Art & Design, Photography and Graphic Design

An A Level in Art and Design will provide you with a wealth of opportunity for developing your personal responses to ideas, observations and experiences in practical, critical and contextual forms.

The department offers three endorsements: Art, Craft & Design, Graphic Design (Graphic Communication) and Photography. You may choose to study one or more subjects within the department.

What you will be studying

The courses on offer are creative and experimental. You will need to have a passion for your subject and must be prepared to explore your own creativity in new and exciting ways. Key skills the courses look to develop include:

- independence of mind in developing your own ideas
- an interest and enthusiasm for art and design
- the experience of working with a range of media, including traditional and new media and technologies
- an awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art and design practice

Although each of our endorsements allow you to develop skills outside of the main subject, the key areas of study fall broadly in to the following categories: in Art, Craft & Design you will explore the key areas of drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, textiles, graphic illustration and will push your understanding of these traditional media in new and experimental ways. In Photography you will develop your ability to use photography as an art form, manipulating images both digitally and in the darkroom.

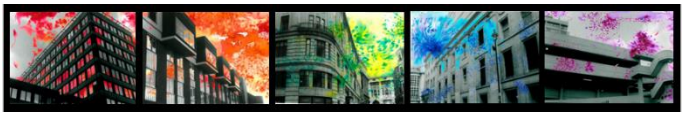
In Graphic Design you will explore typography, design and illustration in digital and non-digital formats to develop your ability to express conceptual ideas in a visual way, working with set-briefs.

How will this benefit you?

This course is particularly suitable for you if you wish to study Art and Design or related subjects at a higher level or if you wish to pursue a career in the Arts and Media industries. In addition to this, many students of Architecture study Art and Design at A Level, and those wishing to add a streak of creativity to their broader A Level courses are welcome.

Successful students of Art and Design will develop excellent time-management skills and will demonstrate to future employers and universities that they can multi-task and problem-solve as independent practitioners. You are expected to approach assignments with a professional and motivated attitude in order to support your own progress and that of your peers. A positive group dynamic is essential in these subjects and the participation of each individual will be important.

As a student in our department, you will have multiple opportunities to enter competitions, in-school, regionally and nationally, that will develop your portfolio alongside your classroom studies.



Art & Design, Photography and Graphic Design

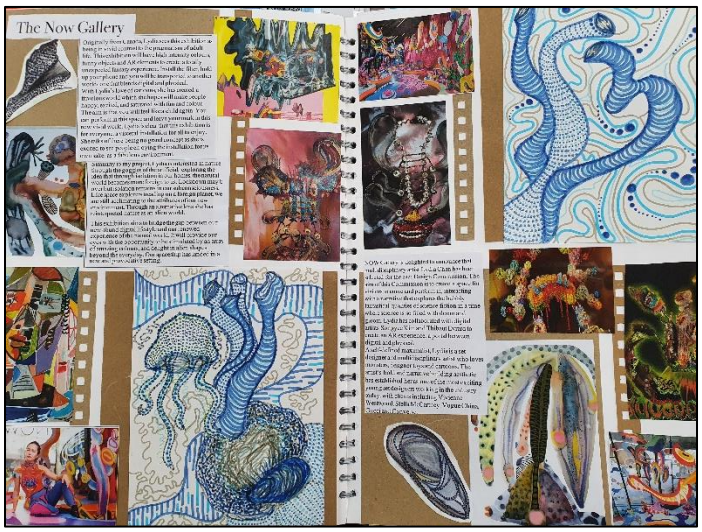
In recent years, our students have represented the school in the National Exhibition of Students' Art at the prestigious Mall Galleries in London and in the Student Summer Online Exhibition at the Royal Academy. Alumni of the department have achieved success in a range of industries including fashion, architecture, photography, graphic design, interior design and television production.

The department is equipped with three studios, two darkrooms and PC suites running the Adobe Creative Cloud. Each member of the department is a specialist art practitioner; between the team we have a varied range of knowledge and professional experience to share with our students.

Examination/Assessment

The full A Level course is assessment based on 60% Non Examination Assessment (NEA) coursework and 40% Externally Set Assignment. Component 1 is a Personal Investigation unit in Year 12, where you will explore and experiment with concepts and techniques, taking inspiration from a variety of starting points to refine your skills and develop your understanding of contextual sources. Component 2 in Year 13 is an Externally Set Assignment (ESA). During the completion of this NEA, you will apply and extend your skills in response to a theme set by the examination board (AQA) and develop coursework towards final outcomes.

During both years, you will develop your knowledge and understanding of theoretical issues and Art History. You will need to write analytically about your own work and that of other artists and artefacts in order to demonstrate your understanding of key issues.
Year 13 takes the form of a Personal Investigation, during which you will research and evaluate a theme of your choosing in a written component.



Complementary Courses

Any subjects fit well with Art and Design subjects as they support a wide range of skills. We also offer the EPQ.

Special Entry Requirements

In order to be able to undertake these courses, it is preferable for you to have achieved a **Grade 5** or above in Art, Photography or Graphic Communication (DT) GCSE **and** a **Grade 5** in English. Without these qualifications, your application may still be considered but you will be required to provide a portfolio of your creative work.

Mrs T Hemming
Head of Art & Design

Business Studies

The best thing about business is the degree to which it is rooted in the real world. You probably began studying business more than a decade ago; the first time you bought something in a shop, the first time you reacted to an advertisement or the first time you counted your pocket money. You already have a lot of the knowledge and this course will help you develop it further. It is a challenging academic subject that demands rigorous intellectual study and the rewards for your endeavours can be huge, both in terms of academic achievement and enhancing your view of society.

What you will be studying on the course

A big focus on this course is decision making. This means understanding the content and then applying it. You will learn to be ready for decisions about marketing, finance and accounting, human resources and operations management. You will evaluate your decisions against the backdrop of the current economic outlook and a range of business issues and constraints. You will need to be able to write clearly and effectively and answer business maths questions with confidence and accuracy.

Method of Assessment

Students will sit three two-hour 15 minute examinations at the end of year 13. The third examination will be a synoptic assessment. There is no coursework option in Business Studies A Level, and students who prefer to gain qualifications through coursework-based courses should consider the Vocational Business option, details of which are also in this prospectus.

How will this course benefit you?

Most Ravens Wood Sixth Form students go on to university. Business A Level is a sound preparation for all degree courses, as there are many transferable skills that help with other subjects. There are more than 3,000 business-based courses available in British universities and reports recently suggest that this will only grow. Those of you that decide to go straight into employment will have learnt much from Business A Level about the working world, and this will give you - from day one - a better understanding of your first job or apprenticeship.

Complementary Courses

A Level Business fits well with the majority of other A Level subjects but particularly useful combinations are another essay based subject such as Politics or Geography. Mathematics is also suited due to the array of quantitative concepts covered in Business.

Mr J Ungerer
Head of Business

Computer Science

A-Level Computer Science is designed to equip students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary to understand and engage with the rapidly evolving world of computing.
This course provides a strong foundation in computational thinking, programming, and systems architecture, while also exploring the broader implications of computing on society. It aims to develop problem-solving skills and the ability to think logically, creatively, and critically, making it ideal for those with an interest in technology, innovation, and problem-solving.

