Art and Design

Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. So as well as developing your creativity and learning to express yourself visually, art can open the door to exciting career opportunities.

Year 12

Students study 1 component that allows them to investigate a range of methods, exploring a variety of media to produce a coursework portfolio that reflects their own interests. They will also investigate a range of artists that have influenced and inspired their work. This year gives them a great opportunity to experiment thoroughly with media and ideas.

Year 13

Students will develop their interests further as part of a specialist project that reflects their own interests which is supported by a personal, written and illustrated study of about 3000 words. They will also complete an externally set assignment.

Units: Year 12

01. Portfolio of work

Units: Year 13

04. Personal Investigation
05. Externally set assignment

Opportunities

On completing this course, students may choose to follow an Arts Foundation course before entering university or they may go straight into an arts based degree. The subject provides a great basis for those aiming to join the world of advertising, become graphic designers, illustrators, typographers or painters, sculptors, textile designers, fashion designers or photographers to name just a few.

Biology

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from molecular biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines either...

The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the three thousand million bases that make up human DNA. In Kenya, 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms.

Biologists are concerned with all these issues. They work in fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology... and the work they do is vital to all of us.

Students who take biology often also study a wide range of subjects including psychology, sociology, PE, chemistry, physics, health and social care and environmental studies.

A Level Year 1: Year 12

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

A Level Year 2: Year 13

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems.
- The control of gene expression

Assessed by AQA 3x2 hour papers

Opportunities

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, zoology, marine biology or forensic science.

GCE Business

The business studies A Level course gives you an incredibly powerful start to launch you on to becoming a business person. All the key topics of starting and running a business are covered, with the course helping you to develop the fundamental skills that you'll need to succeed.

Themes 1 & 2: Year 12

Themes 1 & 2 cover the activities that an entrepreneur, or existing business, may be involved in when managing their business, such as promoting a new business idea, deciding how much stock of a new product the business will have, how many staff will be needed and how much money they will need to finance the new business idea.

Themes 3 & 4: Year 13

Themes 3 & 4 introduce you to what businesses need to consider if they were to trade internationally, such as which countries to sell their product in, and why some companies sell their products worldwide. It will also enable you to assess the current competitiveness of a business using various indicators. You will look at the causes and effects of change on a business and how a company can manage risk effectively and move forward.

Opportunities

This course can open the door to an array of business degrees, degrees in accountancy, economics and many more.

The study of business can help you on a variety of career paths in almost any sector of industry, from banking to fashion, every company needs business minded individuals.

Level 3 BTEC Business

The complex and ever changing world of business challenges learners to go beyond the ideas to think about strategies and how decisions can impact on a wide range of stakeholders and their aims.

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers and professional bodies have been consulted in order to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners planning to enter employment directly in the business sector.

Units within the BTEC Business Course

Exploring Business – Internally Assessed
In this unit, you will gain an overview of the key ingredients for business success, how businesses are organised, how they communicate, the characteristics of the environment in which they operate, and how this shapes them and their activities. You will also look at the importance of innovation and enterprise to the success and survival of businesses, with the associated risks and benefits.

Developing a Marketing Campaign – Controlled Assessment Marked by Pearson.
Developing a marketing campaign, you are provided with a case study two weeks before being assessed during a three hour supervised period. You are required to prepare a marketing campaign for a given product or service, that was presented to you in the case study.

Personal and Business Finance – External Examination.
Unit 3: Personal and business finance, you are to sit a two-hour exam that has 100 marks available, the exam is split into 2 sections. Section A is based on personal finance content and is worth one third of the marks. While, Section B contains questions based on business finance and is worth two thirds of the available marks.

Opportunities

The study of business can help you on a variety of career paths in almost any sector of industry, from banking to fashion, every company needs business minded individuals.

Computer Science

We all take the internet and computer games for granted, but at some point someone who studied computer science was involved in creating them. All around us is evidence of expertise in computing, not just in terms of how computers and programming work but the higher-level analytical skills required.

Computer science is relevant to the modern and changing world of computing.

This course will focus on programming, building on GCSE computing and emphasise the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. There is an expanded maths focus, much of which will be embedded within the course.

Computational thinking is at the core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.

A Level units studied

- Computer systems
  (written paper – 2 hours 30 minutes – 40%)
- Algorithms and programming
  (written paper – 2 hours 30 minutes – 40%)
- Programming project
  (controlled assessment – 20%)

Assessed in year 13.
Assessed by exam and externally moderated project.

This course will give suitable course opportunities at university such as:

- BSc Computer Science
- BSc Computing
- BSc Multimedia Computing

Opportunities

A Level computer science is for students who are looking for a career in program development, systems analysis and network management.

Chemistry

An appreciation of the world is hardly possible without a working knowledge of the nature and behaviour of the many materials of which it is made.

The aim of the course is to stimulate and sustain the students' interest in chemistry and to develop their skills in practical work. Students are encouraged to work logically and systematically so conclusions can be drawn from experimental results.

The skills developed on this course are as important as the subject knowledge accrued.

