

# SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM BOOKLET



**The Sixth Form is a very important part of Newlands Girls' School and we are proud to support our students in becoming confident and strong young adults.**

**Our highly qualified and passionate teachers are all specialists in their field, who enjoy inspiring students. Our offer of 25 A-Level courses and 4 BTEC options provides each individual with an appropriate programme of learning so that our Sixth Formers are equipped with a solid foundation upon which to build when starting university, an apprenticeship or employment.**

**We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form.**



**"Newlands provides young women with a positive and academic environment, which enables them to grow and prosper. The school ethos, along with outstanding teaching staff, gives us the confidence and ambition to be successful in our education and helps prepare us for the future."**

**Head Girls 2024**

**The Sixth Form Team:**

**Mrs G. Walton, Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form**

**Miss E. Le Cuirot, Head of Year 13**

**Ms J. Bennett, Head of Year 12**

# SIXTH FORM SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 2025

## (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Subject	Minimum GCSE Requirements
Art - Fine Art	5 in Art
Biology	7 in Biology or 7:7 in Combined Science
BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business	5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including English and Mathematics
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business	5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including English and Mathematics
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Science	5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including Combined Science, English and Mathematics
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care	5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including Combined Science, English and Mathematics
Business	5 in Business Studies or, for students who have not previously studied this subject, 5 in English and Mathematics
Chemistry	7 in Chemistry or 7:7 in Combined Science
Dance	Grade 5 in Ballet (or the equivalent standard - see curriculum booklet for details)
Design and Techonology	5 in a Design and Technology subject and 5 in Mathematics
Economics	6 in Mathematics and 5 in English
English Language	6 in English Language
English Literature	6 English Literature

# SIXTH FORM SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 2025

## (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Subject	Minimum GCSE Requirements
French	6 in French
Further Mathematics	8 in Mathematics
Geography	6 in Geography and 5 in Mathematics
German	6 in German
Government and Politics	6 in English or 6 in History
History	6 in History
Mathematics	7 in Mathematics
Media Studies	4 in English and Mathematics
Music	5 in Music. Grade 5 ABR SM Theory qualification is preferable
Photography	4 in English and Mathematics
Physical Education	5 in Physical Education with 5 in the theory paper. It is strongly recommended you have a 6:6 in Combined Science, or a 6 in Biology.
Physics	7 in Physics or 7:7 in Combined Science, and 6 in Mathematics
Psychology	6 in Mathematics or 6 in Science
Religious Studies	6 in Religious Studies
Spanish	6 in Spanish
Theatre Studies	5 in Drama and 5 in English

# FINE ART



## Course Requirements

You need to have a minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE Art to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Miss H. Jackson  
Head of Fine Art and  
Photography

Art is a form of communication and a vehicle for self-expression to explore ideas and emotions. Studying Fine Art A-Level encourages you to draw upon your imagination, whilst developing observational, analytical and practical skills. Students are encouraged to visit galleries, museums and exhibitions to develop their wider subject knowledge.

Many Fine Art students go on to study a Foundation Art degree, before selecting their course at university. Studying Fine Art opens up a variety of creative career pathways including Fine Art Painting and Sculpting, Model Making, Animation, Illustration, Interior Architecture, Theatre/Costume Design and Printmaking.

### What will I learn on this course?

The Year 12 study programme develops two components of work, which integrate practical, critical and theoretical studies, using a variety of media and processes.

The Year 13 study programme further extends practical work and your skill in independent study, working from given themes and starting points. Components of work address the four assessment objectives and can include the following: painting, sculpture, drawing and recording using a variety of media, printmaking and ceramics.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.

In Year 13 you will complete two components of coursework, which will be started in Year 12 and completed over the two years.

- Component 1 - (60%) is a personal investigation; this will include a written element of between 1000 - 3000 words. You begin this in year 12 and finish January time in year 13.
- Component 2 -(40%) is an externally set assignment given by the examination board (AQA) including preparation time and fifteen hours of supervised time. This will begin in February time in year 13.



# BIOLOGY



## Course Requirements

You need to have achieved a minimum of grade 7;7 in Combined Science GCSE, including grade 7s in your Biology modules, or a minimum of grade 7 in Biology GCSE, to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Mrs S. Everest  
Head of Biology

If you plan to study science or a medicine-related degree course at university, Biology is considered to be a rigorous subject and is one of the 'facilitating subjects' identified by the Russell Group universities. This makes it a good choice even if you do not wish to study science; it is widely accepted that sciences develop transferrable skills that are very much in demand.

Many of our students go on to study subjects such as medicine, veterinary sciences, genetics, physiotherapy, biomedical sciences and biochemistry. Local employers also have a strong demand for A-Level students who do not wish to go to university and there is an excellent range of Biology-related apprenticeships available. The NHS employs biologists in a vast range of careers, including nursing, and offers apprenticeships, too.

### What will I learn on this course?

In Year 12 you will study topics such as the chemistry of biological molecules, cell structure, how substances are moved between cells and around organisms, as well as genetics. In Year 13 you will study topics such as how energy is transferred between organisms, the biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis, how organisms maintain homeostasis as well as inheritance and DNA technologies.

