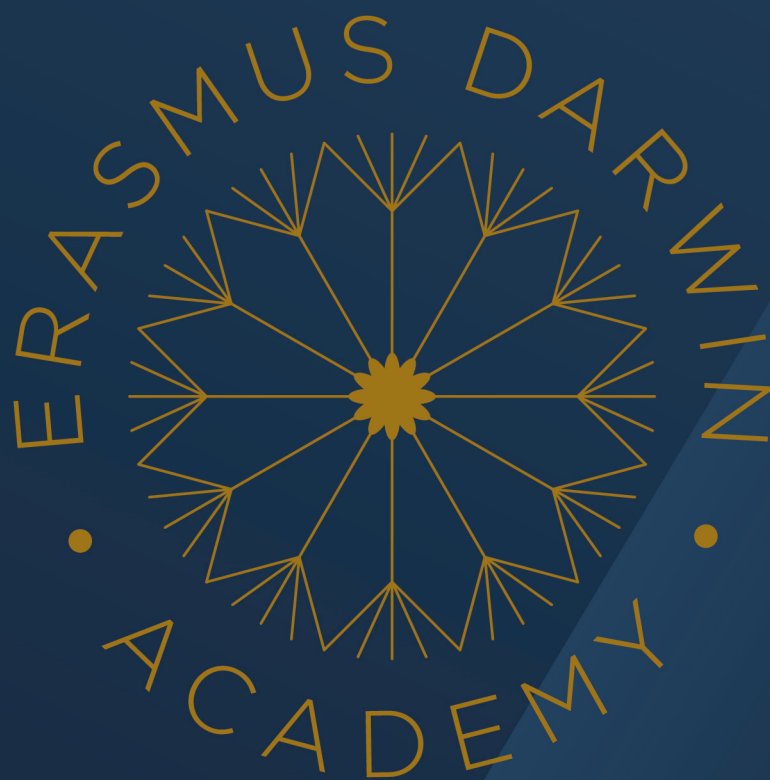




Sixth Form Prospectus

Hard Work | High Aspirations | Limitless Opportunities

Vision

Our vision is simple...

To create well-rounded, personable, hard-working young adults who are ready for the workplace and beyond.

With over 98% of our students leaving us to sustain places within education, employment or training, it is clear that combining academic achievement and developing young adults of the highest calibre is what we do best.

Our students' futures are at the heart of everything we do at EDA Sixth Form.

Our students are Ready for work - Ready for life - Ready for every opportunity

Ready for work

Ready for life

Ready for every opportunity

What do employers say about our students?

“

Our placement student demonstrated exceptional maturity and professionalism — a real credit to the Sixth Form.

”

“

They arrived well-prepared, eager to learn, and quickly became a valued member of the team

”

“

The student showed initiative and strong communication skills throughout their placement, reflecting the high standards of your Sixth Form

”

Welcome

Hard Work – High Aspirations – Limitless Opportunities...welcome to EDA Sixth Form!

Our Sixth Form is an exciting and inspiring part of our Academy – the pinnacle of our seven-year journey. Each year, the majority of our own students choose to stay with us, and we also welcome ambitious, high-achieving young people from other schools. Together, they create a vibrant community full of energy, determination, and a shared excitement for the future.

Our goal is simple...get our students ready for their next steps! EDA Sixth Formers are ready for work, ready for life, and ready to take every opportunity!

We are passionate about helping every student achieve their ambitions, whatever their chosen path. Last year, 98% of our students went on to reach their aspirational destination. This figure is significantly above the national and county average, and demonstrates that choosing EDA will secure an aspirational future!

Many of our students progress to leading universities, including Oxbridge and Russell Group institutions. Others secure highly competitive apprenticeships or step straight into careers that ignite their passion. Some embrace life-changing gap years, inspired by the opportunities and ideas they've discovered here. Whatever your destination, we are here to give you the support, guidance and confidence to get there.

In our Sixth Form, you will find expert teaching from skilled and expert teachers, tailored one-to-one support, and additional opportunities such as after-school and holiday sessions to help you maximise your potential. We are blessed with examination markers across a range of subjects, that further enhance our provision. Alongside academic excellence, we also provide first-class guidance on higher education, apprenticeships, and employment – making sure both you and your family feel confident in making informed choices about your future.

Life in our Sixth Form goes far beyond the classroom. We have a thorough personal development programme covering age-specific topics needed for wellbeing, health and personal safety. We deliver a wide and varied range of curriculum visits that enhance the taught curriculum. From volunteering in the community, mentoring younger students, taking on student leadership roles, to international travel, fieldwork, and work placements – we believe in giving every student the chance to grow as a person, not just as a learner.

What makes us unique is our ethos. We are here to get every student to their aspirational destination. We deliberately ensure that every student is known, valued, and supported as an individual. You will have access to dedicated study spaces, a specialist Sixth Form team, and personalised pastoral, careers and learning support. Put simply: you are never just a name on a list!

We are proud that our Sixth Form is both high performing and nationally respected – but we are equally proud of the way we nurture well-rounded, confident and resilient young people, ready to thrive in the world beyond school.

As you consider your next steps, remember this: your future starts with the effort you put into every lesson, every piece of work, and every choice you make today. Our Sixth Form offers limitless opportunities – and we look forward to helping you grasp them.

Ben Maddox

Ben Maddox
Assitant Headteacher - Sixth Form

Curriculum Offer

We are proud to offer a broad range of subjects, all of which are Level 3 qualifications, including A Levels, BTECs, AAQs, and Diploma's. The curriculum is ambitious and well-sequenced to enhance student learning.

All courses will run over two academic years. A-Levels are assessed through examinations at the end of Year 13, while BTECs, AAQs and Diploma's are assessed through a combination of coursework and exams across both Year 12 and Year 13.

Students are assessed during their courses through formal assessment weeks, that closely mirror the conditions they will experience in their terminal examinations. These take place twice per year in both Year 12 and Year 13. Year 12 students also complete knowledge tests at the end of the academic year, in order to inform the summer work they complete prior to Year 13.

All students will study three subjects. The right combination of courses is chosen with guidance from staff and is based on each student's GCSE performance. Students may opt for a full programme of A-Levels, a vocational pathway, or a blended mix of the two.

Subject Enrichment

Each subject provides enrichment opportunities in order to further enhance the taught curriculum. This can range from entering national competitions, listening to visiting speakers, or local and national educational visits.

We also provide students with an Independent Study Platform. This enables students to read more widely around their specialist subjects, both to enhance their academic performance and prepare for further education at degree-level.

UCAS Tariffs

All Level 3 qualifications carry UCAS points, which are used by many universities to set entry requirements. These tariff points should be taken into account when selecting your post-16 courses, as they play a key role in shaping future options and opportunities.

UCAS Points	A Level & Diploma	Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate
56	A*	Distinction*
48	A	Distinction
40	B	
32	C	Merit
24	D	
16	E	Pass

Minimum entry requirements for a place within the Sixth Form is five subjects at grade 4, or equivalent. Both Maths and English (Language or Literature) must be at grade 4 or above.