Units: Year 12

- Physical chemistry: Atomic structure, bonding, reaction profiles
- Organic chemistry: Nomenclature, reaction mechanisms
- Inorganic chemistry: Classification, periodicity

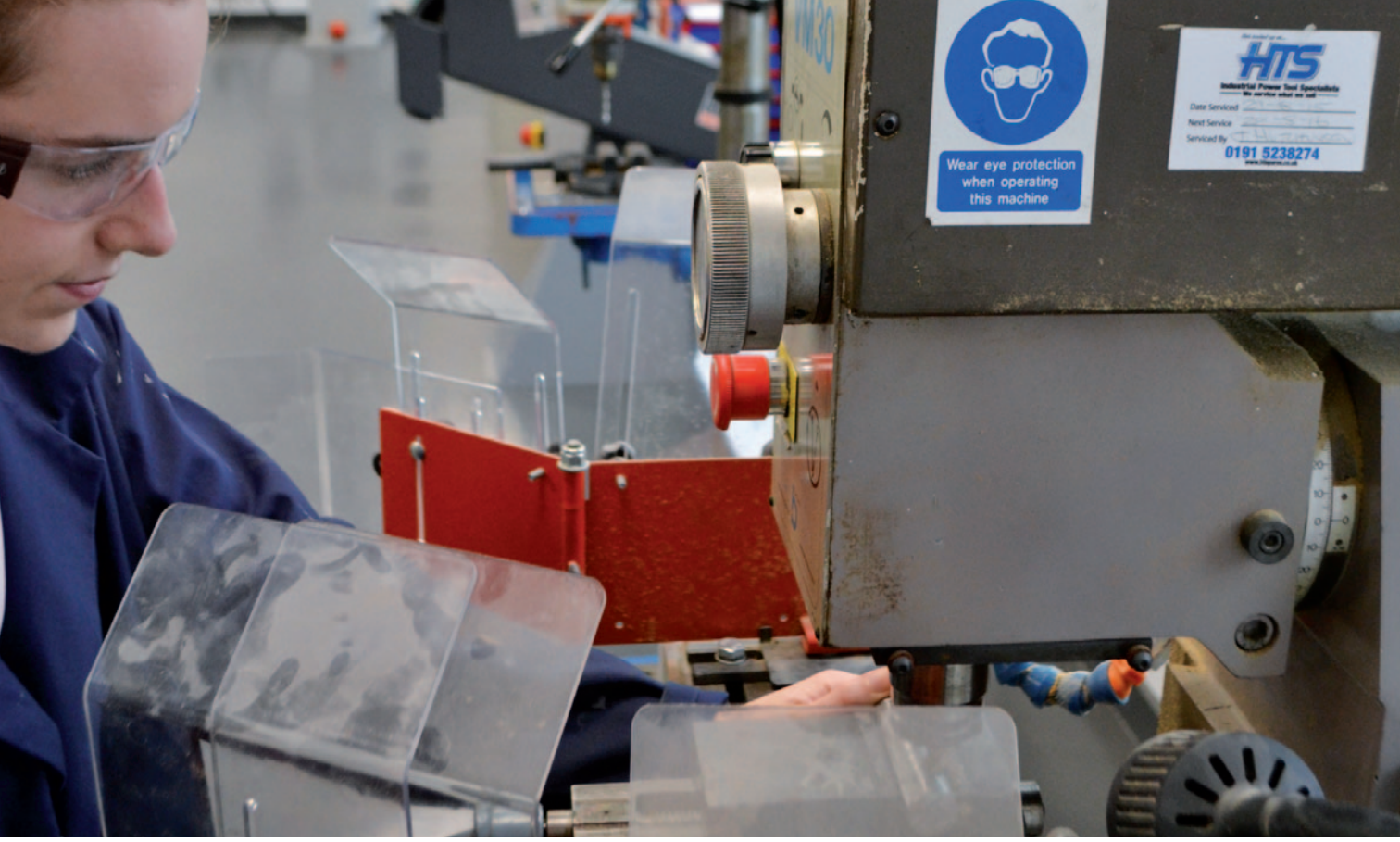
Units: Year 13

- Further organic chemistry: Complex reaction mechanisms, aromatic chemistry
- Further inorganic chemistry: Complex ions, transition metals
- Further physical chemistry: Bond enthalpy, acid – base reactions

Assessed in summer of year 13.
Assessed by AQA.

Opportunities

An A Level in chemistry is highly desirable for the study of medicine, pharmacy, biochemistry and genetics although students who study chemistry often have highly lucrative and interesting careers in the less predictable food, ecology, agriculture, wine, materials and cosmetic industries. It is also interesting to note that many lawyers, accountants, financiers, economists and barristers take science A Levels prior to specialising at degree level.



Engineering

Engineering is the field that is constantly changing the world with inventions and solutions that affect everyone's lives.

Offered as a single award qualification, pupils undertake three compulsory modules and an optional unit covering a range of technical skills and industrial practices.

Compulsory units

Unit 1 is a two-hour examination. The 80 mark paper is made up of a mixture of mathematics and physics questions which focus on engineering principles and their applications within given design scenarios.