In addition you will complete 12 assessed practical experiments in lesson time, on which questions will be asked in the examinations at the end of each year. You will develop many transferrable skills such as analysis and forming evidence-based conclusions. For this you will be awarded a practical endorsement.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 you will sit three 2-hour examinations on both Year 12 and Year 13 content, which will determine your A-Level grade.

# BUSINESS



## Course Requirements

You should have a minimum of a grade 5 in Business Studies GCSE. For pupils who have not previously studied this subject, grade 5 in English and grade 5 in Maths GCSE are required.

### Examination Board:

AQA

You should be independent in your learning and have a desire to follow business events in the media and be able to view them from a critical perspective.

### Staff contact:

Ms H. Judson  
Head of Business and  
Economics

News headlines offer continual reminders of how relevant and interesting the business world is to us all. In recent years, much attention has been directed towards the effects of Brexit and Covid on Business. Longer term issues continue to hit the headlines too: business and the environment; the impact of new technologies; and the question of ethics in business. Business Studies allows you to explore these exciting matters whilst developing an enquiring, creative and analytical approach to learning.

### What will I learn on this course?

In Year 12, you will focus on what business is - planning, management and leadership. You will further explore the four key functional areas of Marketing, Human Resources (HR), Operations and Finance and their decision-making processes.

In Year 13, there will be a deeper coverage of these areas plus additional topics of strategic management, change management, business culture and the external environment.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In Year 13 you will sit three 2-hour examinations which will assess both Year 12 and 13 content.

# CHEMISTRY



## Course Requirements

You need to have achieved a minimum of grade 7;7 in Combined Science GCSE, including grade 7s in your Chemistry modules, or a minimum of grade 7 in Chemistry GCSE to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Mrs L. Baker  
Head of Chemistry

Chemistry is the basis for life. As such, A-Level Chemistry provides an excellent background for students wishing to understand life sciences in detail. Chemistry is “the central science”, making connections with concepts covered in Biology, Physics and Mathematics. A-Level Chemistry also helps students to develop wider skills, especially problem solving skills, which are highly sought after by top universities and employers in a range of areas.

The results of research in Chemistry are all around us and help to improve our daily lives. Indeed, research in Chemistry holds the key to the problems faced by future generations, from sustainable fuels and improving our atmosphere to developing new drugs and materials.

### What will I learn on this course?

The Year 12 content builds on what students have learned in GCSE about atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical reactions and organic chemistry.

In Year 13, students will expand their knowledge of Physical, Inorganic and Organic Chemistry. The course incorporates a range of practical tasks to illustrate theoretical concepts and to develop a range of investigative and technical skills.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 there are three examination papers, which will assess theoretical and practical aspects of the course.

# DANCE



## Course Requirements

Previous dance training is essential and students should have a qualification such as a grade 5 in ballet or another dance discipline (or be able to demonstrate ability at that level) in addition to grade 5 English GCSE.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Miss M. Claxton  
Head of Physical Education

A-level Dance is active, physically demanding, intellectually stimulating and, most importantly, fun. The course is highly practical: you will develop your technique, expand your movement vocabulary and explore your skills through regular performance. It is suitable for students who have a genuine interest and passion for dance.

A-Level Dance is an ideal qualification for those looking to pursue a career in the creative industry or within performing arts. Its broad yet detailed areas of study within performance, choreography and critical engagement ensure students are well-prepared for work within the industries, as well as further or higher education and university programmes.

### What will I learn on this course?

This course offers you the chance to develop your skills in choreography, performance and analysis. Through analysis of professional works, you will understand their techniques and apply them to your own creative work, developing confidence to become an inspired dancer and choreographer. You will also learn to write analytically, succinctly and insightfully about the processes of dance. Aside from improving dance technique, the course provides the opportunity for students to explore a range of skills to prepare students for work or university. Students will learn how to be independent learners, develop leadership skills, work collaboratively with peers, as well as gaining confidence in front of an audience.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

#### Component 1

Performance and Choreography (Practical 50% of marks)

- Solo performance (linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study).
- Group Performance – Quartet.
- Group choreography based upon a question set by the exam board (students choreograph a piece for other dancers).

#### Component 2

Critical Engagement (Theory 50% of marks)

- Written exam that consists of both structured and essay style questions based on the set works that you study throughout the course.



# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



## Course Requirements

You will require at least a grade 5 in GCSE Design and Technology and a grade 5 in GCSE Maths along with the necessary work ethic and time commitment.

### Exam Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Ms T. Dudley  
Head of Design and Technology

## Fashion and Textiles

Our aim is to ignite your creativity, encouraging you to embrace your unique style, push the boundaries of your imagination, and excel in your chosen field. You will have the opportunity to specialise in fashion, textiles, theatrical costumes, focusing your skills and honing your expertise. Furthermore, you will work with a wide range of materials, enhancing your abilities and broadening your understanding.

You will acquire knowledge and expertise by participating in hands-on lessons that will encourage you to explore various materials and techniques, ultimately enhancing your abilities and knowledge. In Year 12, you will study a range of textiles and techniques, building on your existing knowledge and skills. In Year 13, you will complete a major design project which will enhance your skills by enabling you to explore ideas in greater detail.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

During Year 13, You will create a portfolio to accompany your design project, followed by 2 exams papers which will assess designing and making principles and technical principles.

