Sixth Form Options
For 2018 Entry

Wallingford SCHOOL 1659

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Curriculum

The courses described in this booklet are those we intend to run, given sufficient take-up. As in any school, or college, we would have to reconsider the viability of a course if the take-up were very small. However, this is something that has happened rarely.

Do take the opportunity to find out as much as you can about the courses you are considering, by reading this booklet carefully and by talking to subject teachers.

We offer two types of courses at Wallingford Sixth Form: A levels and Level 3 Vocational (BTEC & WJEC) courses. These qualifications are equivalent in terms of their value for progress on to higher education, apprenticeships or employment.

A Level Courses

A 2-year academic course with final examinations at the end of Year 13. Some subjects may have a practical element or some form of externally-assessed work (coursework), but far less so than in previous years.

Vocational Courses (BTEC & WJEC)

Wallingford School offers a range of Sixth Form courses that have a more vocational content, and significantly more coursework than traditional A Level subjects. There are more on offer now than ever before, which reflects our efforts to provide a wide range of options to suit as many students as possible. These are high quality course, very well-respected by employers, colleges and universities and we strongly recommend them to those students who feel they are more suited to coursework than exam-based subjects and/or already have a very clear idea of the career path they wish to take.

These courses are offered as a double option (equivalent to two A Levels) or single option (equivalent to one A Level), with lesson time allocated accordingly. Students can take a mixture of vocational and A level courses – they do not need to stick to one or the other.

Entry Requirements for Sixth Form Courses

Each student is considered as an individual and entry on to sixth form courses is not set in stone – but these are the broad guidelines.

For entry into 6th form students need to achieve five grade Cs or 4s, including English and Maths, at GCSE.

Vocational: The majority of Vocational courses can be studied if these criteria are met.

A levels: Students should have a GCSE grade B or 6 in the subject they are looking to study at Sixth Form. The exceptions are A levels that have not been taken at GCSE level (e.g. Psychology; Media Studies; Sociology). For these courses we will use the most appropriate GCSE qualification to make a decision. For example, GCSE Maths grade 6 to study Psychology and English Language grade 6 to study Media Studies and Sociology.

Any student with grades below the minimum entry requirements for 6th form can be considered for the ‘Pre A Level Programme’. This is a one year package of courses that provides students with the opportunity to achieve higher English and Maths grades whilst at the same time picking up a number of additional qualifications in Media Studies, ICT, sports leadership and employability skills.

All applications will be looked at on an individual basis.

How to Apply

Complete the application form. Remember to fill in the correct form for internal or external candidates.

External applicants should give their form to their form tutor, head of year or headteacher for completion, predictions and a reference. The form should then be handed in at our main school office or sent to:

6th Form Admissions
Wallingford School
St George's Road
Wallingford
Oxfordshire
OX10 8HH

For more information please contact us using the details below.
Telephone: 01491 837115
Email: office.4140@wallingfordschool.com

Interviews for all Wallingford students will take place in January & February 2018.

Interviews for external applicants will take place in February & March 2018. This interview will give you the opportunity to find out more about your course and the school.

You will be sent a letter following your interview. Most offers are subject to you achieving the required GCSE grades. With this letter we will send you forms to complete and return to us to accept your place – you must do this to secure your place.

Students and parents should keep an eye on the Wallingford School Website, Twitter feed and Facebook account, which will keep you informed of the important key dates.

www.wallingfordschool.com
twitter.com/wallingford4140
www.facebook.com/wallingford4140

There will be a **Taster Days on Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th June 2018.** All internal and external applicants are expected to attend to get a taste of their chosen courses and sixth form life.

Other important dates are **GCSE results day, Thursday 23rd August 2018** and our **Options Clinic, Friday 24th August 2018**. It is vital that all students wishing to start with us in September 2018 make contact and confirm their place on one of these days.

Applied Science

BTEC Level 3
Extended Certificate (Single Option)

Why study Applied Science?

This is a course that will suit a wide variety of students. It is designed to offer an option for students who enjoy Science in its entirety and don't want to narrow their option, however it is also designed to sit alongside – and compliment - Science based A-levels. It is a great course to take as a route into more vocational Science careers from Adult Nursing and Midwifery to Sport Science.

What will I study?

This course covers not only a variety of different scientific topics from Biology, Chemistry and Physics, but also looks in detail at Science in the workplace and is rooted in the application of Science in different job roles from the police to the world of sport. Also the optional fourth unit means we can be flexible in choosing the unit that is of most interest to the pupils on the course.

How will I study?

With a BTEC Level 3 extended certificate in Applied Science there will be a real range in the ways you are asked to study. This is a reflection of the diversity of assessment methods. The course lends itself to practical investigations, independent research, and more traditional class based activities, which will all contribute to you developing a clear understanding of how Science in the classroom can be applied in the wider world.

How will my work be assessed?

There are 4 units that make up this BTEC qualification.
Unit 1: Principles and applications of Science – Written exam
Unit 2: Practical scientific procedures and techniques – Coursework assignment marked internally
Unit 3: Science investigation skills – Coursework task marked by the exam board
Unit 4: Optional – Yet to be decided out of the following options: Physiology of Human Body Systems; Human Regulation and Reproduction; Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways; Genetics and Genetic Engineering; Diseases and Infections; Applications of Inorganic Chemistry; Applications of Organic Chemistry; Electrical Circuits and their Application; and Astronomy and Space Science.

Art & Design

BTEC Level 3
Diploma (Double Option)

Why study BTEC Diploma in Art & Design?

The qualification is designed for post-16 learners who want to progress to higher education in an art and design related discipline. It is an opportunity for learners to understand more about the scope of art and design and develop knowledge of the creative process. The optional units allow learners to study areas such as fashion, textiles, graphics, photography, 3D studies and fine art. The qualification has been designed as a full two-year programme when studied alongside further Level 3 qualifications.

What will I study?

There are 8 units of which 6 are mandatory.

For example:

- Visual Recording and Communication
- Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design
- The Creative Process
- Materials, Techniques and Processes in Art and Design
- Developing an Art and Design portfolio
- Developing and Realising Creative Intentions

and two of:

- Photographic Materials, Techniques and Processes
- Fine Art Materials, Techniques and Processes
- 3D Design Craft Materials, Techniques and Processes

How will I study?

These units will be covered within themes or topics with a vocational context. For example, submit an artistic or photographic presentation for a local exhibition on the theme of ‘Local Viewpoints’. These topics will be studied in depth over the two years of the course. Each assignment will be worked upon in class; however you will need to work on these assignments at home to ensure the quality needed to pass the course. Homework as well as class work will form part of the assignment tasks.

There will be workshops where you will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of 2D and 3D materials and techniques, gallery visits to explore the work of other artists and regular homework to encourage research and investigative skills. You will have unlimited access to a studio dedicated to your course. In addition contextual studies lessons will take place regularly, enhancing your knowledge and understanding of practical issues and contemporary practices in the visual arts.