Subject	Qualification	2026 Subject Specific Entry Criteria
Art	A Level	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art.
Biology	A Level	Grade 6/6 at GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in GCSE Biology. Students should also achieve at least grade 6 at GCSE Mathematics.
Business*	A Level	Grade 5 in GCSE Business Studies, if previously studied. However, students who have not studied Business Studies can choose the subject.
Chemistry	A Level	Grade 6/6 at GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry. Students should also achieve at least grade 6 at GCSE Mathematics.
Computer Science	A Level	GCSE Computer Science at grade 6 or above. GCSE maths at grade 6 or above.
Criminology*	Level 3 Diploma	GCSE English language grade 4 or above, GCSE maths at grade 4 or above.
Engineering*	OCR Extended Certificate	GCSE Technology at grade 5 or above or GCSE English and Maths at grade 5 or above.
English Language	A Level	GCSE English language at grade 5 or above.
English Literature	A Level	GCSE English Literature at grade 6 or above.
Food & Nutrition*	Level 3 Applied Diploma	GCSE English language grade 4 or above, GCSE maths at grade 4 or above.
Geography	A Level	GCSE Geography at grade 6 or above.
History	A Level	GCSE History at grade 6 or above.
Maths	A Level	GCSE Maths at grade 7 or above.
Mental Health*	OCR Extended Certificate	GCSE English language grade 4 or above, GCSE maths at grade 4 or above.
Music	A Level	GCSE Music at grade 6 or above or individual application based on musical talent & graded music exams.
Performing Arts	BTEC Extended Cert	GCSE English language grade 4 or above, GCSE maths at grade 4 or above. Drama or Performing Arts at grade 5 or level 2 Pass preferable.
Philosophy & Ethics	A Level	GCSE grade 6 or above in RE, History or Philosophy & Ethics.
Photography*	A Level	GCSE English at grade 4 or above, with an interest in digital photography
Physics	A Level	Grade 6/6 at GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in GCSE Physics. Students should also achieve at least grade 6 at GCSE Mathematics.
Psychology*	A Level	GCSE English at grade 5 or above, GCSE maths at grade 5 or above & GCSE science at grade 5 or above
Sociology*	A Level	GCSE Sociology at grade 5 or above preferred. GCSE English at grade 5 or above, GCSE maths at grade 5 or above & GCSE.
Sport*	BTEC Extended Cert	GCSE English language grade 4 or above, GCSE maths at grade 4 or above.

* there is no requirement to have studied these subjects before.

Student Leadership

At our Sixth Form, we believe that education is about more than just academic success – it is also about preparing young people to thrive as confident, responsible, and capable leaders in the wider world. Our student leadership programme is central to this vision, offering opportunities for Sixth Formers to give back to the Academy, develop key skills, and make a meaningful impact on their community.

Year 12 – Senior Prefects

In Year 12, students can apply to become Senior Prefects. This prestigious role gives students the opportunity to represent the Academy and contribute in a variety of ways, including:

- Organising and supporting charitable events that make a real difference.
- Acting as mentors and role models for younger students.
- Supporting staff and students during public events, open evenings, and Academy functions.
- Carrying out daily duties that help the school run smoothly and efficiently.

Becoming a Senior Prefect helps students develop essential skills such as organisation, communication, teamwork, and resilience. It also nurtures confidence and empathy – qualities that are highly valued in universities, apprenticeships, and the workplace.

Year 13 – Senior Students

In Year 13, students can progress to the highly prestigious positions of Senior Student. These are the most respected student leadership roles in the Academy and carry significant responsibility. Senior Students:

- Lead initiatives that drive forward improvements and opportunities for the student body.
- Represent the voice of students by running the Academy Council.
- Work closely with the Senior Leadership Team to shape the Academy's future.
- Act as ambassadors for the school at formal occasions, both within the Academy and in the wider community.

At the very top of the structure are the Head Boy and Head Girl, who provide vision, leadership, and inspiration for their peers, while also representing the Academy with pride and professionalism.

The Benefits

These leadership opportunities are transformative. They provide students with real-world experience of responsibility, teamwork, and problem-solving. They learn to lead with integrity, balance multiple commitments, and communicate effectively with people at all levels – from peers and younger students to staff and external visitors.

Such experiences help students to stand out in university applications, apprenticeship interviews, and job opportunities. More importantly, they give students the confidence, skills, and character to contribute positively to society long after they leave the Academy.

Head Girl and Boy

Year 13 students who have served as student leaders throughout their time at the academy, chosen from the Senior Student Team. They oversee all aspects of student leadership, along with speaking at major academy events.

Academy Council:

Tutor Reps: Elected students from each tutor group who feedback on issues raised by their peers.
House Council: A group formed by the tutor reps from each House. They meet to share feedback from their tutor groups.
Academy Council: An elected group of students who represent their House to provide student voice to the Senior Leadership Team.

Senior Student Team

12

A select group who are chosen from the previous year's Senior Prefects. This small group each have bespoke individual roles which include things such as Academy Council and Charity Lead.

13

Reading Buddy Senior Prefect

A group of students who volunteer to support with reading intervention for Year 7 students.

Students who complete additional responsibilities such as fronting academy events, completing duties alongside SLT, organising charitable events and fundraising.

11

Prefect

10

A select group of Year 10 students who demonstrate our values in their daily school life. Along with supporting at major school events such as concerts and open days. They also support with social time supervision and support of younger students as part of a duty.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors: A group of students who complete training to provide peer support within school. They will also deliver assemblies and raise awareness through a variety of activities.

Eco Club

Eco Club: A group of that delivers initiatives around sustainability within the academy. They also raise awareness of issues through a range of activities and events within the community.

Sports Council

Sports Council: A group of students that support the curricular and extra-curricular work of the PE department. They support at sporting events, officiate and raise awareness across a range of activities.

9

Senior Peer Buddies

8

A group of students selected from the previous Peer Buddy cohort to support the Year 7 Peer Buddies with all aspects of their role. Students complete an application for this role.

Peer Buddies

Supporting all aspects of transition to EDA.
Includes; Induction Days, Open Mornings, Tours and After-school visits.
Students complete an application for this role.

7

Career Development

Developing employability skills and gaining real insight into the world of work is an important part of our Sixth Form provision. In Year 12, every student takes part in a designated work experience week, where they secure a placement in a workplace of their choice. This gives them the chance to explore future career pathways, apply their skills in a professional environment, and build the confidence that comes from working alongside adults in a real-world setting.

In addition to this, all students complete a structured programme of virtual work experience as part of their daily Tutor Programme. This enables them to broaden their understanding of different industries and professions, and to gain exposure to a wide variety of employment sectors that they may not otherwise have the chance to experience.

There is also a programme of Careers Lunches, where professionals from a range of occupations hold talks with our students about careers within their sector. From doctors to engineers, physiotherapists to psychologist, we have every avenue covered!

These opportunities ensure that our students leave Sixth Form with more than just strong academic qualifications – they also leave with valuable employability skills, meaningful experience to enhance their CVs and university applications, and a clearer sense of direction for their future. By engaging with both physical and virtual placements, students gain adaptability, independence, and a professional mindset that will benefit them wherever their next steps take them.

EDA Futures

Preparing our students for life beyond Sixth Form is at the heart of what we do. As part of this commitment, we run a dedicated programme of EDA Futures Days throughout the year. These bespoke events bring professionals from a wide range of employment sectors into the Academy to work directly with our students.

The sessions are practical, interactive and focused on equipping students with the skills and confidence they need for the next stage of their journey. Topics include:

- Interview skills and techniques
- Writing application letters and CVs
- Using recruitment platforms effectively
- Building self-promotion and professional presence
- Understanding and navigating university applications

These days provide students with invaluable opportunities to learn from industry experts, gain insight into current employment trends, and develop the practical tools they will need to succeed in higher education, apprenticeships or the workplace.

EDA Futures Days ensure our students are not only academically prepared but also professionally confident. They leave Sixth Form with a clear sense of direction, well-developed employability skills, and the ability to present themselves effectively in any competitive environment.