## Product Design

You will explore a range of materials and products. You will also experience the challenges faced by designers. There will be opportunities for you to work in an area of design and technology that you have not yet tried.

In Year 12 you will study a range of materials and processes, building on your existing knowledge. In Year 13, you will complete a major design project which will enhance your skills by enabling you to explore ideas in greater detail.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

During Year 13, You will create a portfolio to accompany your design project, followed by 2 exams papers which will assess designing and making principles and technical principles.

# ECONOMICS



## Course Requirements

You need to have a grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE and a grade 5 in English GCSE.

### Examination Board:

Edexcel

You should be independent in your learning and have a keen desire to follow economic events and news in the media, and be able to view them from a critical perspective.

### Staff contact:

Ms H. Judson  
Head of Business and Economics

Economics is about choice and the impact of choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives; from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. Economics is a social-science and at its very heart, is the study of people. It seeks to explain what drives human behaviour, decisions and reactions when faced with difficulties or successes.

Economics is a discipline which combines politics, sociology, psychology and history. When you study economics you gain a toolkit of skills, approaches and ways of thinking that you can apply to a wide range of problems.

### What will I learn on this course?

In Year 12 students study Theme 1 and Theme 2 where they will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail. It will also consider the role of government and the UK economy.

In Year 13 students will study Themes 3 and Theme 4 students will explore how businesses grow and compete, the labour market and how the government intervenes to make markets work better. It will also explore international trade, inequality within and between countries, emerging and developing economies and the public finances. They will also have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.

In Year 13 you will complete three external exams:

- Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour. This will assess microeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 3
- Paper 2: The national and global economy. This will assess macroeconomics and questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 4
- Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. This paper will assess content across all four themes.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE



## Course Requirements

You will need a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Mr A. Kerrigan  
Head of English

English Language encourages you to develop your interest in and appreciation of English through learning about its structures and its functions, its developments and its variations. It also allows you to develop your ability to express yourself in both speech and academic writing. English Language provides a pathway into a diverse range of careers, including copywriting, marketing, journalism, lexicography, and teaching.

### What will I learn on this course?

#### Year 12

Paper 1: Language, the Individual, and Society  
Section A: Textual Variations and Representations  
Section B: Children's Language Development

#### Year 13

Paper 2: Language, Diversity, and Change  
Section A: Diversity and Change  
Section B: Language Discourses

Non-exam assessment: Language in Action

1. A language investigation (2,000 words)
2. A piece of original writing and commentary (1,500 words)

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.

In Year 13 you will complete three elements, which will make up your final grade.

- Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society (2 hours 30 minutes)
- Paper 2: Language, Diversity, and Change (2 hours 30 minutes)
- NEA: Language in Action (a 2,000 word language investigation and a 1,500 word piece of original writing and commentary).



# ENGLISH LITERATURE



## Course Requirements

You will need a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE English Literature

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Mr A. Kerrigan  
Head of English

The course aims to extend your understanding and enjoyment of English Literature from GCSE and develop your ability to be an informed and independent reader across a range of genres and periods. You will follow the AQA Specification. English Literature provides a pathway into a diverse range of careers, including publishing, copywriting, marketing, journalism, and teaching.

### What will I learn on this course?

#### Year 12

Unit 1: 'Love through the Ages': You will study a variety of plays, prose texts and poetry, exploring the theme of love in literature across the ages.

Unit 3: Non-examined Assessment: independent study of texts across time. A comparison of two texts, where you will create your own task and analyse texts of your choice.

#### Year 13

Texts in Shared Contexts: World War 1 and its Aftermath.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.

In Year 13 you will complete three units, which will make up your final grade:

- Component 1: 40% 'Love through the Ages'. 3 hour written examination.
- Component 2: 40% Texts in Shared Contexts. 2 hours 30 minutes written examination.
- Component 3: 20% Non-exam assessment (coursework): 'Texts across Time', one extended comparative essay on two texts to include one text written pre-1900. Word count 2,500.

# FURTHER MATHEMATICS



## Course Requirements

You will require a grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

EDEXCEL

### Staff Contact:

Mr D. Willmott  
Head of Mathematics

The Edexcel Further Mathematics A-Level course is a challenging qualification, which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond standard A-Level Mathematics. As well as learning new areas of pure mathematics, you will study mechanics, statistics and decision mathematics. If you are planning to take a degree such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Finance/Economics or perhaps Mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking Further Mathematics.

### What will I learn on this course?

In Year 12 you will study the following Core Pure topics: Complex Numbers, Argand Diagrams, Series, Roots of Polynomials, Volumes of Revolution, Matrices, Linear Transformations, Proof by Induction and Vectors.

Then we choose two modules from: Further Statistics 1, Further Mechanics 1, Decision 1, Further Pure 1, Further Statistics 2, Further Mechanics 2, Decision 2 and Further Pure 2 to complete the Year 12 content.

In Year 13 you will study the following Core Pure Topics: Further Complex Numbers, Further Series, Methods in Calculus, Further Volumes of Revolution, Polar Coordinates, Hyperbolic Functions, Methods in Differential Equations and Modelling with Differential Equations.

