

AW6

Courses

2022





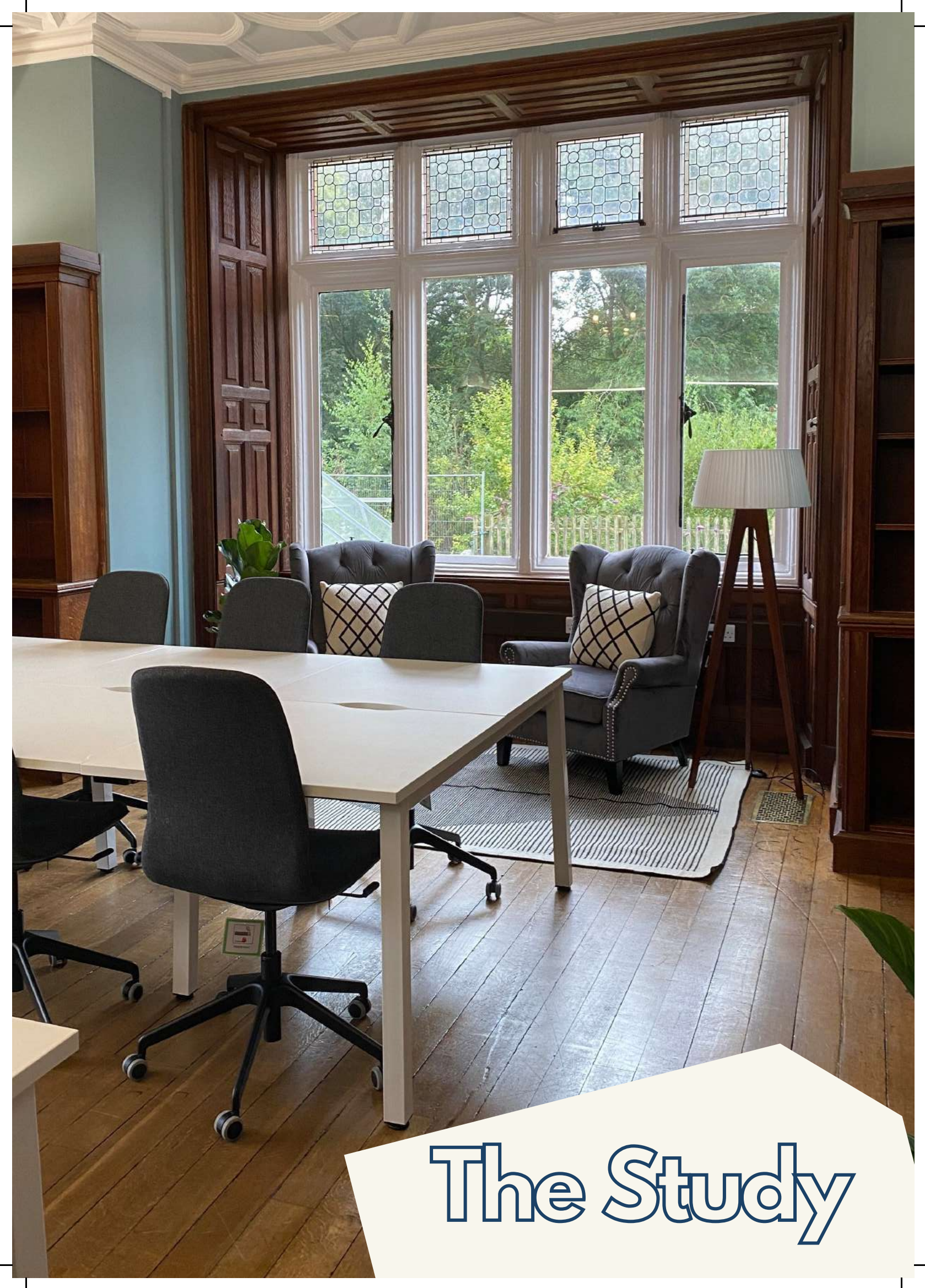


AWG

Breadth of academic opportunity.

Our academic offer is strong. Alongside our broad A level curriculum, we offer MOOCs, EPQ, ESB and have our own future ready development programme. Your timetable will be populated with seminars, lectures, enrichment sessions, future ready and self-development programmes, 1:1 tutorials and individual research and study time. Your experience won't be solely classroom based.

Lectures are delivered by specialists in their field either based at Akeley or guest speakers and lecturers from the wider Cognita family and the world of work.



The Study

The subjects we are offering from September 2022 are:

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Creative Arts (Art, Photography, Textiles)
- Design Technology
- Economics
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Modern Foreign Languages: French and Spanish
- Music
- Music Technology
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Theatre Studies

You are expected to have achieved a grade '6' or higher in the subjects you wish to pursue at A Level. Some subjects have higher requirements detailed in the subject information.

Biology

Why study Biology at A Level?

A Level Biology gives you a unique opportunity to develop biological knowledge and understanding across many areas. The first year is designed to build your understanding of foundation concepts, such as biological molecules, enzymes, exchange surfaces, transport in plants and animals, biodiversity, evolution and communicable diseases.

Year 2 enables the application of these foundation concepts to genetics, ecosystems, and communication in plants and animals. The course will help to develop practical and analytical skills, including fieldwork, and you work towards a practical skills endorsement that is awarded alongside your final A Level grade. The course will complement studies in other A Level subjects such as Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Physical Education and Geography.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Biology at A Level?

- Practical/investigative skills such as problem solving
- Communication – the ability to reason clearly, communicate complex ideas, and work with others
- Application of number – presentation and analysis of data using statistical techniques
- A fascination with the living world
- A willingness to carry out further reading, including an interest in topical issues

Where will studying Biology at A Level take you in the future?

There are a huge range of further education opportunities and careers associated with A Level Biology. These include:

- Agriculture: Animal husbandry; Farm management; Veterinary science; Agricultural product testing; Agricultural engineering; Agricultural sales and marketing.
- Biomedicine - Medicine; Dentistry; Clinical science; Physiological measurement; Pharmaceutical industry; Radiography and radiotherapy.
- Communications - Information science; Journalism; Publishing; Broadcasting; Film and video; Museum work; Science promotion.
- Education - Teaching and lecturing; Laboratory support; Educational resources; Psychology; Sport and fitness training; Health and safety.
- Environment - Ecology; Environmental protection; Waste management; Nature conservation; Environmental health; Town and country planning.
- Food and Drink - Brewing; Food quality assurance; Food product development; Catering technology; Pest control; Food and drink retailing.

Exam Board: OCR

A grade 7 or above in mathematics is required at GCSE to study this A level subject (reviewed on a case-by-case basis), and the requirement that you have completed Higher maths at GCSE.

Business

Why study Business at A Level?

You are introduced to business through building your knowledge of core concepts and applying them in context to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. You are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to your studies, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions.

The course is split into four themes. Themes 1 and 2 are covered during Lower Sixth and themes 3 and 4 during Upper Sixth. We invite guest speakers from the world of work and wherever possible go out to visit businesses in person.

Theme 1: Marketing and People

Theme 2: Managing Business activities

Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy

Theme 4: Global Business

Paper 1: Marketing, people and global businesses (35%) 100 marks. Written Examination 2hrs

In this theme, you are introduced to the market, explore the marketing and people functions and investigate entrepreneurs and business start-up.