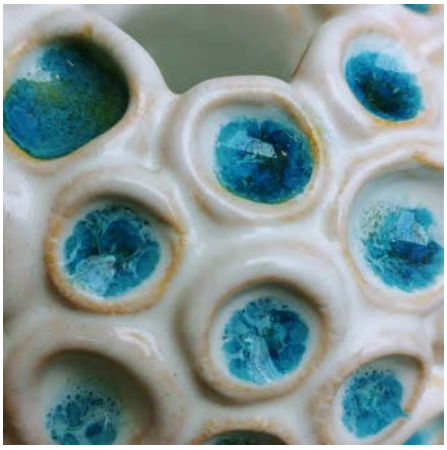
How will my work be assessed?

5 Units are internally set and assessed
3 Units are externally set and assessed
Available grade range: P-D* (Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*)

Art & Design

BTEC Level 3
Extended Certificate (Single Option)

Why study BTEC Extended Certificate in Art & Design?



The qualification gives a coherent introduction to the study of art and design at this level. Learners develop art and design projects and gain an understanding of the creative process. They study visual recording and communication, critical analysis and production skills to produce art and design outcomes.
It is designed for post-16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the creative industries, as part of a programme of study alongside other BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

What will I study?

You will study 4 units of which 3 are mandatory.

For example:

- Visual Recording and Communication
- Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design
- The Creative Process

and one of:

- Photographic Materials, Techniques and Processes
- Fine Art Materials, Techniques and Processes
- 3D Design Craft Materials, Techniques and Processes

How will I study?

These units will be covered within themes or topics with a vocational context. For example, submit an artistic or photographic presentation for a local exhibition on the theme of ‘Local Viewpoints’. These topics will be studied in depth over the two years of the course. Each assignment will be worked upon in class; however you will need to work on these assignments at home to ensure the quality needed to pass the course. Homework as well as class work will form part of the assignment tasks.

There will be workshops where you will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of 2D and 3D materials and techniques, gallery visits to explore the work of other artists and regular homework to encourage research and investigative skills. You will have unlimited access to a studio dedicated to your course. In addition contextual studies lessons will take place regularly, enhancing your knowledge and understanding of practical issues and contemporary practices in the visual arts.

How will my work be assessed?

2 Units are internally set and assessed
2 Units are externally set and assessed
Available grade range: P-D* (Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*)

Art & Design

A Level

Why study A Level Art & Design?

A Level Art and Design gives a broad and coherent introduction to the study of Art and Design at this level. The course is designed to develop the learners own artistic practise through a range of art projects which explore and experiment with a variety of 2D and 3D art materials and processes. Learners will also be introduced to a range of artists, designers, art movements and genres both through classroom-based study and gallery and exhibition visits.

What will I study?

Learners will produce a portfolio of work over the course. The emphasis of this component will be on the development of understanding and skills using an appropriate range of materials, processes and techniques. Many of the projects will be based upon an idea, concept, theme or issue.

How will I study?

There will be workshops where you will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of 2D and 3D materials and techniques, gallery visits to explore the work of other artists and regular homework to encourage research and investigative skills. You will have unlimited access to a studio dedicated to your course. In addition contextual studies lessons will take place regularly, enhancing your knowledge and understanding of practical issues and contemporary practices in the visual arts.

How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed through:

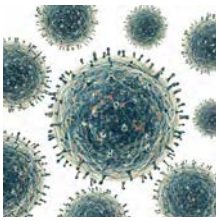
a) Portfolio of artwork completed over the two year course
b) Externally set examination - where learners will respond to a choice of theme through an art project.

Biology

A Level

Why study Biology?



Biology is an A Level subject that will develop not only your understanding of the world around you but will also allow you to develop a range of skills that can then be applied to any situation. Throughout the course you will learn a range of study and note-taking skills, you will learn how to analyse data and you will develop your research skills. You will also develop your interest and enthusiasm for Biology and appreciate the impact of scientific decisions on wider society.

What will I study?

We will be following a specification which builds on the knowledge and understanding developed in the AQA triple course.

Students study the OCR A specification. This includes topics such as cells, transport in animals and plants, gas exchange, cell division, disease control, energy, reproduction and populations, genetics, control and homeostasis. Throughout your lessons practical activities will be used to help support your understanding.

What will my lessons be like?

We aim to provide a range of learning activities that will stimulate all students. In class, discussion and note taking occur alongside group work and independent study. Essays and questions are frequently set to consolidate learning in class. We also expect students to develop their understanding and interest by reading material outside of the curriculum.

Business

BTEC Level 3
Diploma (Double Option)

Why study Business?


Business Studies plays an interesting and crucial role in getting students ready for the world of work. The Btec course gives students the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin the business sector and will prepare them for the further study or training. Students who are interested in researching companies, presenting ideas and producing reports are perfect for this course. Students complete 8 units over the course of two years. The BTEC Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to 2 A levels.

What will I study?

Students will study business elements which give a broad range of knowledge and expertise, useful in the world of business. These elements include:

- Marketing
- International Business
- Principles of Management
- Personal and Business Finance
- Exploring Business

The qualification can be used in a range of ways including higher education, employment and apprenticeships.

How will I study?

Study throughout all these courses will be through classroom teaching, discussion, tutorials and seminars alongside portfolio workshops to assist with coursework presentation. Students are reminded that a good deal of time is set aside for research inside and outside of school, therefore management of time and independent study is essential.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed using a variety of methods including: written assignments, controlled assessment and a written examination. All units are graded on Pass, Merit or Distinction criteria.
The following units are set and marked externally:
Unit 2: Developing a marketing campaign – controlled assessment
Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance – examination
Unit 6: Principles of Management: pre released task based assessment.

Business

BTEC Level 3
Extended Certificate(Single Option)

Why study BTEC Extended Certificate in Business?


The qualification gives a broad overview of the business sector. Learners will develop their knowledge through the application of current business and economic topics. Students complete four units over two years. The extended certificate is the equivalent to 1 A level.

This course is designed for post 16 learners who aim to progress to higher education or training in business and as part of a programme of study alongside other BTEC Nationals and or A Levels.

What will I study?

You will study four units of which three are mandatory.

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

and one of the following options

- Recruitment and Selection Process
- Investigating Customer Service
- Market Research

How will I study?

The units will be studied in depth over the two years of the course through classroom teaching, discussion, tutorials and seminars alongside portfolio workshops to assist with coursework presentation. Students are reminded that a good deal of time is set aside for research inside and outside of school, therefore management of time and independent study is essential to ensure the quality of work required to pass the course.

How will my work be assessed?

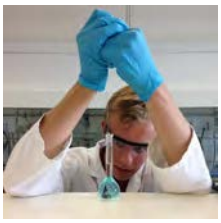
The course is assessed using a variety of methods including: written assignments, controlled assessment and a written examination. All units are graded on Pass, Merit or Distinction criteria.
The following units are set and marked externally:
Unit 2: Developing a marketing campaign – controlled assessment
Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance – examination

Chemistry

A Level

Why study Chemistry?