We then continue with the two chosen modules from Year 12 and complete the Year 13 content.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination
- In Year 13 the Edexcel Further Mathematics A-Level consists of four externally-examined papers.
- All examinations are 1 hour 30 minutes in length; calculators can be used in all papers.

# GEOGRAPHY



## Course Requirements

You need to have achieved a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Geography and have achieved a grade 5 in GCSE Maths to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

EDEXCEL

### Staff contact:

Mrs E. Coombs  
Head of Geography

Should you choose to study Geography, you will learn about the world around you, explore the key issues facing the planet today and examine a range of potential solutions to them.

### What will I learn on this course?

Year 12

Dynamic Landscapes is made up of 2 areas of study:

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – option 2b Coastal Landscape and Change. There will be a 3 day compulsory residential fieldtrip to the Jurassic Coast in Dorset.

Dynamic Places is made up of the following 2 areas of study:

- Globalisation
- Shaping Places – option 2b Diverse Places.

Year 13:

Physical Systems and Sustainability is made up of 2 areas of study:

- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Human Systems and Geopolitics is made up of 2 areas of study:

- Superpowers
- Global Development and Connections - option 8b (migration, identity and sovereignty)

A-Level Independent Investigation: this will consist of 3,000 – 4,000 words.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 you will complete three examinations plus your independent investigation, which will make up your final grade.

# GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS



## Course Requirements

You will need to have achieved a GCSE grade 6 in English or grade 6 in History to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff contact:

Mr B. Evans  
Head of History and Government and Politics

Students will be introduced to the Government and Politics of the UK and the USA, including Parliament, Congress and the legislative processes in both countries. In addition, the specification now includes the opportunity to study the development of political ideas from John Stuart Mill and Mary Wollstonecraft to Marx and Crosland. You will develop the skills of research, problem solving, analysis and evaluation. You will strengthen your ICT, communication and team-working skills. Opportunities to visit parliament and meet MPs and prospective candidates bring the process to life and enhance understanding of core concepts.

### What will I learn on this course?

Paper 1: The Government and Politics of the United Kingdom: the system of ruling the United Kingdom, the role of politicians, pressure groups and the party system and how these groups affect the outcome of elections.

Paper 2: The Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics: a study of politics in the USA, the Federal Government system and how the role of the individual states affects the National Government, the Presidential Election. This paper includes a section on comparing the systems of the UK and the USA.

Paper 3: Political Ideas: Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism and Feminism.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.

In Year 13 you will complete the following examinations:

- Paper 1 - written examination 2 hours (33⅓ %)
- Paper 2 - written examination 2 hours (33⅓ %)
- Paper 3 - written examination 2 hours (33⅓ %)

# HISTORY



## Course Requirements

You need to have achieved a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE History to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Mr B. Evans  
Head of History and  
Government and Politics

Should you choose to study History, your skills of analysis and evaluation will be developed along with your ability to form a structured and considered argument. We will teach you to deal with conflicting data, consider evidence and strengthen your communication skills, both written and oral.

A-Level History is for you if you have an interest in the way the world has changed and developed through time. History is regarded as a useful qualification for a wide range of higher education or career choices, including Law, Journalism, Business and Politics.

### What will I learn on this course?

Year 1

- Unit 1: Consolidation of the Tudor Dynasty: England, 1485-1547.
- Unit 2: To the brink of Nuclear War: International Relations, 1945 -1963.
- Unit 3: Historical Investigation.

Year 2

- Unit 1: England: Turmoil and Triumph, 1547-1603.
- Unit 2: From Détente to the end of the Cold War, 1963-1991.
- Unit 3: Historical Investigation.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 you will complete three units, which will make up your final grade:
  - Unit 1: External examination – 2 hours and 30 minutes – Three questions.
  - Unit 2: External examination – 2 hours and 30 minutes – Three questions.
  - Unit 3: Internally assessed – 4,000 - 4,500 word essay.



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You will require a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics to be considered for this course.

EDEXCEL

Mr D. Willmott  
Head of Mathematics

Mathematics boosts a wide range of employability skills such as problem-solving, logical reasoning, communication and resilience. It also offers a way of understanding the world around us and provides the tools to understand abstract ideas and analytical processes.

The Edexcel Mathematics A-Level consists of three externally-examined papers.

Paper 1 Pure Mathematics  
Content overview: proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration and vectors.

Paper 2 Pure Mathematics  
Content overview: proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, differentiation, integration and numerical methods.

Paper 3 Statistics and Mechanics  
Content overview: statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing, quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces, Newton's Law and moments.

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 you will sit three examinations, which will make up your final grade.

All examinations are 2 hours in length; calculators can be used in all papers.

# MEDIA STUDIES



## Course Requirements

You will need a GCSE grade 4 in English and Mathematics.

You should be independent in your learning and have an interest in Media.

### Examination board:

WJEC

### Staff Contact:

Mr A. Kerrigan  
Head of English

Developments in media have transformed our world: from Gutenberg's creation of the printing press to Berners-Lee's conception of the World Wide Web, it is no exaggeration to say that media innovations have brought about seismic shifts in the way we live our lives. To what extent have these developments been beneficial? What form might the next media evolution take? To what extent is media used to communicate our experiences and to what extent is it used to shape them? These are but some of the questions we explore in Media Studies.