Volunteering

All Year 12 students at Erasmus Darwin Academy are provided with the opportunity to take part in a weekly volunteering role within the Academy. This not only gives back to our school community but also allows students to develop valuable skills such as leadership, teamwork, organisation and communication.

Opportunities include:

- Senior Prefect duties – supporting the smooth running of the Academy and acting as role models for younger students.
- Reading Buddy – helping younger pupils to develop literacy and a love of reading.
- Lesson Support – assisting in classrooms and providing encouragement to younger learners.
- Extra-Curricular Club Leadership – running or supporting clubs and activities, sharing talents and passions with others.
- Charity Role – driving fundraising initiatives and supporting events that benefit both local and national causes.

Through these experiences, our students learn the importance of service, responsibility and initiative – qualities that prepare them exceptionally well for life beyond the Sixth Form.



Pupils value the support that staff give them. Parents and carers are highly supportive of the school, with one saying that staff ‘exceed expectations every day.

(Ofsted, 2023)

The Sixth Form Scholar Award

Alongside our student leadership opportunities, we are proud to offer the Sixth Form Scholar Award – a programme that recognises the wider contributions our students make to the Academy and beyond. This prestigious award is designed to celebrate character, commitment, and personal growth, ensuring our students leave us not only with excellent academic results but also with the skills, values, and experiences that set them apart.

To gain the award, students must complete all seven of the following elements:

1. **Volunteering** – giving time and service to support others in the Academy or the wider community.
2. **Prefect Duties** – carrying out responsibilities that contribute to the smooth running of the Academy and acting as role models for younger students.
3. **Work Experience** – completing placements that build employability skills and provide valuable insight into future careers.
4. **Attendance** – maintaining excellent attendance, reflecting the dedication and reliability that universities and employers expect.
5. **Mentoring** – offering guidance and encouragement to younger students, helping to strengthen our supportive school culture.
6. **Completion of Two MOOCs** – engaging in Massive Open Online Courses to extend knowledge, curiosity, and independent study skills.
7. **Charity** – taking part in fundraising and charitable initiatives, developing empathy and a sense of social responsibility.

The Benefits

The Sixth Form Scholar Award is about shaping well-rounded young adults who are prepared for life beyond school. It enables students to develop resilience, initiative, leadership, and independence – qualities that make a lasting impression on universities, apprenticeship providers, and employers. More importantly, it helps our students to grow into confident, compassionate and capable individuals who are ready to make a positive impact in the real world.

“

The enrichment programme helped me build confidence and leadership skills I now use every day — it's made a real difference.

”

“

“I've had so many opportunities to try new things, from volunteering to guest lectures — it's really opened my eyes to future careers.

”

“

The personal development sessions helped me manage stress, stay organised, and feel more prepared for life after Sixth Form.

”

Personal Development Programme

Alongside their academic studies, all Sixth Form students take part in our comprehensive Personal Development Programme. This programme is delivered through a daily tutor schedule and weekly year group meetings, ensuring that every student receives consistent guidance, support and inspiration.

The programme is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills and awareness they need to thrive both during their time in Sixth Form and in adult life.

Daily Tutorial Programme

- Developing effective study skills
- Tailored progression support
- Structured revision strategies
- Guidance with applications

Personal Development Sessions:

- Sexual health and personal safety
- Safer driving and road awareness
- Managing student finance
- Understanding the risks of gambling
- Exploring cultural awareness and diversity
- Building employability skills
- Promoting positive mental health
- Wellbeing and resilience

By combining academic support with broader life education, the Personal Development Programme ensures our students are well-prepared, well-rounded and ready to face the challenges of higher education, employment and independent living.



Sixth Form Dress Code

Our Sixth Form students are role models within the Academy, and we expect them to dress in a way that reflects this responsibility. The dress code is designed to promote professionalism, preparing students for the standards expected in higher education, the workplace and beyond.

Guidelines:

- Button-up collared shirt with trousers or chinos.
- A tailored dress or skirt with smart blouse or collared shirt.
- Smart, tailored knitwear. No sweatshirt material.
- Smart, professional shoes (no open-toe or backless footwear).

This code ensures that our Sixth Form retains a sense of identity and professionalism, while also preparing students for the expectations of adult life.



Student retention is significantly above the national average, with an average of above 98% over the past three years.

Art (A-Level AQA)

Why Study Art?

Art is about much more than producing images — it's about learning to see the world differently. This course encourages you to experiment, take creative risks, and express your ideas in unique and innovative ways. You'll develop a deep appreciation for visual culture and the role art plays in shaping society. Studying Art also helps you build independence, resilience, and confidence as you learn to present your personal vision. Whether you dream of a creative career or simply want to expand your ability to think outside the box, Art gives you the skills to innovate, problem-solve, and communicate powerfully.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Drawing, painting, printmaking, 3-dimensional, photography, and digital media.
- Developing ideas from initial concepts through to final pieces.
- Critical analysis of artists and designers.
- Personal investigation into an area of art that inspires you.

How is the Course Assessed?

- Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%) – A practical portfolio supported by written work
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%) – Preparation work and a final 15-hour controlled assessment

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Creativity, innovation, and independent thinking.
- Practical skills in a wide range of media.
- Research and analytical skills through artist studies.
- Project management and organisation skills.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Art.
Beyond the Classroom

Students take part in a careers talk from a higher education provider. They also get the chance to visit local art galleries. Students take part in a research visit to London exploring the city and the art galleries on offer. There are also opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities to support academy events.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Art is highly respected because it develops creative thinkers who can adapt to any environment. Many students go on to study fine art, architecture, graphic design, fashion, product design, photography, or animation. Others use the creativity and independent learning skills developed in Art to succeed in fields such as marketing, media, advertising, and education. In a world where creativity is increasingly valued, Art helps you stand out as someone who can think differently and bring fresh ideas.



Biology (A-Level OCR)

Why Study Biology?

Biology is the science of life, helping us to understand everything from microscopic DNA molecules to vast ecosystems. It allows us to explore the big questions: How does the body fight disease? How are new species formed? How are humans impacting the environment? This course combines practical skills with theoretical knowledge, meaning you'll spend time in the lab carrying out experiments as well as analysing real scientific problems. Biology is perfect for students who are curious about how living things function and who want to make sense of the challenges facing our planet, from medical breakthroughs to sustainability.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Biological molecules, cells, and enzymes.
- Exchange and transport systems in animals and plants.
- Communicable disease, immunity, and biodiversity.
- Nervous system, Endocrine system, homeostasis, photosynthesis, and respiration.
- Inheritance, genetics, and ecosystems.

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Biological Processes (2h15, 37%)
- Paper 2: Biological Diversity (2h15, 37%)
- Paper 3: Unified Biology (1h30, 26%)
- Practical Endorsement – assessed separately to recognise lab competence.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Analytical thinking and data handling.
- Practical scientific investigation skills.
- Research, evaluation, and logical reasoning.
- Teamwork and problem-solving.



Entry Requirements

Grade 6-6 at GCSE Combined Science or Grade 6 in GCSE Biology. Grade 6 in Mathematics.

Beyond the Classroom

Students studying A-Level Biology have access to a wide range of opportunities that extend learning far beyond the classroom. Innovative VR applications allow learners to explore human anatomy, dissections, evolution, conservation, and microbiology in immersive detail, as well as visit ecologically significant locations that are normally inaccessible without scientific permits. Students can also take part in local conservation trips, where they observe and report on wildlife to develop practical fieldwork and ecological research skills. Those aspiring to medical or related careers benefit from our links with the Get into Medicine programme, offering virtual conferences, work experience, professional networking opportunities, and UCAS guidance. Learners are encouraged to demonstrate academic excellence through participation in the British Biology Olympiad, and they receive expert mentoring from teachers with prior careers in the medical field, who provide support with UCAT preparation and university interviews.