- To develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other
- To develop and demonstrate a deep appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- To develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem solving skills
- To develop their interest in and enthusiasm for the subject, including developing an interest in further study and careers associated with the subject
- To understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society




What will I study?

At Wallingford we currently study the OCR Chemistry (A) Specification. Many of the topics we will explore at KS5 will be familiar from your GCSE studies such as atomic structure, rates or reaction and chemical equilibria. We will simply develop your understanding of these concepts further as well as introducing new concepts such as organic chemistry, moles, enthalpy and entropy. During your first year you will master lots of new skills, both practical and theoretical, which we will then build on further in the second year of your course

How will I study?

Chemistry develops a wide range of skills which stem from the range of learning and teaching activities that are used. These include:

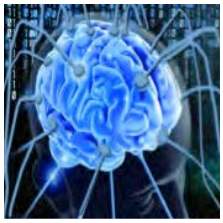
- Practical work to illustrate theory
- Practical work to develop investigative and manual skills
- Note-taking
- Presentations
- Modelling
- Independent study and research
- Group work

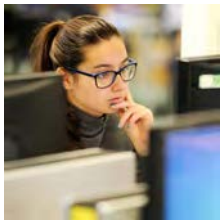
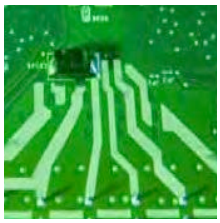
How will my work be assessed?

This course is assessed through written examinations which will include a combination of multiple choices, short answer and extended response questions. Practical work must be completed over the academic year although it does not directly contribute towards the final grade you achieve.

Computer Science

A Level



Why study Computer Science?

Computer Science is an experimental practical subject. By joining this course you learn through discovery. You enhance your problem-solving skills, think abstractly and communicate clearly and logically, where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. The course prepares you for any university course or career where you are expected to question what you are told, break problems into solvable chunks or think creatively

What will I study?

You will develop:

- an understanding of, and the ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- mathematical skills related to:
- Boolean algebra
- Comparison and complexity of algorithms
- Number representations and bases.
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of the increasing use of technology in society.

How will I study?

You will study classroom teaching, discussion, practical tasks and individual research. Students will have to carry out additional research and work outside of class. They will therefore have to manage their time and independent study maturely and carefully.

How will my work be assessed?

The A Level is linear course where you will be examined on your knowledge at the end of the course. You will also carry out a programming project set by the exam board.

Dance

A Level

Why study Dance?

- To develop creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity
- You enjoy choreographing and performing as well as watching and appreciating dance from a professional repertoire




You will develop the ability to create imaginative dances with an understanding of current practice whilst drawing on the conventions and traditions of the past. You will also learn the ability to perform and interpret dance ideas demonstrating an understanding of appropriate technical and expressive skills.

What will I study?

- technical and performance skills
- the process and art of choreography
- the interrelationship between the creation, presentation and viewing/ appreciation of dance works
- the development of dance placed within an artistic and cultural context
- professional dance works and the significance of these works
- subject specific terminology and its use.

How will I study?

The focus is on the development of choreography and performance. You will receive practical training on technique, the craft of choreography and performance. You will also study work from professional companies as well as their significance in the development of dance in theory lessons.

How will my work be assessed?

Practical exam: 50% of A-level
Solo performance linked to a specified practitioner within an area of study, performance in a quartet & a group choreography. 80 marks

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes / 50% of A-level
Two sections:
Section A: short answer questions (25 marks) and one essay question (25 marks) on the compulsory set work/ area of study.
Section B: two essay questions on the second set work/area of study (25 marks for each essay).
100 marks.

Drama and Theatre Studies

A Level

Why study Drama and Theatre Studies?

If you choose A level Drama and Theatre Studies you are someone who:

- Enjoys working creatively in a team with other students
- Is very imaginative and adventurous when it comes to learning and using new drama skills
- Is keen to explore their own ideas on how to direct plays from Ancient Greece to contemporary practitioners.
- Appreciates the importance of acting, lighting, costume, sound and space in performance
- Wants to improve their own confidence when performing before an audience




What will I study?

The subject content for A-level Drama and Theatre is divided into three components:

Component 1: Devising
40% of the qualification
Devise an original performance piece using a key extract from text & theatre as stimuli
Two parts include a portfolio (written or verbal) and the performance.

Component 2: Text in Performance
20% of the qualification
A group performance of one key extract from a performance text.
A monologue or duologue performance from one key extract from a different performance text.

Component 3: Theatre makers in Practice
40% of the qualification
2.5 hour examination
An evaluation of live theatre piece.
Practical exploration & study of a complete performance text
Practical exploration & interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen theatre practitioner (Stanislavski)

How will I study?

As with many subjects we have discussions, make notes, write up the notes, use the library to research, offer presentations - but we are different in our insistence on practical work to generate ideas and energy, movement and blocking, directing scenes and visiting out of school performances and workshops to enhance and develop your skills and experience. A really successful student reads plays and books about the theatre in addition to any text set by the teacher as well as being part of Fractured Theatre Company that will create and present performances both within and outside of school.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1 is internally assessed and externally moderated. Component 2 is externally assessed by a visiting examiner. Component 3 is assessed through a written examination.

DT: Fashion and Textiles

A Level

Why study Fashion and Textiles?

This course will appeal to students who have an interest in Fashion Design or Textiles, and who enjoy working in a creative and practical environment. Fashion and Textiles offers you the opportunity to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of these subjects and to develop your designing and making skills through a variety of practical activities. This course provides a logical progression into a wide range of degree courses and careers that include Fashion Design, Styling, Clothing Manufacture, Marketing, Fashion Retailing, Textile Design, Costume Design and Interior Design.

What will I study?

This course encourages you to take a broad view of Design and Technology. You will study and work with a wide variety of fabrics and components used in the design and manufacture of fashion and textile products. Practical activities will include sketching and designing techniques, pattern cutting, decorative techniques and product manufacture. Theory work will cover areas such as fibres, fabrics and components, industrial practice and manufacture, the history of fashion and the role of the designer.

How will I study?

Throughout Year 12 the emphasis will be on practical tasks that will develop your knowledge and understanding of the design and manufacture of fashion and textile products textiles so you must be self-motivated and an independent worker. Textiles theory will be explored in depth through a combination of group discussions, independent study, more formal theory lessons and practical activities.

In Year 13 you will have the opportunity to further develop your theoretical knowledge and practical skills by undertaking a Non-exam Assessment (coursework) project. This is a single, substantial designing and making project consisting of a design portfolio and final practical outcome.

How will my work be assessed?

This is a linear course with all assessment taking place at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1 – Written exam: 2 hours (25% of A-level)
Short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions covering the core technical principles and core designing and making principles.