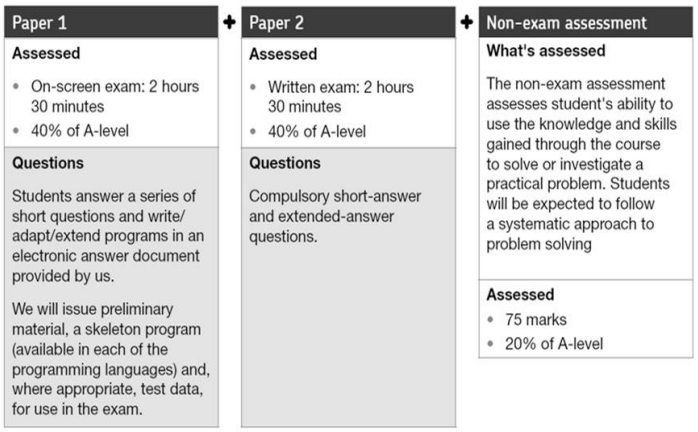
What you will be studying on the course
The course is split between theory content and practical programming.
The range of theory content covered are:

- Fundamentals of Algorithms
- Computer Systems
- Data Representation
- Networking and Communications
- Impacts of Digital Technology
- Big Data

The programming topics covered are:

- Programming Fundamentals
- Programming Paradigms (including the languages used).
    - Functional (Haskell)
    - Object-Oriented (Python)
    - Declarative (SQL)
- Problem Solving

Method of Assessment
We follow the AQA specification which includes the following components
- **Paper 1.** Programming - 40% of A-level
On-screen exam: 2 hours 30 minutes.
- **Paper 2.** Theory - 40% of A-level
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes.



- **Non-Exam Assessment** (NEA) 20% of A-level
The non-exam assessment assesses your ability to use knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve or investigate a practical problem. The majority of this work will be completed independently.

How will this course benefit you?
The course includes elements that are highly relevant to Modern Society, as well as providing a range of problem-solving skills.
Computer Science is applicable to a wide range of fields beyond computing such as finance, engineering, and data analytics.

Special Requirements
Students will need to have studied Computer Science at GCSE (Grade 5) and have obtained a Grade 5 in Mathematics. A strong foundation of programming skill is recommended.

Complementary Courses
Many subjects fit well with Computer Science, the following in particular:

- Mathematics & Further Maths
- Physics
- Further Mathematics

Mr D Marriott
Head of Computer Science

Design Technology

Design Technology is for students who are interested in solving practical problems using a variety of design and making skills to produce high quality products. The main emphasis is on Product Design, responding to human need via creative solutions for home, industry or recreational contexts.

What you will be studying on the course

The subject contains those elements you are used to, tied into design/make projects. Differences from GCSE include extra discussion and depth of research. The quality and quantity of work expected in each assignment also increases greatly. You will need to work independently in school and at home.

Method of Assessment

PAPER 1 - Technical principles

How it's assessed:
Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes
120 marks
30% of A Level

Questions: Mixture of short answer and extended response.

PAPER 2 - Designing and making principles

How it's assessed:
Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes
80 marks
20% of A Level

Questions

Mixture of short answer and extended response.

Section A:

- Product Analysis: 30 marks
- Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s)

Section B:

- Commercial manufacture: 50 marks
- Mixture of short and extended response questions

NEA (non examined assessment) - What's assessed:
Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles.

How it's assessed

- Substantial design and make project
- 100 marks
- 50% of A Level

Evidence

Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

How will this course benefit you?

Studying A Level Design Technology at Ravens Wood allows students the opportunity to design real life products solving real design problems. The work produced by Design Technology students at Ravens Wood is recognised by universities and industry as some of the highest quality in the country. Many students go on to the most prestigious universities for design. Past students work with industry leaders, including Studio Conran, Unilever, Tom Ford, Proctor and Gamble and Mclaren.

Complementary Courses

Mathematics, Physics, Media Studies, Art and Graphics.

Mr M Ring
Head of Design Technology

Drama and Theatre Studies

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies is a dynamic course that offers students theatrical skills. A number of set texts are studied through practical exploration and written analysis. Students develop their craft through also devising their own pieces reflecting on influential practitioners, theatre makers and design. The Edexcel Drama and Theatre Studies specification is divided into three components: devising, performing or designing skills and practical exploration of texts to interpret for performance. Throughout the course there is the opportunity for students to be assessed as either a performance or design candidate.

What you will be studying on the course

Component 1: Devising - 80 Marks (40%)

Students are to create an original performance based on an extract from a play and embed the stylistic conventions of a chosen practitioner.

Students are marked in two areas:

- portfolio (60 marks).
- performance (as either performer or designer) (20 marks).

Component 2: Text in performance - 60 Marks (20%)

Section A: students perform a group performance of one key extract from performance text (36 marks).

Section B: students perform a monologue or duologue from a different performance text (24 marks). Students can be assessed as either a performance or design candidate.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (Exam) - 80 Marks (40%)

To prepare, students study 2 plays and review a live event before undertaking an exam in 3 sections:

- Section A: live Theatre Evaluation (20 marks) requires students to watch a live performance and respond critically.
- Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a performance text in writing (36 marks)
- Section C: interpreting a performance text (24 marks). Students answer a question regarding their imagined concept for a contemporary audience of the set text studied.

Method of Assessment

Component 1: internally assessed
Component 2: external examiner assessed
Component 3: 2.5 hour written exam

How will this course benefit you?

Drama and Theatre Studies is a creative, practical and academic subject which demands a high level of writing and critical thinking alongside articulation and flair. The Drama and Theatre Studies course develops transferable skills for progression from A Level – students will develop a multitude of skills, including collaboration, communication and an understanding of how to amend, refine and develop work.

Special Requirements

Each student wishing to join the course needs to have some experience of performing and a passion for theatre. All students should recognise that the nature of the course requires absolute commitment to all written and practical elements alongside an enthusiastic curiosity for exploring all of the Creative and Performing Arts.

Complementary Courses

Many subjects fit well with Drama and Theatre Studies. The following are particularly supportive: Music, Music Technology, Art, English, Film Studies, Media Studies.

Miss T Burgess
Head of Performing Arts

Economics

You live in a world of infinite wants. People constantly want more or better things and this is consistent around the world. However, the resources we have to provide for these wants don't stretch far enough and as a result, we have to make decisions about what to produce, how to produce and who to produce for. As a student of Economics your focus will be on solving this problem and understanding the decisions people, firms and governments make. Economics is a constantly changing and evolving practice that affects us all, whether we notice it or not. Economics is a very challenging academic subject; effective Economics students are able to read and comprehend challenging articles and passages, to write fluently and cogently and to understand and manipulate numerical data confidently and accurately.

What you will be studying on the course

The course comprises two main themes;

- Microeconomics – looking at individual markets such as the markets for cars or airline tickets and understanding the position of individuals and firms.
- Macroeconomics – looking at how the UK economy operates - discussing decisions made by our government each day; the global economy; and understanding why some countries are rich and why some are poor and what can be done to close the gap.