Unit 2 is an internally assessed project based team engineering task. Learners must work together, communicating effectively to complete the design and manufacture of a specified product considering effective people management, health and safety and appropriate material and process selection.

Unit 3 is externally assessed through a set task completed under supervised conditions. Learners are given a case study to prepare two weeks in advance before a supervised period of ten hours where they will follow a standard development process interpreting a design brief, generating initial ideas, preparing a design proposal and evaluating it against appropriate design and engineering requirements.

Optional units

A range of optional units are available and are selected in order to focus the needs of the cohort undertaking the course. Areas which can be covered include undertaking a specialised engineering work placement where the learner chooses a field of specific interest related to their chosen career pathway, computer aided design and manufacture, welding, machining processes and fabrication.

Opportunities

The breadth of this course means that the full range of engineering career options are available to learners including telecommunications, aerospace, space technology and exploration, civil engineering, architecture, robotics, automotive design, construction, marine engineering and many more.

English Language

English language is fascinating because you can see evidence of what you study in class happening in the world around you.

You'll start to notice how the media manipulate language to present gender, you'll start to notice how people adapt their language according to who they're speaking to.

It strikes the perfect balance - You get the opportunity to develop your analytical skill with precision and you also get the chance to write creatively.

Language acts as a perfect companion to other more scientific or mathematical subjects to demonstrate to universities that you are a rounded student.

A Level units studied

Meanings and representations, dialect, gender, occupation, sociolect, editorial writing, language change, child language acquisition, investigation and extended writing.

Assessed in June.
Assessed by external exam and non-exam assessed unit.

Opportunities

This course can lead to an open ended range of options for both further education and career prospects. It naturally leads to a degree in English but also is a valued qualification for degrees/careers in law, ethics, journalism, public relations or teaching.

English Literature

Studying English literature helps to sharpen your analytical skills. If you can take a text and find the themes plus connect it with other texts, theories and historical events, you are showing that you can handle complex ideas, search for patterns and interpret information in a wider context.

The course develops the skills of analysis, understanding, insight and critical thinking. It involves using a single main text and comparing it with others either within the same time frame, or of texts over time based on the same theme.

It is an exciting, dynamic and creative course which students enjoy. It develops both collaborative and independent learning skills.

What is best about this course is it allows students to develop their own critical opinions, enhances independent analysis and it allows students to engage with literary criticism at an advanced and mature level.

A Level units studied

Unit 1 explores the theme of love through the ages. This involves the study of three texts: one poetry and one prose text, of which one must be written pre-1900, and one Shakespeare play.

Unit 2 explores texts in shared contexts: WW1 and its aftermath . This will include the study of three texts: one prose, one poetry, and one drama, of which one must be written post-2000.

Unit 3 Non-exam assessment: Independent critical study: texts across time. Students will write a comparative critical study of two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.

Assessed by external examination June.

Opportunities

This course can lead to an open ended range of options for both further education and career prospects. It naturally leads to a degree in English but also is a valued qualification for degrees/careers in law, ethics, journalism, public relations or teaching.

Modern Foreign Languages

Choosing an A Level language is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and is a lot of fun along the way.

A2 Level studied

At A Level you study a range of topics (such as current trends in the society of French/Spanish speaking countries, politics, history and culture) as well as studying a book and a film in the target language. You will also be given the opportunity to complete an individual research project into an area of French/Hispanic society that interests you most.

You will be assessed in June of year 13 in all four key skill areas: reading, listening, speaking and writing.

Opportunities

By studying a language at A Level you can continue at degree level either as a main subject or in addition to one and experience a year abroad as part of your degree (no matter what your degree is in). Speakers of a modern foreign language are in increasing demand. Being able to speak a language will give you a cutting edge over your competitors, proving you have communication, memory and organisational skills and demonstrating a broad cultural awareness in an increasingly diverse job market.

Further Maths

As well as being a fascinating subject in itself that will help you unlock the mysteries of science, technology and statistics, studying mathematics offers higher earning potential, exciting career opportunities and a grounding in important life skills. A Level further mathematics is fun and rewarding. It broadens your mathematical skills and promotes deeper mathematical thinking.

Further mathematics is a subject tailored to suit the needs of people who are hoping to study mathematics to a high level. It is a course which will only be offered to the most able students.

Year 12

In Year 12 further maths students are introduced to the mechanics as well as the study of complex number and series.

Year 13

In Year 13 further maths students explore the ideas normally reserved for university study such as; curvature, multi-variable calculus and circular motion.

Opportunities

Further maths is studied alongside maths A Level by those students wishing to study maths, physics or engineering at university. It is also well regarded as training for the mind by employers.

Geography

Geography at A Level excites students' minds, challenges perceptions and stimulates investigative and analytical skills. It is highly recognised by universities and employers due to the vast number of transferrable skills acquired during the course and the deepening understanding of worldwide contexts.

Geography is the perfect complement to subjects from both the humanities and science fields such as English, biology and physics.

Studying geography will encourage students to find the link between the human and physical environments and understand the complex interactions of processes that shape the world. Students learn in a wide variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS, data analysis, field work, investigations and report/essay writing.