Where Will Success Take Me?

A-Level Biology is a gateway qualification. It is essential for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, and other health professions. It also opens doors to biochemistry, environmental science, sports science, psychology, and agriculture. Employers and universities value Biology because it demonstrates critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to handle data and complex concepts. Whether your ambition is to become a doctor, researcher, conservationist, or simply someone who can contribute knowledgeably to debates about science and society, Biology sets you up for future success.

“

The school has a comprehensive careers programme in place to ensure that pupils have the information they need to access ambitious destinations. This includes pupils in the sixth form, where leaders support them to ensure that all can access their chosen destinations.

”

Ofsted 2023

Business

(BTEC AAQ Extended Certificate - Pearson)

Why Study Business?

The BTEC in Business is designed for students who want a practical, applied understanding of how businesses work. Unlike traditional A-Levels, much of the course is assessed through coursework and real-world projects, giving you the chance to put theory into practice. You'll explore marketing campaigns, financial planning, event management, and customer service, building a strong skill set you can use immediately in the workplace or in higher education. This course suits students who enjoy learning through doing, developing teamwork, organisation, and leadership skills while applying knowledge to realistic scenarios.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Exploring business structures and environments.
- Developing a marketing campaign.
- Personal and business finance.
- Managing an event or project.
- Optional units such as recruitment, international business, or customer service.

How is the Course Assessed?

- Internal assignments (coursework) – 42%.
- Externally assessed tasks/exams – 58%.
- 4 units covered across 2 years.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Project and event management.
- Teamwork, communication, and leadership.
- Research and analytical skills.
- Financial understanding and applied business knowledge.



Entry Requirements

Recommended you achieve at least a Grade 5 in GCSE Business Studies, if previously studied. However, students who have not studied Business Studies can choose the subject.

Beyond the Classroom

Students are able to take part in national Business Enterprise competitions, alongside entrepreneurial events that take place alongside the taught curriculum. This involves charitable challenges and money-raising activities.

Where Will Success Take Me?

The BTEC Business qualification is widely respected by universities, colleges, and employers. It provides a clear pathway into careers in management, marketing, finance, human resources, and project management. Many students progress to business-related degrees or combine their knowledge with other fields such as law, IT, or media. Because of its applied nature, this course is also ideal preparation for entering employment directly, particularly in customer-focused, administrative, or entrepreneurial roles. Success in BTEC Business shows that you can manage projects, meet deadlines, and deliver results — qualities that are highly prized in the workplace.

Chemistry (A-Level OCR)

Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the central science that connects physics, biology, and everyday life. It allows you to understand the composition, properties, and reactions of matter, from the air we breathe to the medicines that save lives. Studying Chemistry develops analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a logical approach to complex challenges. You'll learn to carry out experiments safely and accurately, interpret data, and apply theory to real-world situations. If you enjoy investigating how and why things happen at a molecular level, Chemistry is an inspiring and rewarding choice.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Atomic structure and bonding
- Physical chemistry: energetics, kinetics, and equilibrium
- Organic chemistry: reactions of carbon compounds
- Inorganic chemistry: group chemistry and periodic trends
- Analytical techniques and practical investigation

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry (2h15, 37%)
- Paper 2: Synthesis and Analytical Techniques (2h15, 37%)
- Paper 3: Unified Chemistry (1h30, 26%)
- Practical Endorsement – assessed separately to recognise laboratory competence

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Laboratory techniques and practical investigation
- Critical thinking and data analysis
- Communication of complex ideas in writing and diagrams

Entry Requirements

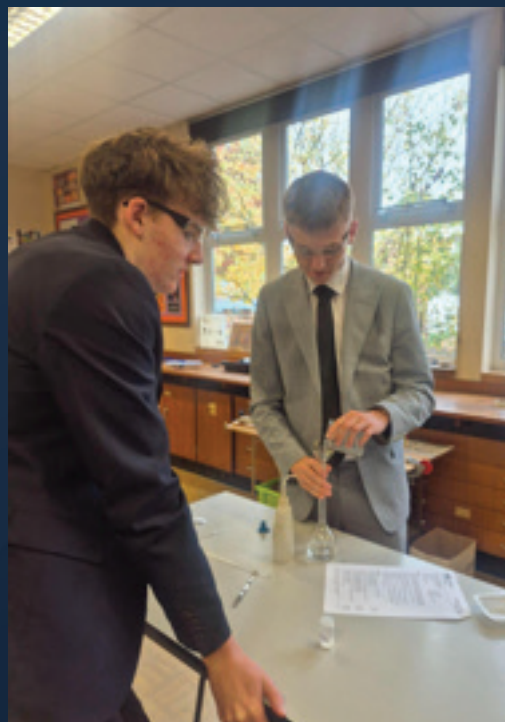
Grade 6-6 at GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry. Grade 6 at GCSE Mathematics.

Beyond the Classroom

The Chemistry Department has strong links with both Keele and Aston Universities, offering students the opportunity to visit these institutions and experience university life firsthand. During these visits, students will have the chance to work with specialist tutors and use advanced laboratory facilities to synthesise and analyse compounds using specialist equipment.

Where Will Success Take Me?

A-Level Chemistry is highly valued for careers in medicine, pharmacy, biochemistry, chemical engineering, environmental science, and research. It also supports degrees in law, business, and education because it demonstrates logical thinking, problem-solving, and resilience. Chemistry opens doors to both scientific and interdisciplinary careers, providing a foundation for innovation and discovery in many fields.



Computer Science (A-Level OCR)

Why Study Computer Science?

Computer Science is about solving problems with logic, creativity, and technology. This course develops your understanding of algorithms, programming, data structures, and the impact of computing on society. You'll learn to design and develop your own software solutions and understand the theory behind how computers work. If you enjoy logical thinking, problem-solving, and building real solutions, this subject is an exciting and highly relevant choice in our digital world.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Programming and algorithms
- Computational thinking and problem-solving
- Data representation and computer architecture
- Networking, databases, and cyber security
- Software development project

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Computer Systems (2h, 40%)
 - theory of computing
- Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (2h, 40%)
 - problem-solving and analysis
- Programming Project (20%) – practical application of programming skills

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Programming and coding proficiency
- Analytical thinking and problem-solving
- Logical reasoning and abstraction
- Project management and collaboration

Entry Requirements

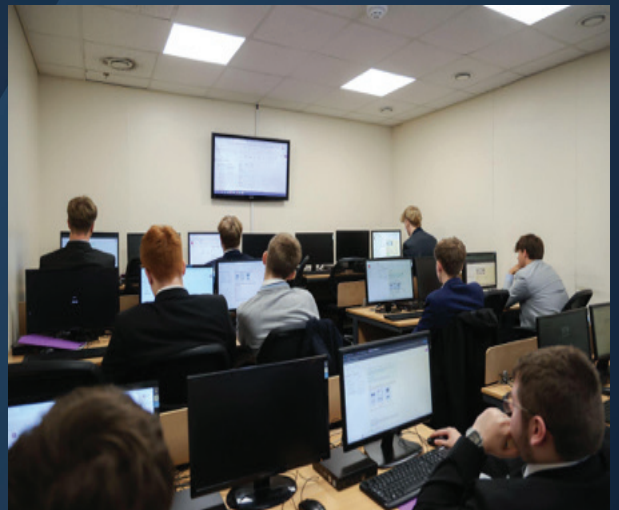
GCSE Computer Science at grade 6 or above. GCSE maths at grade 6 or above.