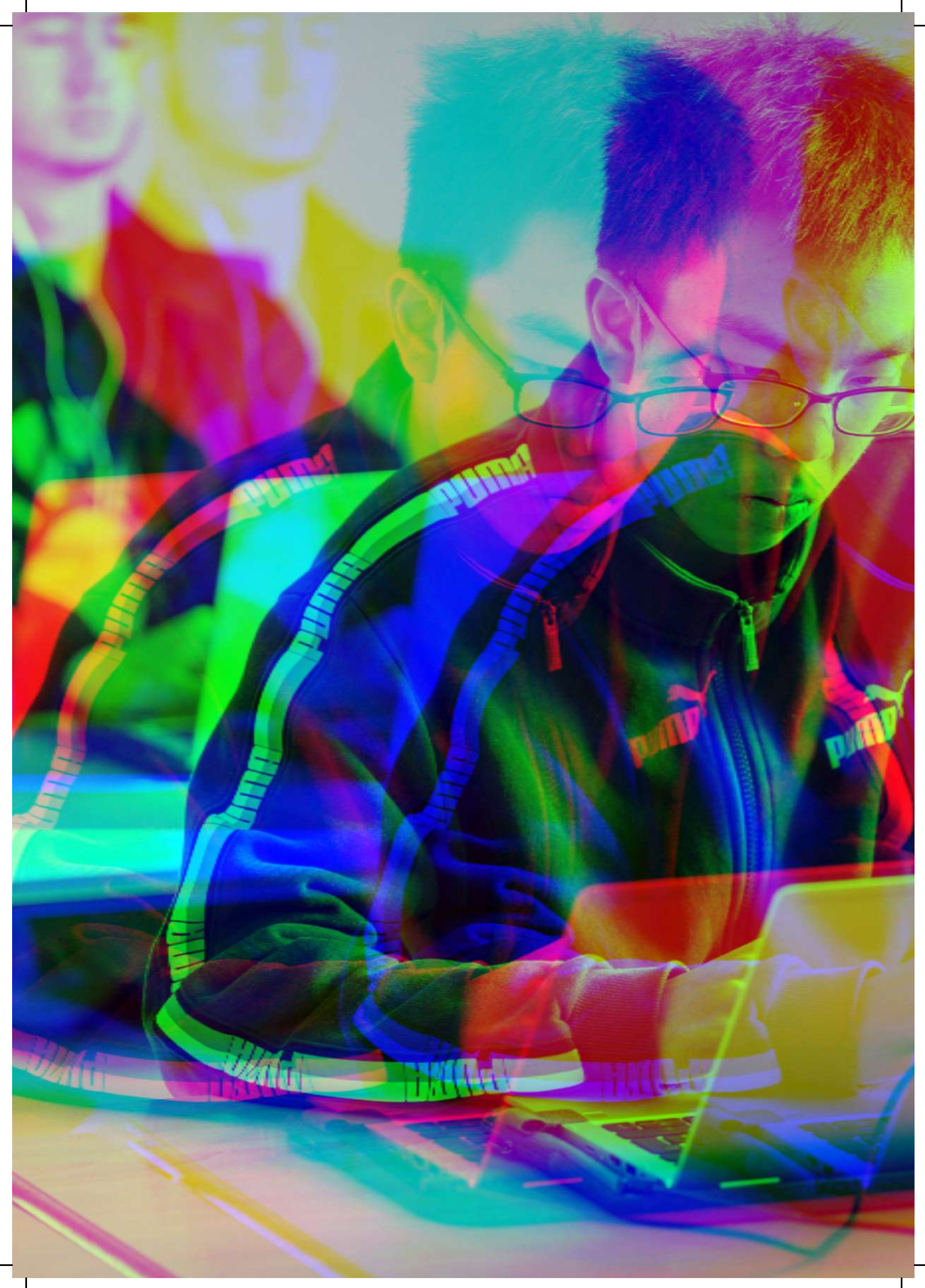
This theme enables you to understand how businesses identify opportunities and explore how businesses focus on developing a competitive advantage through interacting with customers. You will explore marketing and marketing strategy and will consider how effective this can be. You will also look at the market and market forces and the influence of customer demand and business supply. You develop an understanding of how businesses need to adapt their market to operate in a dynamic business environment.

This theme also considers people, exploring how businesses recruit, train, organise and motivate employees, as well as the role of enterprising individuals and leaders.

Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy (35%) 100 marks. Written Examination 2hrs

In this theme, you explore the finance and operations functions, and investigate external influences on business. This theme enables you to develop an understanding of raising and managing finance, and measuring business performance.

The theme also outlines the importance of using resources efficiently within a business to ensure that goods or services can be delivered effectively and efficiently, and to a high quality. You also consider the external influences that have an impact on businesses, including political economic and legal factors.



Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment (30%) 100 marks. Written exam (based on pre-release case study)

You develop your understanding of the concepts introduced previously and explore influences on business strategy and decision-making. This theme moves from functions to strategy, developing your understanding of the core concepts and taking a strategic view of business opportunities and issues on a wider scale. You analyse corporate objectives and strategy against financial and non-financial performance measures and how businesses grow. You will develop an understanding of the impact of external influences. The theme covers the causes and effects of change and how businesses mitigate risk and uncertainty.

Where will studying Business at A Level take you?

This course is an excellent grounding for university or the world of work. Business opens doors to many jobs such as: Accountant, Lawyer, Finance, Management consultancy, Marketing, Retail, Distribution/logistics, Insurance, Trading, Teaching, Human Resources, Market research, Public Relations (PR), Sales. However, did you know that all of the following studied business? Arnold Schwarzenegger, Andrew Strauss, Cate Blanchett, Danny Glover, Ed Miliband, Russell Howard, Lionel Ritchie, Kevin Costner.

Exam Board: Edexcel, Course Code: 9BS0

GCSE English and Maths grade 6 required

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/business-2015.html>

Chemistry

Why study Chemistry at A Level?

Chemistry helps us to understand the world in which we live and underpins a wide range of science-based degree courses and careers. This course is designed to be stimulating, enjoyable and challenging. We want you to develop a passion for the subject and understand its practical relevance, as well as learn from the experiences of those already in the industry.

Class time is supported by trips, spectroscopy workshops with the University of Oxford, the Cambridge University Chemistry Challenge, the RSC Chemistry Olympiad and membership to the RSC Chem net.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Chemistry at A Level?

- An inquisitive mind to find out why chemicals behave in a certain way.
- A willingness to work hard and to carry out further reading, including an interest in topical issues.
- Good mathematical skills. (The maths content of the A Level has increased to 20%.)
- The desire to blow things up?!

Where will studying Chemistry at A Level take you?

Success with A Level chemistry will prepare you for a future in chemistry, pharmacy, pharmacology, chemical engineering, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, medicine and dentistry.

What will you learn?

In the first year you will develop your GCSE understanding and be given a clear foundational introduction to this higher-level study. You will learn about physical, inorganic and organic chemistry. You will undertake a series of practicals to develop your skills and the exam papers will include questions on the theory of practical work and interpretation of both quantitative and qualitative results.

In the second year you will take the foundational topics and study them in further depth. Topics will include thermodynamics, rate equations, aromatic chemistry and protein synthesis. You will also have the opportunity to further develop your practical skills and learn how to problem solve and interpret data. This course will teach you problem solving, teamwork, numeracy, communication and practical skills, as well as hugely valuable independent study and reasoning skills.

Exam Board OCR A

A grade 7 or above in mathematics is required at GCSE to study this A level subject (reviewed on a case-by-case basis), and the requirement that you have completed Higher maths at GCSE.

Computer Science

Why study Computer Science at A Level?

We live in a digital age where computer programs are essential in almost every aspect of our lives. Computer Scientists are needed in every type of industry and you are likely to have the opportunity to work with a diverse range of cultures. Day in, day out computer scientists are theorising, designing, developing and applying new software and hardware to enable us to better our lives. The job opportunities that exist at the end of your journey probably do not currently exist. This subject gives you the platform to give you the ability to be ready for everything the future may present you.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Computer Science at A Level?

You should be willing to develop computational thinking skills and have a willingness to challenge yourself. It is important that you are willing to get involved with a group and be calm in stressful situations. There is no one best method so it is important that you are creative and can be diverse in the sources of help that you can access and utilise. Above all you need to be willing to read and write a lot of code and be able to learn from your failures and move on and maximise the tools at your disposal.

Where will studying Computer Science at A Level take you in the future?

Potential opportunities through Computer Science change every year with improvements in infrastructure and systems providing new careers paths every year. Currently some of the top jobs are:

- Software Developer
- Hardware Design Engineer
- Database Administrator
- Systems Analyst
- Network Architect
- Web Developer
- Cyber Security Specialist
- Computer App Developer
- System Manager
- Project Manager
- Computer Games Designer

Exam Board OCR A

Component 01: Computer systems

You are introduced to the internal workings of the (CPU), data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues. The resulting knowledge and understanding will underpin your work in component 03.

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Types of software and the different methodologies used to develop software
- Data exchange between different systems
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues



AW6 cafe

Component 02: Algorithms and programming

This builds on component 01 to include computational thinking and problem-solving.

- What is meant by computational thinking (thinking abstractly, thinking ahead, thinking procedurally etc)
- Problem solving and programming – how computers and programs can be used to solve problems
- Algorithms and how they can be used to describe and solve problems

Component 03: Programming project

You are expected to apply the principles of computational thinking to a practical coding programming project. You will analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language. The project is designed to be independently chosen and provides you with the flexibility to investigate projects within the diverse field of computer science. We support a wide and diverse range of languages.

