

# Whitburn CofE Academy Sixth Form

Prospectus for  
2016 Entry



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# Principal's Welcome

Dear Student

I am delighted that you are considering Whitburn Church of England Academy for post-16 study. The two years you spend in Sixth Form will open up exciting routes to future education and employment. We consider it an honour that you place your trust in us to deliver an outstanding post-16 educational experience. The Sixth Form Centre was developed in full consultation with our students and I believe that it offers a distinctive and more adult learning environment but retains the existing strengths of the school.

Whitburn Church of England Academy has an enduring outstanding track record of success in GCSE exams. Our Sixth Form offers our Year 11 pupils the opportunity to continue their education in the school where they have been so successful and with staff they know and trust. However we very much welcome new entrants to our Sixth Form and the students who joined us in 2015 have integrated quickly and have added to the life of the school.

Over the next two years, you will have access to outstanding teaching. Our sustained track record of excellence through results, OFSTED inspections and external accolades such as Teaching School status demonstrates our ability to help our pupils succeed. Our Sixth Form provision was carefully planned and we are completely confident that we will be able to replicate our GCSE success at A level.

Equally as important as academic success, we have long been recognised as a nurturing environment which lives up to its motto of "Excellence for all". We strive to support all of school community in their personal and spiritual development. We have an extensive extra-curricular and enrichment programme and a reputation for outstanding provision in the arts, music and sports. The enrichment programme is a key part of Sixth Form life and this provision was planned as thoughtfully and thoroughly as the A level courses so that our 'graduates' have every advantage that a well-rounded education can offer. I look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.

Yours sincerely

A. Hordie



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# Message from Head of Sixth Form



What an exciting period it has been in the history of this great school. From two tennis courts we have seen rise an impressive, modern building which has been purpose-built for 21st Century learning. Sixth Form is not a building however, it is the people who live and work within it. I have had the privilege of guiding our first intake of students through their options and application process, their results and enrolment and their first half term of study. Already they are proving themselves to be dedicated, enthusiastic and committed to becoming the best they can be. In short, they have a professional approach to their studies, something we expect all of our students to have.

We were delighted with the number of students who chose Whitburn as the place for them to succeed in their A Level study and we were also excited to welcome 15% of our first intake from other local schools. Those students have added to our community and brought their own unique talents and experiences to enrich what we already had. They are settling in very well and have quickly formed new friendships.

Aside from settling our new students in, we have been continuing to work on building productive partnerships with others, and in particular the University of Sunderland. These partnerships are creating bespoke opportunities for our students to experience facilities that are not usually available in Sixth Forms.

We are incredibly proud of our Enrichment programme and the opportunities that have been created through the dedication and hard work of our staff. Our students have made the most of these opportunities and are starting to build impressive skills portfolios in advance of our first cycle of University applications this autumn.

What we have built here, and are continuing to build is a relatively small, highly supportive learning community where all students have the facilities and the top-class teaching that enables them - so long as they do their bit - to achieve their own goals.

We look forward to meeting you during the application process and hopefully welcoming you in September 2016.

Mr L M Craggs

Head of Sixth Form



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# Why study at Whitburn?

Choosing a Sixth Form destination is a big decision for any student and their family. There are some excellent options available across the region, but we believe these five factors are compelling reasons for choosing Whitburn Church of England Academy Sixth Form:

## 1. A Sustained track record of excellence

The Academy has an outstanding track record of successful results at GCSE. This does not only apply to the headline figure of 5A\*-C including English and Maths but to a whole range of success criteria. Other popular Sixth Form destinations have more able intakes than Whitburn but their GCSE results are unable to match. The 2014 results place the school in the top 20 11-16 schools in England (*Sunday Times Schools Guide 2014*).

## 2. Choice of options

Our Sixth Form is large enough to offer all of our students a range of quality A level courses. Our offer is based around the facilitating subjects but we also offer a good range of other subjects which will lead to particular courses or careers. We are also not afraid to say that we won't offer certain courses that may be popular in other Sixth Forms but which we don't believe will enhance the career prospects of our students. We also offer Extended Project Qualification which is attractive to all Universities for the independent study skills involved.

## 3. Enrichment and student support

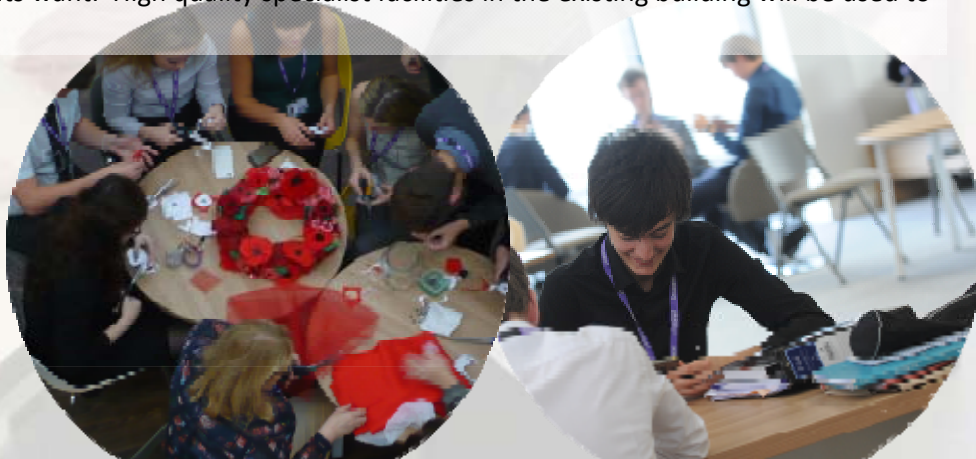
Whilst being large enough to offer a range of subjects, our Sixth Form is small enough to offer individual support where needed. We have a number of vastly experienced staff involved in Advice and Guidance. We have designed an Enrichment programme which offers personalised learning at its best. Students can design a bespoke pathway by adding up to four activities to their timetable from a changing menu. Activities are grouped into Physical, Creative, Service and Super-Curricular. This Enrichment offer enables students to build an impressive skills and experience portfolio tailored directly towards their career aspirations, giving them a distinct advantage when applying to Higher Education.