Past students have successfully applied to dedicated Media courses, ranging from the theoretical to the almost entirely practical. Members of our alumni have read the news on cable channels, written for local newspapers, and worked in public relations companies; other students have chosen to combine Media with Business, Law, Theatre, and Information Technology.

### What will I learn on this course?

Through studying Media Studies you will view, evaluate, and analyse a variety of media products and develop practical skills spanning a range of media forms. You will study contemporary and diverse topics, which will help you to develop your ability to conduct research, problem-solve, and produce creative products. You will also refine your debating skills through the discussion of contemporary issues, which you will explore from a range of perspectives.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.

In Year 13 you will complete a non-exam assessment and two written exams.

- Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences (2 hours 15 minutes, 35% of overall grade)
- Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth (2 hours 30 minutes, 35% of overall grade)
- Component 3: NEA Cross-media production (30% of overall grade).



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You need to have achieved a grade 6 in French, German or Spanish GCSE to be considered for these courses. Students will also need to demonstrate their commitment and interest in the chosen subject. A willingness to travel to a country where the target language is spoken will also help.

AQA

Miss M. Neveu  
Head of MFL

## What will I learn on this course?

In the second year you will learn to express and defend your views on social issues and trends together with the study of political and artistic culture. Grammar will also be taught intensively in both years of the course. You will also study a novel and a film in the target language.

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13, you will sit:  
Paper 1: Reading and Listening (50%).  
Paper 2: Writing (20%).  
Paper 3: Speaking (30%).

# MUSIC



## Course Requirements

Minimum of a grade 5 in Music GCSE and/or Grade 5 ABRSM Theory qualification.

Performance skills on an instrument or voice to be at least a Grade 5.

Be able to read treble and bass clef notation with confidence.

### Examination Board:

EDEXCEL

### Staff contact:

Mr C. Beach  
Head of Music

A-Level Music leads not only to traditional careers in teaching, composing and performing, but also working in what is now the second biggest visible industry in the country. The course covers a wide range of musical genres and periods whilst developing your skills in composing, performing and analysis to the highest level.

### What will I learn on this course?

**COMPONENT 1 (PERFORMING)** – An 8 minute public recital on an instrument of your choice or voice. Approximate difficulty standard of grade 7. This is recorded in the Spring Term of Year 13.

**COMPONENT 2 (COMPOSING)** – one 4-minute composition, either to a brief set by Edexcel or a free choice (90%) and one 2-minute Technical Study (10%). Total time across both submissions must be a minimum of 6 minutes.

**COMPONENT 3 (APPRAISING)** – You will study thirteen set works across 6 different areas of study: Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Music for Film, Popular Music & Jazz, Fusions and New Directions. Assessment is through a 2 hour 10 minute examination in the summer of Year 13, testing knowledge of the set works, aural dictation skills and the ability to compare and contrast familiar and unfamiliar pieces.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 you will sit Component 1 (30%) + Component 2 (30%) + Component 3 (40%).

# PHOTOGRAPHY



## Course Requirements

You need to have achieved grade 4 in English and Mathematics. You must produce a mini-portfolio of work and have a keen interest in this subject.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Miss H. Jackson  
Head of Fine Art and Photography

Photography is a form of communication. It is a means of capturing a moment in a specific time period or highlighting an important event. It is an individual momentary response; it encourages imagination and sensitivity, analytical ability and individual development of practical skill.

Past students who have studied Photography have gone on to further their studies in Journalism, Advertising, Film Making and Fashion as well as Fine Art Photography.

### What will I learn on this course?

In Year 12 students undertake a programme of integrated practical, critical and theoretical study using a variety of processes producing critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study. This might be in portraiture, photojournalism, landscape, still-life or documentary photography. Students also explore manipulating image through darkroom practice, Photoshop and physical manipulation.

In Year 13 students will study Component 1 and will undertake further practical investigations, evidencing critical and contextual understanding whilst creating new, innovative ways of processing a photograph using a range of techniques. Component 2 is an independent extended project linked to your interests and technical development. This includes a 1000-3000 word written reflection.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.

In Year 13 you will be assessed on marked components of coursework, selected from workbooks and final mounted images.

- Component 1 - (60%) is a personal investigation; this will include a written element of between 1000 - 3000 words. You begin this in year 12 and finish January time in year 13.
- Component 2 -(40%) is an externally set assignment given by the examination board (AQA) including preparation time and fifteen hours of supervised time. This will begin in February time in year 13.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



## Course Requirements

You need to have achieved a minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE PE (it is strongly recommended you have a 6:6 in Combined Science or a 6 in Biology to be considered for this course.

You must also be competing regularly in your chosen sport.

### Examination Board:

OCR

### Staff Contact:

Miss M. Claxton  
Head of Physical Education

A-Level Physical Education can lead to further study and careers in a wide variety of sport-related industries, including: coaching, teaching and sports development as well as jobs in leisure and recreation. Additionally, pupils who have an A-Level in PE pursue careers in areas such as physiotherapy and sports rehabilitation. The course covers a range of topics and expands on some of the areas covered in GCSE PE.