Paper 2 – Written exam: 2 hours (25% of A-level)
Short answer, multiple choice and extended response question focusing on additional specialist knowledge such as Product Analysis and Commercial Manufacture.

Non-exam Assessment (NEA) – Coursework project 45 hours (50% of A-level)
A substantial design and make task based on a context and brief developed by the student, comprising a Design Portfolio and Final Prototype

DT: Food and Nutrition

WJEC Level 3
Vocational

Why study WJEC Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition?




If you enjoy cooking and want to develop your practical skills as well as learning about healthy eating and the science behind the food we eat, then this is the course for you.

An understanding of Food science and Nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Over 500,000 people are employed in the UK food and drink sector in roles such as

Food Technologists, Nutritionists, Butchers, Chefs, Marketing Managers, Food Buyers, Dieticians, Environmental Health Officers, Food Stylists, Sports coaches and Fitness Instructors. Hotels and Restaurants, Food Manufacturers and Government Agencies also use this knowledge to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives.

What will I study?

- Meeting the nutritional needs of specific groups e,g, vegetarians, diabetics,
- Ensuring Food is safe to eat e.g. food poisoning
- Experimenting to solve Food production problems e.g. mass production
- Current issues in Food Science and Nutrition e.g. the new sugar tax, obesity in the UK.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1

- a 90 minute exam.
- a timed assessment (9.5 hours), which includes a practical exam. 3 hours planning, 3.5 hours making and 3 hours evaluation.

Unit 2 part of year 13
A written assignment on ‘Ensuring food is safe to eat’.

Centres can choose between unit 3 or 4.
Unit 3 – 12 hour assessment including Food Science investigations.
Unit 4 – 14 hour written report on current issues in Food Science and Nutrition.

DT: Product Design

A Level

Why study Product Design?

Product Design is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. The exam board (OCR) has worked closely with Higher Education and industry to ensure that the direction of the qualification supports progression beyond A level. There has also been a focus on ensuring the content reflects authentic practice, giving an insight into the way that creative, engineering and/or manufacturing industries function. The course will require you to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills and reflects the importance of Design and Technology as a pivotal STEM subject. Materials and components are studied from the perspective of analysing modern consumer products that are designed to meet identified consumer needs, their design and manufacture, and taught within the context of product development and industrial and commercial practices. The wider issues affecting design decisions are also covered.

You will gain skills including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing a project. You will build and develop on your knowledge and understanding from GCSE whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of design and technology that most interests you. This allows access to a range of future career aspirations in the design and engineering industries, leading to future careers in product design, engineering, architecture, fashion and graphic design.

What will I study?

During the two year course you will study a range of materials. You will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of your own design solutions. You will learn about wider design principles and the effect of design on users and the world we live in. You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products. You will develop your subject knowledge, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. You will develop a critical mind through enquiry and problem solving, exploration, creation and evaluation of iterative designs. OCR encourages freedom in approaches towards designing and making so as not to limit the possibilities of project work or the materials and processes being used.

How will I be assessed?

1. A non-examined ‘Iterative Design Project’ is a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate. It is worth 50% of the A Level qualification. You will be required to identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of your own choice, and create a chronological portfolio supported by real–time evidence of your project development. Innovative approaches will be required resulting in a final prototype that can be tested against the user and the market.

2. The Principles examination paper is worth 25% of the A Level qualification and assesses analysis of existing products, technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques and allows you to demonstrate your understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries. The paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long.

3. The ‘Unseen Challenge’ is worth 25% of the A Level qualification and focuses on the application your knowledge, understanding and skills of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products through a set design task, then reflecting on your design solution in relation to wider factors and other theoretical knowledge. The paper is 2 hour 30 minutes long.

English Literature

A Level

Why study English Literature?

Do you enjoy the following at GCSE?

- Exploring your response to texts
- Developing new ideas
- Lively discussion
- Feeling liberated by the notion that there is no one right answer
- Analysing words and their effects
- Approaching novels, poems and plays in a variety of ways

If so, you will enjoy the challenge of developing and extending your skills. If you are looking even further ahead, the skills of creative, analytical thinking, confident oral communication and clear written expression are highly prized in the fields of Law, Journalism, Publishing and the Media, amongst others.

What will I study?

You will study eight texts across the course as a whole. The works will span several centuries from Shakespeare to the present day: three will be plays; three will be novels; and two will consist of selections of poems. You will read texts closely, and also explore them in broader terms, as well as within a variety of contexts. You will learn to become hawk-like in your reading: hovering high to gain an overview and then swooping in on details!

How will I study?

Some of the approaches to texts will be familiar to you from GCSE English Literature and you will build on these to gain the confidence and experience to tackle unseen texts.

Much work will be discussion-based, and oral responses will be developed into essays. Although this is an English Literature rather than Language course, we recognise how much students enjoy original writing and we aim to use creative approaches to the study of texts where possible. We also encourage active participation in the reading of drama texts.

How will my work be assessed?

80% of the A Level course will be examined by two 2 hour 30 minute papers and 20% will be assessed through a coursework portfolio.

French

A Level

Why study French?




French A Level has a great deal to offer in terms of personal development:

- Immense satisfaction in gaining fluency in another language
- The ability to travel abroad with ease and to experience other cultures at a much deeper level
- Greater independence, broader horizons
- Deeper understanding of your own language, and the ability to learn additional languages more quickly
- Improved analytical skills, memory skills, ability to hypothesize, problem-solving ability and verbal dexterity (http://www.actfl.org/advocacy/discover-languages/the-initiative/what-the-research-shows)

French A Level can also open doors for you in your career and further study:

- Modern technology means that barriers between countries are breaking down, and competence in French A Level is are becoming more attractive than ever to employers in ALL sectors. It can give you the edge over other candidates (in the same way as having good IT skills can). The ability to communicate in more than one language can enable you to market yourself internationally.
- Some universities are now actively encouraging students of STEM subjects to continue with language-learning before and during their undergraduate course.
- Employers value linguists because they have a range of transferable skills and have first-hand experience of other cultures. (www.languageswork.org.uk)
- French A level can help you towards careers in many areas including law, education, journalism, travel and tourism, accountancy, marketing, management consultancy, international press agencies, the media, retail management, advertising, the Foreign Office and the performing arts.
- A language A level can open up the possibility of being offered work experience or a study placement abroad, whatever you decide to study.

What will I study?

French culture, social issues and current affairs in France as well as studying a book and a film in detail. For the speaking exam you will also prepare an Individual Research Project on a topic of your choice linked to France. Your understanding of the language and ability to use it accurately and persuasively will grow rapidly.

How will I study?

Our A level groups tend to be small so you will have plenty of individual attention. You will develop skills such as debating, giving presentations, essay-writing, translating, analysing text, and working collaboratively. We use a variety of media (press articles, literature, television, film, songs), and the course includes an excellent online resource bank which is used in school and at home.