You will have the opportunity to enter national programming competitions including Bebras, TCS Oxford Computing Challenge and the British Informatics Olympiad.

Creative Arts

Why study Creative Arts at A Level?

This is an exciting, vibrant, explorative course which will enable you to create a personal investigation (coursework project). It culminates in a 15-hour examination based upon an externally set assignment – the examination time is used to create a final piece for the exam project. You will produce practical, experimental and critical/contextual work, which is realised in any media: painting, mixed media, sculpture, photography, textiles, drawing, ceramics, printmaking or installation. The work created should demonstrate use of the formal elements and creative skills, and will give form to your own thoughts, feelings and ideas. You will be encouraged to experiment and be inquisitive, as well as to explore the world in a variety of ways. There is flexibility for you to major in one area of study, for example photography or textiles should this be your preference.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Creative Arts at A Level?

The course suits those with a creative background of some type (art, photography, textiles) and an understanding of visual literacy. The course encourages independent working as you develop your self-directed project. A passion for creativity and a willingness to experiment are essential to benefit fully from this concept-driven course. You will be expected to write an accompanying essay to support your personal study, therefore literacy is important. Specialist support and guidance will be given to maximise your potential and give you the opportunity to explore the media of your choice.

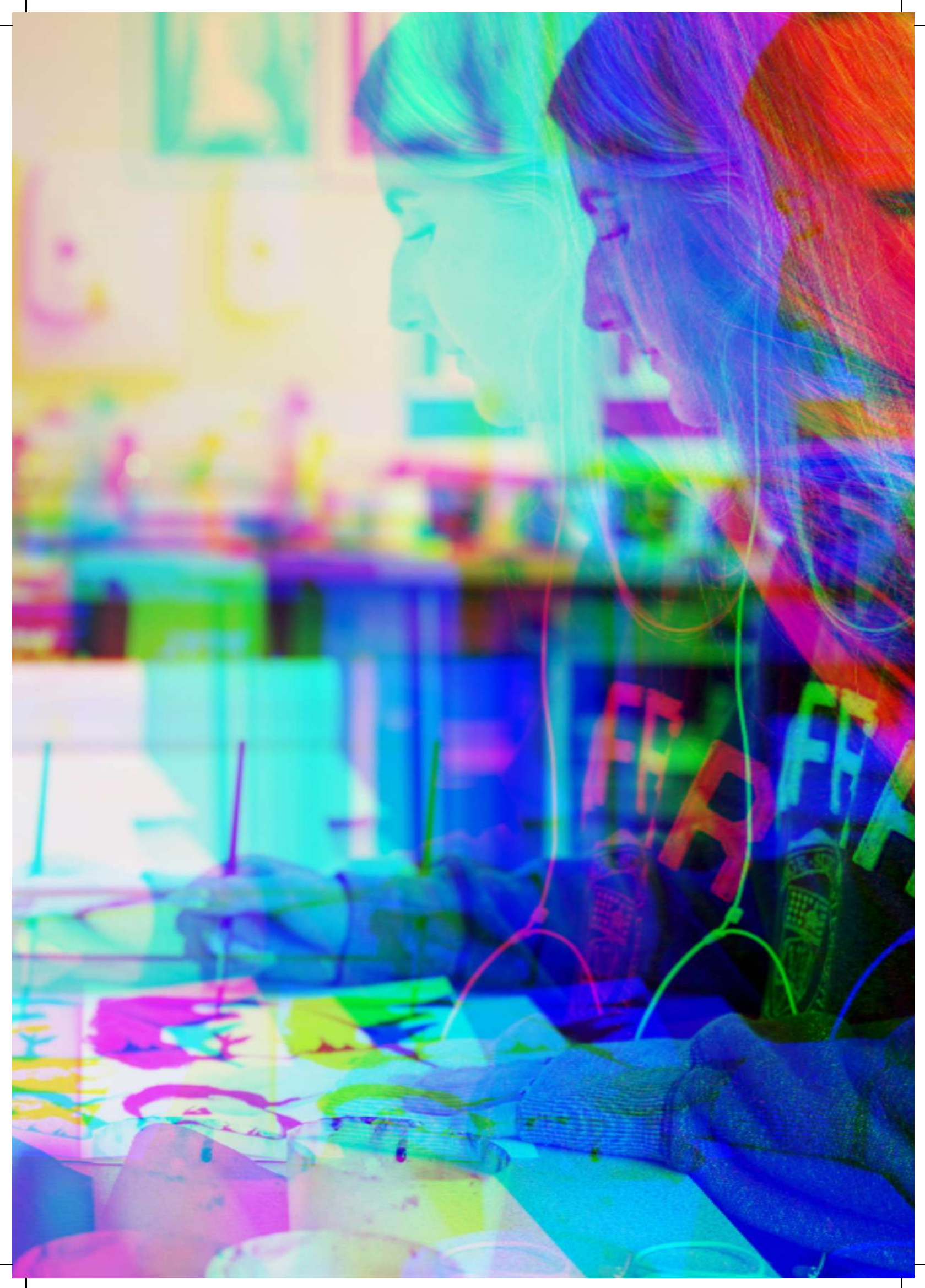
Where will studying Creative Arts at A Level take you in the future?

This course can lead to a university degree in many subjects, an art related 18+ course such as an Art Foundation Course or employment. Typical fields include fine art, graphics, history of art, fashion, photography, advertising, product design, architecture, theatrical design, textiles, web design, animation, education, and publishing.

Exam Board: AQA

60% Personal Investigation – about 8 months

40% Exam project about 3 months preparation and 15 hour exam



Design Technology

Why study Design Technology at A level?

If your strengths are in creativity and innovation then Design Technology could be for you.

This is an exciting and challenging course where you will have access to a range of materials and technologies and encouraged to apply your learning to designing your own product while looking at the impact that product design has on society, and learning about industrial processes and practices.

A Level Design Technology equips you with design skills for the future. You will be able to recognise design needs and develop an understanding of how current global issues, including integrating technology, impacts on today's world. You will have the confidence to innovate and produce creative design solutions as you develop your own design brief with a client/end user.

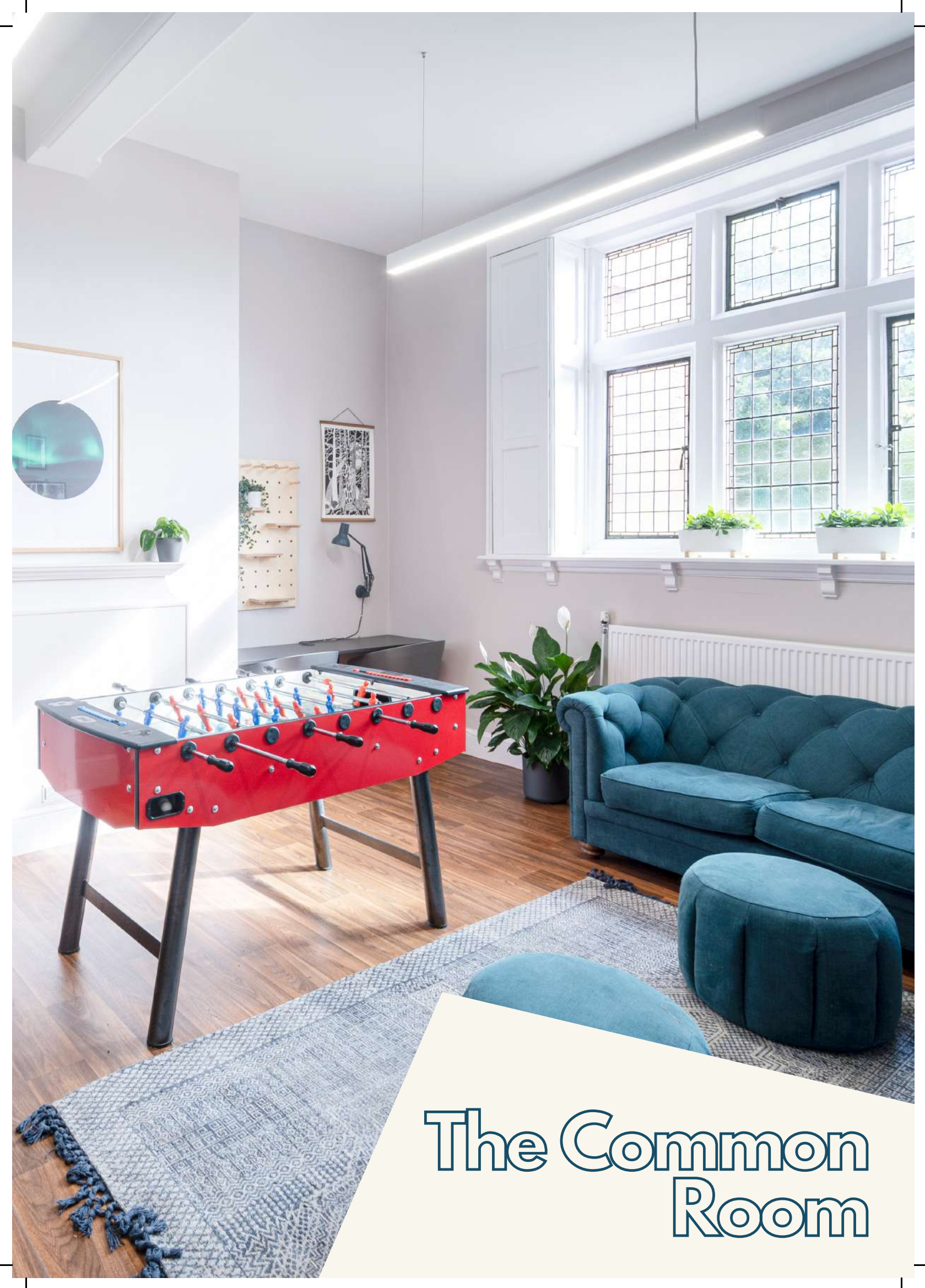
This course consists of 50% coursework and 50% written exam.

