-active in personal study, to include downloading work from Fronter and constant revision of the work covered. To achieve a good grade you will need to exceed six hours of study per week outside of lesson time.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

There are three written examination papers, 'Modelling physics', 'Exploring physics' and 'Unified physics'. The first two papers are 2 hours 15 minutes each and the third paper 1 hour 30 minutes. There is also an internally assessed practical endorsement.

The course is divided into six modules. 'Modelling physics' assesses modules 1, 2, 3 and 5. 'Exploring physics' assesses modules 1, 2, 4 and 6. 'Unified physics' assesses all six modules. All examination papers will also include synoptic assessment.

Module 1 - Development of practical skills in physics

- Practical skills that are assessed in the written examination papers
- Practical skills that are assessed in the practical endorsement (internally assessed but does not contribute to overall qualification grade)

Module 2 - Foundations of physics

- Physical quantities and units
- Making measurements and analysing data
- Nature of quantities

Module 3 - Forces and motion

- Motion
- Forces in action
- Work, energy and power
- Materials
- Newton's laws of motion and momentum

Module 4 - Electrons, waves and photons

- Charge and current
- Energy, power and resistance
- Electrical circuits
- Waves
- Quantum physics

Module 5 - Newtonian world and astrophysics

- Thermal physics
- Circular motion
- Oscillations
- Gravitational fields
- Astrophysics and cosmology

Module 6 - Particles and medical physics

- Capacitors
- Electric fields
- Electromagnetism
- Nuclear and particle physics
- Medical imaging

Psychology



Examination board:	AQA
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department:	Grade 6 in English and Biology (or a 6/6 in Combined Science) Ms G Mofffat

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Whilst Psychology is essentially a Science subject, it also requires many of the skills essential to the humanities (such as an ability to critically analyse the work of others and précis this into your own words). It can therefore be regarded as a bridge between the two areas. Successful students must be able to express themselves succinctly in the written form AND have the ability to use and interpret statistical data.

What will I learn on this course?

This specification has been designed to provide a broad introduction to the scope and nature of psychology as a science. The emphasis is on applying knowledge and understanding rather than just acquiring knowledge, thereby developing students' transferable skills of analysis, evaluation and critical thinking.

The specification offers a broad range of topics, with research methods in context. There is a range of topic-based options which bring together explanations from different approaches and engage students in issues and debates in contemporary psychology.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Psychology is suitable for those with a keen interest in human behaviour, the mind and group interactions. In everyday life you should be prepared to question why people interact in the way that they do.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to read around the subject out of lesson time. You should also have an awareness for contemporary psychological issues by reading a quality newspaper and watching documentaries and the news.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

This course provides suitable foundation for further study of psychology or related subjects at university Level. The material studied would also complement those who want to study Biology, Business Studies, Sociology or PE.

A Level

2 Year Course assessed by exam only

Paper 1 Introductory Topics in Psychology

Written exam: 2 hours comprising 33.3% of A Level.

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper 2 Psychology in Context

Written exam. 2 hours. 33.3% of A Level.

- Approaches to Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Paper 3 Issues and Options:

Written exam: 2 hours comprising 33.3% of A Level. Students will study one from each of the following three options:

Option 1 – Relationships, Gender, Cognition and Development Option 2 – Schizophrenia, Eating Behaviour, Stress

Religious Studies



Examination board:	Eduqas
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 ir
Subject Co-ordinator:	Ms May

Eduqas A Level Grade 6 in English and a humanities subject Ms May

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Whilst GCSE Religious Studies is extremely useful as a foundation for A Level studies, students should be aware that at this level the subject is examined by essay style questions with reference to key philosopher, ethicists and theologians rather than simply encouraging students to express their own individual views and opinions. Students should have a basic understanding of the core Christian beliefs.

What will I learn on this course?

The exam is split up into three sections of equal weighting:

A Study of Religion: There are four themes within the study of Christianity: religious figures and sacred texts; religious concepts and religious life; significant social and historical developments in religious thought; religious practices and religious identity.

Philosophy of Religion: There will be four themes within this component: arguments for the existence of God; challenges to religious belief; religious experience; religious language.

Religion and Ethics: There will be four themes within this component: ethical thought; deontological ethics; teleological ethics; determinism and free will.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

The Religious Studies course will suit anybody with an enquiring mind, who would like to develop a variety of skills to investigate current and historical issues and concerns. You will need to be prepared to adopt a critical and academic approach, and be willing to study religion from textual, theological, historical, ethical and philosophical perspectives. You should have an interest in the influence of religion on what is going on around us, from the local to the global level. Examiners are looking for an individual approach, and evidence that you are in touch with current affairs and events.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will be expected to undertake background reading, and individual research. Examiners expect students to demonstrate a broad understanding of concepts which can be gained by independent studies outside the classroom.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The skills developed in Religious Studies lend themselves to a wide range of professions and further study areas. You will have demonstrated that you are literate, communicative, and capable of making balanced judgements and writing cohesive reports. The all-round skills you will develop on this course are very valuable to employers in many fields, most notably Law and Medicine.