### What will I learn on this course?

You will gain an in-depth understanding of the human body and the impact that sport or physical activity can have, both physiologically and psychologically. Nutrition, training and technological advances in sport will also be analysed to assess their impact on overall performance. These are just some of the examples of topics that will be covered in preparation for the examined module of the course (70%). 30% is assessed through your practical performance and coursework.

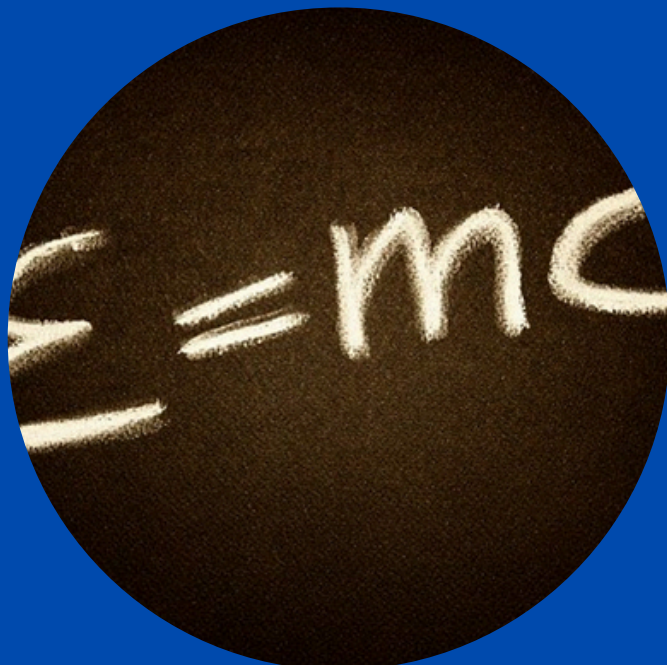
### How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 you will sit 3 examinations:
  - Physiological Factors Affecting Performance (2 hour examination, 30% of your final grade).
  - Psychological Issues Affecting Performance (1 hour examination, 20% of your final grade).
  - Socio-cultural Issues in Physical Activity and Sport (1 hour examination, 20% of your final grade).

Additionally you will be assessed through an Evaluation and Analysis or Performance for Improvement (EAPI) assessment (15% of your final grade) which involves watching a performance and orally analysing and planning strategies for improvement in a 'live' interview scenario. The final 15% of your grade will be the Performance in Physical Activity component, for which it is essential that you are participating and competing in your sport regularly, outside of school.



# PHYSICS



## Course Requirements

You need to have achieved a minimum of grade 7;7 in Combined Science GCSE, including grade 7s in your Physics modules, or a minimum of grade 7 in Physics GCSE to be considered for this course. You also need a minimum of grade 6 in Maths.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Mrs G. Farrall  
Head of Physics

Through studying Physics you will gain insight into some of the most fundamental laws of nature. You will learn how this knowledge has developed through experiment, analysis, creativity and imagination. You will also develop the highly transferrable skills of practical problem solving. This is a challenging subject and is well regarded by both universities and employers.

### What will I learn on this course?

In Year 12 you will study Particles and Radiation, Waves, Mechanics and Materials and Electricity.

In Year 13 you will study Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics, Fields and their Consequences and Nuclear Physics. Students then have a choice of options to study either Astrophysics or Medical Physics.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 you will sit three examinations.

You will be assessed on your investigative and practical skills throughout the course.

# PSYCHOLOGY



## Course Requirements

Psychology requires the ability to use statistical formulae for calculations, to write clearly and concisely, and to show a good understanding of the principles of science.

You will require a grade 6 in Mathematics or Science GCSE to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

WJEC  
EDUQAS

### Staff Contact:

Ms N. Hannah-Ghose  
Head of Psychology

You will develop your skills of analysis and evaluation. We will teach you to deal with conflicting theories, consider evidence and draw conclusions. You will strengthen your communication skills, both written and oral, and learn how to form a structured and considered argument. You will learn about people: what they do and why they do it. This will be useful in any future life situation which involves dealing with other people.

Psychology enables you to develop key, transferable skills which employers are looking for. It can lead to a wide range of employment opportunities in areas such as healthcare, management, social work, research, teaching, marketing, advertising and human resources.

### What will I learn on this course?

In Year 12 you will study Psychology by investigating the different approaches that are used to explain human behaviour, including psychodynamic and cognitive Psychology. In each approach, you will learn about one classic study and therapy. You will also refine your debating skills through class discussion of contemporary ideas such as the ethics of neuroscience, mothers as primary caregivers and the use of mindfulness in education and the workplace. In addition to this, you will learn more about how psychologists design and conduct research.

In Year 13, you will deepen your understanding of Psychology by looking at a range of interesting human behaviours such as addiction, schizophrenia, and stress. You will then apply your psychological knowledge to several controversies by exploring sexism, cultural bias and the use of non-human animals in research.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

- In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.
- In Year 13 there are three exams. Each exam lasts 2 hours 15 minutes and consists of short answer and extended writing questions.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES



## Course Requirements

You need to have achieved a grade 6 in Religious Studies GCSE to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

Eduqas

### Staff contact:

Mr E. Karley  
Head of Philosophy and  
Religious Education

Religious Studies is a thought provoking subject. The contemporary ethical issues inspire engaging classroom discussions, which develop the skills of communication, interaction, analysis and problem solving. Students gain critical and evaluative skills, which are highly sought-after in higher education and by employers, particularly but not exclusively within the areas of law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and communications. Many students may also study this course for their own personal development, as it adds depth and a broader perspective to other A-Level subjects.