Where will studying Design Technology at A Level take you in the future?

You could study a wide range of degree courses in areas such as medicine, veterinary science, pharmacology, chemical engineering, biochemistry and environmental science.

You could have a starting point in careers in aerospace engineering, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, forensic science, and chemical engineering, the food industry, nursing, pharmacy, and research. The opportunities are endless.

Exam board: AQA



The Common Room

Economics

Why study Economics at A Level?

- Debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare
- Using and interpreting data to analyse economic problems and discussing alternative courses of action
- Keeping up to date with national and international trends

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Economics at A Level?

It doesn't matter if you haven't studied economics before. You might have an interest in economics and want to know more about the impact economics has on the world around you. You might want to investigate some of the stories you hear in the news – Why do some economies grow and others don't? Will the Eurozone survive? Why didn't economists predict the Global Financial Crisis?

Where will studying Economics at A Level take you in the future?

There are degrees in pure Economics or courses which combine Economics with other subjects such as Business, Management or Politics. Economics are useful for careers in business management, banking, finance, journalism and for those who wish to understand the society we live in and the world around us.

Exam Board: Edexcel

English Literature

Why study English Literature at A Level?

- Discover new worlds, people and stories
- Understand how literature has been inspired by and created the world in which we live
- Experience new genres and discuss writers who move the boundaries of everyday fiction

Literature will inspire you to unlock your own voice in response to the texts you study, encouraging you to become more critical and independent in your reactions as a reader. It will develop your understanding of the historic, social and political contexts in which a range of writers received their influence and which inspired them to put their experiences on to paper for others to enjoy.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study English Literature at A Level?

The main skill that you should possess for studying A Level English Literature is an appreciation of the written word and of how this can be interpreted in a number of ways. Unsurprisingly, a desire to read widely both for interest and to fulfil elements of the course will be of key importance for this subject.

Academically, a keen interest in the subject of literature in all its forms and an enquiring mind which is ready and willing to challenge the conventional is recommended when choosing this course of study.

Course content

Component 1: Drama

Section A: Shakespeare

We currently study 'Hamlet' although other options include 'Othello' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Section B: Other Drama

We currently study 'Doctor Faustus'. Other options include 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'The Importance of Being Earnest'.

Component 2: Prose

Women and Society

2 x Novels: Wuthering Heights and A Thousand Splendid Suns
(Other topic areas can be considered – Science and Society;
Childhood; The Supernatural; Crime and Detection)

Component 3: Poetry

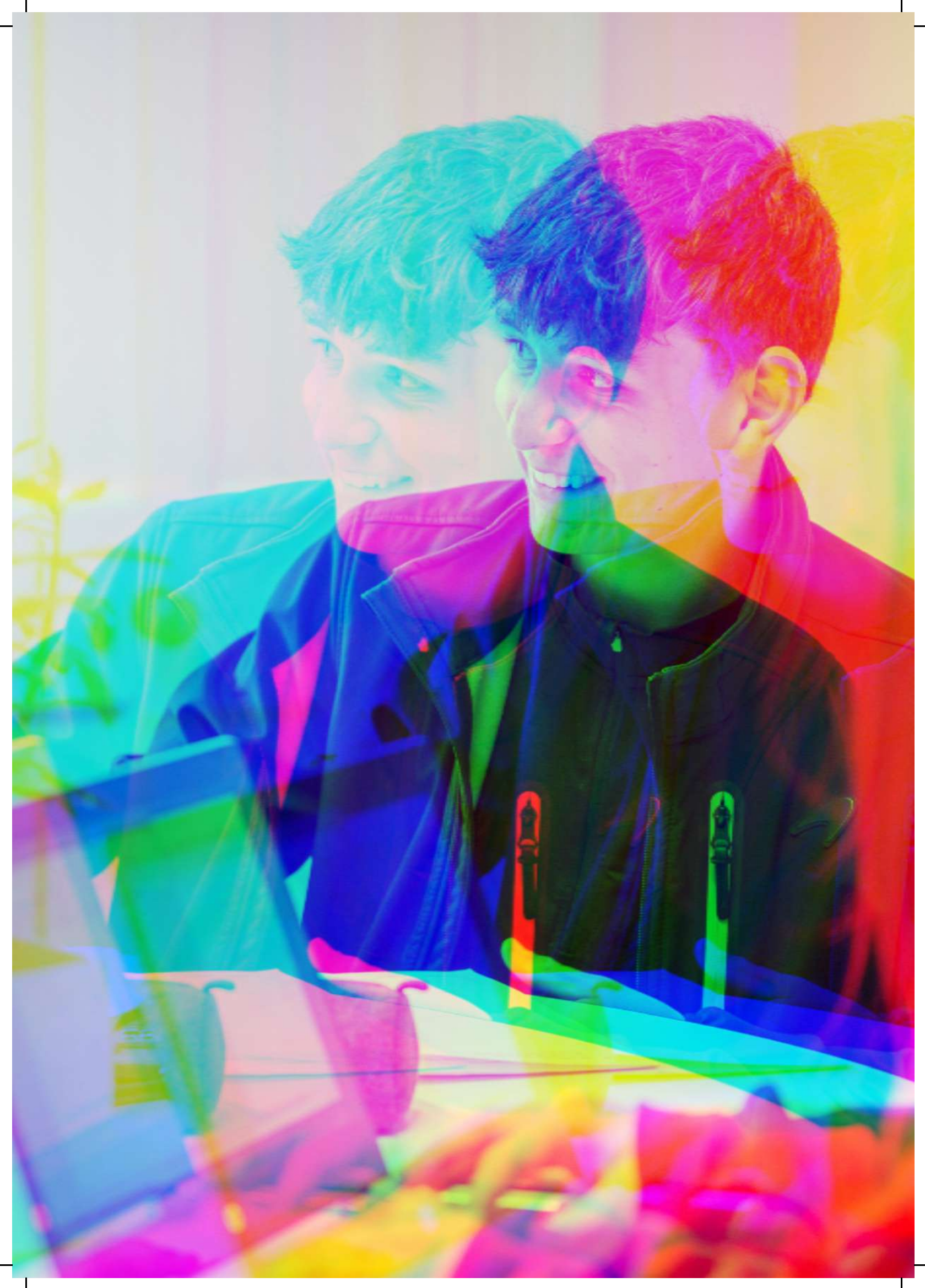
Section A: Post-2000 Poetry

An anthology of poetry set by the exam board.

Section B: Specified Poetry Pre- or Post-1900

Non-Examination Assessment

You produce one assignment comparing a theme/topic in two texts you have read during your wider reading. These can be drama, prose or poetry texts. You set your own questions and have a choice of a wide range of texts.