## 4. Our Ethos

Our Anglican ethos underpins all that we do but does not act as barrier to those within our community of other faiths or of no faith and we welcome students of all backgrounds and faiths. The key principles which we uphold are the values that we expect to see from all of our school community such as kindness, forgiveness and trust. Our Sixth Form students are excellent role models for the school and have many opportunities to play their part, for example by supporting younger pupils. We know our pupils very well and this continuity is very important in supporting students with the challenges of Sixth Form. However we also work very well to integrate new students into school life and into our school community.

## 5. Modern, purpose-built facilities

Most of the Sixth Form teaching will take place in the brand new Sixth Form Centre, a purpose built facility which acts as the base for our Sixth Form students. It houses study and social spaces which were designed, taking into account the views expressed by our Sixth Form Student Focus group, to create the environment that our students want. High quality specialist facilities in the existing building will be used to deliver practical lessons.



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# A modern learning environment

We have provided first-class facilities to set our students up for success.

The building is light and airy and has a diverse range of study environments so that students can enjoy an element of choice in deciding where is best for them to complete whatever task they have to complete. We have an upstairs study for quiet, independent learning. We have the social space downstairs where group study is permitted in an open environment with tea and coffee available. Thirdly, there is a 'break-out area' near the study which offers yet more choice.

Classrooms are also cool and stylish with classic grey colour schemes and the latest in interactive whiteboard technology. The boards interface with iPads and permit genuine collaboration within the classroom.

All students have their own locker and benefit from a canteen offering a break and a lunch service which we are constantly developing with the help of feedback from students. There are also biometric vending machines available only to Sixth Form students.

A high-speed Wi-Fi network with Sixth-Form specific access permissions allows students to bring their own devices and access course materials through the OneDrive on the Office 365 platform. The next development in this strategy will be student email addresses which will facilitate professional dialogue with peers and staff.



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# Life at Whitburn Sixth Form

As a student in our Sixth Form, you have considerably more freedom than pupils in the lower school. However, you are expected to show greater self-discipline and a desire to achieve your best possible results. We encourage professionalism in all areas and aim to support our students in rapidly becoming self-regulated learners. To help us achieve this, we have certain expectations of you that reflect that you are a young adult, that you are part of the Sixth Form and that you are part of the wider school community.

## Dress Code

Students in the Sixth Form have the privilege of choice, provided that their dress is appropriate for a professional, working environment. A good guideline is that the student should feel confident that they have dressed appropriately for an interview. The Dress Code outlined below was developed in consultation with the Student Focus Group:

### Acceptable Dress

- Tailored jacket or formal suit or jumper or cardigan in a subdued colour
- Plain coloured shirt or blouse
- Tie of own choice (optional)
- Smart trousers or skirt of a modest length (5cm maximum above knee)
- Dress of a modest length
- Smart black or brown shoes (heel 2cm maximum height)
- One pair of earrings (no other piercings for health and safety reasons)
- Watch and one ring
- Subtle make up and nail varnish appropriate to a business environment

### Unacceptable Dress

- Denim
- Sportswear (unless attending practical PE lessons)
- Extreme hair styles and colours
- Visible tattoos

As Head of Sixth Form, Mr Craggs will have the final say as to whether items of clothing etc are deemed to be appropriate under the Dress Code.

## Safeguarding

It is a requirement that every person on site is immediately identified as a member of the school so Sixth Form students must wear an ID badge at all times. Badges and lanyards are supplied free of charge to students but any losses will incur a replacement cost. The badge will also incorporate a chip which will operate the door system in the Sixth Form block and allow you to access the main school building.



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# Life at Whitburn Sixth Form

## School Day

The school day for Sixth Form students will follow the same structure as the lower school, running from 8.55am until 3.30pm.

## Attendance

Alongside excellent teaching, full attendance is the most significant determining factor in achieving success at A Level. Students are expected to be in school all day every day, and a significant minority choose to work for an extra hour and get the late bus home.

If a student is absent for any reason, there should be a phone call on the first day of absence and an explanatory note on the first day of return to school. This must be handed in at the Sixth Form reception. Similarly, students must set themselves high standards of punctuality, ensuring prompt arrival at school and lessons.

Arrangements will always be made to ensure appropriate work is set in the event of teacher illness and students are encouraged to talk to their tutor or Head of Sixth Form if they are worried about any factors affecting their attendance.

## 'Homework'

Once a student moves into Sixth Form, the phrase *"..well I've finished all of my homework"* is banned! Sixth Form is very much about self-regulated learning and whilst independent study will include formal, set homework tasks, it is also about reviewing lesson notes, making revision resources, reading around the subject, collaborating with peers to check understanding, watching lectures and talks from online resources such as TED Talks, YouTube and Kahn Academy etc..

It is expected that in addition to 5 hours per subject per week of timetabled lessons, students will spend up to **5 hours per week, per subject** in self-regulated learning. Course staff will guide students in this, especially during the early weeks of Year 12 and will be on hand to support students who find difficulty adapting.

## Pastoral System

There will be up to six form classes in each year group. The form tutor will also deliver the PSHE programme during Period 1 each Week 2 Friday. This will incorporate a range of activities including taught elements of the Extended Project Qualification, covering study skills, careers and HE advice, sessions on independent living and other activities in support of our Anglican ethos. This programme will be supplemented by occasional collapsed timetable days.

## Car Parking

Any Sixth Form student who wishes to bring a car to school must follow the application procedure outlined in the student handbook. In agreement with South Tyneside Council, the Academy will purchase a number of parking permits for the Whitburn Bents Car Park.