### What will I learn on this course?

The Eduqas Religious Studies A-Level consists of three externally-examined papers.

Component 1: A Study of Christianity

- Religious figures and sacred texts
- Religious concepts and religious life
- Significant social and historical developments in religious thought
- Religious practices that shape religious identity

Component 2: Philosophy of Religion

- Arguments for the existence of God- Inductive & Deductive
- Challenges to religious beliefs (part 1) – the problem of evil and suffering & Religious belief as a product of the human mind
- Religious experience
- Religious language

Religion and Ethics

- Ethical thought: Divine Command Theory, Virtue theory ethical Egoism & Meta-ethics
- Deontological ethics: Aquinas's Natural moral law, John Finnis' development of Natural Law:
- Teleological ethics: Situation ethics & Utilitarianism
- Determinism and Free will

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In Year 12 you will complete an internal examination.

In Year 13 you will sit three examinations:

*Component 1: Christianity*

Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of qualification 100 marks

*Component 2: Philosophy of Religion*

Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of qualification 100 marks

*Component 3: Religion and Ethics*

Written examination: 2 hours 33⅓% of qualification 100 marks



# THEATRE STUDIES



## Course Requirements

You need to have achieved a minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE Drama and a grade 5 in GCSE English to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

AQA

### Staff Contact:

Mrs V. Hine  
Head of Drama

Theatre Studies builds confidence and fosters group co-operation. You will have the opportunity to study plays from the point of view of a director, designer, performer and critic. You will also acquire knowledge and understanding of the performance and analytical skills. You will work to refine your acting skills and will be required to visit a variety of theatrical productions from the ancient Greeks through to Shakespeare and contemporary works.

### What will I learn on this course?

This is a two-year linear A-Level course. You will be required to demonstrate a practical understanding of:

The work and methodologies from a range of influential theatre practitioners (individual or companies) over the two years.

You will participate in: a minimum of one devised performance and two performance extracts in which you will have the opportunity to contribute as either performer, designer or director.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

In year 12 and 13 you will complete  
Component 1: Drama and Theatre. – 40% of A Level  
80 Marks

Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre.  
Study of two set plays.  
Analysis and evaluation of work of live theatre makers.

In Year 12 you will complete  
Component 2: Creating original drama (Practical) – 30% of A Level.  
60 Marks in total.

Process of creating devised drama.  
Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director)  
Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.

In Year 13 you will complete  
Component 3: Making theatre (Practical) 30% of A Level  
Performance of Extract 3 (40 Marks).  
Reflective report (20 Marks).  
60 marks in total.

# BTEC LEVEL 3

# NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS



## Course Requirements

This qualification is equivalent to two A-Levels and you will need to gain 5 GCSEs at a minimum of grade 4 (including English and Mathematics) to be considered for this course.

Successful students on this course are able to manage themselves to meet deadlines effectively. You need to be prepared to work independently and will be able to form a critical view of the businesses you are investigating.

### Examination Board:

Pearson Edexcel

### Staff Contact:

Ms H. Judson  
Head of Business Studies and Economics

The BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business (equivalent to two A-Levels) will give you a solid knowledge base for career opportunities in areas such as Marketing, Personnel, Accountancy, Law, Retail, Finance, and Business Planning. Universities welcome applications from successful BTEC Diploma Business students.

### What will I learn on this course?

There are eight units, six of which are mandatory, plus two additional choices from a wide range of options.

The core units are as follows:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing campaign
- Personal and Business finance
- Managing an event
- International Business
- Principles of Management

Unit 5 (International Business) is synoptic and is therefore delivered later in the course.

### How will I be assessed for this course?

Coursework: 55%

Five units are assessed by coursework. This will involve a range of learning methods including written reports, presentations, role plays and planning and organising an event.

External assessment: 45%

Three units are externally assessed via a combination of examination and "supervised assignment" tasks. An exam on finance is sat in the summer of Year 12. The two external assessments on Marketing and Management are sat in January year 13.

# BTEC LEVEL 3

## NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS



### Course Requirements

This qualification is equivalent to one A-Level and you will need to gain 5 GCSEs at a minimum of grade 4 (including English and Mathematics) to be considered for this course.

Successful students on this course are able to manage themselves to meet deadlines effectively. You need to be prepared to work independently and will be able to form a critical view of the businesses you are investigating.

#### Examination Board:

EDEXCEL

#### Staff Contact:

Ms H. Judson  
Head of Business Studies and Economics

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business (equivalent to one A-Level) will give you a solid knowledge base for career opportunities in areas such as Marketing, Personnel, Accountancy, Law, Retail, Finance, and Business Planning. Universities welcome applications from successful BTEC Certificate in Business students.

#### What will I learn on this course?

There are four units, three of which are mandatory, plus one additional choice from a wide range of options.

The core units are as follows:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance

BTEC Nationals provide transferable knowledge and skills that prepare learners for progression to university, including:

- The ability to learn independently;
- The ability to research actively and methodically; and
- Being able to give perspectives and being active group members.