Component 1 - Changing physical and human landscapes

- Section A: Physical geography: Coastal Landscapes
- Section B: Human geography: Changing Places

Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (82 Marks 20.5% of A Level)

Component 2 - Global Systems and Global Governance

- Section A: Physical Geography: Water and Carbon Cycles
- Section B: Human Geography: Global Governance: Change and Challenges
- Section C: 21st Century Challenges

Written Exam: 2 hours (110 Marks 27.5% of A Level)

Component 3 - Contemporary Themes in Geography

- Section A: Tectonic Hazards
- Section B: Two optional themes from: Ecosystems, Economic Growth and Challenge: India OR China or Development in an African Context, Energy Challenges and Dilemmas, Weather and Climate

Written Exam: 2 hours 15 minutes (128 Marks 32% of A Level)

Component 4 - NEA Independent Investigation

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

3,000 – 4,000 words: 60 marks 20% of A Level marked by teachers and moderated by Eduqas.

Field Trip:

Blencathra, Lake District and requires students to pay a contribution of £100.00 towards the cost.

Opportunities

A Level geographers most commonly go onto study geography at degree level; however, this can then lead to a number of jobs such as environmental consultant, landscape architecture, town planner, market researcher and even an international aid/development worker or a career in the world of business.

BTEC Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (1A Level Equivalent)

Health and social care teaches valuable skills which are transferable to a whole range of settings.

Unit 1

Lifespan Development - 1 hour 30-minute exam

Health and social care practitioners need to develop a knowledge base for working with people in every stage of their lives, and they need to know how their own experiences relate to health and wellbeing. This unit will develop your knowledge and understanding of patterns of human growth and development. You will explore the key aspects of growth and development, and the experience of health and wellbeing. In this unit, you will explore the impact of both predictable and unpredictable life events, and recognise how they impact on individuals. You will study the interaction between the physical and psychological factors of the ageing process, and how this affects confidence and self-esteem.

Unit 2

Working in HSC - 1 hour 30-minute exam

This unit will help you to understand what it is like to work in the health and social care sector. When working for an organisation in this sector, you will have important responsibilities that you need to understand and carry out. These include maintaining the safety of and safeguarding individuals with health and social care needs, making sure that you properly handle their personal information and preventing discrimination towards them. You will need to understand how you will be accountable both to these individuals and the regulatory bodies that represent people who work in the health and social care sector.

Unit 5

Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs - Coursework

For you to be able to provide the care and support that individuals need, it is important that you have a good understanding of the principles behind providing quality care and support. This unit introduces you to the values and issues that need to be considered when planning care and support that meet the needs of an individual in a health and social care environment. In this unit, you will learn about the values and principles of meeting care and support needs and look at some of the ethical issues that arise when personalising care.

Unit 11

Psychological Perspectives - Coursework

An important aspect of working in the health and social care sector is to have a good understanding of the ways in which psychological development occurs in order to effectively meet the individual needs of service users. Having knowledge of the key concepts and ideas enables you to understand the ways in which development and behaviours occur. In this unit, you will learn about the different psychological perspectives that have been put forward and how these approaches have influenced thinking and in meeting and supporting service user needs. You will explore some key ideas that will give you a good idea of how the mind develops, and the factors that development and behaviours.

Opportunities

Studying health and social care covers a broad range of issues and helps you develop the skills to follow a career in health, social care, leisure or education.

Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care

This is a two year course which is designed to prepare you for work in a variety of health and social care settings. This enables you to apply what you learn in the classroom into working in a real care setting.

The units of work will be the same as the Extended Certificate plus the following units.

Unit 4

Enquiries into Current Research - Controlled Assessment

There are many reasons why research is carried out into contemporary health and social care issues, for example to explore the effect of diet on health and wellbeing or the provision and impact of addiction centres in the local community. As a health and social care professional you will need to understand the purpose of research, how it is carried out and the importance of research for improving the wellbeing of those using health and social care services. Effective research skills will help you to progress to employment in the health and social care sector and to a variety of higher education programmes, where research often forms part of the programme.

Unit 6

Work Experience in Health and Social Care - 100hrs placement

If you are thinking about a career in health and social care, then work experience is a good way of making you aware of the tasks and activities you may be required to carry out. This unit will help you reflect on and develop your personal attributes and skills required for work in this sector, and extend your knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities of health and social care professionals.

Unit 7

Principles of safe practice in HSC - Coursework

When working in health and social care settings, you must have a clear understanding of the duty of care and safe working practices and procedures, and how to promote the safety and wellbeing of service users. Safe working practice is a priority in health and social care. This unit will develop your knowledge and understanding of the key principles relating to safeguarding vulnerable individuals, promoting health and safety, and responding to different situations and emergency incidents in health and social care settings.

Unit 8

Promoting Public Health - Coursework

Public health is concerned with protecting and improving the health of the population. Practitioners working in the health and social care sectors need to be aware of the implications of public health policy for services and those who use services. They need to consider the reasons for improving the health of individuals and the general public.
This unit will give you an understanding of the aims of public health policy. You will explore how patterns of health and ill health of the population are monitored and how this leads to the development of public health policy. You will consider factors affecting health locally and nationally.