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# Choosing Your A Levels

Choosing your A level courses may be straightforward for some but can be a huge dilemma for others, especially if you are unsure about what you want to do after Sixth Form. It is important to make an informed decision, as your choice of courses will have a major bearing on your university and career choices in the future.

## How many A-levels should I take?

The requirement even for the best universities is that you have **three A-levels**; these will be the basis of your offer. Some students choose to take on additional AS or full A-level subjects, giving them a total of four A-levels with which to apply to university. It's better to take three and get excellent results in all three than it is to take on more than you can handle and get worse results because of it. We encourage all of our Sixth Form students to start four subjects in Year 12 and this will be reviewed at key points during the year. It is advised that no more than three subjects are carried forward to Year 13, with the exception of those students taking Further Maths, who may take four subjects.

## Time allocation

Teaching time for each subject will be **5 hours per week**. The remaining periods will be allocated as self-directed study periods and there is a clear expectation that students make sensible decisions about how they spend this time.

## How to make your choices

If you have a clear idea about the university course you would like to apply to or have a particular career in mind, then your choices are likely to be straightforward. For example, for Medicine, Chemistry is considered essential and the vast majority of applicants will have all three Sciences. Maths is a useful AS subject here as well. It is well worth checking the requirements for particular courses and careers before selecting your A level courses to ensure you have the correct qualifications to succeed. Mr Moore, Careers Coordinator, and Mr Craggs, Head of Sixth Form are both available to support students in making these decisions.



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# Choosing Your A Levels

## Keeping your options open

Many Year 11 pupils have absolutely no idea what they want to do at university or for their career. The advice here is to keep your options open when it comes to your A-level choices. It may seem obvious, but it is best to choose subjects that you are interested in and perhaps those for which you are predicted the highest GCSE grades as you will be more likely to be successful doing what you enjoy and are 'good at'.

Choose a balanced range of subjects, for example humanities and science subjects. This will give you the greatest choice when it comes to applying for university. It's also worth thinking about the transferrable skills demonstrated by different subject choices. For example:

- Essay-based subjects such as English Literature or History demonstrate analytical skills and critical thinking.
- Science subjects such as Physics or Mathematics demonstrate logic and familiarity with scientific principles.
- Practical subjects such as Art or Music demonstrate self-discipline and creative thinking.

## Facilitating A levels

The Russell Group of Universities, in their publication '*Informed Choices*' advise that for students who are unsure what they wish to study beyond A Levels, choosing two 'facilitating subjects' would keep their options open. The facilitating subjects are:

- Maths and Further Maths
- English Literature
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geography
- History
- Languages

## Subject Taster Sessions

We will be running two 'Taster Days' where students will be able to attend a range of subject taster sessions plus other sessions on Enrichment.

These days are **20th and 21st June 2016**.

## RUSSELL

University of Birmingham  
University of Bristol  
University of Cambridge  
Cardiff University  
Durham University  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Exeter  
University of Glasgow  
Imperial College London  
King's College London  
University of Leeds  
University of Liverpool  
London School of Economics  
and Political Science  
University of Manchester  
Newcastle University  
University of Nottingham  
University of Oxford  
Queen Mary University of London  
Queen's University Belfast  
University of Sheffield  
University of Southampton  
University College London  
University of Warwick  
University of York  
**GROUP**



Informed Choices  
[bit.ly/1GxSeBX](http://bit.ly/1GxSeBX)



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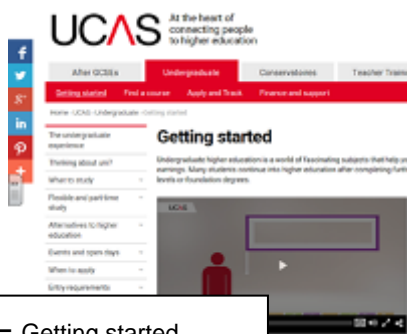


# Useful Sources of Information

If you're unsure which courses to choose in Sixth Form try the websites below for advice. Look carefully over the 'do's' and 'don'ts'.

If you want to know what you need at A-Level for a particular university course, start with the **UCAS website**. Do a 'course search' and click 'entry profile' then 'course specific requirements'. This will tell you what you need to get onto the course.

If you don't know what career path to follow or what course you might do at university, or even if university is for you, arrange to meet Mr Moore or Mr Craggs and also try the websites shown above.



UCAS — Getting started  
[bit.ly/1GoSdXP](http://bit.ly/1GoSdXP)

Studential.com

Studential.com  
[bit.ly/1bJJAXb](http://bit.ly/1bJJAXb)



Careers4u.tv  
[bit.ly/1z5JB1](http://bit.ly/1z5JB1)



Prospects.ac.uk  
[bit.ly/1r6FGLf](http://bit.ly/1r6FGLf)

PROSPECTS



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# Student Support at Whitburn



Support can take many forms. The Sixth Form team meet students regularly to discuss how things are going and to offer support with whatever need might arise during what can be a stressful two years. Sixth Form brings many new challenges personally as well as academically and we have a strong support network available to students.

Each student has a **personal tutor** as an initial point of contact. Head of Sixth Form, Mr Craggs is always available for students and Sixth Form Administrator Miss McAneny can help with day-to-day practical issues. We employ a dedicated **Careers Coordinator**, Mr Moore who is based in Sixth Form and has extensive knowledge of the careers landscape. As part of the wider Academy we retain links with Miss Kassapian and we can access support in a range of forms for students who feel they need it.

Academic support is enhanced by our strong **links with local Universities**, in particular our nearest neighbour Sunderland University with whom we have signed a **strategic partnership** agreement which has already led to bespoke opportunities being offered to our students.

**Financial Support** is available through the 16-19 bursary, full details of which can be found on the website or by following this link:

[bit.ly/1kioW4J](http://bit.ly/1kioW4J) Free School Meals continue to be available—see the link on the main academy website.