Method of Assessment

Students will sit three two-hour examinations at the end of year 13. There is no coursework involved.

How will this course benefit you?

Economics A Level is a sound preparation for an Economics degree and many employers are very impressed by good Economics qualifications. Due to the nature of economics and because it encourages such a rounded view of society and current affairs, a student of economics will always be welcome in all walks of life.

Complementary Courses

- Mathematics
- History
- Sociology
- Geography

Mrs P Guzadhur
Head of Economics

English Language and Literature Combined

Studying English Language and Literature combined encourages students to become aware of how and where language is used in a range of both spoken and written discourse. We explore the contexts in which texts are produced and how narrative is shaped to convey the writers' ideas and perspectives. Students will learn the skill of literary criticism, applying both pre-existing and more advanced knowledge of structural, narrative and linguistic devices. Learning to analyse and critique text construction in both fiction and non-fiction works is an important aspect; this will not only inspire their own original pieces for coursework, but it will enable them to look objectively at those pieces in their commentaries.

What you will be studying on the course

Throughout the two years, students will study a wide range of spoken, written and multimodal texts which will allow them to explore the ways that meaning is constructed through language and literary works. Alongside a range of extracts and wider reading, students will study compulsory anchor texts including *The Bloody Chamber* and *A Room with a View*. They will also have their own copies of an anthology, *Voices in Speech and Writing* – a sample of multimodal, contemporary and historic texts. Students will explore this broad and exciting collection, both as pieces for study and as further modelling and inspiration for the production of their own fiction and non-fiction pieces for coursework.

Method of Assessment

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing. Students sit an exam on their study of the anthology and a studied drama text.

Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature. Students sit an exam on an unseen piece of non-fiction linked to a specific genre e.g., *'encounters'* and on two studied Literature texts of the same theme.

Non examination assessment: Investigating and Creating Texts. Students will create a coursework portfolio of their own inspired non-fiction and fiction pieces of writing, and a final commentary of the two.

The course is assessed by examination of students' understanding of a variety of unseen and pre-studied Language texts and pre-studied Literary texts. Coursework, including two pieces of original writing and one analytical commentary, makes up 20% of the total course.

Component 1: Examination lasting 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of total qualification
Component 2: Examination lasting 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of total qualification

How will this course benefit you?

The course has been designed to:

- enable candidates to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, cultures and environments
- recognise the influence of social, cultural, historical and personal contexts on the production and reception of texts
- provide an appropriate foundation for further study of English and a range of other related subjects in higher education
- find employment in the world of teaching, journalism, law and the media.

Complementary Courses

- Film Studies
- Media Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Politics

Mrs S Doggett de Frayne
Head of English

Mr D Coleman
KS5 English Language and Literature Combined

English Literature

A Level English Literature is a natural progression from GCSE English Literature. The reading and writing skills developed in years 10 and 11 are refined further through studying a wide range of challenging texts from Shakespeare to a contemporary novel. Much greater emphasis, however, is placed on students reading independently and developing their own responses to texts. Students are expected to take an active role in all aspects of their own learning, from leading class discussion to devising their own essay titles in A Level coursework. Visits are made throughout the year to theatres, lectures and other cultural events and students are encouraged to develop and pursue their own cultural interests such as cinema and music. A Level English Literature is an academically rigorous subject that is held in high regard by employers and universities as evidence of a student's ability to think critically, analytically construct complex and coherent arguments, and express themselves with clarity and conviction.

What you will be studying

Drama

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams (Year 12) and Hamlet by William Shakespeare (Year 13). You will study both texts in detail and also examine critical essays related to Hamlet. This unit counts for 30% of your A Level.

Prose

There are two prose texts chosen from the theme of "The Supernatural". These are: Beloved by Toni Morrison (Year 12) and The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (Year 12). This unit counts for 20% of your total A Level. You will examine supernatural elements in both novels as well as relating them to the context in which they were written.

Poetry

You will be studying some modern (post 2000) poetry (Year 12) and also poems from the Romantic era which includes: William Blake, John Keats, Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Emily Bronte (Year 13). You will study poetic form, meaning and language. This unit counts as 30% of your total A Level.

This is a two-year course. You will study some texts in Year 12 and some in Year 13. You will do your final three A2 exams in June of Year 13. Please note: there are no units in Year 12 which count towards your A2 qualification but you will need to answer in the A2 exam on texts which you studied in Year 12.

How will this course benefit you?

Students on this course will learn to develop a mature personal response to a range of challenging texts, demonstrating their ability to create detailed and systematic arguments. Students will also develop the ability to evaluate the views of others and create a sense of debate – skills much needed in higher education.

Complementary Courses

Because of the universal academic application of the skills developed in A Level English Literature, it complements all A Level subjects.

Mrs S Doggett de Frayne
Head of English

Mr D Coleman
KS5 English Literature

Film Studies

The critical study of films as texts and of their contexts is a highly transferable academic skill, which develops a range of other skills from literacy to ICT. If you are passionate about film, you can now turn your enthusiasm to your academic advantage. Film is part of the largest export of the United States of America's entertainment industries. This A Level is definitely for the film buff.

What you will be studying on the course

This course will extend your knowledge by introducing you to a wide range of films, cover technical knowledge of filmmaking techniques, consider the academic discipline of film theory and criticism, offer you an opportunity to be creative with practical work, study the processes and practices of the film industry and enhance your knowledge and appreciation of film.

Topics of study include:

- Spectatorship studies – how and why audiences respond to film
- Exploring film form – mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, sound, narrative performance and genre
- Practical work
- US and UK film production, distribution and exhibition
- British cinema study
- Production work, such as short film-making or screenwriting
- Study of emotional response to popular cinema looking at how and why film generates an emotional response
- Contemporary world cinema

Method of Assessment

Component 1: Varieties in Film and Film Making
35% External Assessment 2 ½ hours written paper.

Component 2: Global Film Making Perspective
35% External Assessment 2 ½ hours written paper.

Component 3: Production of a Short Film
30% Internal Assessment

How will the course benefit you?

This may well indicate a future academic or career direction. Film Studies has been studied at international universities since the 1960s and can lead to a variety of careers on both sides of the camera, including writing and journalism.

Complementary Courses

- Photography
- Media Studies
- English Literature
- Music
- PRE
- History

Mr J Bowman

Teacher in charge of Film Studies

French and German

In recent years, large numbers of young people have opted to spend some of their time living and working abroad, and the requirements of the modern world are making this more and more common. By the end of a successful course, you will not only have acquired sufficient linguistic competence and fluency to operate effectively both in a working and social environment but also have gained qualifications in a subject area which is held in high regard by institutions of higher education.

What you will be studying on the course

Students of both French and German are asked to work from several language websites. These contain texts on a wide range of issues including current affairs, sport, cinema and music. They also contain practice exercises and comprehension activities which students are expected to work through in order to acquire language independently and enrich their vocabulary. We strongly encourage students to take part in a visit to Germany for work experience which is organised by the department or visit France if you have the opportunity during your studies.

Method of Assessment:

Final examination at the end of year 13:
Component 1: speaking – 30% of the qualification
Component 2: listening, reading and translation – 50% of the qualification
Component 3: critical and analytical response in writing about the set texts (a book and a film) – 20% of the qualification

How will this course benefit you?