#### How will I be assessed for this course?

Coursework: 42%

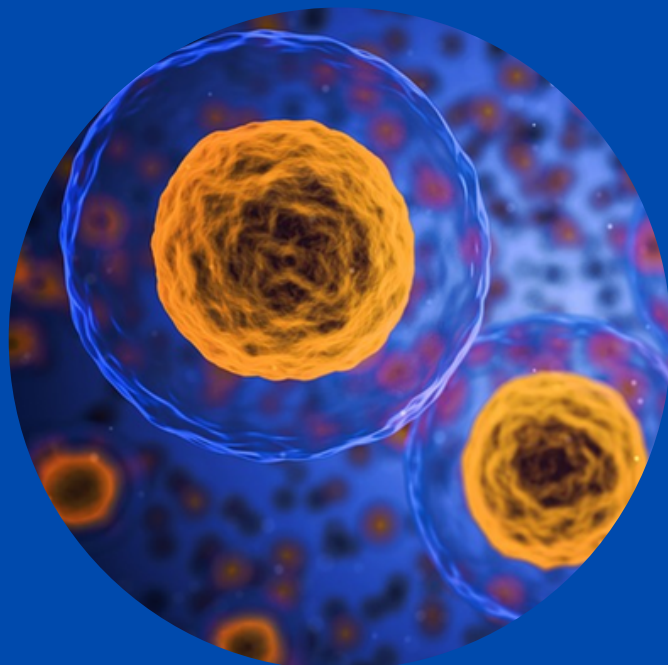
Two units are assessed by coursework. This will involve a range of learning methods including written reports, presentations and role plays.

External assessment: 58%

Two units are externally assessed via a combination of examination and “supervised assignment” tasks. An exam on Finance is sat in the summer of Year 12. There is an external assessment on Marketing sat in January year 13.

# BTEC LEVEL 3

# NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE



## Course Requirements

This qualification is equivalent to one A-Level.

You will need to achieve 5 GCSEs at a minimum of grade 4, (including Combined Science, English and Mathematics) to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

Pearson Edexcel

### Staff contact:

Mr R. Clark  
Head of Science

The Pearson Level 3 BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate) is perfect for post-16 students who are passionate about exploring the wonders of science and aiming to pave the way to higher education and exciting careers in the field. Equivalent to one A Level, this qualification dives deep into the fascinating worlds of biology, chemistry, and physics, offering hands-on experience with lab techniques like chromatography and electrical circuits. With the flexibility to explore cutting-edge scientific issues or hone investigative skills, students will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and research abilities. It's the ideal launchpad for anyone eager to push boundaries and thrive in the ever-evolving world of science.

### What will I learn on this course?

#### *Year 12*

- Principles and Applications of Biology
- Principles and Applications of Chemistry
- Principles and Applications of Physics

#### *Year 13*

- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques
- Science Investigation Skills

### How will I be assessed for this course?

#### *Year 12*

Students will sit external examinations at the end of Year 12. The exams are worth 50% of the overall grade

#### *Year 13*

Students will complete internally assessed coursework throughout Year 13. The coursework is worth 50% of the overall grade.



# BTEC LEVEL 3

# NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



## Course Requirements

This qualification is equivalent to one A-Level.

You will need to achieve 5 GCSEs at a minimum of grade 4, (including Combined Science, English and Mathematics) to be considered for this course.

### Examination Board:

Pearson Edexcel

### Staff contact:

Mr R. Clark  
Head of Science

The Pearson Level 3 BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) is an exciting pathway for students passionate about making a difference in people's lives. Equivalent to one A Level, this qualification combines essential knowledge and practical skills, preparing students for higher education and rewarding careers in health and social care. With core topics like human development, biology, and healthcare practices, plus a range of optional units such as public health policy, health education, and infection control, students will gain the expertise needed to thrive in this impactful field. It's the perfect foundation for those wanting to pursue careers in Health and Social care.

### What will I learn on this course?

#### *Year 12*

- Human Lifespan and Development
- Human Biology and Health

#### *Year 13*

- Principles of Health and Social Care Practice
- Promoting Health Education

### How will I be assessed for this course?

#### *Year 12*

Students will sit external examinations at the end of Year 12. The exams are worth 50% of the overall grade

#### *Year 13*

Students will complete internally assessed coursework throughout Year 13. The coursework is worth 50% of the overall grade.

# EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION



## Course Requirements

You need to have the ability to work independently, complete your own research, manage your time and meet deadlines.

### Examination Board:

AQA

Staff contact:

Mrs L. Allaway  
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs T. Wills  
Teacher of History

This course is a stand-alone qualification and can be completed alongside other programmes of study. Students will develop independent study skills through completion of a research project on a topic of their choice. Study skills will be taught through timetabled lessons and students will meet with a supervisor on a regular basis to discuss their progress.

### What will I learn on this course?

Students will develop the following skills throughout this course:

- Organisation
- Research
- Independence
- Time management
- Evaluation and self-evaluation
- Problem-solving
- Communication

### How will I be assessed for this course?

Completion of a 5,000 word dissertation or creation of an artefact supported by a written report of around 1,000 words.

- The Production Log
- Presentation with question and answer session



Courage. Commitment. Compassion.

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