You will be given dedicated time with the French Assistant to improve your speaking and listening skills. We have very strong links with our partner school in France (Grenoble) and encourage A level candidates to participate in our annual French Exchange.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment is through examinations at A Level. There are 3 papers:

Unit 1 - Listening, Reading and Translation (40%)

Unit 2 – Written Response to Works and Translation (30%)

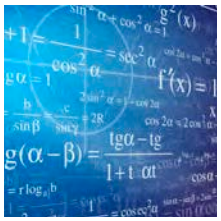
Unit 3 – Speaking (30%)

Further Mathematics

A Level

Why study Further Mathematics?



If you would like a real mathematical challenge and, in the process, want to explore and understand the underlying concepts of much of everyday life then Further Mathematics could be a great opportunity to study at a much higher level than you have previously experienced. In Further Mathematics, the rate and difficulty of the work means everyone can expect to be challenged. Consequently, only those with a confident grasp of mathematics and the highest grades could be expected to be successful. We recommend that you are predicted a Grade 9 at GCSE. You also need to study the Mathematics A level.

What will I study?

We deliver Edexcel Further Mathematics option H.
The course is divided into three areas which include studying the topics listed:

Core Pure Mathematics: Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus and Further Vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions and Differential equations.
Further Pure Mathematics 2; Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions and Differential equations
Further Mechanics 1: Momentum and impulse, Work energy and power and Elastic collisions in one dimension

Decision Mathematics 1: Algorithms and graph theory, Algorithms on graphs, Critical Path Analysis and Linear Programming.

How will I study?

During the A level course you will encounter many new concepts and skills. These are explored and explained in lessons through a variety of activities; these activities include both group work and independent study. Questions and assessments are frequently set to consolidate learning, allowing new skills to be practised and applied. Work will be marked with an action to complete to help develop the students understanding of a topic. Facing up to problems as they arise and solving them will ensure the student makes good progress.

How will my work be assessed?

Four exams, each 1 hour and 30 minutes, all equal weighting
Paper 1 Core Pure Mathematics 1
Paper 2 Core Pure Mathematics 2
Paper 3 Further Mechanics 1
Paper 4 Decision 1

Geography

A Level

Why study Geography?




Geography is the choice for anyone with an interest in the world around them. Its unique position on the arts/science divide allows students to combine Geography with, for example, English, History, Biology, Maths and Chemistry. It is a well-respected A Level choice for students wishing to enter higher education to pursue degree courses in arts or sciences. For those who wish to continue with Geography to degree level there are numerous career options available after graduation – planning (both private and public sector), environmental management, leisure and tourism (the world's fastest growing industry), development, logistics and business services to name a few.

What will I study?

The course we study is AQA. You will study a range of topics within Physical and Human geography and you will also undertake fieldwork in order to complete an individual investigation of up to 4000 words. The topics studied include Water and Carbon Cycles, Coasts and Hazards for Physical Geography, and Changing Places, Global Governance and Population and the Environment for Human Geography.

How will I study?

The course will involve a wide range of learning activities. It will include communicating ideas though written work or group presentations. Lessons will make use of lively discussions, film clips, data, a wide range of articles, textbooks and numerous web sites. You will need to keep a file or book of comprehensive notes, watch TV news, read broadsheet newspapers, and make use of our departmental library.

There is a requirement to carry out fieldwork. Some of this will take place in the local area, but there will be a week's residential in the autumn of Year 13 in order to collect data for the independent investigation. There is a cost attached to this trip and further information will be available from our Geography staff. In the past we have taken students to South Wales to visit the Gower pensinsula and surrounding coastal environments. It is compulsory that students attend this fieldtrip. Financial assistance is available if required.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment will demonstrate knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways, most significantly in the ability to write in extended prose. This allows students to develop their ability to construct a sustained line of reasoning.

The course is formally assessed entirely through external assessment. It is a linear assessment, with exams being taken at the end of the course.

- Physical Geography accounts for 40% of A-Level (2 hours 30 minutes paper)
- Human Geography accounts for 40% of the A-Level (2 hours 30 minutes paper)
- Geography Fieldwork Investigation accounts for 20% of the A-Level (3000-4000 report)

We will assess students in school at various points in the year to track the progress of students. This will be done both in the classroom and in exam-style settings. Students will have plenty of opportunity to practise exam answers in timed conditions.

German

A Level

Why study German?




German A Level has a great deal to offer in terms of personal development:

- Immense satisfaction in gaining fluency in another language
- The ability to travel abroad with ease and to experience other cultures at a much deeper level
- Greater independence, broader horizons
- Deeper understanding of your own language, and the ability to learn additional languages more quickly
- Improved analytical skills, memory skills, ability to hypothesize, problem-solving ability and verbal dexterity (http://www.actfl.org/advocacy/discover-languages/the-initiative/what-the-research-shows)

German A Level can also open doors for you in your career and further study:

- Modern technology means that barriers between countries are breaking down, and competence in German A Level is are becoming more attractive than ever to employers in ALL sectors. It can give you the edge over other candidates (in the same way as having good IT skills can). The ability to communicate in more than one language can enable you to market yourself internationally.
- Some universities are now actively encouraging students of STEM subjects to continue with language-learning before and during their undergraduate course.
- Employers value linguists because they have a range of transferable skills and have first-hand experience of other cultures. (www.languageswork.org.uk)
- German A Level can help you towards careers in many areas including law, education, journalism, travel and tourism, accountancy, marketing, management consultancy, international press agencies, the media, retail management, advertising, the Foreign Office and the performing arts.
- A language A level can open up the possibility of being offered work experience or a study placement abroad, whatever you decide to study.

What will I study?

German culture, social issues and current affairs in Germany as well as studying a book and a film in detail. For the speaking exam you will also prepare an Individual Research Project on a topic of your choice linked to Germany. Your understanding of the language and ability to use it accurately and persuasively will grow rapidly.

How will I study?

Our A level groups tend to be small so you will have plenty of individual attention. You will develop skills such as debating, giving presentations, essay-writing, translating, analysing text, and working collaboratively. We use a variety of media (press articles, literature, television, film, songs), and the course includes an excellent online resource bank which is used in school and at home.

You will be given dedicated time with the German Language Assistant to improve your speaking and listening skills. We have very strong links with our partner school in Germany (Bad Wurzach) and encourage A level candidates to participate in exchanges.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment is through examinations at A Level. There are 3 papers:

Unit 1 - Listening, Reading and Translation (40%)

Unit 2 - Written Response to Works and Translation (30%)

Unit 3 - Speaking (30%)

Health & Social Care

BTEC Level 3
Diploma (Double Option)

Why study BTEC Diploma in Health & Social Care?

This BTEC award will allow students to gain a clearer understanding of the health of individuals and how society supports them. Students will also have the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance within this sector.

The course is assessed through coursework and completion of work experience. Students complete 8 units over the course of two years. The BTEC Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to 2 A Levels.