With sound qualifications in languages you will find a distinct advantage in the job market. Consequently, an A Level language course is effective in any number of combinations with other subjects. A recent survey of employers in the UK puts French and German in the lead as the two most sought after languages in the workplace. Furthermore, the survey indicates that the UK still has a skills shortage in this respect.

Special Requirements

The gap between GCSE and A Level is significant. While students should not be deterred by this, it is wise to speak to your subject teacher early on in year 11 to evaluate your suitability for A Level.

Complementary Courses

Many subjects fit well with A Level Modern Languages. Students may find that the following are particularly supportive:

- English
- History
- Film Studies
- Politics
- Business Studies

Ms D Millar
Head of French

Mrs C Jackson-Man
Head of German

Further Mathematics

Further Mathematics is now an independent A Level subject. Ravens Wood School has an excellent reputation for this truly inspirational subject with consistently good results. It is really demanding and only suitable for only the most able mathematicians. It is highly regarded by both employers and higher education establishments.

What you will be studying on the course

A Level Further Mathematics B (MEI) is a new, linear qualification covering the two years of study. Content is in three areas:-

1 Mathematical Processes
2 Core Pure Content
3 Selected minor components

Considerable use is made of technology whenever possible and the department utilises dedicated Mathematics software. Students will be expected to have their own calculator capable of supporting the requirements of the course and graphical calculators are strongly recommended. It is expected that calculators will include the following features:

• The ability to perform calculations, including inversion, with matrices up to at least order 3 × 3.
• The ability to compute summary statistics and access probabilities from the binomial, Poisson and Normal distributions.

The rigour and demands of this course should not be under-estimated. Students must, from the outset, be independent learners who enjoy solving difficult problems and who will thrive in the environment of peer mentoring. They will be encouraged to share their learning and to communicate effectively to fellow students how they are approaching a problem.

Method of Assessment

The course is assessed by written examinations of the student's ability in each of the content areas.

Core Pure Content 50%
Applied Modules 50%

The applied units are applications of pure Mathematics as well as ways of thinking about the world in its own right. In all cases appropriate links will be made with the content of the A Level Mathematics course.

How will this course benefit you?

The course is designed for:
Really able students who enjoy the challenge of Mathematics and are interested in further developing their understanding in the subject.
Students planning to read Mathematics at university, or pursue numerate courses such as Engineering, Physics, Chemistry or Economics.

Special Entry Requirements

Grade 7 of above for Mathematics GCSE.
You are required to study Mathematics A Level alongside this course. The gap between GCSE and A Level is significant. While students should not be deterred by this, it is wise to speak to your subject teacher early on in year 11 to evaluate your suitability for A Level.

Mr J Hamilton

Head of Mathematics

Geography

"Without Geography, you're nowhere"
(Jimmy Buffet 1946)
Geography is the most relevant subject of our time! It poses and answers questions about the most important issues in our world today. Is climate change a reality, and if so, how will it affect us? What impact did the 2012 Olympics have on London? How much do coastlines matter? Are natural hazards really increasing, and if they are, why? Will China ever be a true global superpower? Is it true that a billion people on our planet are food insecure? If you are interested in current affairs and have a hunger to find out the answers to these – and many more questions, then Geography is for you!

What you will be studying on the course

You will develop skills that are directly transferable into many degree courses and jobs. In particular, Geographers are valued for their skills of:
Communication – in writing essays and reports, discussion, presentation and group work
IT – use of Geographical information systems, researching and presenting work
Analysis – through the interpretation of map and statistical data, and discursive work
Team work – in fieldwork and group tasks, enquiry and debate
Problem solving – through geographical investigation and decision making exercises.
Fieldwork is a major strength of the department and vital in consolidating a student's understanding of issues tackled in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to participate in residential fieldwork in Dorset, as well as examining rebranding strategies at Docklands and the Olympic venue, and the impact of the Turner Gallery flagship development in Margate.
All A Level students will complete one independent investigation, which will be a non-examined assessment and must draw on fieldwork: this is 20% of the A Level.

Method of Assessment – Year 12

Area of study 1: Dynamic Landscapes
- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Landscape Systems, Processes and Change
- The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Climate Change Futures

Written examination: 2 hours
30% of the qualification
Area of study 2: Dynamic Places
- Shaping Places
- Global Development and Connections

Written examination: 2 hours
30% of the qualification

Method of Assessment – Year 13

Area of study 3: Physical Systems and Sustainability
Area of study 4: Human Systems and Geopolitics
Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes
20% of the qualification
Coursework: independent investigation
Students define a question or issue for investigation producing a 3000-4000 word written report 20% of the final mark.
Non-examined assessment
20% of the qualification

How will the course benefit you?

Geography has a high academic status at university level, both as a stand-alone course or as part of a joint honours course with subjects such as Archaeology, Economics, Land Management, Earth Sciences, Sociology and Public Health.

There are few careers that Geography does not provide an essential background for and the options for Geographers are vast. Geographers are fantastically employable and because the A Level is issues and skills based, it gives students the background to gain work and opportunities in a variety of jobs which may or may not have a geographical context. These may include the media, management, law, meteorology, architecture, engineering, leisure, national and local government, the civil service, planning, conservation and environmental work.

Complementary Courses

Geography links the Sciences and Arts, in particular: Languages, Philosophy, Sciences, Economics, Business, History, Mathematics, English

Mr L Galler

Head of Geography

History

There is a common misconception that there is no future in History: do not be deceived! History graduates continue to fill many jobs in management and the professions where their decision-making skills are highly valued e.g., Salman Rushdie, Dermot Murnaghan, Jon Snow, Gordon Brown and John Prescott. History students look at information, evaluate it, consider what historians have made of it and reach informed decisions of their own about it. This kind of reasoned analysis has many applications in life, not only in the work-place.

History at A Level enhances political and economic awareness, both important elements of a broad education. Someone once wrote that 'History is the house in which all other subjects reside'. The writer was a historian and, therefore, totally unbiased!

History at RWS is a successful and high-performing subject. Students have gone on to read History at Cambridge, Durham, Warwick and many other prestigious universities. They have also found outstanding apprenticeship placements using the skills acquired in A-Level History. In 2023, 60% of students achieved A*- B grades.

What you will be studying on the course

In Year 12 you will study two units:

1. **The Cold War in Europe 1941-1995**: this includes the origins of the Cold War, the development of the Cold War up to the end of the Cold War and its consequences till 1995.
2. **Britain 1930 – 1997**: this includes an enquiry that is focused on Churchill's views and career up to 1951. It also comprises a British period study focused on British politics and political parties from 1951 – 1997.

In Year 13 we study a further two units;

1. **Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors:** this is a thematic study which challenges students to investigate the competing causes of rebellions against Tudor monarchs. They will also consider the nature of rebellion, the frequency of disorder and the various methods of control used by governments across the period. In addition, students will investigate and engage with the historiographical debates surrounding the Pilgrimage of Grace, the Western Rebellion and the Tyrone/O'Neill rebellion.
2. **A topic based independent enquiry:** This is an independently researched essay of 3000- 4000 words. This unit is a non-exam unit and will be marked by your teacher and moderated by OCR. Students will be prepared by their teacher to research and write on an aspect of Churchill's career or the Cold War.