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# Application Timeline

## Open Evening

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015

## Complete Application

Deadline 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016,  
12 noon

## Provisional Offer Letters

Sent out w/c 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## Guidance meetings

Opportunity to discuss application  
and options

## Taster Sessions

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>  
June 2016

## Formal Enrolment

GCSE Results Day

On the following pages are our Subject Descriptors.  
You will be able to discuss subject choices at a  
Guidance Meeting after the Application Deadline.



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# A Level Art and Design

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS 7242/C, A level 7242/X)

## Why choose Art and Design?

Did you enjoy the challenges of GCSE?

Then you will certainly enjoy A level Art and Design. It gives you the opportunity to further develop your style, ideas and skills.

It provides the foundation for further study of Art and Design or related subjects in Higher Education leading to Foundation Degree Course, Higher National Diplomas and Degree.

A wide range of careers and university courses can be accessed from advertising and marketing to art therapy, fashion design and architecture.

**...So what are you waiting for?**

**We're looking for the next great artist.  
Is it you?**

## How the Course is Examined

AS - 60% coursework and 40% exam.

A2 - 60% personal study  
(1000–3000 word essay)  
and 40% exam.

## Contact

Mrs Dembry, Head of Art

## Course Detail

AS: develops personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures in practical, critical and contextual forms in a creative way. You will work to strengths developed at GCSE.

A2: designed to stretch and challenge you with a broad range of materials in a wide range of creative skills.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in  
GCSE Art and Design.  
You will also be required to show  
your GCSE portfolio work.



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# A Level Biology

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS 7401, A level 7402)

## Why choose Biology?

The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the three thousand million bases that make up human DNA.

In Kenya 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms.

Biologists are concerned with all these issues. The work they do in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology is vital to us all and is never far from the headlines.

Having an A level in Biology will put you in great stead for a huge range of careers from Medicine to Environmental Science.

You could progress to an Honours Degree, Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma in Biological Science. Degree courses you may like to consider are Biology, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Zoology, Botany and Marine Biology.

## Contact

Mrs Pollard, Lead Teacher Biology



## Course Detail

Whilst studying this subject you will learn about disease, ecosystems and the variety of living organisms from bacteria to mammoths.

The course covers fundamental biological principles such as human health, animal and plant systems.

There will be an opportunity for fieldwork outside of school and possible residential visits.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Mathematics **and** either a Grade B in GCSE Biology or BB in Dual Award Science.



## How the Course is Examined

This course will be assessed as an A Level at the end of Year 13, with the possibility of AS level at the end of Year 12.

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# A Level Business Studies

**Exam board and Specification Code:** Edexcel (A Level 9BS0)

## Why choose Business Studies?

Business is front page news. The subject allows students to explore business behaviour and understand how a business operates and what can influence its success. It gives pupils the opportunity to understand how the world they live in works, as well as developing entrepreneurial skills, problem solving abilities and strategic thinking. It combines well with all other subjects due to its relevance to so many careers and everyday life.

If you have Business Studies A level it can be attractive to employers as it shows you have a background knowledge of how a business works, so you can then be considered for higher positions.

Career choices with A-level Business include management, marketing, finance, accounting, banking, retailing, manufacturing and local government. Many universities accept Business A level when students are applying for courses such as Economics, Business Studies and many other options.

## Contact

Miss Thirlwell, Head of Business Studies

## Course Detail

You will cover 4 themes:

- Marketing and People
- Managing Business Activities
- Business Decisions and Strategies
- Global business

You will have the opportunity to study up to date case studies to allow them to see how the theory links to the real world. You will investigate how a business makes decisions, along with how these decisions impact a business.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Business Studies.  
For those who have not previously studied this, a Grade B in GCSE English Language **and** Maths.



## How the Course is Examined

This course will be assessed by three written papers, one of which will involve a pre-released case study.



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# A Level Chemistry

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS 7404, A level 7405)

## Why choose Chemistry?

Chemistry A level opens doors to all sorts of careers that you may not have imagined! The food we eat, clothes we wear and the technology we use all depend upon chemistry. Chemists develop new medicines, safeguard our food supply and monitor and protect our environment.

You will often spend time conducting experiments and research in a laboratory environment, so be prepared to work with a range of scientific equipment wearing your lab coat!

Having an A level in Chemistry will allow you to enter a range of careers including Medicine and Pharmacy, Forensic Science, Optometry and Physiology. If you wanted to go into a career in any form of medicine including Veterinary Science then you will find A-level Chemistry compulsory or at least desirable. Other career possibilities include food technology, nursing, physiotherapy, radiography, law and zoology.

## Contact

Miss Kale, Lead Teacher Chemistry

## How the Course is Examined

This course will be assessed as an A Level at the end of Year 13, with the possibility of AS Level at the end of Year 12.

## Course Detail

A lot of the areas covered in A level Chemistry are studied at GCSE, such as the structure of an atom, bonding, quantitative chemistry, alkanes and the periodic table. However there are several new topics you will encounter whilst on the course such as energetics, kinetics and equilibrium, periodicity and organic analysis.

In addition to this you will focus on your practical skills as there will be an emphasis on linking theoretical knowledge to experimental work.

There may be opportunities for fieldwork outside of school, along with possible residential visits.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Mathematics **and** either  
Grade B in GCSE Chemistry **or**  
BB in Dual Award Science.



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# A Level Computer Science

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS 7516, A Level 7517)

## Why choose Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the principles learned in the classroom to real world systems; it is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement. Computer Science will value computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

Students will develop an understanding of and ability to apply the concepts of computer science. They will learn to analyse problems and think creatively, innovatively and analytically. They will also develop the capacity to see relationships between the different aspects of Computer Science and develop mathematical skills.

Studying this subject at A Level supports progress onto Computer Science and Software Engineering courses at university and employment opportunities in a growth industry.

## Contact

Mr Mulford, Second in Department,  
Computing

## Course Detail

The course comprises 3 components:

**Computer Systems** which explores the characteristics of contemporary processors, how software is developed, the exchange of data between systems, data types, structures and algorithms and legal, moral and ethically issues.