What will I study?

Students will study elements which give a broad range of knowledge and expertise useful within Health & Social Care.
These elements include:

- Human lifespan development
- Working in health and social care
- Enquiries into current research in health and social care
- Meeting individual care and support needs
- Work experience in health and social care
- Principles of safe practice in health and social care
- Promoting public health
- Supporting individuals with additional needs
- Nutritional health

How will I study?

Study throughout all of these courses will be through classroom teaching, work experience, discussion, tutorials, guest speakers and seminars alongside portfolio workshops to assist with coursework presentation.

How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed by examination, set tasks, coursework and work experience. All units are graded on Pass, Merit or Distinction criteria.

Health & Social Care

BTEC Level 3
Extended Certificate(Single Option)

Why study BTEC Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care?

This BTEC award will allow students to gain a clearer understanding of the health of individuals and how society supports them. Students will also have the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance within this sector.

The course is assessed through coursework and completion of work experience. Students complete 4 units over the course of two years plus work placements. The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A Level.

What will I study?

Students will study elements which give a broad range of knowledge and expertise useful within Health and Social Care.
These elements include:

- Human lifespan development
- Working in health and social care
- Meeting individual care and support needs
- Supporting individuals with additional needs

How will I study?

Study throughout all of these courses will be through classroom teaching, work experience, discussion, tutorials, guest speakers and seminars alongside portfolio workshops to assist with coursework presentation.

How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed by examination, set tasks, coursework and work experience. All units are graded on Pass, Merit or Distinction criteria.

History

A Level

Why study History?




History is about people – how they lived, decisions they made, their beliefs and values. By studying what has happened in the past we gain a perspective on the present and a deeper understanding of current conflicts, governments and power struggles. It is as varied and fascinating as human nature itself.

The skills it helps to foster include those of comprehension and analysis. Historians are clear thinkers who can judge the relevant, write concisely and present informed arguments. Such skills are valuable in many jobs but are particularly pertinent to law, journalism, the media and the Civil Service.

What will I study?

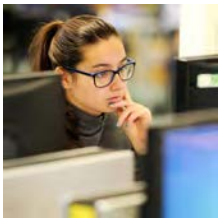
You will study the Edexcel Route C: Revolutions in early modern and modern Europe. In paper one you will study Britain, 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement. This is a study in breadth in which you will learn about the key features of monarchical and republican rule in Britain in the seventeenth century while looking the broader social, economic and religious changes. The paper also contains a study in depth of historical interpretations about the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89. Paper 2 is the depth study about Russia 1894-1924. In this paper you will gain an understanding of the revolutionary activity in Russia in the years 1894 to 1917, the response of the successive governments to opposition to their rule and the reasons for the Bolsheviks being able to successfully consolidate their power in the October 1917 revolution. In year 13 coursework will be written and you will study another examined unit Civil Rights and race relations in the USA, 1850-2009. In this course you will consider how developments have shaped contemporary America and remain a fundamental issue in US society starting with a period where millions of black Americans were in slavery and ending with Barack Obama as president.

How will my work be assessed?

In A level all three units are examined, paper one is worth 30%, paper two is worth 20%, paper three is worth 30% and the coursework is worth 20%.

Why study BTEC Diploma in ICT?






The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Information Technology is intended as an Applied General. It is designed for learners who are interested in exposure to a range of IT topics that will enhance their progression to higher education in this sector, a complementary sector and ultimately lead to employment. Learners will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business decisions, using IT to communicate and share information and computational thinking skills leading to writing programs for a client.

The course is assessed through coursework and external assessment. Students complete 8 units over the course of two years. The BTEC Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to 2 A Levels.

What will I study?

The objective of this qualification is to give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in information technology systems, systems management and social media in business and programming. This will enable learners to progress to further study in the IT sector or other sectors. Learners will study a range of units, some mandatory, some optional. These include:

- Unit 1: Information Technology Systems
- Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business
- Unit 4: Programming.
- Unit 5: Data Modelling
- Unit 6: Website Development
- Unit 9: IT Project Management
- Unit 11: Cyber Security and Incident Management

How will I study?

The course is designed so that students are learning the key theories of IT and them putting them into practice. For example you learn the structure of a programming language and then use it to develop a fully functioning system. The course is designed to

bring together theoretical understanding and practical application and throughout the course we aim to provide opportunities for students to expand their research and analysis, communication and teamwork.

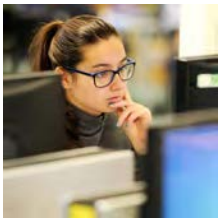
How will I be assessed?

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. There are externally-assessed units. The styles of external assessment used for qualifications in the Information Technology suite are:

- examinations – all learners take the same assessment at the same time, normally with a written outcome
- set tasks – learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task and internally-assessed units learners are given to explore complex or unfamiliar situations. They will carry out projects for which they have guided choice over the direction and outcomes and demonstrate practical and technical skills.

Why study BTEC Extended Certificate in ICT?






The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Information Technology is intended as an Applied General. It is designed for learners who are interested in exposure to a range of IT topics that will enhance their progression to higher education in this sector, a complementary sector and ultimately lead to employment. Learners will develop a common core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, managing and processing data to support business, using IT to communicate and share information and computational thinking skills and the principles of designing and developing computer programs.

The course is assessed through coursework and external assessment. Students complete 4 units over the course of two years. The BTEC Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to one A Level.

What will I study?

The objective of this qualification is to give learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in information technology systems, systems management and social media in business. This will enable learners to progress to further study in the IT sector or other
sectors. Learners will study a range of units, some mandatory, some optional. These include:

- Unit 1: Information Technology Systems
- Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business
- Unit 5: Data Modelling

How will I study?

The course is designed so that students are learning the key theories of IT and them putting them into practice. The course is designed to bring together theoretical understanding and practical application and throughout the course we aim to provide opportunities for students to expand their research and analysis, communication and teamwork.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. There are externally-assessed units The styles of external assessment used for qualifications in the Information Technology suite are:

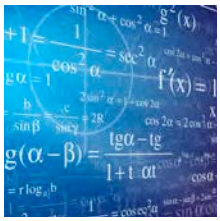
- examinations – all learners take the same assessment at the same time, normally with a written outcome
- set tasks – learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task and internally-assessed units learners are given to explore complex or unfamiliar situations. They will carry out projects for which they have guided choice over the direction and outcomes and demonstrate practical and technical skills.

Mathematics

A Level

Why study Mathematics?



The main reason to study Mathematics should be that you enjoy the subject. If you study something you enjoy you are likely to do better at it. You will be given the opportunity to develop a number of skills including problem solving, logic and analysing situations. Our aim is to develop interest and enthusiasm for the subject. If you are looking further ahead, Mathematics is one of the traditional subjects and a good grade in the subject should boost an application for almost every course. If you have a solid understanding of the GCSE concepts before you start you should do well in the subject.