Method of Assessment

Learners are expected to demonstrate their ability to organise and communicate detailed knowledge and understanding of the periods studied. Learners are given the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning. They will need to make substantiated judgements whilst analysing and evaluating each unit in relation to its historical context. A Level history is a two year course and examinations will take place during the second summer.

How will this course benefit you?

History A Level provides a fantastic curriculum for you to ignite and engage your passion and interest in the discipline. We've never thought that there's any one 'correct' approach to History as a subject. It's too valuable and simply too massive to be limited to a mere handful of approved options. Therefore, we have a wide and varied selection of options that will enable you to flourish. Our aim is to create independent learners, critical thinkers and decision-makers – all personal assets that can make you stand out as you progress to higher education and/or the workplace.

Complementary Courses

All subjects fit well with A Level History, but especially – for example - essay-based subjects such as PRE, English Literature/Language (combined) and Politics. All subjects welcome the development of the ability to analyse in context.

Mr G J Tysall
Head of History & Politics

Mathematics

Mathematics at Ravens Wood School continues to be a popular choice with large numbers of Sixth Form students. It is a demanding subject that is well-regarded by both employers and higher education establishments.

What you will be studying on the course

A Level Mathematics B (MEI) is a new, linear qualification covering the two years of study, with no options. It includes a range of strands under four areas:

1 Mathematical Processes - mathematical argument and language, problem solving and mathematical modelling

2 Pure Mathematics - algebra, graphs, sequences, proof, trigonometry, logarithms, calculus and vectors

3 Mechanics - kinematics, motion under gravity, working with forces including friction, Newton's laws and simple moments

4 Statistics - working with data from a large sample to make inferences about a population, probability calculations, using binomial and normal distributions as models and statistical hypothesis testing

Considerable use is made of technology whenever possible and the department utilises dedicated Mathematics software. Students will be expected to have their own calculator capable of supporting the requirements of the course. They learn an approach to Mathematics that will equip them for the adult world and prepare them for their time at university, irrespective of which course they will follow.

The rigour and demands of this course should not be under-estimated. Students must, from the outset, be independent learners who enjoy solving difficult problems and who will thrive in the environment of peer mentoring. They will be encouraged to share their learning and to communicate effectively to fellow students how they are approaching a problem.

Method of Assessment

The course is assessed by written examinations of the student's ability of a variety of both pure and applied Mathematics. There will be three two-hour examination papers, at the end of the course, to assess all the content.

Pure Mathematics and Mechanics - assessing mathematical processes, pure mathematics and mechanics

Pure Mathematics and Statistics - assessing mathematical processes, pure mathematics and statistics

Pure Mathematics and Comprehension - assessing the interpretation of problem into a mathematical model with the related processes within the pure mathematics content

How will this course benefit you?

The course is designed for:

- Students who enjoy the challenge of Mathematics and are interested in further developing their understanding in the subject.
- Students planning to read Mathematics at university, or pursue numerate courses such as Engineering, Physics, Chemistry or Economics; or support the study of such subjects at A Level.

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics

Complementary Courses

Further Mathematics and Physics

Mr J Hamilton

Head of Mathematics

Media Studies

In the 21st Century, new literacy skills are needed, in addition to traditional ones, to help us to function in a multi-media world.
Films and television programmes have the power to provoke, move and teach us as much as the best literature. Political parties depend on the mass media to communicate their policies and get elected.

During the course you will analyse a variety of media producers and their social and political contexts. You will work independently to create your music video and related promotional material. The course is very "hands on" and much of the time is spent working independently to research, discuss, produce media products and write essays.

What you will be studying on the course

- Representation of social issues in TV drama
- The film/games and advertising industries
- Producing a practical project
- Theoretical perspectives
- News
- Changing platforms of Media

The department has four computer suites consisting of iMacs and PCs with digital editing, desktop publishing and image manipulation software. The department also supply video and still cameras, lighting equipment and a green screen studio to aid you in your creation of professional media products. No experience is necessary – just enthusiasm, great ideas and perseverance.

Method of Assessment

Component 1: (Media Messages) Textual analysis of News, Online Media, Media Language and Representation. See OCR Specification for further details. (35% External Assessment 120 minute exam).

Component 2: Evolving Media. 35% External Assessment.

- Radio
- Video Games
- Film
- Long Form TV Drama

Component 3: Cross Media practical production. 30% (NEA)

- Music Video production
- Website production

How will the course benefit you?

It is excellent preparation for media-related degrees, as well as for the more traditional subjects. There are many excellent institutions offering a variety of production or theoretical degrees that achieve very high graduate employment rates. However, there are many routes to be considered. The Department can provide up to date careers and course advice for students and parents/carers wishing to consider these avenues of progression.
Possible media career paths include:

- advertising, digital, new media, newspapers
- publishing, television, radio, journalism

Complementary Courses

Many subjects fit well with A Level Media Studies. Students may find that the following are particularly supportive:

- Film Studies
- Art/Graphics/Photography
- English Literature
- History
- Psychology
- Music
- Design Technology
- Business Studies

Mr B Southworth

Head of Media Studies

Music

A Level Music offers creativity, teamwork and challenge through developing you as a performer, stimulating your compositional voice and building on your understanding of music through deeper listening and appraising across a broad range of styles. It is an exciting course that stimulates independence and mixes the creative with the academic. We follow the Eduqas syllabus.

What you will be studying on the course

Component 1 – Performing:
Option A (35%): 10-12 minutes, at least 3 pieces
Option B (25%): 6-8 minutes, at least 2 pieces
Students perform as a soloist for at least one of their pieces, provide scores for all and are expected to demonstrate accuracy, technical control and appropriate style. Having weekly individual lessons, reading music and working towards Grade 6+ are essential.
Component 2 – Composing:
Option A (25%): 4-6 minutes, 2 compositions
Option B (35%): 8-10 minutes, 3 compositions
All students will compose one piece reflecting the techniques and conventions of the Western Classical Tradition. This will be in response to a brief set by Eduqas and published in September of Year 13.
Composition two is a Free Composition.
For those specialising, the third composition must be in a different Area of Study (ie not Western Classical).
Detailed scores and recordings (live or midi) are critical to the success of the portfolio.

Students will choose either Option A or Option B in both Performing and Composition.

Component 3 – Appraising (40%)
All work will link to **3 Areas of Study:**

AoS A (compulsory): The Western Classical Tradition (the development of the orchestra) including 2 orchestral set works.

Choose a further one from
AoS B: Rock and Pop
AoS C: Musical Theatre
AoS D: Jazz and study various styles, artists and music

Choose a final one from
AoS E: Into the 20th Century
AoS F: Into the 21st Century both include 2 set works

The exam will consist of written and listening questions that require analysis of set works and extended responses on a wider context. There will also be comparison questions and those on unfamiliar extracts of music.

A Level Music Method of Assessment

Component 1: Recital exam - externally assessed by visiting examiner in March/April of Year 13.
Component 2: Composition portfolio – externally assessed (NEA).
Component 3 (40%): Two hour 15 minutes written/listening exam – externally assessed.