**Algorithms and Programming** focused on computational thinking, problem solving and programming.

A **Programming Project** focused on designing, implementing and evaluating a program to solve a problem.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Computing Science. If Computing Science has not been studied at GCSE, a Grade A in Mathematics.



## How the Course is Examined

The course is examined by two papers worth 40% each. The first is a written exam and the second is an on-screen programming task.

A **Non Examination Assessment** is worth 20% of the final mark.



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# A Level Economics

**Exam board and Specification Code:** OCR (AS H060, A level H460)

## Why choose Economics?

Economics is all around us; from how governments set policy to how we spend in the high street.

### You will study:

**Microeconomics** which examines the behaviour of basic elements in the economy e.g. households, firms, buyers and sellers.

**Macroeconomics** which analyses the entire economy and issues affecting it including inflation, economic growth, and the public policies that address these issues.

An A level in Economics will provide you with a wide range of both subject-specific and transferable skills, all of which are highly sought after by employers and universities. Indeed, according to research by the University of Manchester, students who go on to study Economics at degree level have one of the highest employability records of all subjects!

## Contact

Mr Clougher, Head of Faculty,  
Maths and Computing



## Course Detail

This course covers 3 components of study over the two years;

**Component 1** - Microeconomics covers topics including 'How a competitive market works, Competition and power', and Labour markets.

**Component 2** – Macroeconomics covers topics including Economic policy objectives and indicators of macro-economic performance and the global context.

**Component 3** – Themes in Economics; this will draw on the content of components 1 and 2 in a real world context.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Mathematics **and** Grade B in GCSE English Language.



## How the Course is Examined

The assessment will be through two written examinations, equally weighted, covering the three component units.

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# A Level English Language

**Exam board and Specification Code: AQA (A Level A 2700 )**

## Why choose English Language?

English Language at A Level is completely different from GCSE and the aim of this course is to introduce you to methods of studying and understanding spoken and written language in use.

You will be exposed to some of the current debates about language use and encouraged to form and discuss your own opinions. The course will develop your analytical thinking and research abilities, which in turn will help to develop necessary skills required for a wide range of university degrees and possible careers.

## Course Detail

Throughout the first year, you will explore language in relation to the individual, looking at how language is used by different social groups and how language varies within different situations. You will also develop knowledge of phonetics and an advanced knowledge and awareness of grammar.

In Year 13, you will continue to develop this knowledge, adding new topics such as child language acquisition and how language has changed from the 1600s to the present day.

## How the Course is Examined

There are two written examinations in Year 12 and one in Year 13. These account for 60% of the A level.

## Contact

Mrs Maughan, Head of English



## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE English Language.



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# A Level English Literature

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (A Level B 2745)

## Why choose English Literature?

Studying English Literature at A Level encourages an enjoyment and appreciation of Literature.

Key to success in English Literature is your ability and willingness to read independently. In preparation for the start of each year, there will be preparatory reading of exam texts to do over the summer holiday. Over the course you will also be expected to read critical material on the writers you are studying so as to develop your own interpretations of texts through understanding the views of others.

It is a core facilitating subject, widely accepted and valued by universities across the country. A Level English Literature helps to develop skills of analysis and critical thinking, as well as individual study, thereby preparing you for a wide range of future career choices.

## How the Course is Examined

There is an open book written exam in Year 12 and a closed book exam in Year 13 (60% of the A level)

There are two coursework modules, one in each year (40% of the A level).

Two coursework modules, one in each year (40%).

## Course Detail

Throughout the first year, you will explore texts within a chosen genre, either Comedy or Tragedy. You will study four texts including a Shakespeare text as well as a further drama text and a prose and poetry text.

There is a great deal of reading required for this course, and students will be expected to read independently from a wide selection of texts, including work by writers such as William Shakespeare, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Margaret Atwood.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in **both** GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature.



## Contact

Mrs Maughan, Head of English



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# A Level French

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS 1651, A Level 2651)

## Why choose French?

Speaking a modern foreign language is an invaluable tool in today's modern world, "the global village". Recognised as a robust academic qualification, A Level French is highly valued by universities. It can lead to a French degree, or can also be studied in combination with another language, English Literature or International Business Management.

Over 200 million people throughout the world speak French. It is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. Furthermore France is the most popular tourist country worldwide, attracting over 70 million visitors per year. A Level French allows students to build on the foundation of GCSE in order to gain independence in skills and to prepare for the study of the language at a higher level.

## How the Course is Examined

Listening, reading and writing exams at the end of the course which will include writing an essay. There will also be an internally conducted, externally assessed speaking exam.

## Course Detail

Throughout the AS year, 4 topics and 12 subtopics, taught through the means of listening, reading, writing and speaking, as follows:

**Media** – Television, Advertising, Communication technology

**Popular Culture** - Cinema, Music, Fashion

**Healthy living/ lifestyle** - Sport/ exercise, Health and wellbeing, Holidays

**Family/ relationships** - Relationships within the family, Friendships, Marriage/ partnerships

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE French



## Contact

Mr Le Goff, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



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# A Level Further Mathematics

**Exam board and Specification Code:** EDEXCEL (A Level 9372)

## Why choose Further Mathematics?

There are many reasons for you to take Further Mathematics:

- It is a challenging but rewarding and intellectually stimulating experience.
- It allows able mathematicians to explore new more sophisticated mathematical concepts.
- It enables you to stand out as an able mathematician to both Universities and potential employers.
- It assists greatly in the transition to Maths related degree courses.

Those that opt for Further Maths will also follow the A level Mathematics course simultaneously and hence gain two separate qualifications. For some degree courses, such as Mathematics, Engineering and Computing Science, Further Maths would be a desirable, if not an essential, qualification.

## How the Course is Examined

One written examination per each unit of study covered in Years 12 and 13.

## Course Detail

You will study the more in-depth area of Further Pure Maths completing Module 1 and then Modules 2 or 3.