What is the course content and how is it assessed?

A Level

Component 1: A Systematic Study of Christianity. Written Exam: Two Hours

Religious figures and sacred texts; religious concepts; social and historical developments in religious thought; Christian practices.

Component 2: Philosophy of Religion Written Exam: Two Hours

Arguments for the existence of God; challenges to religious belief; religious experience; religious language.

Component 3: Religion and Ethics Written Exam: Two Hours

Ethical language and thought; Deontological ethics; Teleological ethics; freewill and determinism.



Examination board:	AQA
Available Levels:	A Level
Minimum Entry Requirements:	Grade 6 in English and a humanities subject
Head of Department:	Ms E Leonard

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

Sociology is a rigorous academic subject, which requires a great deal of commitment to study both in and outside school. You need to respond to a learning ethos conducive to high academic achievement and the high expectations the department has. A good English language grade at GCSE is a necessity, and preference is also given to those who have gained a grade 6 or above in a humanities subject

What will I learn on this course?

The Sociology course will help you understand human society by giving you the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of contemporary sociological debates, theories and methods. You will reflect on your own experiences and develop skills that will enhance your ability to participate more effectively in adult life. You will build upon an understanding of basic sociological ideas such as culture, norms, values, status, role and socialisation and learn to tackle issues such as why we live in families and why we have rich and poor. You will develop the ability to interpret and analyse information presented in various ways, and learn to evaluate arguments, theories, values and ideologies. You will also learn to organise and present a critical argument with relevance, clarity and coherence.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course aims to provide an understanding of the world around you and, therefore, anyone wishing to study Sociology must have a keen interest in our society in general and the power structures and inequalities that many people take for granted. An interest in current affairs is also essential as is an ability to question the presence of said institutions and inequalities. Any student on this course should want to learn, question and enquire.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

The assignments set will take many formats including research, essays, questions and answers, source questions, data response, projects and preparation to lead seminars and give presentations. Independent reading is a requirement. You will need to read a quality daily paper regularly and watch good current affairs programmes on TV, especially Panorama, Newsnight and Question Time. You need an up to date knowledge of current affairs in order to place theories into practical situations.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

Sociology is the study of individuals in social groups and will give you the ability to perform in any job that requires good analytical and communication skills, and independent thought and action. Therefore, in addition to roles in social and welfare, research and social policy, individuals who undertake the course will have a grounding in skills that all sectors from business management to medicine and law increasingly require. Sociology is an academic subject at university Level and an extremely valuable qualification.

A Level

Paper 1 Education with Theory and Methods

Written exam. 2 hours. 33.3% of A Level.

- Education: short answer and extended writing
- Methods in Context: extended writing
- Theory and Methods: extended writing

Paper 2 Topics in Sociology

Written exam. 2 hours. 33.3% of A Level.

- Families and Households
- Beliefs in Society

Paper 3 Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

2 hour written exam comprising 33.3% of A Level

Spanish



Examination board: Available Levels: Minimum Entry Requirements: Head of Department: AQA A Level Grade 6 at GCSE in Spanish Ms Cato-Sargeant

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

You should feel confident at this Level in the four language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. You must also have an interest in understanding the culture and way of life of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries. You will need to understand the concepts behind grammatical rules (for example tenses, adjectives, and gender).

What will I learn on this course?

The course will help you to develop your general study skills, but most of all you will learn to communicate at a higher Level in Spanish. Your reading skills will develop through extensive reading, and you will be able to perfect your knowledge of grammar and improve the quality of your speaking and writing. Regular extended listening tasks will provide you with advanced skills. You will also learn about a wide range of aspects of the countries in which Spanish is spoken such as politics, pop culture and literature. The course is designed to:

- Enable students to develop and build on the skills acquired at GCSE
- Enhance employment prospects
- Facilitate foreign travel
- Provide an insight into another culture and society
- Provide students with a sound basis for further study.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You should be interested in languages and communication, and enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life. You need to be interested in developing this understanding and in exploring in depth the topic areas that you will have covered at GCSE. If you are interested in current affairs, history, politics, global issues and media and literature, then you are also likely to find the course appropriate.

What kind of work will I need to do outside lessons?