How will this course benefit you?

This course is excellent for developing creative, logical and analytical skills. The course cultivates skills required for the workplace such as collaboration, academic writing, creative thinking, working to deadline and independence. The course will also allow you to deepen your understanding of performance practice and how music functions; hone your performance, develop composition skills and build confidence whilst increasing your understanding of musical conventions, styles and genres.

Special Requirements

- An extra-curricular Music activity / Rabble Chorus are a compulsory part of the course.

Complementary Courses:

English
History
Mathematics
Music Technology
Drama & Theatre Studies
Sociology
PRE

Mr N Grant
Head of Music

Music Technology

Explore the colourful world of sound production, recording techniques and music industry practice through listening to, producing, composing and analysing all styles of recorded music. Music Technology A Level encourages creativity, precision, logical thinking and leadership skills. We follow the Pearson/Edexcel syllabus

What you will be studying on the course

Area of study 1: Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes.
Area of study 2: Principles of sound and audio technology.
Area of study 3: The development of recording and production technology.

Method of Assessment

Component 1: Recording Non-examined assessment (NEA) externally assessed (**20%)**
Content overview: Production tools and techniques to capture, edit, process and mix an audio recording.

Component 2: Technology-based composition
Non-examined assessment externally assessed (**20%**)
Content overview: Creating, editing, manipulating and structuring sounds to produce a technology-based composition.

Component 3: Listening and analysing. Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes (**25%)**
Content overview

- Knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques and principles, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied by Pearson.
- Application of knowledge related to all three areas of study:
    - Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
    - Principles of sound and audio technology
    - The development of recording and production technology.

Component 4: Producing and analysing
Non-examined assessment externally assessed (**35%)**

Content overview

- Knowledge and understanding of editing, mixing and production techniques, to be applied to unfamiliar materials provided by Pearson in the examination.
- Application of knowledge related to two of the areas of study:
    - Recording and production techniques for both corrective and creative purposes
    - Principles of sound and audio technology.

How will this course benefit you?

Music Technology allows students to explore the world of music production, composition and evaluation. It also enhances ICT skills and allows students to become familiar with the interfaces of Mac software. It also develops the understanding of physics, in terms of sound.

Special Requirements

- An extra-curricular Music activity / Rabble Chorus is a compulsory part of the course.

Complementary Courses

- Music
- Film Studies
- Physics
- Media Studies
- Drama and Theatre Studies

Mr N Grant
Head of Music

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)

The course divides into three sections, Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. The course is certificated as 'Religious Studies' although no prior religious or moral beliefs are expected nor any one view promulgated.

What you will be studying on the course

The topics covered include the following:

- Ethical Theory will look at various religious and non-religious attempts to define 'right' and 'wrong' and how we apply them to real life. We will examine the concept of the conscience and the value of life.
- Applied Ethics will investigate how ethical theories actually operate in specific situations. These can range from medical issues through to censorship.
- Existence of God will consider both classical and modern arguments for and against the existence of a supreme being and the question of why evil exists in the world.
- There will be an exploration of the foundations of the beliefs in western society focusing on Greek philosophy and the Judaeo Christian tradition.
- Religious experience will be investigated, looking at how we know things to be true and how we can express what we know.
- The relationship between religion and society will be explored. Looking at issues such as pluralism and secularism.

Students will be expected to make connections between different parts of the course. The skills that will be developed during the course are: analysis, organisation, evaluation and communication (both written and oral).

Method of Assessment

Assessment will be by examination. Essay writing is an essential skill in all of these examinations. Extended reading and essay writing are essential aspects of the course.

How will this course benefit you?

The course encourages students to think in an ordered and logical manner about the 'ultimate questions' and to consider responses from a wide range of philosophers and thinkers. It will help students to develop a range of skills such as essay writing, planning, analysis, evaluation and higher order thinking. These skills are transferable. The subject is highly regarded by universities and employers alike.

Complementary Courses

Many subjects fit well with A Level Philosophy, Religion and Ethics. Students may find that the following are particularly supportive:

- English Literature
- English Combined
- Sociology
- History
- Film Studies
- Media Studies
- Psychology
- Business Studies

Mr L Baker
Head of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

Physical Education

The examination board for the A Level Physical Education qualification is AQA. A Level Physical Education builds on students' experience from GCSE to enhance their knowledge and increase their understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in Physical Education.

What you will be studying on the course

Theoretical Topics:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanical movement
- Sport psychology
- Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport

Method of Assessment

The A Level is made up of two written exam papers and one internal assessment with external moderation. Both papers are out of 105 marks, 2 hours long and each worth 35% of the A Level. The question papers are split into three sections, each consisting of multiple choice short answer and extended writing questions. The remaining 30% of the course is an internal assessment with external moderation and is marked out of 90. Students are assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one physical activity along with a written/verbal analysis of a performance.

How will this course benefit you?

It could be particularly useful in obtaining a place for a sports related course such as BSc Sports Science, BA Leisure/Recreation Management, BEd Physical Education (QTS), Physiotherapy (Sports Medicine).

Complementary courses

Many subjects fit well with Physical Education. Students may find Biology, Psychology and Media Studies particularly supportive.

Further details on the AQA A Level course can be found by downloading the specification on the AQA A Level Physical Education webpage.

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE with a minimum of a Grade 5 or above in the GCSE Theory paper. Grade 5 or above in Combined Science.

Mr S Pillow
Head of Physical Education

Politics

A Level Government and Politics is a broad and thought-provoking subject that helps students develop their independent thinking, decision-making, and communication skills. It explores the nature of power, what it is, how it is gained, and how it is exercised.

Politics shapes every aspect of our daily lives, and this subject engages directly with real-world issues and current events. Through their studies, students will:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the nature of politics and the relationships between ideas, institutions, and policies.
- Build comprehensive knowledge of how the UK system of government operates and how this compares with the US system.
- Reflect on their own rights, responsibilities, and role within society.

What you will be studying on the course

The linear GCE Government and Politics course contains three units of study. Each unit of study will be externally assessed with three exams at the end of Year 13. Each unit of study is worth a third of the final grade.

Year 12
Unit 1: UK Politics
Unit 2: UK Government

Year 13
Unit 3: The USA (comparative unit)

Method of Assessment – Year 12

Unit 1: UK Politics

1. Participation:

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

2. Core Political Ideas:

- Conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Unit 2: UK Government.

1. UK Government:

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

2. Optional Political Ideas:

- Anarchism

Method of Assessment – Year 13

Unit 3: Comparative Politics.

1. The USA:

- The US Constitution and federalism, US congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation, civil rights.

Grade Requirements:

The minimum entry requirement for students wishing to study the Politics course is a Grade 5 or above in any Humanities subject and a Grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature.

Ms R Davis

Teacher in Charge of Government and Politics

Psychology

A Level Psychology is a very popular subject which links to both the natural and social sciences. It is a diverse subject that enables students to gain insight into the human mind and behaviour. Students will study psychological theories, concepts and research. They will develop the ability to identify ethical issues and use a range of research methods to investigate psychological issues.