In addition to the above you will study a further four applied modules from the list below:

**Mechanics:** this deals with the action of forces on objects.

**Statistics:** you will learn how to analyse data in order to arrive at conclusions.

**Decision Maths:** you will learn how to solve problems involving networks, systems, planning and resource allocation.

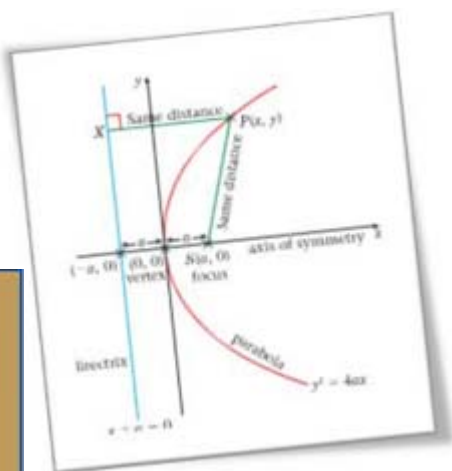
## Minimum Entry Requirements

This course must be taken alongside A Level Mathematics. Students must have a Grade A in GCSE Mathematics (ideally A\*).



## Contact

Mrs Bartch, Head of Maths



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# A Level Geography

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS 7036, A Level 7037)

This may be subject to change as specifications are still in draft form.

## Why choose Geography?

Geographers study the interaction between people and the places they inhabit, exploring the relationship between human populations and physical landscape. As such it is a relevant and flexible subject which integrates well with a variety of other subject areas and can be combined with Science or Art subjects.

The course is designed to address key ideas and debates in the world today, such as climate change, globalisation, urban regeneration and management of the world's resources. Geography develops the ability to combine scientific principles with economic awareness, environmental concern and an appreciation and tolerance of people

You will develop your own values, attitudes and opinions and have opportunities to develop team work and fieldwork skills.

## How the Course is Examined

This course will be assessed with a written exam for units 1 & 2. The assessment for Unit 3 will be a non examined assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated)

## Contact

Mrs Husband, Head of Faculty,  
Humanities

## Course Detail

There are 3 units of study for A level

### Unit 1: Water and Carbon Cycles

**either** Hot Desert Environments and their margins **or** Coastal Systems and Landscapes,

**either** Hazards **or** Ecosystems under stress **or** Cold Environments

### Unit 2: Global Systems and Global Governance

Changing Places

**either** Contemporary Urban Environments **or** Population and the Environment **or** Resource Security

**Unit 3:** Students complete an individual investigation of 3000-4000 words based on a fieldwork enquiry.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Geography.

For those who have not previously studied Geography, Grade B in English Language **and** Grade B in a Science GCSE.



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# A Level History

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS H105, A level H505 )

## Why choose History?

It's really interesting! It teaches you about where you have come from and what lessons can be learnt from events of the past.

History is a highly respected academic qualification. Even if you are dedicated to the sciences or to mathematics, History is an excellent additional option to take.

Valued by universities, it also goes well with most combinations of subjects to give a wide range of professional careers from Business to Politics, Architecture to Journalism. University admissions tutors know that if you have studied History you have completed a challenging, rigorous qualification which requires high-level independent thinking. You will learn to write, think and study in a much more rounded way and broaden your talents.

## How the Course is Examined

This course will be assessed with 3 written examinations which contribute 80% to the overall award and 20% from a Historical Investigation.

## Contact

Mr Liddle, Head of History

## Course Detail

The OCR A level specification for History allows you to follow 2 parallel units of study across Years 12 and 13.

You will study "Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest 1035-1107" for the British Study and Enquiry, and "Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963" for the Non-British Study.

The Thematic Study and Historical Interpretations section will be "Popular Culture and the Witch Craze of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries".

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE History.

For those who have not previously studied History, Grade B in English Language GCSE.



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**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (A level 2520 )

## Why choose ICT?

This exciting specification brings the study of ICT up to date for the 21st century. It has the backing of a range of industries, higher education and the National Computing Centre.

The key points of this specification are that:

- it has a high level of practical work;
- practical work can be carried out using a wide range of software and hardware;
- students can be truly engaged in their studies by becoming active investigators rather than passive learners;
- it builds on, rather than replicates, students existing ICT skills.

The GCE in ICT gives students a wide choice of progression options into further study, training, or relevant employment. Students who successfully complete the qualification will be well equipped to move onto degrees and BTEC Higher National Diplomas in related subjects such as ICT, Computer Science, Information Systems, Multimedia, Software Engineering, Computer Networking, e-Business and Information Management.

## Course Detail

### AS Examinations (AS Award 1521):

**Unit 1:** Practical Problem Solving in the Digital World (50% of AS Level, 25% of A level)

**Unit 2:** Living in the Digital World (50% of AS Level, 25% of A level)

### A2 Examinations (A Level Award 2521)

**Unit 3:** The use of ICT in a Digital World (30% of A level)

**Unit 4:** Coursework (20% of A Level) – Practical Issues Involved in the Use of ICT in a Digital World.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE ICT or Computing Science or equivalent vocational qualification.

## Contact

Mr Clougher, Head of Faculty,  
Maths and Computing



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# A Level Mathematics

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (A level 9371 )

## Why choose Mathematics?

The GCE in Mathematics is highly motivating. Mathematics at Advanced GCE is a course worth studying, not only as a supporting subject for the physical and social sciences, but in its own right. It is challenging but interesting.

You will build on work you covered at GCSE and be introduced to new ideas produced by some of the greatest minds of the last millennium.

An essential part of mathematical study is the challenge of analysing and solving problems and the satisfaction and confidence gained from achieving a 'correct' answer. You will also need to be able to communicate well in written work to explain your solutions.