Where will studying English Literature at A Level take you in the future?

English Literature is a highly regarded academic subject. University admissions require students to convey a level of academia in their choice of subjects which will ensure that those to whom they open their doors are prepared for the demands of graduate study – English Literature will certainly prepare you for this eventuality.

Moreover, English Literature is a subject which is invaluable when applying for a range of courses, such as Law, History, Business and PPE. Indeed, people who have studied English Literature at tertiary level have included film directors, play wrights, publishers, politicians, actors and musicians.

If a university education is not for you, then the working world will certainly appreciate an individual who can express their opinion in a structured way, who can understand a range of interpretations on a topic and who can support the ideas of others by considering the wider implications of those ideas.

Department Support

- Theatre Trips are organised to experience live performances of the set play texts
- Visits to local and national Literary Events and Festivals are organised
- You receive one to one mentoring when completing yr NEA

Exam Board: Edexcel

Geography

Why study Geography at A Level?

A Level Geography is a perfect subject if you have an interest in current affairs and issues within the world we live. Studying geography also helps us to understand many of the issues we face in Britain and globally, such as how we might respond to the impact of climate change or be better prepared for natural hazards. It is the new research undertaken by geographers that is informing the debate about these challenges and helping us to navigate through the world's geographically complex people, places and environments.

Geographers are trained to be good decision makers and problem solvers; they are literate, numerate, and have good spatial awareness and computer skills.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Geography at A Level?

You should take an active interest in the world around you and have a good basic understanding of both physical and human geographies.

Where will studying Geography at A Level take you in the future?

The course comprises of three units;

- Physical Geography (Water and the Carbon Cycle, Coasts and Hazards)
- Human Geography (Global Systems and Global Governance, Changing Places and Contemporary Urban Environments)
- Non Examined Assessment (3000-4000 individual field investigation)

You will find geographers working in every sector of the economy including the City, local businesses, not-for-profit organisations, medicine, leading cutting-edge research or as key decision makers in local and national government. Geography truly is the subject that can take you anywhere!

As part of the course you must complete 4 days of fieldwork during which you will collect data for your NEA, in previous years this has included residential trips to Croatia and Majorca.

Exam Board: AQA

History

Why study History at A Level?

As a historian, you will never experience the events that you study; instead, you must build up a picture from the evidence that has been left. You must become skilled at asking questions of the evidence and to not take everything at face value. Historians are trained to look for bias and prejudice in the evidence they study. They know that humans often have strong views on many subjects, which may affect the statements they make. Imagine believing everything you read in the papers, or every statement that politicians make! History helps you to make decisions about other people and to decide if you trust what they say.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study History at A Level?

You need to be able to master a lot of information quickly and accurately to build your argument; to use books effectively to pick out relevant information and to understand relatively academic language; to analyse, evaluate and explain events and problems; and develop sufficient linguistic skills to write a clear and logical essay. If you have a natural interest in society around you and are interested in current affairs, then you will almost certainly enjoy studying History. If reading, acquiring knowledge about societies in the past, discussion, playing with ideas and arguments, and analytical writing appeal to you, then you will almost certainly love studying History.

Where will studying History at A Level take you in the future?

These skills are highly desirable in many different careers and A Level History is excellent training for any career where you must use evidence or make decisions, especially where those decisions affect other people. There are so many careers out there that require the skills that a study of history can bring; law, police, civil service, charities, business, local government, politics, journalism, research to name but a few!

Exam Board: OCR, Course Code: H505

- England 1547-1603: The Later Tudors worth 25% of the A Level
- Democracy & Dictatorships in Germany 1919-1963 worth 15% of the A Level
- Popular Culture and the Witch craze of the 16th and 17th Centuries worth 40% of the A Level
- Independent personal investigation - one topic based essay as coursework worth 20% of the A Level

Mathematics

Why study Mathematics at A Level?

- Develops your analytical, research and problem-solving skills
- Gives you the knowledge to tackle scientific, mechanical, coding and abstract problems
- Develops the logic to tackle everyday issues like planning projects, managing budgets and even debating effectively
- Fits in well with many other subject combinations
- Well respected by universities and employers

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Mathematics at A Level?

- Enjoyment of mathematics and applying mathematical knowledge to problem solving
- Interest in increasing the depth of understanding by being able to undertake independent study to solve various styles of questions not just those taught in lessons
- Exceptional algebra and number work involving surds and indices
- Grade 7 or above at GCSE in order to be able to access the topics being taught

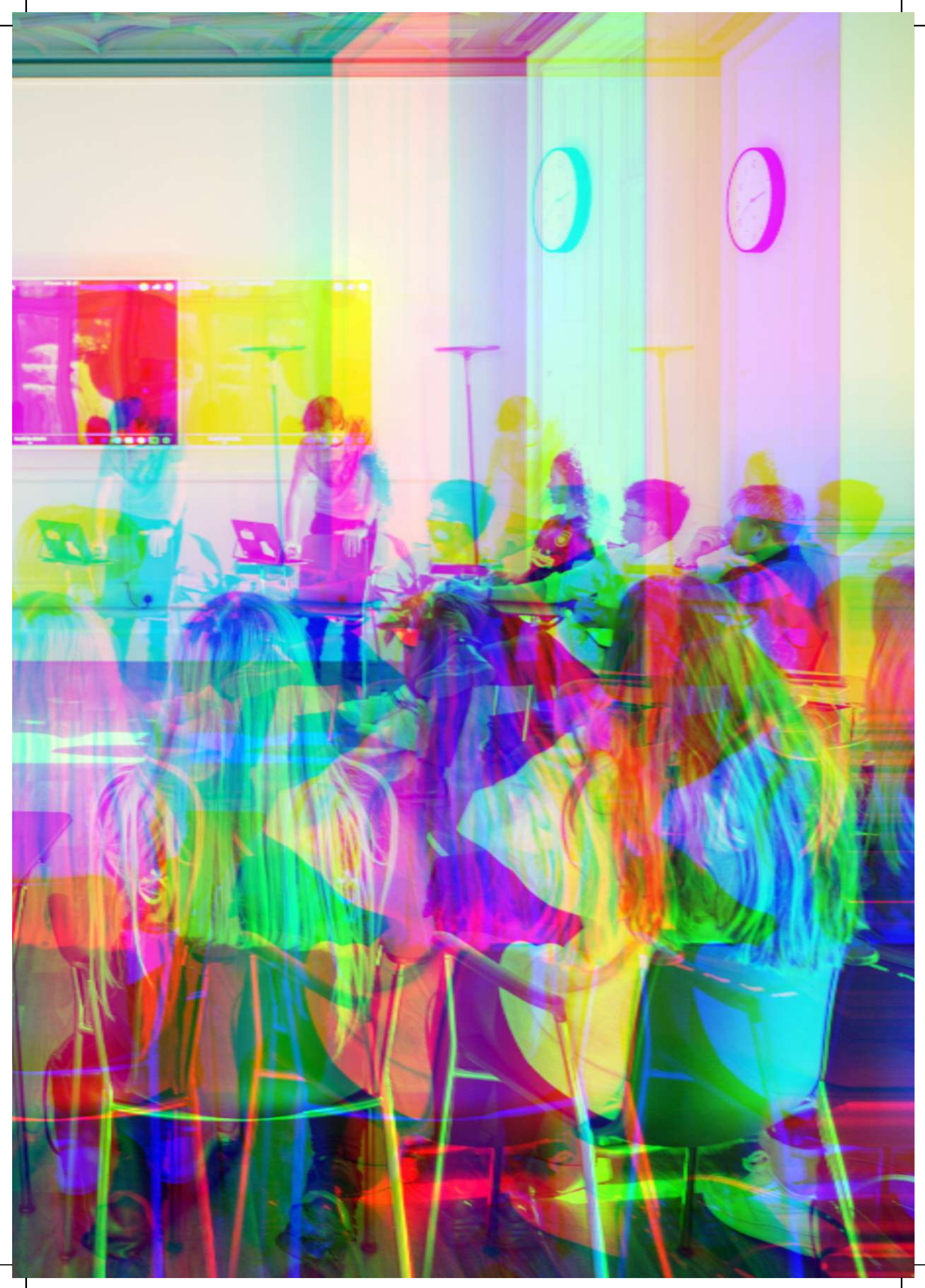
Where will studying Mathematics at A Level take you in the future?