What will I study?

We study Edexcel Mathematics.
The course is divided into two areas which include studying the topics listed:

- Pure Mathematics
  Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, and vectors.

- Statistics and Mechanics
  Statistics: statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and statistical hypothesis testing.
  Mechanics: quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws and moments.

How will I study?

During the A level course you will encounter many new concepts and skills. These are explored and explained in lessons through a variety of activities; these activities include both group work and independent study. Questions and assessments are frequently set to consolidate learning, allowing new skills to be practised and applied. Work will be marked with an action to complete to help develop the students understanding of a topic. Facing up to problems as they arise and solving them will ensure the student makes good progress.

How will my work be assessed?

Three exams, each 2 hours, all equal weighting
Paper 1 Pure Mathematics 1
Paper 2 Pure Mathematics 2
Paper 3 Statistics and Mechanics

Media Studies

A Level

Why study Media Studies?

The Mass Media are the most important means by which information, ideas, aesthetic experiences and entertainment are transmitted to citizens and consumers. They are a force for social and cultural cohesion and are central to the discussion of politics, aesthetics, social identity and cultural rights. Through studying the media you will gain a greater insight into how such information is conveyed to the general public through the use of new and traditional forms of technology.

What will I study?

You will study a Theoretical Framework encompassing a wide range of concepts, theories and studies, within the following areas:

- Media Representations
- Media Audiences
- Media Language
- Media Industries

To demonstrate your knowledge you will study a range of CSPs (Close Study Products) nominated by the AQA exam board, in preparation for the exams at the end of the A level course.
In the second year, you will produce a piece of practical coursework from a range of options offered by the exam board as well as continuing your study of the CSPs and the Theoretical Framework.

How will I study?

During teacher-led sessions there will be issue generated discussion and opportunities for oral responses and debate, but the course also requires individual background research to aid your understanding of the media. You will be expected to regularly produce set essays in your own time and during lessons. Your coursework will allow you to use a range of technology to produce audio visual and print texts.

How will my work be assessed?

70% of the course will consist of two external examinations at the end of the two-year course, and 30% will be in the form of internally assessed coursework during the second year.

Music

A Level

Why study Music?



Musicians tend to have three things in common; a good musical ear, an appreciation and understanding of some music in some of its forms and styles, and a technical proficiency in one or more instrumental or vocal areas. As a musician you will want to develop these basic skills more fully and will be beginning to think about a specialist for the future, such as composing, arranging, performing, accompanying, analysis and criticism, or music technology. The course not only provides a structured way of achieving high proficiency in the three basic skills but also allows students to start pursuing their individual specialisms.

What will I study?

Students must study Area of study 1: Western classical tradition 1650–1910 and choose two from:

1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)
2. Pop music
3. Music for media
4. Music for theatre
5. Jazz
6. Contemporary traditional music
7. Art music since 1910.

How will my work be assessed?

A level Music is split into three components:

Unit 1 - Listening

- Listening
- Analysis
- Contextual understanding

Exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music. This component is worth 40%

Unit 2 - Performance

Musical performance of at least Grade 5 standard.
Solo and/or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist and/or vocalist and/or music production. This component is worth 35%

Unit 3 - Composing

- Composition 1: Composition to a brief
- Composition 2: Free composition

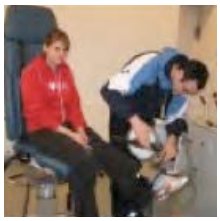
A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required (no more than six minutes).
This component is worth 25%

Physical Education

A Level

Why study Physical Education?






Physical Education is one of the fastest growing areas of study and links very closely to the growth of the Sports Science and leisure industries. It is new, exciting, and provides opportunities to learn and develop new physical and intellectual skills. We will study the physiology, psychology and biomechanics of sport and use this information and knowledge to improve your practical performance or coaching ability.

What will I study?

In Unit 1 (Scientific principles of Physical Education) students will study applied “Anatomy and physiology” and “Exercise physiology and applied movement analysis”. Biomechanics is embedded into these topics too.

Unit 2 (Psychological and Social Principles of Physical Education) focuses on “Skill acquisition”, “Sport psychology” and “Sport and Society”.

In Unit 3 (Practical Performance) students will be assessed in the role of either player/performer or coach. It is recommended that the minimum duration for the student activity is approximately 54 hours, combining preparation and the assessed performance.

Unit 4 consists of the student producing a Performance Analysis and then developing a Performance Development Programme incorporating information learned from the previous 3 units as well as their own performance skills and knowledge.

How will I study?

Lessons will all be theory based with the expectation that students perform or coach in one sport of their choice outside of lessons.

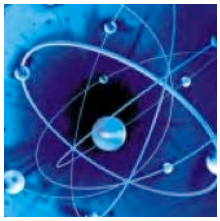
How will I be assessed?

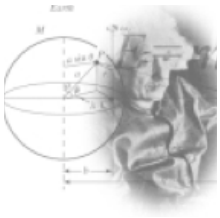
Unit 1 is an externally examined paper 2 hours 30 minutes long and is worth 40% of the qualification
Unit 2 is an externally examined paper 2 hours long and is worth 30% of the qualification
Unit 3 is internally assessed and is worth 15% of the qualification
Unit 4 is internally assessed and is worth 15% of the qualification

Physics

A Level

Why study Physics?






People have been fascinated in the world around them since the dawn of humanity; from the way the organisms around them have developed to be so, to the way chemical substances reacting can be used to explain that biological world all the way up to the movement of the heavens. Physics not only provides greater understanding of both these through an understanding of the world at a sub-atomic level, but it also helps further our understanding and fascination at a much larger universal level.

If you ask “why” something should be the way it is, the sciences can help you understand. If you keep asking “why” then it is Physics that helps explain the other sciences.

What will I study?

At Wallingford we study the OCR (A) Physics specification.

Physics at GCSE is mainly descriptive and sometimes leaves the inquisitive brain with many more questions than it answers. A Level Physics is an intellectual step up and is much more explanatory in nature building and requiring a deeper level of understanding than at GCSE. A level Physics is about working it all out, putting the bits of GCSE together and coming up with a satisfying explanation.

There will be things you recognise from GCSE, but also topics your brain will thrive on such as the basics of quantum physics where matter exists as both a particle and a wave. You will encounter the world through relativistic eyes where matter warps space and time around it and the faster you move the slower time goes for you.

Though they are not directly assessed as part of your final grade, we will also equip you with the practical skills that will enable you to achieve more highly at university level should you choose an experimental subject.

How will I study?

You will be encouraged to think and process information rather than simply take notes.

You will be supported in designing your own practical investigations rather than following an instruction sheet.

You will be given the content for each lesson in advance so that time can be spent in the lesson consolidating and applying the understanding with support on hand.

You progress will be regularly checked and you will be given feedback equally regularly.

How will my work be assessed?