Beyond the Classroom

Learning is more than what takes place in the classroom. We offer our students a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including trips to Computer/IT departments at universities. There is also an enrichment visit to Bletchley Park.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Computer Science provides a gateway to careers in software development, cybersecurity, data analysis, artificial intelligence, game design, and IT management. It also supports further study in engineering, mathematics, and technology-related degrees. Employers value graduates with computational thinking skills, creativity, and the ability to adapt to new technologies — making this qualification highly versatile.



Criminology

(Level 3 Applied Diploma - WJEC)

Why Study Criminology?

Criminology is the study of crime, its causes, and how society responds. This course allows you to explore patterns of criminal behaviour, the justice system, and the impact of crime on victims and communities. You'll learn to analyse evidence, evaluate theories, and consider moral and ethical issues. Criminology is ideal for students interested in people, society, and understanding the factors that influence behaviour, law, and social policy.

What Topics Are Covered?

- The nature and classification of crime
- Criminological theories and causes of crime
- Crime prevention and policing
- The criminal justice system
- Crime and social context

How is the Course Assessed?

- Combination of internal assignments and externally set assessments
- Coursework tasks involve research, case studies, and evaluation
- External examinations test knowledge and application of criminological theory

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Critical thinking and analytical skills
- Research and evaluation of evidence
- Written communication and essay writing
- Understanding of societal issues and ethical reasoning



Entry Requirements

GCSE English language grade 4 or above, GCSE maths at grade 4 or above.

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities to engage in courtroom scenarios with external guest speakers. Guest speakers to highlight potential careers within the Criminal Justice arena. International and national visits to venues that are part of the criminal justice system.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Criminology provides a strong foundation for careers in law, policing, forensic investigation, social work, youth work, and public service. It also supports further study in psychology, sociology, law, and criminal justice degrees. Success in Criminology demonstrates your ability to analyse complex social issues, evaluate evidence, and make informed decisions — skills highly valued by employers.

Engineering (OCR Extended Certificate - Cambridge Advance National)

Why Study the Subject?

Engineering is where ideas become real — it's about designing, building, and improving the things we use every day. This course places you at the heart of innovation: you'll work with practical tools, digital design, prototypes, and problem solving in real contexts. You'll explore how products are conceived, tested, and refined. Studying Engineering helps you think like a creator and a scientist, fostering technical knowledge, spatial reasoning, and creativity. If you enjoy combining practical work with technical thinking and want to bring your ideas to life, this subject is perfect for you.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Product analysis and redesign
- Computer-aided design (CAD)
- Modelling, prototyping, and testing
- Materials, processes, and manufacturing techniques
- Engineering drawing and specification
- Evaluating product performance and improvements

How is the Course Assessed?

- A mix of externally assessed exams and internally assessed coursework and projects.
- You'll be assessed on modelling and design, applied engineering tasks, and evaluation of product performance
- Practical assignments, design portfolios, and controlled tasks form a significant part of the internal assessment

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Technical drawing and CAD skills
- Practical modelling, prototyping, and testing
- Problem-solving in design and engineering contexts
- Analytical thinking, evaluation, and iteration
- Project management, planning, and teamwork

Entry Requirements

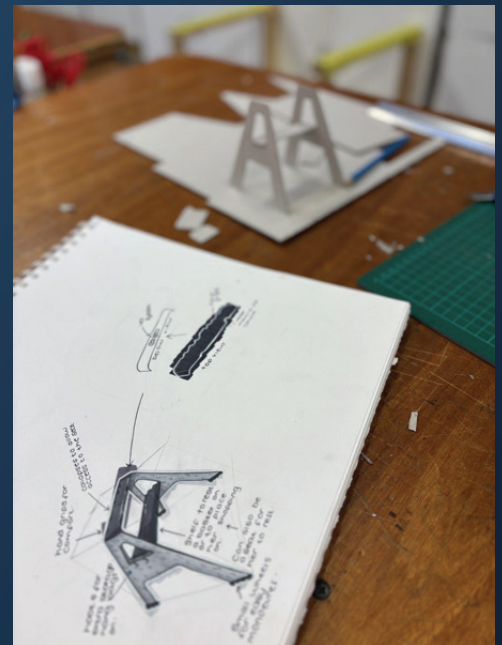
GCSE Technology at grade 5 or GCSE English and Maths at grade 5 or above.

Beyond the Classroom

We want to give students as many opportunities to link the learning we do in the classroom to experience outside the classroom. In the past we have organised visits to Local engineering firms, Silverstone and Triumph. We want to keep this and add more visits to give the students as many opportunities to see Engineering in action.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Engineering is a gateway to a broad range of careers in mechanical, civil, electrical, aerospace, and automotive engineering. It also supports further study in engineering, manufacturing, product design, and technology degrees. The skills you acquire — technical mindset, problem-solving, precise thinking, and project execution — are in demand across industries from robotics to renewable energy. Studying Engineering positions you to build, invent, and transform the world.



English Language (A-Level AQA)

Why Study English Language?

English Language is the study of how we use words to communicate, persuade, and create meaning. This course explores the power of language in society, from everyday conversation to media, politics, and literature. You'll develop analytical skills by examining language choices, grammar, and social context, while learning to construct clear, persuasive writing of your own. It's ideal for students who enjoy thinking critically, exploring ideas, and understanding human communication in depth.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Language analysis and representation
- Children's language acquisition and Children's Literacy
- Language and social groups (region, occupation, gender, ethnicity)
- Language change
- Language in the world
- Directed writing and creative skills

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Language, the Individual, and Society (2h30, 40%)
- Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change (2h30, 40%)
- Non-Exam Assessment: Independent Language Investigation (10%) & Original Writing (10%)

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Critical analysis and interpretation of language
- Academic and creative writing
- Research and data analysis
- Communication, evaluation, and reasoning skills

Entry Requirements

GCSE English language at grade 5 or above.

Beyond the Classroom

Students are able to take part in the district Public Speaking Competition, competing against a host of other schools in a parliamentary format. Students also attend the English Language Conference in order to enhance the taught curriculum knowledge and understanding.

Where Will Success Take Me?

English Language develops skills valued in journalism, publishing, media, law, teaching, marketing, and communications. Universities appreciate the analytical and research skills it provides, which also support study in sociology, psychology, linguistics, and creative writing. By studying English Language, you become confident in expressing ideas clearly, understanding context, and communicating effectively — vital skills in any career.



English Literature (A-Level AQA)

Why Study English Literature?

English Literature allows you to explore human experience through stories, poetry, and drama. You'll examine themes, characters, and the craft of writing, while developing the ability to analyse and interpret complex texts. The course encourages independent thought, debate, and creative insight, helping you understand society, culture, and the human condition. It's perfect for students who enjoy reading, critical discussion, and expressing ideas with clarity and depth.

What Topics Are Covered?

We study the following texts

- Paper 1: Literary Genres: Tragedy: William Shakespeare, 'Othello'; John Keats, Selection of Poetry; Arthur Miller, 'Death of A Salesman'
- Paper 2: Texts and Genres: Social and Political Protest writing: Margaret Atwood, 'The Handmaid's Tale'; Khaled Hosseini, 'The Kite Runner'; William Blake, 'Songs of Innocence and Experience'

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Drama and Poetry Pre-1900 2hours, 30 minutes 40%
- Paper 2: Prose and Unseen Texts 3 hours 40%
- Non-Exam Assessment: 2 pieces - a study of poetry (10%) and a study of prose (10%) informed by the study of the Critical Anthology

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Critical thinking and analytical skills
- Written communication and essay writing
- Research and evaluation of literary context
- Interpretation and argumentation

Entry Requirements

GCSE English Literature at grade 6 or above.