- Accounting
- Business
- Construction
- Consultancy
- Design
- Engineering
- Finance
- Forensics
- Games Development
- IT
- Medicine
- Programming
- Scientific Research
- Teaching

Exam Board: Edexcel

We subscribe to Pearson online resources
www.pearsonactivlearn.com

We use MyMaths for additional teaching resources:
www.mymaths.co.uk



Further Mathematics

Why study Further Mathematics at A Level?

For Further Mathematics students study the entire A level in Year 1 and the Further Mathematics in Year 2.

- Develops your analytical, research and problem-solving skills
- Gives you the knowledge to tackle scientific, mechanical, coding and abstract problems
- Develops the logic to tackle everyday issues like planning projects, managing budgets and even debating effectively
- Fits in well with many other subject combinations
- Well respected by universities and employers

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Further Mathematics at A Level?

- Enjoyment of mathematics and applying mathematical knowledge to problem solving
- Interest in increasing the depth of understanding by being able to undertake independent study to solve various styles of questions not just those taught in lessons
- Exceptional algebra and number work involving surds and indices

Where will studying Further Mathematics at A Level take you in the future?

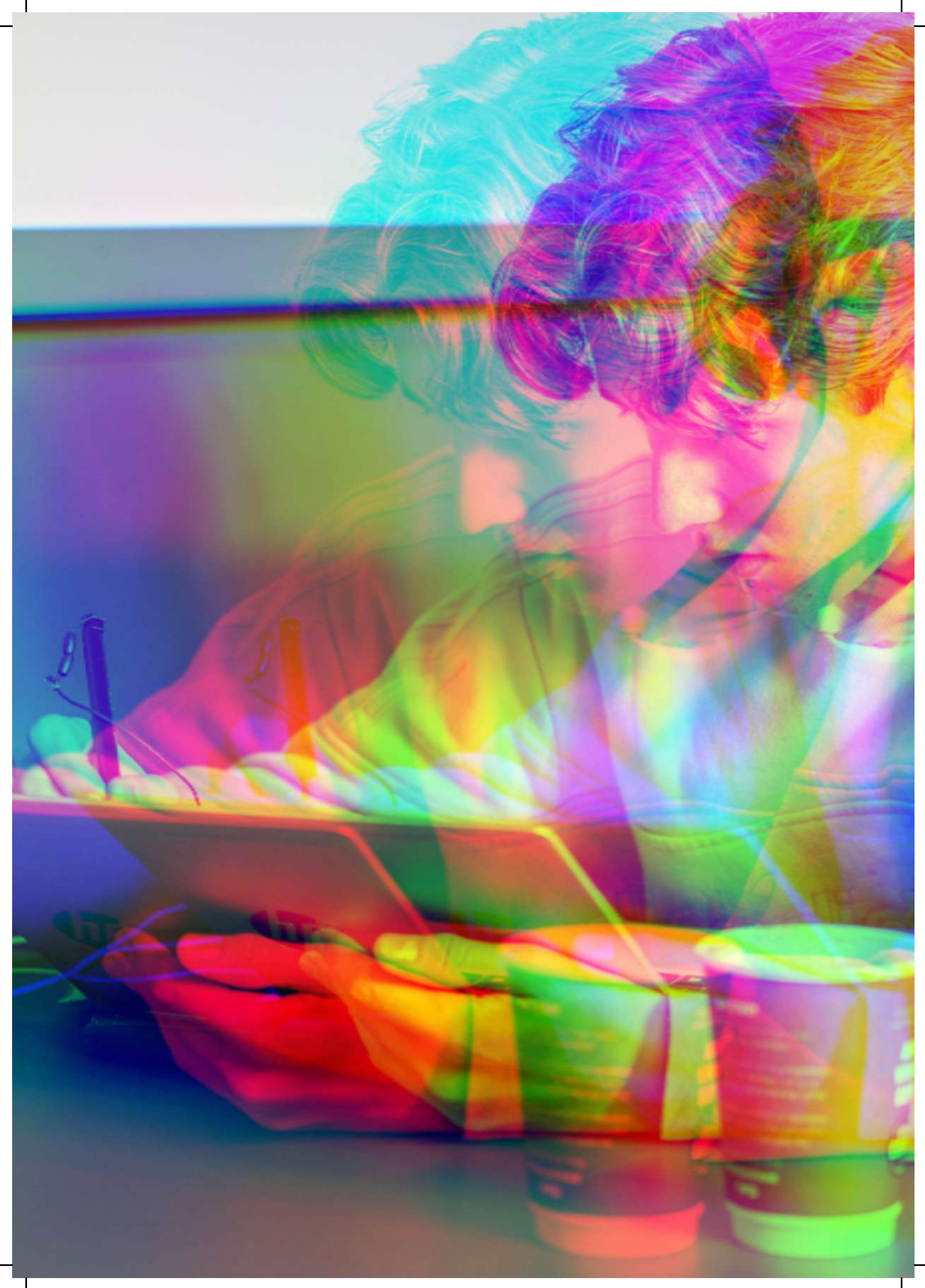
- Accounting
- Business
- Construction
- Consultancy
- Design
- Engineering
- Finance
- Forensics
- Games Development
- IT
- Medicine
- Programming
- Scientific Research
- Teaching

Exam Board: Edexcel

We subscribe to Pearson online resources:
www.pearsonactivlearn.com

We use MyMaths for additional teaching resources:
www.mymaths.co.uk

A grade 8 or above is required at GCSE to study this A level subject.



Media Studies

Why study Media Studies at A Level?

Media Studies combines theoretical analysis, contextual understanding, critical debate with practical application. Learners develop critical, analytical, and creative skills, along with improving communication, and their ability to work independently. They also develop their skills of self-reflection.

Contemporary media is a powerful influence on our lives, encoding key messages, themes, values, and ideologies. Studying Media Studies gives you the opportunity to learn about culture and society, enabling a deeper understanding of values, beliefs, and identity, and assesses the effect of advances in digital technology on individuals and organisations.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Media Studies at A Level?

The course comprises the close study of a wide range of media texts, together with a component of practical coursework.

To be successful you would usually enjoy engaging with contemporary issues and debates, and applying close analysis to a range of different media forms, such as Newspapers, TV, Music Videos, Video Games, Radio, and Film. You should enjoy participating in class discussions, sharing new ideas, and debating media and audience theory. You should also enjoy the creative process, with a desire to create your own print media and audio/visual sequences. A good grade in English Language or Literature GCSE is desirable. You do not need prior media or practical production experience.

Media Studies can be taken with any combination of subjects, and works well alongside A Levels in English, Art, Business, Economics, Politics, Sociology, Psychology, Photography, History, Drama, Geography and Music.

Where will studying Media Studies at A Level take you in the future?

Many leading universities provide undergraduate and/or postgraduate courses in Media, Media Communication, TV and Film Production. Those choosing Media Studies go on to a wide range of universities, including many of the Russell Group Universities, with Warwick, King's College London, Cardiff, Leeds, Newcastle, Exeter, and Sussex ranked in the top 10. The choice of courses is diverse, ranging from the theoretical to the wholly practical including, but not exhaustive: Media Studies, Film Studies, Film and TV Production, PR, Advertising, Journalism, Education, Art, Drama, and English. However, a Media Studies A Level is also valued on non-related subject courses because of the strength of critical and analytical skills developed in students.

A Level Media studies also provides an excellent understanding of issues, production processes, and debates in preparation for a level 4/5 apprenticeship route, through industry providers such as: BBC, CH4, Sky, Guardian Newspaper, ITV, and many other smaller media production companies.

Exam Board: Eduqas

Modern Foreign Languages

Why study MFL at A Level?

In today's inter-connected world, the ability to communicate in a foreign language is a highly valued skill. Learning another language can enhance employment prospects whatever career you are considering. A Level languages build upon your existing knowledge gained at GCSE, giving you a sound understanding of using French or Spanish in a variety of contexts and situations. Thanks to the course, you will develop life-long skills and the ability to speak the language with a very good level of fluency.

The topics covered are varied and interactive and you will be exposed to a range of authentic materials. You will not only greatly improve your language-speaking ability, use of grammar, different tenses and vocabulary - but will also learn about culture, history, literature, society and lifestyle. You are strongly encouraged to read foreign newspapers, listen to radio programmes and watch foreign films. We are also planning visits to France and Spain to experience the culture first-hand.