History

History is recognised by universities and employers as an academically rigorous subject with high standards and superb transferable skills.

History is the perfect complement to subjects such as English and theology as it demands the same skills of research and articulation.

Studying history will not only encourage students to express their own ideas in an articulate fashion, critically analyse hypotheses and interpretations, but also allow them to develop a range of skills that are valued by employers in diverse fields.

A Level studied

- 1C The Tudors: England, 1485 – 1503 (Breadth Study)
- 2N Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917 – 1953 (Depth Study)
- Unit 3 Historical Investigation (Personal Study) Coursework.

Assessed by

- Unit 1 - 2 hours 30 minutes examination
- Unit 2 - 2 hours 30 minutes examination
- Unit 3 - 3500 word independently researched coursework

Opportunities

A Level historians go on to study a wide variety of subjects at university, most commonly; history, law, politics and English. Employers value the research, analytical, teamwork and communication skills that history students develop throughout their studies.

ICT

ICT is one of the most popular vocational qualifications subjects offered. Working in this sector will mean you're at the forefront of one of the most dynamic, fast moving innovative sectors where individuals can make a huge impact.

Those who work in ICT will be working with technologies that are going to be even more transformational than the amazing changes we have already seen in the way we live, and at last, truly enable the information society. ICT is at the heart of everyday life, at home, work and in our leisure time from computer graphics and control systems to communications and problem-solving, ICT has an ever increasing role to play.

This course includes practical based units that enable you to learn, develop and review transferable skills suitable for the workplace or future studies such as:

- BSc Multimedia Computing
- BSc Forensic Computing
- BSc (Hons) Software Engineering
- BSc (Hons) Business Computing

AS Level units studied

Single

- Unit 1: Fundamentals of IT (Exam)
- Unit 2: Global Information (Exam)
- Unit 9: Product Development (Coursework)

Double

- Unit 6: Application Design (Coursework)
- Unit 14: Software Engineering for Business (Coursework)
- Unit 13: Social Media and Digital Marketing (Coursework)

Assessed in Year 12.

Assessed by

- Internally assessed and then externally moderated coursework
- Externally assessed written exam

AS Level units studied

Single

- Unit 3: Cyber Security (Exam)
- Unit 17: internet of Everything (Coursework)

Double

- Unit 12: Mobile Technology (Coursework)
- Unit 15: Games Design and Prototyping (Coursework)
- Unit 21: Website and Prototyping (Coursework)

Assessed in year 13.

Assessed by

- Internally assessed and then externally moderated coursework
- Externally assessed written exam.

Opportunities

Careers in ICT encompass a broad number of areas from business consulting, development and sales to technical roles. In addition, ICT professionals work in a variety of sectors including finance, property and business services, as well as the primary ICT sector.

Maths

As well as being a fascinating subject in itself that will help you unlock the mysteries of science, technology and statistics, studying mathematics offers higher earning potential, exciting career opportunities and a grounding in important life skills.

Students will now study a linear A Level course and will take 3 examinations at the end of year 13. Students will deepen their understanding of mathematics from GCSE and study the topics of algebra, calculus and trigonometry. Students will have to deal with applying their knowledge to the domains of simple mechanics and statistics and will be expected to prove and use a range of results. Mathematics at A Level has returned to its purest form and students should consider this course if they have a proven passion for the subject.

Opportunities

A Level mathematics is essential for any numerate discipline at university; e.g. physical sciences, engineering and medicine. It is also well regarded as training for the mind by employers.

Music

Music is a multifaceted subject, allowing students to develop the interdependent skills of performance, composition, analysis and listening. The diverse skill set required allows those who love music to flourish and develop their all-round musicianship, inspiring a passion for music for life.

Studying the history and context of music encourages our young musicians to analyse the musical features present within a variety of genres and styles and to investigate their social and historical backgrounds. Music A Level also encompasses aural and appraising skills: the ability to identify theoretical elements when listening to new pieces. These skills can benefit all types of music making, both in and out of the classroom, whilst widening a student's appreciation of a range of contrasting music. Music embodies creativity, culminating in students creating new compositions by synthesising theory, investigation and imagination. Students will also develop their performance skills, performing as both a soloist and as part of ensemble. We encourage our exam year musicians to become actively involved with extra-curricular life, employing their performance talents in the many concerts, recitals, choirs and other ensembles on offer.

This course develops skills of self-management and resilience, argument formulation, problem-solving and inspired communication; both musical and literary. All of these skills are attractive to potential universities and employers.

A Level units studied

Component 1: Listening and Appraising (40%)

- Baroque Concerti (Vivaldi, Purcell, Bach)
- The Operas of Mozart (Le Nozze di Figaro)
- 19th Century Piano Works (Chopin, Brahms and Grieg)
- Music for Theatre (Rogers, Weill, Sondheim, Schonberg and J.R. Brown)
- Jazz (Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Pat Metheny and Gwilym Simcock)

Component 2: Performance (30%)

- Prepare a 10 minute recital on your own instrument/s (ABRSM Grade 5+)

Component 3: Composition (30%)

- 1 free composition
- 1 composition to a brief

Style of Assessment:

- Component 1: Listening, writing and dictation exam (40%)
- Component 2: A minimum of 10 minutes' performance (30%)
- Component 3: 1 Free Composition & 1 Composition to a Brief (30%)

Opportunities

Music A Level is a vital subject for any student who aspires to perform professionally, teach and work in the arts and music industry, education, events or arts coordination, arts administration and music technology. It is also valuable as a fourth subject for the application into medicine.