You will need to practise all four language skills on a regular basis: You will be expected to read as much Spanish as possible, work hard to develop your spoken skills and use appropriate websites suggested by your teachers to practise listening as well as vocabulary and grammar. You will be expected to dedicate enough time to each of the skills. Written homework is also an important part of the course.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

There will be a range of opportunities open to you. Some students choose to do degree courses in languages; others choose to pursue a Higher Education course in another subject, but choose a language option alongside it. Having a language at A Level will certainly improve your employability, in particular with companies that have international branches.

There are speaking, writing, listening and reading tests in the areas listed below. There is no coursework element.

- Social Issues and trends
- Political and Artistic culture
- Grammar
- 2 works from a prescribed list (one film, one piece of literature)

Exam and grade breakdown

Listening, reading and writing paper - 2 hours 30mins = 50% of grade Speaking exam- 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) = 30% of grade Writing paper - 2 hours = 20% of grade

Top Destinations 2023

Foundation Programme in Social Science	Aston University, Birmingham
Law LLB	Aston University, Birmingham
Business Enterprise Development	Aston University, Birmingham
Marketing	Aston University, Birmingham
Engineering and Applied Science Foundation Programme	Aston University, Birmingham
Computer Science	Brunel University London
Computer Science	Brunel University London
Psychology with Placement	Brunel University London
Economics and Mathematics with an Integrated Foundation	
Year with Placement	Brunel University London
Pharmacy	Cardiff University
Human Geography with a Professional Placement Year	Cardiff University
Financial Mathematics with a Professional Placement Year	Cardiff University
Journalism and Communications	Cardiff University
Media, Journalism and Culture	Cardiff University
History	Cardiff University
Civil Engineering (Year in Industry)	Cardiff University
Mathematics with Data Science	City, University of London
Business Management (Foundation)	City, University of London
Economics with Accounting	City, University of London
Law LLB	City, University of London
Business Management (Foundation)	City, University of London
Computer Science (with Integrated Foundation Year)	City, University of London
Computer Science	City, University of London
Finance (Foundation)	City, University of London
Physics	Durham University
Accounting and Finance with Placement Year	Durham University
Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience	Goldsmiths, University of London
Computer Science	Goldsmiths, University of London
Psychology with Cognitive Neuroscience	Goldsmiths, University of London
Aeronautical Engineering	Imperial College London
Medicine	Imperial College London
Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Imperial College London
Civil Engineering	Imperial College London
Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Imperial College London
Pharmacy	King's College London, University of London
Pharmacy	King's College London, University of London
Pharmacy	King's College London, University of London
Neuroscience and Psychology with a Professional Placement	
Year	King's College London, University of London
Ancient History	King's College London, University of London
Psychology	King's College London, University of London
Midwifery with Registration as a Midwife	King's College London, University of London

King's College London, University of London
King's College London, University of London
Lancaster University
London School of Economics and Political Science,
University of London
Loughborough University
Loughborough University
Queen Mary University of London
Queen's University Belfast
Royal Holloway, University of London
Swansea University
Swansea University
Swansea University
The University of Edinburgh
UCL (University College London)
UCL (University College London)
UCL (University College London) UCL (University College London)
UCL (University College London)

Information Management for Business	UCL (University College London)
Civil Engineering	UCL (University College London)
Electronic and Electrical Engineering	UCL (University College London)
Law	UCL (University College London)
Sports and Exercise Science	University of Aberdeen
Accountancy and Finance	University of Aberdeen
Computer Science MComp with professional placement or	
study abroad	University of Bath
Electronic Engineering w Space Science & Technology w professional placement	University of Bath
Mechanical Engineering	University of Bath
Social Work and Applied Social Studies	University of Bath
Politics with Economics	University of Bath
Aerospace Engineering	University of Birmingham
Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences	University of Birmingham
Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences	University of Birmingham
Computer Science	University of Birmingham
Pharmacy	University of Birmingham
Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering	University of Birmingham
Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences	University of Birmingham
Physical Sciences with Foundation Year	University of Birmingham
Economics and Finance	University of Bristol
Economics	University of Cambridge
Medicine	University of Cambridge
Pharmacy with a Foundation Year	University of East Anglia UEA
Computing Science with a Year in Industry	University of East Anglia UEA
Pharmacy with a Foundation Year	University of East Anglia UEA
Economics	University of East Anglia UEA
Economics and Finance with a Placement Year	University of East Anglia UEA
Business Analytics and Management	University of East Anglia UEA
Computing Science	University of East Anglia UEA
Law with Criminology	University of Essex
Physiotherapy	University of Essex
Economics with Psychology (Including Placement Year)	University of Essex
Acting and Theatre Arts	University of Essex
History and Politics	University of Exeter
Law	University of Exeter
Data Science	University of Exeter
Computer Science and Mathematics	University of Exeter
Accounting and Finance	University of Exeter
Law with Business	University of Exeter
Law with Business	University of Exeter
Business	University of Exeter
Computer Science (Cyber Security) with a Year in Industry	University of Kent
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics	University of Kent
Social Work	University of Kent