A Level Psychology provides training in critical analysis, reasoning and the ability to carry out experimental research. It is among a small group of subjects which is accepted by the elite Russell Group of universities. Studying psychology can lead to a wide variety of professions including business related careers, the legal profession and health services, counselling, clinical, forensic, and educational and child psychology.

What you will be studying

Paper One – Introductory topics in psychology
Section A – Social Influence
Section B – Memory
Section C – Attachment
Section D - Clinical Psychology
Paper Two - Psychology in Context
Section A – Approaches in Psychology
Section B – Biopsychology
Section C – Research Methods
Paper Three – Issues and Options in Psychology
Section A – Issues and Debates in Psychology
Section B – Gender
Section C – Schizophrenia
Section D – Aggression

Method of Assessment

The A Level will be assessed over three papers at the end of the second year of teaching.

Each paper is 2 hours long and worth 96 marks in total. Each paper is worth 33.3% of the final A Level mark.

Throughout the course there will be opportunities for students to complete pre-public exam assessments in order to give both student and teacher a precise picture of progress throughout the course.

How will this course benefit you?

Psychology is good preparation for both humanities degrees (History, English, Politics, and PRE) and Science degrees. It provides students with a wide range of transferrable skills for careers in law, education, finance, government, journalism and many more. Psychology will develop your critical thinking and research skills. The ability to write succinctly and with clarity is positively encouraged.

Complementary Courses

Many subjects compliment A Level Psychology. Students may find the following supportive:

- English
- Biology
- Physical Education
- Mathematics
- PRE
- Sociology

Mr L Parfett

Head of Psychology

SCIENCE – Biology

Biology is primarily concerned with the study of cells, life processes and their interactions with the non-living world. It allows us to understand the world around us. We study whole organisms, individual cells and the biological molecules that provide the basis for all life processes.

What you will be studying on the course

We study the AQA Biology specification which consists of 8 modules.

Year 12 modules include:

1. **Biological molecules**: Monomer and polymers; Carbohydrates; Lipids; Proteins; Nucleic acids are important information-carrying molecules; ATP; Water.
2. **Cells**: Cell structure; All cells arise from other cells; Transport across cell membranes; Cell recognition and the immune system.
3. **Organisms exchange substances with their environment**: Surface area to volume ratio; Gas exchange; Digestion and absorption; Mass transport.
4. **Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms:** DNA, genes and chromosomes; DNA and protein synthesis;

Genetic diversity can arise as a result of mutation or during meiosis; Genetic diversity and adaptation; Species and taxonomy; Biodiversity within a community; Investigating diversity.

Practical Skills are developed and recorded throughout the course and assessed in written papers in the summer exam.

Method of Assessment

You will be assessed over 3 papers; each paper is 2 hours and each being worth 35%, 35% and 30% respectively.

Year 13 modules include:

1. **Energy transfers in and between organisms:** Photosynthesis; Respiration; Energy and ecosystems; Nutrient cycles
2. **Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments:** Stimuli, both internal and external, are detected and lead to a response; Nervous coordination; Skeletal muscles are stimulated to contract by nerves and act as effectors;
3. **Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems:** Inheritance; Populations; Evolution may lead to speciation; Populations in ecosystems.
4. **The control of gene expression:** Alteration of the sequence of bases in DNA can alter the structure of proteins; Gene expression is controlled by a number of features; Using genome projects;

How will this course benefit you?

Biology is an academically rigorous subject which requires you to demonstrate a number of transferable skills to a high level. Employers and universities recognise the skills required and students of A Level Biology are able to apply these skills to a wide range of courses and jobs. Further reading is suggested with some trips and lectures arranged over the two years.

Complementary Courses

Many subjects fit well with this course, these include: Physics, Chemistry, Physical Education, Design Technology, Geography, Mathematics, Photography.

Mr B Perry

KS4 Science and Biology Lead

Mr B Visser

Head of Science

SCIENCE – Chemistry

The course aims to stimulate and sustain an interest in, and an enjoyment of, Chemistry. It will provide a body of knowledge and show the interlinking patterns of the subject. Chemistry is not isolated in the world but has applications in technological, environmental, economic and social fields.

What you will be studying on the course in Year 12:

Physical chemistry: Atomic structure; Amount of substance; Bonding; Energetics; Kinetics; Chemical equilibria and Le Chatelier's principle; Oxidation, reduction and redox equations.
Inorganic chemistry: Periodicity; Group 2, the alkaline earth metals; Group 7(17), the halogens
Organic chemistry: Introduction to organic chemistry; Alkanes; Halogenoalkanes; Alkenes; Alcohols; Organic analysis

Year 13 modules include:

Physical chemistry: Thermodynamics; Rate equations; Equilibrium constant Kc for homogeneous systems; Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells; Acids and bases.
Inorganic chemistry: Properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides; Transition metals; Reactions of ions in aqueous solution
Organic chemistry: Optical isomerism; Aldehydes and ketones; Carboxylic acids and derivatives; Aromatic chemistry; Amines; Polymers; Amino acids, proteins and DNA; Organic synthesis; Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy; Chromatography

Method of Assessment

You will be assessed over 3 papers, each paper is 2 hours and each being worth 35%, 35% and 30% respectively.

How will this course benefit you?

The A Level is an absolute requirement for medicine and an excellent basis for further studies in science at degree level or as a direct route into employment in industry.

The course combines well with the other sciences and mathematics but, viewed more broadly, it can be used in more diverse combinations and is acceptable as a general A Level qualification for many wide and varied options.

Complementary Courses

Many subjects fit well with A Level Chemistry. Students may find that the following are particularly supportive:

- Biology
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Geography

Mr C Brophy
Deputy Head of Science and Chemistry Lead

Mr B Visser
Head of Science

SCIENCE - Physics

Physics allows us to understand the world around us. We will study everything from subatomic particles to looking at the theories of the universe from beginning to end. The course includes abstract ideas like particle-wave duality as well as the more everyday Newtonian Mechanics.

What you will be studying on the course in Year 12:

Measurements and their errors: Use of SI units and prefixes; Limitations of physical measurements; Estimation of physical quantities.
Particles and radiation: Particles; Electromagnetic radiation and quantum phenomena.
Waves: Progressive and stationary waves; Refraction, diffraction and interference.
Mechanics and materials: Force, energy and momentum; Materials.
Electricity: Current electricity

Year 13 modules include:

Further mechanics and thermal physics: Periodic momentum; Thermal physics.
Fields and their consequences: Fields; Electric fields; Capacitance; Magnetic fields.
Nuclear physics: Radioactivity.
And a choice of one of the following topics:
Astrophysics: Telescopes; Classification of stars; Cosmology.
Medical physics: Physics of the eye; Physics of the ear; Biological measurements; Non-ionising imaging; X-ray imaging; Radionuclide imaging and therapy.
Engineering physics: Rotational dynamics; Thermodynamics and engines.
Turning points in physics: Discovery of the electron; Wave-particle density; Special relativity
Electronics: Discrete semiconductor devices; Analogue and digital signals; Analogue signal processing; Operational amplifier; Digital signal processing; Data communication systems.