The topic areas covered in Lower Sixth are: the evolution of family structure, cultural heritage, cyber society, the popularity of contemporary music, charity work, the variety of cinema as well as the study of a film in the chosen language. In Upper Sixth the topic areas are: current social issues, aspects of political life, as well as the study of a novel. You will learn how to analyse, evaluate, argue a case, justify arguments and develop an understanding of the contemporary society of the countries where the target language is spoken.

The examination consists of three Papers: Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing; Paper 2 – Writing (analysing the film and novel studied in class); Paper 3 - Speaking – including an individual research project.

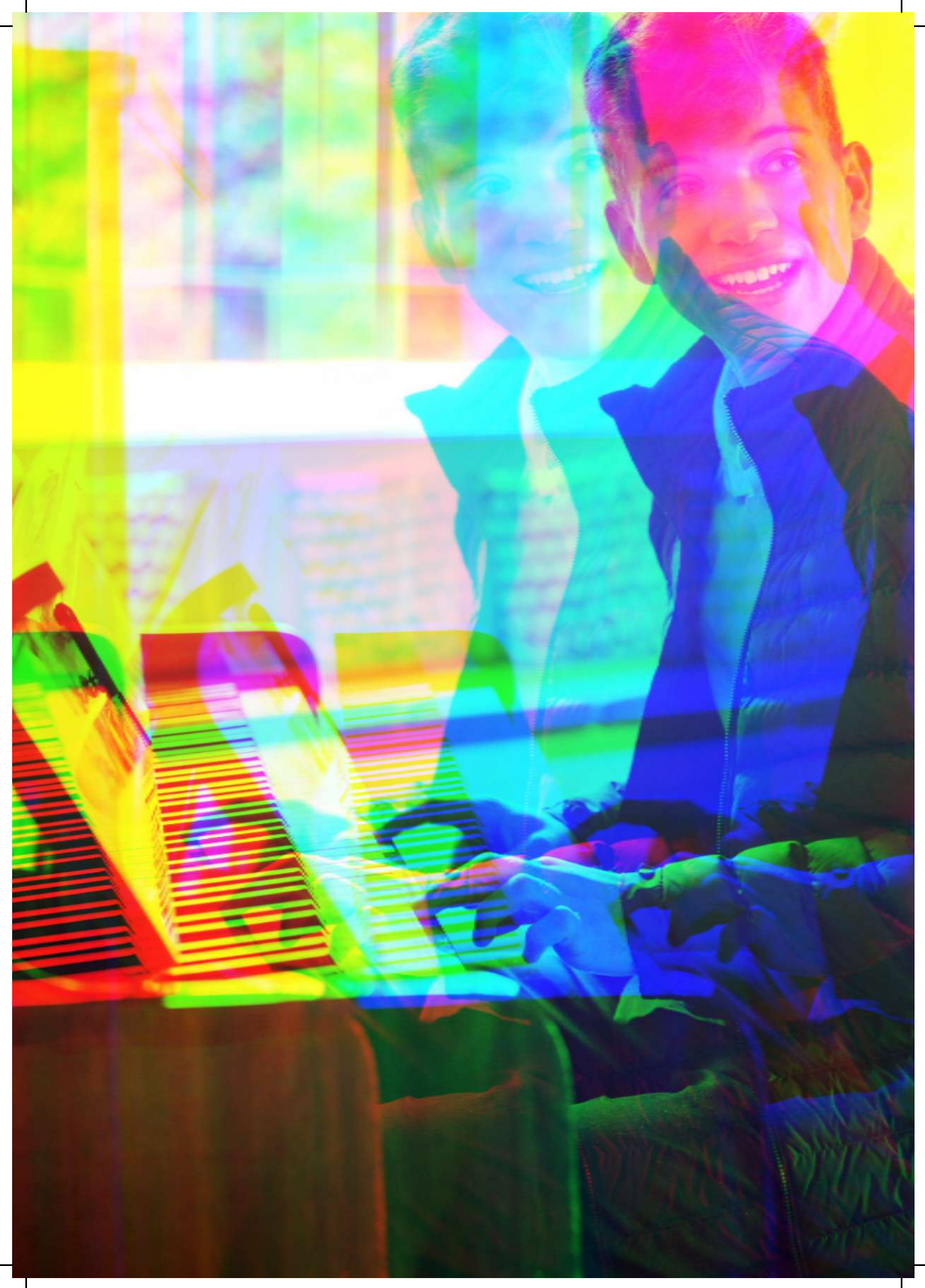
What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study MFL at A Level?

A grade 6 in the target language but also a passion for learning new language skills and discovering culture. You must be keen to broaden your knowledge on all aspects of life in French and/or Spanish-speaking countries!

Where will studying MFL at A Level take you in the future?

French and Spanish can be combined with almost any subject at university and open the door to a wide range of careers in business, law, marketing, media, research, accounting, tourism, banking as well as translation, interpreting and teaching. An A Level in MFL shows prospective employers a significant level of achievement in language skills, together with evidence of critical insight and a knowledge of and understanding of another culture.

Exam Board: AQA



Music

Why study Music at A Level?

This course caters for a wide range of musicians and focuses on the key areas of listening, performing and composing. You will study music history through the analysis of set musical works as well as wider listening. You will need to be able to listen critically to music and be able to appraise and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

A variety of genres and styles will be studied, ranging from the Western Classical Tradition to popular music styles. You are also required to perform a recital lasting 10-12 minutes in length. You are free to choose any instrument(s) and/or voice(s) and perform music in any style. You are expected to enter the A Level music course at a performance level that corresponds to Grade 5/6 of examination boards such as the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Trinity Guildhall, RockschooL, and the London College of Music. You will compose music in a variety of styles and genres, using Sibelius notation software to realise your compositions. You will complete two compositions, one to a brief set by the exam board, and the other a free choice.

You are also expected to take a leading role within the music department, participating in ensembles, running a rehearsal or helping with smaller ensembles and clubs. This aspect is vital for your development and your understanding of performance and rehearsal techniques.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Music at A Level?

A GCSE Music grade of 6 and above is a requirement. If you have not taken GCSE music, you would be expected to have Grade 5 theory and enter the course with the ability to perform pieces with a minimum standard of Grade 5/6 on your chosen instrument (or voice). Exceptions may be made on consultation with the Director of Music. It is expected that you have a weekly lesson on your solo instrument (or voice) and practice regularly.

Where will studying Music at A Level take you in the future?

The course provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning and for Higher Education courses in Music, and many who take A Level Music continue their studies at university. The three units of the course can lead to studies in performance, composition, musicology, ethnomusicology, conducting, popular music, jazz and music education.

Exam Board: AQA

Music Technology

Why study Music Technology at A Level?

You should have a keen interest in recording sound, production and the developments of Music Technology since the introduction of recorded sound. You should be heavily involved with the music department including setting up and running the sound for Akeley Woodfest (our annual music festival).

You are assessed via a mixture of examined coursework and traditional examinations. You will learn about the correct way to mic up drum kits, guitars and vocals. This will lead to producing a Multi-Track recording taken from a list of artists, provided by the exam board. Not only do you control the recording session, but you are required to mix the recording to a professional standard. You will learn a wide range of skills including Midi and Audio Sequencing, Mixing, Audio Editing, Multi-tracking and will develop your compositional skills through the Technology-based composition.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Music Technology at A Level?

The equivalent of GCSE Music Level 5 is needed to study Music Technology. However, applications from suitable candidates are also considered. You should be a dedicated and enthusiastic student with a passion for Music and Production. A Level Music Technology combines practical, analytical, creative and academic study with a focus on independence and self-motivation. You will be responsible for organising yourself and other musicians during recording sessions so organisation and the ability to manage your time effectively are essential.

Where will studying Music Technology at A Level take you in the future?

The course provides an excellent basis for lifelong learning. There are many opportunities in Higher Education, and many career possibilities for those proficient in handling music technology. There are a wide variety of courses related to Music Technology with both creative and scientific routes available. Past students have gone on to study Music and Music Technology at the following institutions: ACM, BIMM, Birmingham City, Falmouth University, De Montfort University, RNCM, University of Winchester. Study in Music Technology can lead to careers in the record industry, sound engineering, record producing, and music education.

Exam Board: Edexcel



The Lecture Room

Physical Education

Why study Physical Education at A Level?

The A level Physical Education course content is diverse and fascinating. You will build upon your foundation of knowledge gained from GCSE PE and apply it in new and interesting topics. This course partners nicely with Science courses such as Biology and Psychology and will equip you with the skills required to study sport at university or begin a career in the sports industry.