Beyond the Classroom

Opportunities for theatre visits. Last year students visited theatre productions of 'Othello' and 'Death of a Salesman'. Students are able to take part in the district Public Speaking Competition, competing against a host of other schools in a parliamentary format.

Where Will Success Take Me?

English Literature is highly valued for careers in teaching, publishing, journalism, law, media, and the creative industries. It also supports higher education in English, history, philosophy, and cultural studies. The subject demonstrates your ability to analyse complex ideas, construct reasoned arguments, and communicate effectively — skills that are highly sought after by universities and employers alike.



Food Science & Nutrition (Level 3 Applied Diploma - WJEC)

Why Study Food & Nutrition?

Food & Nutrition explores the science, culture, and skills behind what we eat. You'll study how food affects health, the role of diet in society, and develop practical skills in preparing and presenting nutritious dishes. This course is ideal for students interested in health, wellbeing, science, and culinary creativity, offering a balance between applied practical work and theoretical understanding.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Principles of nutrition and diet
- Food science and microbiology
- Food preparation and cooking techniques
- Health, safety, and hygiene
- Applied projects and case studies

How is the Course Assessed?

- Internal Assessments (Coursework) – portfolio of practical work and investigations (60%)
- External Assessment – written exam testing knowledge and understanding of food science and nutrition (40%)

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Practical cooking and food preparation
- Analytical and research skills
- Planning, organisation, and time management
- Understanding of health, diet, and wellbeing

Entry Requirements

GCSE English language grade 4 or above, GCSE maths at

Beyond the Classroom

We want to give students as many opportunities to link the learning we do in the classroom to experience outside the classroom. We organise for a chef to visit the school and share their skills with the students, and organised a visit to a kitchen to put the learning about industry settings into context.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Food & Nutrition prepares students for careers in dietetics, nutrition, health promotion, catering, hospitality, and the food industry. It also provides a foundation for further study in health sciences, public health, sports science, and culinary arts. Success in this course shows that you can combine scientific knowledge with practical skills, creativity, and an understanding of wellbeing.



Geography (A-Level AQA)

Why Study Geography?

Geography is the study of people, places, and the environment. It helps you understand how natural and human systems interact, from climate change to urban development. Studying Geography develops critical thinking, research skills, and the ability to analyse complex problems. You'll explore global issues, fieldwork, and data collection, making it perfect for students interested in science, society, and the world around them.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Physical geography: water & carbon cycles, coastal systems & landscapes & hazards
- Human geography: global systems & governance, changing places, contemporary urban environments
- Geographical skills: data collection techniques, literature review, data presentation, data analysis, fieldwork, and GIS

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Physical Geography (2 hour 30 minutes, 120 marks, 35%)
- Paper 2: Human Geography (2 hour 30 minutes, 120 marks, 35%)
- on Examined Assessment (NEA): 60 marks, marked by teachers and moderated by AQA

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Analytical thinking and problem-solving
- Fieldwork and research skills
- Data interpretation and presentation
- Understanding of global issues and sustainability

Entry Requirements

GCSE Geography at grade 6 or above

Beyond the Classroom

The possibilities here are endless! Students take part in fieldwork opportunities both locally and nationally, which includes a four-day residential to Dorset and the Holderness Coastline. There are also international visits. In the past, these have included Iceland, Italy and the Azores. Students can also support as subject ambassadors, working in a mentoring capacity with classes in younger year

Where Will Success Take Me?

Geography equips you for careers in environmental management, urban planning, surveying, conservation, and international development. It also supports higher education in geography, environmental science, geology, and related disciplines. Geography graduates are valued for their ability to analyse complex systems, think critically, and understand both human and physical processes — essential skills in a rapidly changing world.



History (A-Level AQA)

Why Study History?

History isn't just about the past — it's about understanding the forces that shape our world today. This course empowers you to analyse pivotal events, interpret complex evidence, and appreciate diverse perspectives. As you delve into political, social, and cultural transformations, you'll sharpen your critical thinking and research skills — assets that are invaluable in any field. If you're curious about the roots of modern society, passionate about debate, and eager to explore the stories that have defined nations and cultures.

What Topics Are Covered?

Module 1: The Tudors: England 1485-1603. This topic allows students to investigate the changes to England under the various Tudor Monarchs such as Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

Module 2: America 1945-1980. This topic allows students to investigate the Presidencies of Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter. It also focuses on social, economic and international changes which affected the lives of civilians both in America and abroad.

Module 3: Coursework study. Students complete a 4500 word personal study or mini dissertation on a topic of world history focussing on significance and interpretations.

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Breadth Study (2 hours and 30 minutes, 40% of final grade)
- Paper 2: Depth Study (2 hours and 30 minutes, 40% of final grade)
- Non-Exam Assessment - Historical Investigation (20% of final grade)

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence
- Essay writing and structured argument
- Research and source interpretation
- Understanding of continuity, change, and causation



Entry Requirements

GCSE History at grade 6 or above.

Beyond the Classroom

Year 12 students get the opportunity to visit Hampton Court Palace as part of their studies to broaden their understanding of the extravagant lifestyle lived by members of the Tudor Dynasty.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Studying History equips you with powerful, real-world skills that are in high demand across law, journalism, education, politics, public service, and the heritage sector. It lays a strong foundation for university-level study in history, politics, international relations, and the social sciences — opening doors to a wide range of academic and professional pathways. Excelling in History proves you can think critically, craft compelling arguments, and navigate complex societal dynamics — all of which are essential in today's fast-changing world and highly transferable to countless careers.

Mathematics (A-Level AQA)

Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics develops your problem-solving, modelling, and reasoning skills using real-life applications. This course explores mechanics, statistics, and mathematical modelling, making it ideal for students who enjoy applying maths to solve practical problems. You'll develop logical thinking, analytical skills, and the ability to communicate complex ideas clearly. Mathematics is perfect for students who want a challenging, stimulating maths course with relevance to real world contexts.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Pure mathematics: algebra, calculus, sequences, and trigonometry
- Mechanics: motion, forces, and Newtonian principles
- Statistics: probability, distributions, and data analysis
- Mathematical modelling and problem-solving

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (2h, 33%)
- Paper 2: Pure Mathematics & Mechanics (2h, 33%)
- Paper 3: Pure Mathematics & Statistics (2h, 33%)

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Problem-solving and logical reasoning
- Modelling and analytical thinking
- Data interpretation and statistical analysis
- Communication of mathematical ideas clearly

Entry Requirements

GCSE Maths at grade 7 or above.

Beyond the Classroom

Students are given the opportunity to take part in the UKMT Mathematical challenges, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate their problem solving and logical reasoning skills.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Mathematics prepares students for careers in engineering, finance, actuarial work, scientific research, computer science, and analytics. It also supports higher education in mathematics, physics, engineering, and economics. Success in this course demonstrates your ability to think critically, solve complex problems, and apply mathematical reasoning — skills highly valued in a wide range of professions.



Mental Health: Individuals & Society (OCR Extended Certificate – Cambridge Advanced National)

Why Study the Subject?

Mental health is one of the most critical challenges facing society today. This course gives you a real chance to understand mental health from multiple perspectives—biological, psychological, and social. You'll dig into how mental health is defined, what factors influence wellbeing, and how society responds to mental health issues. Through applied learning, case studies, and real-world scenarios, you'll explore stigma, changing attitudes, and current policy debates. If you're passionate about empathy, health, and social justice, this subject empowers you to make a difference — in communities, in organisations, and potentially in your future career.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Concepts of mental health and illness
- The changing attitudes to mental health over time
- Biological, cognitive, and sociocultural explanations of mental health
- Approaches used to treat and support mental health
- Mental health in individuals and society
- Applied strategies to promote wellbeing

How is the Course Assessed?