Studying A-Level Mathematics is **essential** for those of you who wish to read a variety of Maths-related subjects at university, for example: Mathematics, Statistics, Physics and many Engineering courses. It can be useful for a range of other degree courses such as Architecture, Economics, Psychology and Accounting. Studying Mathematics also complements courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

## Contact

Mrs Bartch, Head of Maths

## Course Detail

Four core modules are studied and these will extend your knowledge of such topics as algebra and trigonometry, as well as introducing you to some brand new ideas such as calculus.

In addition to the above you will study a further two applied modules listed below:

**Mechanics:** this deals with the action of forces on objects.

**Statistics:** you will learn how to analyse data in order to arrive at conclusions.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Mathematics.

## How the Course is Examined

One written examination per unit



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# A Level Media Studies

**Exam board and Specification Code: AQA (A level 2570 )**

## Why choose Media Studies?

We are surrounded by the media in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and it informs almost every aspect of our lives. From your mobile phone to the daily newspaper to your games console the world is throwing hundreds of messages at you every day; Media Studies is one of the subjects that helps you understand this and puts you in control.

The subject is relevant to modern life and society, and involves hands-on practical work designed to develop production skills and your understanding of critical theory.

Possible careers include working within the film, TV, music or games industry. The level to which you will study criticism and debate will be useful in a wide variety of degree subjects such as English, Media, Politics, Journalism, and Law.

## How the Course is Examined

This course will be assessed as an A Level at the end of Year 13, with the possibility of AS Level at the end of Year 12.

## Contact

Mr Smailes, Head of Faculty,  
Languages

## Course Detail

You will cover four units in total over the two year course. In Year 12 you will complete a full practical production across two media platforms. You will also complete a case study of a genre of film.

In Year 13 you will look at the impact of emerging media trends such as social networking and the changing music industry. You will produce a final production piece linked to an exploration of current media issues and debates.

There will also be the opportunity for possible visits and work experience.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

A Grade B in GCSE Media Studies.

For those who have not studied GCSE Media, a Grade B in English/English Literature.



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# A Level Music

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (A level 9MU01 )

## Why choose Music?

A level Music develops knowledge and understanding of genres and periods of musical history. It allows you to develop creatively as both a performer and a composer. The course works well alongside external accreditations including ABRSM examinations and the Arts award scheme, both of which are recognised on UCAS tariff points for university entrance.

There are tuition opportunities across; all instrumental families, guitar, bass, drum kit, piano, Music Theatre and classical voice. The academy enters students for external examinations such as ABRSM practical and theory, Rock school, RGT guitar and LCM Music Theatre.

There will also be a breadth of extra-curricular opportunities including; WCEA Orchestra, Choir, Big Band, various instrumental and vocal ensembles, the annual academy production and European tours.

The full GCE course (AS plus A2) is excellent preparation for higher education courses in music.

## How the Course is Examined

Composition & Performance = 60%

Developing Knowledge and  
Understanding = 40%

## Course Detail

**Performance skills:** Instrumental or vocal in any style of the candidate's choice. Solo and ensemble pieces required.

**Composition:** Students compose pieces to briefs set by Edexcel as well as learning about compositional techniques and advanced harmony.

**Listening and Understanding:** Aural and analytical skills are studied through selected instrumental and vocal pieces from the Edexcel *New Anthology of Music* and wider listening.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Music. For those who have not studied GCSE Music, ABRSM (or equivalent) Grade 5 in both practical and theory.



## Contact

Mr Rose, Head of Faculty,  
Sport and Culture



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# A Level Philosophy and Ethics

**Exam board and Specification Code:** OCR (G571, G572, G581, G582 )

## Why choose Philosophy and Ethics?

This is a course that will guide you to think about, analyse, reflect on and critically evaluate your own beliefs and assumptions, as well as those of other people and society as a whole. You will be asked to discuss BIG questions; do we have free will? Is Euthanasia ever acceptable? Is there such a thing as right and wrong? What is the purpose of life?

Philosophy is highly regarded by universities and may be used for entry onto Philosophy and many other degrees courses. Universities and employers alike value the skills such as critical thinking and debate that are developed during the study of this discipline.

Students who study A-level Philosophy and Ethics often go on to have careers in legal, medical services, journalism and publishing, education, social work, media work and politics.

## How the Course is Examined

This course will be assessed with a written examination for each of the 3 components. There is the possibility of an AS level at the end of Year 12.

## Course Detail

There are 3 components of study across Years 12 and 13.

In each year you will study a unit of topics relating to Philosophy of Religion and a second unit of topics relating to Religious Ethics & developments in Religious thought.

Year 12 topics include Ancient Greek influence on the Philosophy of Religion, Applied Ethics – Euthanasia, Sex and Sexuality.

Year 13 topics include the Nature of God, Miracles, Free will and determinism and applied ethics topics such as environmental ethics, business ethics.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE RE.

For those who have not previously studied RE, Grade B in English Language GCSE.



## Contact

Dr Henderson, Head of Religious Education



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# A Level Physical Education

**Exam board and Specification Code:** OCR (AS H155, A Level H555 )

## Why choose Physical Education?

This course develops a theoretical understanding of participation and performance in physical activity as part of a balanced active and healthy lifestyle. Success in A Level PE can allow entry into higher education and is vital for sport related degree courses such as Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Studies and Physical Education.

These degrees could in turn lead to a range of career opportunities such as PE teacher, sports psychologist, sports scientist, leisure and recreation manager, sports administrator, sports nutritionist, performance analyst, sports development manager, fitness professional, physio-therapist and conditioning coach.

## How the Course is Examined

Component 1: 2 Hours written exam (30%)

Component 2: 1 Hour written exam (20%)

Component 3: 1 Hour written exam (20%)

Component 4: NEA – internally assessed and externally moderated (30%)

## Course Detail

### In Year 12, students will cover:

Component 1: Physiological Factors Affecting Performance (Anatomy and Physiology/Exercise Physiology/ Biomechanics)

Component 2: Psychological Factors Affecting Performance (Skill Acquisition/Sports Psychology)

Component 3: Socio-cultural and Contemporary issues (Sports, society and technological influences)

Component 4: Performance within Physical Education (Performance or coaching practical/EAPI)

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE PE. Pupils who have not taken GCSE PE must have achieved at least one grade B in Science.