Component 1

- Applied anatomy and physiology – cardiovascular, respiratory, neuromuscular, muscular-skeletal and energy systems
- Skill acquisition – skill continuums, skill classifications, theories of learning, guidance and feedback, memory models and information processing
- Sport and society -pre/post industrial sport, post WWII, sociological theory and equal opportunities
-

Component 2

- Biomechanical movement – biomechanical principles, levers, linear motion, angular motion, projectile motion, fluid mechanics
- Sports psychology – personality, attitudes, arousal, anxiety, aggression, motivation group dynamics, goal setting, attribution, confidence, leadership and stress management
- Sport and society and the role of technology – development of elite sport, ethics, violence, drugs, sport and the law, commercialisation and technology

Where will studying Physical Education at A Level take you in the future?

You can go on to study Sport Science at leading universities such as Loughborough, Bath and Exeter. The course is also a useful partner to the sciences, particularly Biology and Psychology.

Professions that this A Level course would support include:

Physiotherapist, Exercise Physiologist, Sport Psychologist, Nutritionist, Sports Marketing, Performance Analyst, Data Scientist, Sports Technology Engineer, Strength and Conditioning Coach, Personal Trainer, PE Teacher/Lecturer.

Exam board: AQA

Physics

Why study Physics at A Level?

You will already be familiar with many of the topics that you will study, including forces, waves, radioactivity, electricity and magnetism. At A Level, you will look at these areas in more detail and find out how they are interconnected. You will also learn how to apply maths to real-world problems and explore new areas such as particle physics, cosmology and medical physics.

Perhaps more importantly, you will develop skills that can be transferred to just about any other area of work, from setting up a business to saving the planet. Even if you do not go on to become a physicist, learning to think like one will help you get to the root of any problem and draw connections that are not obvious to others. Physics will not give you all the answers, but it will teach you how to ask the right questions.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Physics at A Level?

- Problem solving and lateral thinking
- Numeracy - describing physical phenomena with mathematics
- An intention to study Mathematics at A-level is essential, these two subject support each other
- Practical/investigative skills, making measurements, recording data and pattern recognition
- Communication – the ability to reason clearly, communicate complex ideas, and work with others
- A desire to 'peek behind the scenes' of the Universe
- A willingness to carry out further reading, including an interest in topical issues

Where will studying Physics at A Level take you in the future?

Physics probably offers the largest range of potential career paths; everyone loves a numerate problem-solver! As the Institute of Physics have recently said: "Physicists are involved in finding solutions to many of our most pressing challenges – as well as studying atoms or making sense of the extra-terrestrial, physicists diagnose disease, model the climate, design computer games, predict markets and design hi-tech goods. Studying physics opens doors."

Some of the many potential career areas include: biochemistry, biology, chemistry, medicine, dentistry, engineering (general, aeronautical, civil, electrical, mechanical), nursing and other practice-based medicine courses, architecture, computer science, geography, earth and environmental sciences, maths, materials science, pharmacy, sports science, surveying, psychology, teaching.

Exam Board: OCR

A grade 7 or above in mathematics is required at GCSE to study this A level subject (reviewed on a case-by-case basis), and the requirement that you have completed Higher maths at GCSE.

Politics

Why study Politics at A Level?

Politics analyses the relationship between people and their government. It is a complex and demanding subject that is exciting, rewarding and intellectually stimulating. It is of immediate practical relevance to our lives. What you read in the newspapers and see on the news is directly relevant to the study of politics. To understand the arguments of politicians, be aware of their attempts to persuade and to participate effectively in defending one's rights as a citizen, one needs to appreciate the nature of the UK democratic system. To be politically ignorant is to be at a distinct disadvantage.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Politics?

The formal requirement to study Politics at A Level is GCSE History and/or English Language Grade 6 or higher. You must also be interested in current affairs and highly self-motivated. Success in the subject will be the result of an ability to work independently and the determination to develop a mature essay writing style. You will have the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and UK Supreme Court. Those with a genuine interest in current political events in the UK and USA are highly likely to excel.

Where will studying Politics at A Level take you in the future?

This course will appeal if you want a subject that allows you to develop your intellectual skills and are able to question the reasoning behind the status quo. Politics can be combined with many other academic disciplines. It is also a useful choice for a wide range of careers including civil service, police, business, local government, politics, media, pressure groups, charities and journalism.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Code: 9PL0

- UK Politics - one 2 hour exam worth a third of the A Level
- Political Participation: Democracy, elections, political parties, pressure groups, voting behaviour & role of the media
- Core political ideas of conservatism, liberalism and socialism

- UK Government - one 2 hour exam worth a third of the A Level
- The constitution, parliament, PM and the executive in relation to the other branches of UK government
- The non-core political idea of multiculturalism

- Comparative Politics (UK & USA) - one 2 hour exam worth a third of the A Level
- US Constitution and federalism, Presidency, Congress, Supreme Court, civil rights, democracy and participation
- Comparative theories

Psychology

Why study Psychology at A Level?

The human mind is an abstract and intangible concept. Psychology attempts to investigate this concept in a scientific way. Psychology is a fascinating subject to study, we discuss different theories for human behaviour and learn about interesting experiments that have challenged the way people think. When you study psychology you will develop a holistic understanding of human behaviour.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Psychology at A Level?

A Level Psychology involves skills predominantly linked to Maths, English and Biology. We study biological mechanisms and the effect biology plays on human behaviour. This includes neural, hormonal mechanisms and genetics therefore a good understanding of biology is important. There is mathematical content in psychology, we study how psychologists analyse their data and the statistical tests they use to interpret their results. We also look at correlations in data so an interest in maths and an understanding of numerical values is also important. You will be expected to discuss abstract and intangible concepts in the form of essays therefore a high level of written articulation is essential.

Where will studying Psychology at A Level take you in the future?

The great thing about studying psychology is the breath of topics we cover. From mental health to social influence, psychology could lead you into a multitude of professions. Some students decide to take the clinical route and work with patients in an institutional setting whereas others may choose to take a criminology route and work with the police in offender profiling. There are many other avenues psychology could take you down, it depends on the area that you are interested in.

Exam board AQA



Reception Hall

Theatre Studies

Why study Theatre Studies at A Level?

Drama and Theatre is a demanding but exhilarating course, offering students the opportunity to engage with a range of cultural discourses that challenge our perceptions of what constitutes dramatic art, and what it is for. A heavy emphasis is placed on applying theoretical ideas to performance, justifying practical decisions in relation to a practitioner or director's intentions and creating innovative new theatre.

What skills, interests and academic qualifications are required to study Theatre Studies?

All students must have an understanding of how to analyse text in performance, as well as be capable of applying methodologies of different practitioners to practical work. Technical candidates should possess secure performance skills, as set texts are explored practically. Given the theoretical and analytical demands of the A Level in Drama and Theatre, all candidates should have attained grade 5 or above in English Language or Literature at GCSE.

Where will studying Theatre Studies at A Level take you in the future?

Drama and Theatre is widely accepted as a valuable subject for degree courses such as English Literature, Film Studies, Law and Psychology, alongside Drama courses and specialist Drama Schools. Students develop core skills such as creative thinking, analysis, problem-solving and communication, leading to employment opportunities across creative industries, the legal sector, technological innovation and public-facing roles.

Exam Board: AQA

Component 1: Drama & Theatre: Written examination: 3 hours (40%)

- Section A: one question (from a choice) on Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen (25 marks)
- Section B: one three part question on a given extract from Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker (30 marks)
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks)

Component 2: Creating Original Drama: Internally assessed, externally moderated (30%)

Pupils participate in the creation, research, development and performance of an original piece of devised drama, in the style of a selected Theatre Practitioner. Pupils complete a working notebook throughout the devising process (40 marks) before giving their final performance (20 marks.)

Component 3: Making Theatre: Externally assessed by a visiting examiner (30%)

Pupils study and practically explore three extracts from three contrasting play texts. The third extract is rehearsed in the style of a selected Theatre Practitioner, and performed to a visiting examiner (40 marks). A reflective report is completed, documenting the opportunities & challenges of each extract, alongside the pupils' theatrical interpretations of each.

** Components 2 and 3 can be studied from the perspective of actor, director or designer. Component 1 requires a firm understanding of all three.*





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SIXTH FORM