Method of Assessment

You will be assessed over 3 papers; each paper is 2 hours and each being worth 34%, 34% and 32% respectively.

How will this course benefit you?

"Physics education develops strong intellectual skills, well matched to the needs of the employers" – from a report by the Institute of Physics. Physics is an important first step into many careers in engineering, communication, aerospace, geoscience or theoretical Physics. Suggested course books and further reading will be recommended and trips and lectures will be arranged over the two years.

Complementary Courses

You will also take the A Level Mathematics course if considering taking an A Level in Physics. Many subjects fit well with this course; these include:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Design Technology
- Geography
- Mathematics (**essential**)
- Further Mathematics

Mr B Visser
Head of Science and Physics Lead

Sociology

Why is it that certain sections of society are more likely to see criminal activity?
Why do females do better in examinations than males?
Why do some people earn vast amounts of money and some cannot even get a job?
Does class really make a difference to life chances?
Is religion still relevant in Britain today?
How do we learn to behave in an acceptable way?
How does society work? Or does society work?

A simple definition of Sociology is that it is the study of people in social groups. It examines the effects of people living in social groups and investigates the different ideas about how society functions.

If the questions above interest you, then this is a course for you.

What you will be studying on the course

Year 12:

- How culture is formed
- The process of socialization
- Individual identity and socialization
- Sociology of the family
- Social inequalities
    - Research methods
    - Understanding inequality with reference to class, gender, ethnicity and age

Year 13:

- Globalisation of the Digital Social World
- Sociology of Crime and Deviance
- Sociology of Religion

Method of Assessment

The course is run by OCR. In Year 13, there are 3 modules to be examined in 3 separate exams. There is no coursework or controlled assessments. Essay writing is an essential skill in all these examinations. Extended reading and essay writing is an essential aspect of the course.

How will this course benefit you?

It will help students to develop an awareness of the society they are living in. Further, the course gives students the opportunity to develop valuable transferable skills such as essay writing, planning, analysis and evaluation whilst making links across all subjects.

Complementary Courses

These are a number of subjects that will work effectively with Sociology in terms of skills and/or content.

- English
- History
- Media Studies
- Moral Philosophy
- Psychology

Ms M McKenzie
Head of Sociology

Vocational Qualification in Business

The Vocational Business qualification offers students practical work-related programmes that also improve their chances of successfully continuing in education. It focuses on specific areas of expertise and knowledge and helps to develop a student's understanding of business in a practical context.

What you will be studying on the course

The Vocational Business qualification comprises 360 guided learning hours which are covered over 2 years, and is equivalent to one A Level. The subject areas to be studied are wide ranging, covering different aspects of business including accounting, recruitment and selection, marketing, effective teamwork and managing a business event.

This subject is not for the faint hearted. It is a challenging and interesting course that demands a lot of determination, self-discipline and hard and consistent work along with a desire to learn and explore business issues. Students will be expected to organise their time effectively and meet the strict deadlines that we set for all coursework and other forms of assessment used throughout the course.

The department will do its best in turn to support our students. The course will suit those who are always prepared to work hard and willingly throughout their time in the Sixth Form and who have learnt that deadlines must always be met. Students that prosper on a vocational course are those who relish the opportunity to produce accurate, detailed, well-developed coursework that reflects their ambition and pride in their work.

Method of Assessment

Assessment includes internally and externally assessed work. The internal work comprises of coursework and is assessed in a variety of ways such as business reports, presentations and role plays. The external work is assessed either through a formal exam or through controlled assessment. The external assessment contributes to 58% of the overall grade.

The grades available are Distinction* (worth the same as an A* at A Level), Distinction (an A grade), Merit (C) and Pass (E).

How will this course benefit you?

Vocational Business offers direct progression onto further and higher educational courses and beyond. It is recognised by most higher education institutions and attracts the same number of UCAS tariff points as equivalent A Level grades.

Many of our students go straight into paid employment after school and Vocational Business gives them both a strong, widely-recognised and valued qualification along with a well-researched insight into the key aspects of business behaviour and employment.

Complementary Courses

A sound knowledge of business will benefit any student, no matter what other courses he or she is studying.

Mr J Ungerer
Head of Business

Vocational Qualification in Media

The Vocational Media is a practical, work related course. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations and demands. This qualification has a particular focus on the television and film industries.

The qualification enables you to start building a range of technical skills and knowledge which will help you begin working professionally in the various sectors of media production. You will gain insight into the career opportunities available in the media industry, enabling you to make an informed choice regarding career progression or moving on to further study.

Length of course: 2 years

What will you be studying on the course

- Research techniques for the creative media industries
- Pre-production techniques for the creative media industries
- Communication skills for creative media production
- Creative Industry
- Film Production
- Editing techniques
- Analysing Media Representations

Method of Assessment

The course is made up of 4 units. 2 units are assessed internally, and 2 externally, with one having an exam component. All units are assessed and graded with an overall grade awarded for the qualification. It is equivalent to one A Level. This qualification can lead to further training in media or to a career within the media industry.

How will the course benefit you?

With the international recognition of vocational courses such as this, you can progress straight into employment. There are a variety of potential careers that you can explore, all of which will benefit from your studies, for example, work as an audio-visual technician, radio sound engineer or TV/film editor.

The Vocational qualification makes it possible for you to progress further into higher education as successful qualifications give UCAS points for university applications.

Complementary Courses

(subject to entrance criteria)

- English
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Business Studies
- Film Studies

Ms S Kilgallon

Teacher in charge of Vocational Media

Vocational Qualification in Sport

This course is an Applied General Qualification for Post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to Higher Education and ultimately to employment in the sport sector. Over the two year course the Sport course will allow students the opportunity to develop their practical sports performance, their understanding of physiology and anatomy, professional development in the sports industry as well as gaining experience of programming for fitness and training. This is the ideal subject for a multi sports person who is aiming to move into the sports development or leisure and recreation field.

What you will be studying on the course

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics and professional bodies to ensure that it supports progression to Higher Education and Employment in the Sport Sector.

Learners will study 4 units in total:

- Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology
- Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being
- Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- Unit 7 Practical Sports Performance

Method of Assessment

All units are assessed and graded, and an overall grade for the qualification is awarded. The two year Certificate is equivalent to one A Level, once completed the qualification can be used to apply for jobs or used alongside other qualifications to go into Higher Education. The Certificate is normally taken alongside other qualifications. 2 units are internally assessed via coursework and 2 are externally assessed via exams in January with a chance to re-sit in May.

How will the course benefit you?

The Certificate is valued by employers and Higher Education. If you wanted to get a job straight away you could, for example, work in sport centres, leisure management or outdoor activities centres. Should you decide to go to university or college and you have other qualifications, you could take a degree or a Higher National Qualification in subjects such as Sports Studies, Leisure Management, Recreation Management or Teacher Training.

Special Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including Mathematics and English Language/Literature. A willingness to be part of the team is essential including helping to coach younger age groups, plus participating in multiple sports as you will be assessed in at least two.

Complementary Courses

(subject to entrance criteria)

- Biology
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Media Studies
- Other vocational qualifications

Mr M Lovell
Teacher in charge of Vocational Sport