Philosophy and Ethics

A Level philosophy and ethics provides students with an exciting opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of world religions, and explore philosophy of religion and religious ethics.

The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that religious studies A Level provides 'suitable preparation for university generally'. Emphasis is placed on critical analysis and the construction of balanced, informed arguments within the context of a religious, philosophical and ethical awareness.

At A Level we study religious studies using the OCR examinations board. Students study three components, philosophy of religion, religion and ethics and developments in Christian thought over a two year period.

Year 1

Philosophy of Religion
- Ancient philosophical influences
- Soul, mind and body
- Arguments based on observation
- Arguments based on reason
- The problem of evil
- Religious experience

Religion and ethics
- Natural law
- Situation ethics
- Kantian ethics
- Utilitarianism
- Euthanasia
- Business ethics

Developments in Christian Thought
- Augustine's teaching on human nature
- Death and the afterlife
- Knowledge of God's existence
- The person of Jesus Christ
- Christian moral principles
- Christian moral action

Year 2

Philosophy of Religion
- The nature or attributes of God
- Religious language: negative, analogical or symbolic
- Religious language: twentieth-century perspectives and philosophical comparison

Religion and Ethics
- Meta-ethical theories
- Conscience
- Sexual ethics

Developments in Christian Thought
- Religious pluralism and theology
- Religious pluralism and society
- Gender and society
- Gender and theology
- The challenge of secularism
- Liberation theology and Marx

For more information on each topic, please visit:
www.st-wilfrids.org/sixth-form/courses

Opportunities:
Philosophy teaches you how to think for yourself and how to analyse and communicate ideas clearly and logically. These versatile skills provide a basis for almost every type of employer in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors.

Physics

Physics is an exciting and varied subject where you study and model the makeup of reality. It is viewed very highly by universities and can open doors to a variety of careers.

Physics is an amazing and varied subject where you get to answer the big questions of the universe. From studying the smallest particles and fundamental forces that make up the fabric of our very existence to modelling the structure of galactic superclusters that are so large as to defy the scale of human comprehension, physics allows us to unravel why the universe is as we perceive it.

At the cutting edge of science, physicists are using mathematical modelling to unravel the secrets of the universe and apply these to improve people's lives. Using general relativity to allow GPS signals to accurately pinpoint where you are on the planet, quantum mechanics to create the next generation of computers that can perform calculations at previously unimaginable speeds and developing fusion power stations which will create in inexhaustible supply of green energy from seawater. By studying A-level physics you too can one day contribute to the incredible advancements we are making.

Physics is an excellent subject to study for anyone with a logical mathematical mind and a desire to tackle the mysteries of the universe.

When choosing to study Physics students must take Maths as one of their options, in exceptional cases pupils that study Physics without Maths will need to take an additional Maths lesson.

A Level studied

Particle physics, quantum phenomena, waves, mechanics & materials, electricity, further mechanics, thermal physics, fields & their consequences, nuclear physics, astrophysics.

Assessed in June.

Assessed by

- Paper 1: Particle physics, quantum phenomena, waves, mechanics & materials, electricity
- Paper 2: Further mechanics, thermal physics, fields & their consequences, nuclear physics
- Paper 3: Practical skills, data analysis & astrophysics

Opportunities

An A Level in physics is invaluable as it proves that you are can solve problems in the real world. The mathematical, modelling, computational and logic skills you will develop in physics are highly valued in a wide range of fields such as engineering, computer gaming, medical research and banking and many more.

To find more reasons why you should take this A-Level, visit www.physics.org.

Psychology

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. Through the study of psychology you will learn how development occurs, how personality forms, and how factors like society and culture impact behaviour.

You will gain an insight into memory, the biological processes of the brain, and the origins and treatment of mental illness. As you progress through the course you might even find yourself gaining a deeper understanding of the many influences that have impacted your own life.

This is a broad and engaging introduction to the subject that covers a wide range of topics, including cognitive, developmental and social psychology. As a psychologist you will demonstrate your ability as an 'all-rounder', as you will require an aptitude for both the sciences and the arts. In addition to learning more about the world around you, you will be developing a skill-set that will be highly valued by higher education providers and employers. Skills you will develop include critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

The study of psychology touches on aspects of a variety of other subjects including English language, biology and philosophy. You may find the course complements your study of these related areas.

A Level studied

- Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology - social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology
- Paper 2: Psychology in context - approaches in psychology, biopsychology, research methods
- Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology - issues and debates in psychology, relationships, schizophrenia, aggression.

Assessed in June.

Assessed by

- Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology
- Paper 2: Psychology in context
- Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology

Opportunities

Studying psychology gives you a broad range of skills that span both science and the arts and opens up opportunities with a variety of employers.