Economics and Management	University of Kent
Law	University of Kent
Computer Science	University of Kent
Law	University of Kent
Criminology	University of Kent
Sociology	University of Kent
Economics and Management	University of Kent
Business Psychology	University of Kent
Business and Management	University of Kent
Mechanical Engineering including a Foundation Year Electronic and Computer Engineering including a Foundation	University of Kent
Year (4 years)	University of Kent
Human Geography with a Year in Professional Practice	University of Kent
Economics with a Year in Industry	University of Kent
Economics	University of Kent
Economics	University of Leeds
Computer Science	University of Leeds
Mechanical Engineering	University of Leeds
Mechanical Engineering	University of Leeds
Geography	University of Leeds
Medical Physiology	University of Leicester
Computer Science	University of Leicester
Law	University of Leicester
Computer Science	University of Leicester
Law	University of Leicester
Psychology	University of Leicester
Economics	University of Leicester
Accounting and Finance	University of Leicester University of Leicester
Law Psychology	University of Leicester
	University of Leicester
Physiotherapy with Foundation Year	
Computer Science	University of Leicester
Economics	University of Leicester
Marketing	University of Leicester
Finance	University of Leicester
Accounting and Finance	University of Leicester
Mathematics and Actuarial Science	University of Leicester
Business and Management	University of Leicester
Computer Science	University of Leicester
Psychology	University of Leicester
Computer Science	University of Leicester
Accounting and Finance	University of Leicester
Physics	University of Liverpool
International Relations	University of Liverpool
Microbiology	University of Liverpool
History	University of Manchester

Computer Science and Mathematics	University of Manchester
Medicine	University of Manchester
Modern Language and Business & Management (Chinese)	University of Manchester
Law	University of Nottingham
Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence	University of Nottingham
Industrial Economics	University of Nottingham
Pharmacy	University of Nottingham
Economics	University of Nottingham
Mathematics	University of Nottingham
Industrial Economics	University of Nottingham
Politics and International Relations	University of Nottingham
Law	University of Nottingham
Financial Mathematics	University of Nottingham
Economics	University of Nottingham
Computer Science with Cyber Physical Systems	University of Nottingham
Engineering and Physical Sciences with Foundation Year	
	University of Nottingham
Economics and Econometrics	University of Nottingham
Law	University of Nottingham
Criminology	University of Nottingham
Computer Science	University of Nottingham
Finance, Accounting and Management	University of Nottingham
American Studies and English	University of Nottingham
Nursing (Children)	University of Nottingham
Pharmaceutical Sciences (with a Year in Industry)	University of Nottingham
Law with Spanish Law	University of Oxford
Chemistry	University of Oxford
Computer Science	University of Oxford
Geography	University of Oxford
Law	University of Reading
Accounting and Business - Flying Start Degree Programme	University of Reading
Psychology with Neuroscience	University of Reading
Biochemistry with Foundation	University of Reading
Psychology with Foundation	University of Reading
Business and Management (Entrepreneurship) with Placement Year	University of Reading
Law and Criminology	University of Sheffield
Accounting and Financial Management	University of Sheffield
Law	University of Southampton
Law	University of Southampton
Computer Science	University of Southampton
Nursing Child and Mental Health	University of Southampton
Software Engineering	University of Southampton
Psychology	University of Southampton
Politics and Economics	University of Southampton
Psychology	University of Surrey
Computer and Internet Engineering	University of Surrey
Computer and internet Lingineering	oniversity of Juliey

Veterinary Biosciences with Foundation Year	University of Surrey
Business Economics	University of Surrey
Microbiology	University of Surrey
Physics and Astronomy (with a foundation year)	University of Sussex
Media and Journalism	University of Sussex
Life Sciences (with a foundation year)	University of Sussex
Engineering	University of Warwick
Biomedical Science with Placement Year	University of Warwick
Economics and Industrial Organisation	University of Warwick
Economics	University of Warwick
History and Politics	University of Warwick
Psychology	University of Warwick
Accounting and Finance with Placement Year	University of Warwick
Economics	University of Warwick
Engineering	University of Warwick
Politics, Philosophy and Law (PPL)	University of Warwick
Economics	University of Warwick
Business and Management	University of York
Economics	University of York
Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence (Yr in Ind)	University of York
Electronic and Computer Engineering	University of York

Excellence •Community • Nurture • Respect



Beths Grammar School

Hartford Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1NE Tel: 01322556538 sixthformadmissions@beths.bexley.sch.uk www.beths.bexley.sch.uk *Beths Grammar School*