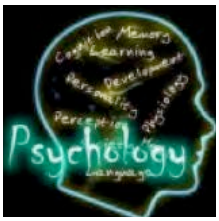
Your final grade will be based entirely on three written examinations at the end of the two years. In all papers, you will also be assessed on the theory of the practical skills you have learned in class through the completion of twelve compulsory practical investigations.

Psychology

A Level

Why study Psychology?





Psychology has been defined as the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. Essentially Psychology is about people. Modern Psychology is a science, which undertakes cutting edge research to try and find answers to everyday questions. A qualification in Psychology can pave the way to careers in medicine, business, health and social care professions, sports management, education, legal profession, industry, marketing and others too numerous to mention. Most of all Psychology is the profession of the 21st century and is a well-respected subject by university admissions tutors.

What will I study?

Paper 1

- Social Psychology
- Cognitive Psychology
- Biological Psychology
- Learning Theory

Paper 2

- Clinical Psychology

And one from:

- Criminological Psychology
- Child Psychology
- Health Psychology

Paper 3

- Psychological skills (Methods, Synoptic review of studies, Issues and Debates)

How will I study?

You will be encouraged to take a proactive approach to your study of Psychology. The most important skill that you will develop is a questioning approach to your studies, the ability to think for yourself and a greater understanding and empathy towards other people. The emphasis is on active participation.

How will my work be assessed?

There are 3 exams weighted as follows:

- Paper 1: 2 hour written paper. Weighting: 35% of total A Level
- Paper 2: 2 hour written paper. Weighting: 35% of total A Level
- Paper 3: 2 hour written paper. Weighting: 30% of total A Level

Religious Studies

A Level

Why study Religious Studies?

In Religious Studies A Level you will study the Philosophy of Religion, Religious Ethics and Development in Religious Thought. These provide a fresh insight into ideas and ways of behaving that continue to shape our way of thinking about the world around us. The course will build on your prior knowledge
of philosophy and ethics from both KS3 and GCSE, but is also very new in its approach.

We develop key skills such as the ability to construct well informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence, present responses to questions which are clear and coherent and identify, investigate and critically analyse questions, arguments, ideas and issues. Therefore this subject is an ideal complement to other courses, such as Psychology, for example.

Students who have studied Religious Studies previously have gone on to study law, journalism, medicine, nursing, teaching, psychology, philosophy, business and management, finance, social services, advertising, politics or the Civil Service.

What will I study?

You will study the new OCR Religious Studies specification. This consists of three units: Philosophy of Religion, Religion & Ethics and Developments in Religious Thought.

We will consider the nature and existence of God, the key moral principles guiding the lives of humans, beliefs about the self, death and the afterlife and the purpose and meaning of life.

At A Level we will also study significant social and historical developments in religious thought including the changes in secularisation, science, migration, changing roles of men and women, equality and discrimination and different approaches to solving these challenges.

Specifically in the Philosophy of Religion we will cover contrasting arguments about the existence or non-existence of God, gods or ultimate reality, the nature and influence of religious experience and challenges to religious belief such as the problems of evil and suffering.

In the Religious Ethics part of the course we will study ethical theories that consider how we make moral decisions and apply these to personal, societal or global issues of importance, including religious ethical perspectives.

How will I study?

Group work will be an important part of our studies with a range of activities including class discussion, presentations, question and answer sessions and note taking. There are also opportunities to attend 6th form conferences and listen to visiting speakers. We use different forms of media to support your learning both in the classroom and at home. We provide a detailed reader to enable you to study independently. The library is also kept up to date with detailed resources.

How will my work be assessed?

The course will be assessed through 3 × two hour exams at the end of the two-year course, one on each unit. There is no coursework. There will be opportunities for extended writing, to show your ability to make connections between the topics studied as well as showing your depth of knowledge on each specific topic. You will have plenty of opportunities for exam practice under exam conditions in lessons to gain confidence with timing and expectations.

Sociology

A Level

Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of how Society works, how individuals fit into it and explores our interaction with others. Sociology has been described as 'scientific study of human group behaviour' and 'the application of scientific inquiry to the puzzles of social life'. Studying A level Sociology will help students to gain a rounded view of our society – we will look objectively at societal issues, weighing up different viewpoints. We will look at how the different parts of Society fit together, as well as the causes and consequences of social change. It is a thought-provoking subject that enhances our understanding of the world around us. Some of the topics cross-over well with those from Government & Politics, Media Studies, Psychology & History. The skills required to do well on A level Sociology are similar to those in English (essay writing), History (critical reflection) and Psychology (research). A qualification in Sociology will be useful in a huge array of future pathways, since it relates to all aspects of society. In the past, students have gone on to careers in health and care professions, education, business, public administration, academia, research, politics and the media.

What will I study?

There are 6 Units that you will complete in A Level Sociology:

Socialisation, Culture & Identity	What is our Identity (Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity) and how is it formed? What are the different types of culture in Society?
Media	How are different groups represented in the Media? What is the impact of different forms of Media on Society?
Research Methods	How do Sociologists research inequalities in society and make sure that the results are meaningful?
Social Inequalities	Why are women, ethnic minority groups, young people, elderly people and the working class all disadvantaged in Society? Or are they?
Globalisation & the digital world	What is the link between globalisation & digital communication? What is the impact of modern digital communication on our society?
Crime & Deviance	Why do people commit crime? What are the patterns of crime in our society?

How will I study?

Lessons will involve plenty of discussion and you will be encouraged to develop your own thoughts and ideas. You will need to research using a range of sources, focussing on key theories, sociologists and contemporary issues. There are plenty of opportunities to evaluate, criticise and debate issues, importantly, learning from other members of the group.

How will I be assessed?

There will be a linked focus on knowledge (of the key concepts, theories and sociologiests) and application (exam technique) throughout the course. At the end of Yr13, you will sit 3 separate exams covering 2 units each. The questions will require you to write extended answers – essays.

Why study Sport?




BTEC Nationals in Sport use a combination of assessment styles to give your students confidence they can apply their knowledge to succeed in the workplace and have the study skills to continue learning on higher education courses and throughout their career. The range of vocational assessments both practical and written means students can showcase their learning and achievements to best effect when they take their next step, whether that's supporting applications to higher education courses or potential employers.

What will I study?

Students will study 4 units:

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology- Learners explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems function and the fundamentals of the energy systems.

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being- Learners explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and well-being.

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry- Learners explore the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part in, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

Unit 4: Application of Fitness Testing- Learners gain an understanding of the requirements of fitness testing and learn how to safely conduct a range of fitness tests for different components of fitness.

How will I study?

Lessons will all be theory based but with practical elements imbedded within.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 is an externally examined paper 1hours 30 minutes long and is worth 33% of the qualification Unit 2 is externally assessed through a written task worth 33% of the qualification.
Unit 3 is assessed via an assignment and is worth 16% of the qualification.
Unit 4 is assessed via an assignment and is worth 16% of the qualification.

Notes

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