- Externally assessed examinations and set tasks (approximately 40–50%)
- Internally assessed assignments and projects (approximately 50–60%)
- Tasks involve analysis of case studies, application of theory, and evaluation
- Combination of written responses, problem-solving, and scenario-based work

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Critical thinking and evaluation of theories and evidence
- Research and data interpretation skills
- Empathy, reflection, and understanding of human behaviour
- Communication, argumentation, and presentation in health contexts

Entry Requirements

GCSE English language grade 4 or above, GCSE maths at grade 4 or above.

Beyond the Classroom

- Opportunities to engage in Mental Health support scenarios in a real life setting as part of an external visit.
- Guest speaker introducing potential careers within the Mental Health profession.
- International visits.

Where Will Success Take Me?

This qualification is ideal for students aiming for careers or further study in psychology, counselling, social work, mental health services, public health, or community support roles. It also supports progression to health and social science degrees. Beyond specific careers, this subject develops transferable skills in ethics, communication, empathy, and analytical thinking — qualities that are in demand across the public, non-profit, and caring sectors.

Music (A-Level AQA)

Why Study Music?

Music is a vibrant A-Level choice, allowing learners to explore their musical interests and their creativity. It combines performance, composition, and analysis, allowing you to explore different genres and styles. You will develop your performance skills, focusing on the performance style that suits you best, as well as begin to specialise in composition. Studying Music encourages creativity, discipline, and critical thinking, and an obvious choice for any musician.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Performance
- Composition
- Musical Theatre
- Jazz Music
- Classical Music

How is the Course Assessed?

- Performance (35%) – 1 recital of 10+ minutes, any instrument, solo or ensemble.
- Composition (25%) – 2 pieces (1 based on a topic we've studied / 1 in a genre of your choice)
- Listening and Appraising (40%) – 1 exam based on key topics, with listening descriptions, context, and an essay.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Creativity and musical expression
- Technical performance skills
- Analytical and critical thinking
- Time management and self-discipline

Entry Requirements

GCSE Music at grade 6 or above or individual application based on musical talent & graded music exams.

Beyond the Classroom

We have numerous opportunities outside of the classroom to take advantage of. Our incredibly successful Music Department offers instrument lessons for every common instrument (at a reduced rate for A-Level students). We have a host of bands and choirs running, from the Rhythm and Blues orchestra to student led rock groups. We run several major concerts throughout the year, giving lots of performance opportunities, as well as a host of small community gigs. The A-Level class also has a termly concert trip to Birmingham at a heavily subsidised cost.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Music opens doors to careers in performance, composition, teaching, music production, sound engineering, and the wider creative industries. It also supports higher education in music, performing arts, and media studies.

Studying Music develops creativity, and collaborative skills, all highly valued in professional and academic contexts. Due to the high level of discipline needed to be a musician, Music A-Levels are very well regarded at university level, speaking of dedication and skilfulness.



Performing Arts (BTEC Extended Certificate – Pearson)

Why Study Performing Arts?

Over the two-year course, you will develop your creativity, confidence and performance skills through practical workshops, rehearsals and live performances.

Training will cover acting, vocal and movement techniques, choreography, devising and directing. You will also explore theatre history and influential practitioners, developing your understanding of how theatre is created and performed.

Alongside practical work, you will build essential skills in collaboration, independent study and research, whilst preparing for future opportunities in Higher Education and the performing arts industry.

Whether you aspire to pursue a career in the creative industries or develop your skills as a performer, this course will challenge you to reach your potential, express your creativity and build the confidence, resilience and skills to succeed both on stage and beyond.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Investigating Practitioners' Work - Explore influential theatre practitioners, analysing their techniques, creative intentions and the ways they communicate themes and ideas.
- Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance
- Group Performance Workshop - Create and perform an original piece in response to a given stimulus.
- Musical Theatre Techniques

How is the Course Assessed?

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and has four units. Two are externally assessed and two internally assessed. External assessment accounts for approximately 58% of the qualification.

What Skills Will I Develop?

Throughout the course, you will develop your creativity, imagination and confidence as a performer. You will learn to devise original work, collaborate effectively, work as part of a team and explore different perspectives through empathy and interpretation.

You will strengthen your research, problem-solving and independent learning skills, whilst developing the resilience, discipline and commitment needed to respond to feedback, overcome challenges and achieve your potential.

Entry Requirements

English & Maths at Grade 4 or above. It is recommended that you achieved a Level 2 Pass/grade 5 in Performing Arts/Drama, if previously studied. However, you can still choose Performing Arts if you have not studied it previously – after discussion with the Assistant Headteacher for Sixth Form.

Beyond the Classroom

There are many opportunities in Performing Arts, such as the annual school show and theatre trips, including an annual residential visit to London's West End.

Where Will Success Take Me?

This qualification can lead to further study at university or drama school, or careers such as actor, director, performer, choreographer, theatre technician, drama teacher or arts administrator.

You will also develop highly valued transferable skills, including confidence, communication, teamwork, organisation, time management and resilience, preparing you for a wide range of future opportunities. The skills developed through Performing Arts can open doors to careers in theatre, film, television, media and journalism, law, politics, event management and teaching.



Philosophy & Ethics (A-Level OCR)

Why Study Philosophy & Ethics?

Philosophy & Ethics explores fundamental questions about life, morality, and existence. You'll examine ethical theories, religious beliefs, and philosophical arguments, learning to think critically and independently. The course develops your ability to analyse complex ideas, construct reasoned arguments, and reflect on moral and social issues. It's ideal for students who enjoy debating, thinking deeply about human experience, and exploring questions that challenge assumptions.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Ancient Greek influences on philosophical thought
- The Nature of God, arguments for and against God's existence
- The Problem of Evil as evidence against the existence of God
- Ethical theories and applied ethics such as Business and Sexual Ethics
- Ethical and Philosophical Language
- Foundations of Christian thought
- The development of religion in society: religious pluralism and secularisation
- The challenges of religion: the influence and challenge of gender roles and the role it plays in supporting or oppressing society

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion (2h, 33.3%)
- Paper 2: Ethics (2h, 33.3%)
- Paper 3: Developments in Religious Thought - Christianity (2h, 33.3%)

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Critical thinking and logical reasoning
- Written communication and argumentation
- Ethical analysis and decision-making
- Research and independent thinking

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 6 or above in RE, History or Philosophy & Ethics.

Beyond the Classroom

- Opportunities to attend lectures delivered by university professors
- Online masterclasses to support writing skills in A-Level Philosophy

Where Will Success Take Me?

Philosophy & Ethics prepares students for careers in law, journalism, teaching, public service, and theology. It also supports further study in philosophy, religious studies, politics, and ethics. Success in this subject shows that you can analyse complex issues, construct reasoned arguments, and consider ethical implications — skills highly valued in professional and academic



Photography (A-Level AQA)

Why Study Photography?

Photography is a creative subject that combines technical skill with artistic expression. You'll explore how to capture, manipulate, and present images while developing an understanding of visual communication. The course encourages experimentation, personal expression, and critical evaluation of your work and the work of others. Photography is ideal for students who enjoy creativity, visual storytelling, and exploring the world through a lens.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Digital and traditional photography techniques.
- Composition, lighting, and post-processing.
- Documentary, portrait, and landscape photography.
- Critical analysis of photographers and visual culture.
- Personal investigation and final project.

How is the Course Assessed?

- Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%) – A practical portfolio supported by written work (1000–3000 words).
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%) – Preparation work and a final 15-hour controlled assessment.

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Creativity and visual storytelling.
- Technical photography skills.
- Critical thinking and analysis.
- Project management and presentation.

Entry Requirements

GCSE English at grade 4 or above, with an interest in digital photography

Beyond the Classroom

Students take part in a careers talk from a higher education provider. They also get the chance to visit local art galleries. Students take part in a research visit to London exploring the city and the art galleries on offer. There are also opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities to support academy events.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Photography supports careers in commercial, editorial, and fine art photography, as well as advertising, media, and digital content creation. It also prepares students for higher education in photography, visual arts, and creative industries. Success in Photography demonstrates creativity, technical expertise, and the ability to communicate ideas visually — skills valued across many professions.



Physics (A-Level AQA)

Why Study Physics?

Physics is the study of the fundamental laws of nature and the universe. You'll explore topics from the behaviour of particles to the structure of the cosmos, combining mathematical analysis with experimental investigation. Studying Physics develops problem-solving, critical thinking, and analytical skills. It's perfect for students curious about how the world works, who enjoy mathematics, and who want to understand scientific principles behind modern technology.

What Topics Are Covered?

1. Measurements and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity
6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
7. Fields and their consequences
8. Nuclear Physics

Chosen modules from any one of the following:

1. Astrophysics
2. Medical Physics
3. Engineering Physics
4. Turning points
5. Electronics



How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Sections 1-5 + 6.1 (Periodic motion) (2 hours - 34%)
- Paper 2: Sections 6.2-8 (2 hours - 34%)
- Paper 3: 2 hours - 32%
- Section A: Compulsory section: Practical skills and data analysis
- Section B: Students enter for one of sections 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13
- Practical Endorsement – assessed separately to recognise lab competence

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Mathematical modelling and problem-solving
- Practical laboratory and investigation skills
- Data analysis and critical evaluation
- Logical reasoning and scientific communication

Entry Requirements

Grade 6-6 at GCSE Combined Science or grade 6 in GCSE Physics. Students should also achieve at least grade 6 at GCSE Mathematics.

Beyond the Classroom

Students taking A-Level Physics enjoy a dynamic programme that reaches well beyond traditional classroom study. Cutting-edge technology enables them to visualise and interact with complex ideas — from the behaviour of subatomic particles and electromagnetic fields to the vast scales of astrophysics and space exploration. Practical learning is also encouraged through engineering projects, and enrichment visits, where students apply theoretical knowledge to real-world contexts and strengthen their analytical and investigative skills.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Physics opens doors to careers in engineering, medicine, aerospace, technology, research, and environmental science. It also supports higher education in physics, mathematics, engineering, and computer science. Success in Physics demonstrates analytical ability, logical thinking, and practical problem-solving — skills that are highly prized by employers and universities.

“

Having worked with some of the most famous fee-paying and state-funded Sixth Forms in the country, I can easily say that EDA Sixth Form students are the most personable, eloquent and mature young adults I have had the pleasure to meet.”

***External Education Review
June 2025***

Psychology (A-Level AQA)

Why Study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. You'll explore how people think, feel, and act in different situations, combining theory with practical research. The course allows you to understand human development, mental processes, and the influence of society and biology on behaviour. Studying Psychology develops analytical thinking, research skills, and an understanding of complex social and biological systems. It's ideal for students curious about human behaviour and interested in helping others or pursuing careers in health, education, or research.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Social influence and obedience
- Memory and cognition
- Attachment and development
- Psychopathology and mental health
- Approaches in psychology and research methods.

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology (2h, 33.3%)
- Paper 2: Psychology in Context (2h, 33.3%)
- Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology (2h, 33.3%)

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Research, data analysis, and critical evaluation
- Understanding and applying scientific methodology
- Problem-solving and analytical thinking
- Communication and independent learning

Entry Requirements

GCSE English at grade 5 or above, GCSE maths at grade 5 or above & GCSE science at grade 5 or above

Beyond the Classroom

- Visits to venues that enhance the taught curriculum around social science.
- External revision sessions to support exam success within this qualification.
- Guest speakers highlighting potential careers linking to Psychology, along with advice and guidance on how to access these careers.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Psychology provides pathways to careers in clinical and counselling psychology, social work, education, healthcare, forensic science, and research. It also supports further study in psychology, neuroscience, sociology, and healthcare-related degrees. Success in Psychology shows you can analyse human behaviour, evaluate evidence, and apply knowledge practically — skills valued in many professional contexts.



Sociology (A-Level AQA)

Why Study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of society, social relationships, and human behaviour. You'll explore how institutions, culture, and social policies shape our lives and the world around us. The course encourages critical thinking, discussion, and research into real-world issues such as inequality, crime, family structures, and education. Studying Sociology develops your ability to analyse social patterns, evaluate evidence, and understand diverse perspectives. It's ideal for students interested in society, social justice, and making a positive impact.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Families and households
- Education and social stratification
- Crime and deviance
- Sociological research methods
- Beliefs, culture, and media

How is the Course Assessed?

- Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods (2h, 33.3%)
- Paper 2: Topics in Sociology (2h, 33.3%)
- Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods (2h, 33.3%)

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Critical thinking and sociological analysis
- Research and data interpretation
- Written communication and argumentation
- Understanding of social issues and ethical reasoning

Entry Requirements

GCSE English at grade 5 or above, GCSE maths at grade 5 or above & GCSE. GCSE Sociology at grade 5 or above preferred.

Beyond the Classroom

- Opportunities to engage in sociological theory scenarios with external guest speakers.
- Guest speakers to highlight potential careers within Social Sciences.
- International and national visits to venues.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Sociology prepares students for careers in social research, education, law, public policy, youth work, social work, and community development. It also supports higher education in sociology, criminology, psychology, and political science. Success in Sociology shows that you can analyse complex social issues, evaluate evidence critically, and understand diverse perspectives — skills highly valued by universities and employers.



Sport (BTEC Extended Certificate - Pearson)

Why Study Sport?

The BTEC in Sport provides practical and theoretical knowledge of physical activity, health, and performance. You'll learn about anatomy, physiology, fitness training, and sports leadership, combining classroom theory with hands-on experience. The course is perfect for students passionate about sport, fitness, and wellbeing, offering opportunities to develop both knowledge and practical skills that can be applied immediately in sporting contexts.

What Topics Are Covered?

- Anatomy and physiology for sport
- Fitness training and programming
- Sports psychology and leadership
- Practical performance and evaluation
- Applied projects in sport

How is the Course Assessed?

- Internal Assessment (Coursework) – practical and theoretical assignments (60%)
- External Assessment – written exam testing applied knowledge (40%)

What Skills Will I Develop?

- Practical coaching and leadership
- Fitness planning and performance analysis
- Research, evaluation, and communication skills
- Teamwork, organisation, and problem-solving

Entry Requirements

GCSE English language grade 4 or above, GCSE maths at grade 4 or above.

Beyond the Classroom

Students visit a sports testing centre, which supports their understanding of anatomy and physiology content for Unit 1. Alongside this, students attend a visit to a local sporting facility to experience reformer pilates and hyrox training. Students are all offered the opportunity to volunteer and support in core PE in Years 7-11, along with a host of sporting events including primary partnership days.

Where Will Success Take Me?

Sport prepares students for careers in sports coaching, personal training, physiotherapy, sports development, PE teaching, and fitness management. It also supports higher education in sports science, physiotherapy, leisure management, and health-related degrees. Success in this course demonstrates practical expertise, leadership, and applied knowledge — skills that are highly valued in both professional and academic contexts.