You must also be very good at practical PE and have a strong interest in this subject.



## Contact

Mr Scott, Head of Physical Education



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# A Level Physics

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS 7407, A Level 7408)

## Why choose Physics?

Physics has long been thought of as the most fundamental of all sciences, with studies ranging in scale from galaxies to sub-atomic particles. A level Physics is the study of everything in the physical world and how it works and is full of exciting questions and opportunities to prove theories that are still in doubt. Physics is never far from the news and has been again highlighted with the large hadron collider at CERN and the planned manned mission to Mars.

There is a wide range of careers possible with A level Physics, ranging from medical physicist to oceanographer, naval architect to audio technician. There are also engineering careers too; flight, mining, electrical/electronics, mechanical, aeronautical and agricultural.

University degree courses requiring or preferring A level Physics include Physics, Engineering and Geographical Sciences, to name but a few.

## How the Course is Examined

This course will be assessed as an A Level at the end of Year 13, with the possibility of AS Level at the end of Year 12.

## Course Detail

Whilst studying this subject you will gain a greater understanding of the basic principles of Physics and learn more about topics studied at GCSE. You will also learn the importance of Newton's theory of gravitation and Einstein's theory of special relativity.

In Year 13 you will have the opportunity to choose an area of study that you are most interested in, whether it is astrophysics, medical physics, engineering, electronics or the great 'turning points' in Physics.

There may be opportunities for fieldwork, as well as the possibility of a residential visit.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Mathematics **and** *either* a Grade B in GCSE Physics *or* BB in Dual Award Science.



## Contact

Mr Oren, Head of Faculty,  
Science and Technology

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# A Level Psychology

**Exam board and Specification Code: AQA (A Level 7182)**

## Why choose Psychology?

Psychology is the study of human behaviours using scientific methods to both analyse and explain different human behaviours. If you are fascinated by the idea of understanding the brain and if you want to grasp the complexities of human behaviour then A level Psychology is for you.

This well-recognised course offers insight into what makes us who we are and provides the opportunity for you to develop both socially and academically. In lessons, you may be exploring various areas to do with cognitive, behaviour, developmental and even biological psychology by focusing on issues such as memory, child and adult developmental stages and psychological research methods.

Future careers include forensic scientist, criminologist, psychologist, educational psychologist, teaching, NHS and public services.

## How the Course is Examined

3 written examinations only: all papers include multiple choice questions, short answer and extended writing.

Each exam is worth 33% of the final A level grade.

## Course Detail

### Compulsory Content:

Social influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research methods, Issues and debates in psychology

### Optional content:

Relationships, Gender, Cognition and development, Schizophrenia, Eating behaviour, Stress, Aggression, Forensic psychology, Addiction

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in English or English Literature and grade B in Maths.



## Contact

Miss Boswell, Lead Teacher, Psychology

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# A Level Sociology

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS 7191, A Level 7192)

## Why choose Sociology?

Sociology is the study of how society is organised and how we experience life and it is becoming a more and more popular subject. It is an interesting and demanding academic subject which will equip you with a range of skills; you will learn to think critically, to question common-sense assumptions, to solve problems, to work independently and as part of a group and to write clearly structured analytical essays.

You will debate the issues that are important in our society and analyse and evaluate the sociological theories and research around topic areas such as the family, crime and the mass media. You should be interested in current affairs and social issues.

If you have an interest in understanding how the world around you works, and enjoy critical thinking and exploring ideas from different viewpoints, then Sociology would be a good choice for you! All of this is excellent preparation for university or for a whole range of careers including teaching, social work and the police force.

## How the Course is Examined

3 written examinations: all papers include multiple choice questions, short answer and extended writing.

Each exam is worth 33% of the final A level grade.

## Contact

Ms Britton, Lead Teacher,  
Sociology

## Course Detail

You will cover areas such as Socialisation, Families and Households, Education and Research Methods.

Within these topics you will be required to study, amongst others; divorce and its effects, the social construction of childhood, feminist perspectives on the family and education and to understand the theories of the founders of sociology such as Emile Durkheim and Karl Marx

In addition to lessons, you will be required to contribute to your understanding of sociological theories and research methods by wider reading of textbooks, newspapers and journals, and keeping a portfolio of relevant news articles.

In the second year of the A level, you will be required to study Crime and Deviance and Beliefs in Society.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in English or English Literature.



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# A Level Spanish

**Exam board and Specification Code:** AQA (AS 1696, A Level 2696)

## Why choose Spanish?

Speaking a modern foreign language is an invaluable tool in today's modern world, "the global village". Recognised as a robust academic qualification, A Level Spanish is highly valued by universities. It can lead to a Spanish degree, or can also be studied in combination with another language, English Literature or International Business Management.

Spanish is the second most widely-spoken language in the world after English, so the subject offers huge geographical, cultural and historical scope alongside the ability to become linguistically proficient. The language skills acquired will allow you to access a world of exciting literature and films.

If you enjoyed GCSE Spanish you will relish the challenge of A level.

## How the Course is Examined

Listening, reading and writing exam at the end of the course which will include writing an essay. There will also be an internally conducted, externally assessed speaking exam.

## Course Detail

Throughout the AS year, 4 topics and 12 subtopics, taught through the means of listening, reading, writing and speaking, as follows:

**Media** – Television, Advertising, Communication technology

**Popular Culture** - Cinema, Music, Fashion

**Healthy living/ lifestyle** - Sport/ exercise, Health and wellbeing, Holidays

**Family/ relationships** - Relationships within the family, Friendships, Marriage/ partnerships

## Minimum Entry Requirements

Grade B in GCSE Spanish.



## Contact

Mr Le Goff, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



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