Extended Certificate in Sport (1A Level Equivalent – 360 Guided Learning Hours)

Sport and exercise is a huge and rapidly expanding global industry, whilst levels of public fitness and participation in physical activity are issues on the political agenda.

A Level units studied

- Unit 2: Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being (120GLH)
- Unit 3: Professional development in the sports industry (60GLH)
- Unit 1: Anatomy and physiology (120GLH)
- Unit 4: Sports leadership (60GLH)

Assessed in

- Units 1 and 2 are examination units
- Remaining units are controlled coursework units

Assessed by

- Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed examinations
- Remaining units are internally assessed via PE staff and moderated accordingly

Opportunities

This qualification will give students access to university degree courses such as: BSC sport science; sport management; sport and exercise development; sport exercise, health and fitness; sports development; sports coaching or sports marketing, as well as college courses and employment in similar areas.

This course is a must if you are thinking about a career in the sporting industry e.g. PE teaching, coaching, physiotherapist, nutritionist, fitness instructor, sports development officer, sports management etc.

Diploma in Sport (2A Level Equivalent – 720 Guided Learning Hours)

Sport and exercise is a huge and rapidly expanding global industry, whilst levels of public fitness and participation in physical activity are issues on the political agenda.

A Level units studied

- Unit 1: Anatomy and physiology (120GLH)
- Unit 2: Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being (120GLH)
- Unit 3: Professional development in the sports industry (60GLH)
- Unit 4: Sports leadership (60GLH)
- Unit 5: Application of fitness testing (60GLH)
- Unit 6: Sports psychology (60GLH)
- Unit 7: Practical sports performance (60GLH)
- Unit 22: Investigating business in sport and the active leisure industry (90GLH)
- Unit 23: Skill acquisition in sport (90GLH)

Assessed in

- Units 1, 2 and 22 are examination units
- Remaining units are controlled coursework units

Assessed by

- Units 1, 2 and 22 are externally assessed examinations
- Remaining units are internally assessed via PE staff and moderated accordingly

Opportunities

This qualification will give students access to university degree courses such as: BSC sport science; sport management; sport and exercise development; sport exercise, health and fitness; sports development; sports coaching or sports marketing, as well as college courses and employment in similar areas.

This course is a must if you are thinking about a career in the sporting industry e.g. PE teaching, coaching, physiotherapist, nutritionist, fitness instructor, sports development officer, sports management etc.

Drama and Theatre

The aims of this course are to encourage candidates to develop their interest in and enthusiasm for drama, including developing an interest in further study and careers in performing arts and drama. This course also supports and develops the individual's confidence and interpersonal skills.

Component One: Drama and Theatre

Open Book Written exam: 40%

Students will study 2 set plays from a selection specified by the exam board. Students will explore these plays both theoretically and practically. In addition to the above students will review and explore all aspects of live professional and amateur theatre. Students will be exposed to a selection of theatre performances from a wide array of performance styles, genres, practitioners and playwrights.

Component Two: Creating Original Drama

Practical + Actor's Log = 30%

Students will create their own devised drama which will showcase the influence of a well-known drama practitioner. Students will track their development in a written actor's log.

Component Three: Making Theatre/ Script Extracts

Scripted Practical and Written Report = 30%

Students will practically explore and perform 3 extracts of scripts from 3 different plays in groups. Students will explore and showcase the influence of a well-known drama practitioner in at least one of these extracts.

Opportunities

Studying drama will provide you with confidence and self-presentation, analytical skills, and self-discipline – all crucial skills valued by employers. As well as acting, this course will be useful to jobs such as being an arts administrator; presenter; teacher; theatre stage manager.

Law

The study of A Level law is a complete course in itself and is designed for all students, whether or not they intend to take the subject further. Law is fascinating; a constantly changing subject that shapes and impacts our everyday lives.

Students have gone on to study Law at Cambridge, Durham, Newcastle and Sheffield Universities, to name just a few. Law students go on to have an impact in the wider legal field in their roles as solicitors, barristers and legal executives.

The skills gained from A Level Law are transferable across many subjects as well as being needed for further study, the workplace and life generally. All we ask is that you have a keen and active mind with the capacity for independent thinking. Study Law – learn about life!

Course Content

Component 1 – Studied until Easter in Year 12, this component covers the English Legal System, with aspects of both criminal and civil law. From how laws are made to how a person can sue another to what happens when a person is given bail, this component covers a wide area of interesting legal topics culminating in an exam of 90 minutes at the end of Year 13. To aid the study of this subject, we take all Law students to Newcastle Crown Court to observe the workings of a real court and watch trials in action.

Components 2 and 3 – Studied from Easter in Year 12 until the end of Year 13, these components cover three areas of law: Criminal Law, Tort Law and Contract Law. All quite different but all equally as fascinating, these three topics are also studied on most Law Degrees, giving those who want to study Law at a higher level the added bonus of an excellent foundation of knowledge in those areas. These three topics lead to two 135 minutes exams. The Component 2 exam is where students are faced with scenarios and put themselves in the position of a lawyer to advise their client in the scenario. The Component 3 exam is essay based where students show their skills of analysis and evaluation around the law in the three topics studied.

Careers/Higher Education pathways

Law is an A Level which is fully accepted by all universities in the country for points towards higher education entry in any subject. It gives a great foundation for students to work towards a career in one of the many areas of law, alongside the obvious careers such as a solicitor, a barrister, a legal executive or a police officer. Furthermore, the skills learned are fully transferable across a wide range of careers, not just in the law itself.

Photography

Photography is an art form, it’s a creative outlet, a way of seeing and interpreting the world around you. Photography is probably one of the only forms of communication that is truly universal, crossing social and cultural boundaries and interweaving itself seamlessly with so many aspects of our lives.

The Art Department is a flourishing hub for the development of the visual arts which provides students with opportunities to learn to produce work at a professional standard, at the same time encouraging the exploration of photography as an artistic medium.

Our teachers are committed, inspirational, demanding and fun and students are given individual attention and appropriate levels of support and guidance to enable them to produce high quality outcomes. Our programme of study is a blend of practical projects and relevant theory so that students can explore photography as a key.

Course content

Coursework Portfolio:

For this unit you are expected to produce a wide range of digital images working from the theme of structures and that every picture tells a story. In classroom based work you will be provided with opportunities to explore the basic principles of photography, learn how to use a digital camera and develop your skill of digital techniques/manipulation. This approach emphasises the manipulation and presentation of imagery within a computer.

Personal Investigation:

You will need to gather resource material for a project based on two separate genres of photography. You must develop a creative response to your selected genres in a digital sketchbook. In this project you must produce a portfolio of work, based on your observations, further research and the development of your ideas. In addition you are required to produce a related well illustrated personal study of approximately 1,000 - 3,000 words. This should be a detailed study based on a particular genre of photography you have become interested in during the course. It is expected that you will approach this study in a more focused and analytical way. Controlled Assignment: The Controlled Test consists of a range of questions set by the examination board to be used to a successful conclusion.

Higher Education/Career Prospects

This course can lead on to a wide range of higher education courses including: Graphic Design, Illustration, Photography, Film and Animation, History of Art, Design and Film. There are a range of career opportunities including, art and design, fashion, film industry, museum and gallery work, photography, printing, publishing, teaching, television and radio, and theatre.

Politics

A common saying from people is that they don't do politics; however, everyone certainly has an opinion on how the country is run, from huge issues like Brexit to smaller day to day issues.

Politics is always in the news and, no matter your political leaning, the study of how our country works is crucial for any young adult with an eye on their future and on making a difference. A Level Politics is a complete course in itself and doesn't require an intention to study the subject further; the skills gained across the two years will be valuable to anyone, whether they intend to study at university, go into employment or other education. Study Politics – learn about life!

Course Content

Paper 1 covers the Government and Politics of the UK and is studied in Year 12. This topic covers most areas of how the government in this country is organised, how it works and what it does, culminating in a 2 hours long exam at the end of Year 13.

Paper 2 covers the Government and Politics of the USA and is studied in Year 13. This topic covers most areas of the government in the USA is organised, how it works and what it does. It also gives the opportunity for comparison between the UK and the USA systems in the 2 hours long exam at the end of Year 13.

Paper 3 covers Political Ideas and is studied in Year 12. This topic covers many political ideas and beliefs and allows students to study the development of these beliefs as well as looking at the key people within them. This also culminates in a 2 hours long exam at the end of Year 13.

Careers/Higher Education pathways

Politics is an A Level which is fully accepted by all universities in the country for points towards higher education entry in any subject. It gives a great foundation for students to work towards a career in any field as the skills learned are fully transferable across a wide range of careers.

Sociology

Sociology will offer you an insight into the social and cultural issues that you come across on a daily basis. It is designed to enhance your understanding of the society in which we live and to encourage you to think critically.

Sociology is a popular subject at A-level. The skills and knowledge you can acquire from the study of Sociology will equip you with a life-long understanding of the society in which we live.

More than once during the course you will find yourself asking 'Why?' 'Why is there so much inequality?' or 'Why is knife crime such a big problem among young people?' By the end of the course you will have the knowledge to be able to explain some of these social issues and others that exist in society today.

Year 12

We will study 3 components:

- Family
- Education
- Research Methods

Education. We will examine sociological explanations for the role of education in society and study the ways in which social class, gender and ethnicity influence achievement.

Families and Households. We will look at sociological explanations of the family and issues including family diversity, patterns of marriage and divorce, gender roles in the home and childhood.

Year 13

We will study 3 components:

- The Media
- Crime & Deviance
- Sociological Theory

The Media. We will study trends in ownership and control of the media, the relationship between the media and its audience and the way in which age, ethnicity, sexuality and gender are represented in the media.

Crime and Deviance. We analyse and evaluate a range of explanations for many types of crime. Factors that influence people to commit crime are also studied including explanations such as, gender, class, age and the influence of the media.

Higher Education and Career Prospects:

Sociology is a subject which is valued by universities and employers. Students who study Sociology will develop skills such as, reasoning, evaluation and analysis, as well as a better understanding of people and the world around them. It is an ideal foundation for a career in law, police, journalism, media, research, marketing, social work and many more.