



AW6

BE YOU. BRILLIANTLY.



AW6

Welcome to AW6

Gavin Moffat - Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Form is a time of transition: from childhood to adulthood; from school to university; from traditional learning to independent study; from rules and regulations to greater freedom and privileges.

Sixth Form is quite different to school; students will still have to work hard but they have more freedom and the responsibility to motivate themselves. They're not alone though – our Sixth Form team are always on hand to challenge and support every individual on the path to achieving their goals. Classes are small with an atmosphere of mutual respect between students and staff and there is an emphasis on debate and interaction. Developing opinions through discussion with others is an important catalyst for independent learning.

Of course Sixth Form life isn't all about the work and AW6 offers a taste of university living. The contemporary site provides an extensive and bright environment in which to study and relax with friends. Hot, cold food and drinks are available throughout the day in the Sixth Form Café. Comfortable areas both to work and socialise with access to WiFi throughout. With a strong academic offering, a wide range of extra-curricular activities and outstanding pastoral care, AW6 is a wonderful place for pupils to enjoy their Sixth Form experience.



AW6

Message from the Head

Eleanor Holding

Akeley Wood is a school that puts students at the heart of all we do, each individual aspires to fulfil their potential, to be themselves brilliantly. There are many opportunities for sixth form students to lead and take responsibility across AW6 and the school as a whole, so they are able to have an impact and leave a legacy behind them.

The school values of kindness, respect, charity and resilience are displayed by our student body, role modelled by the sixth form students who will take a lead in house tutor times on a Friday from September.

AW6 is a friendly, supportive and stimulating environment, where staff take a professional, yet personal approach. Opportunities offered to students develop their agency, adaptability and allow them to demonstrate courage and integrity.

AW6 is a unique option for young people. Join us to thrive as an individual and in a team, to be authentically Akeley!

WHAT MAKES AW6 UNIQUE:

The three building blocks below allow our students to “Be you. Brilliantly.”

Outstanding pastoral care

- High levels of pupil support
- Pupil wellbeing hub
- Life Skills programme
- Positive staff-pupil relationships

Beyond the Classroom

- Young Enterprise
- Extensive Futures & Careers programme
- Student Leadership
- DofE, MUN

Strong academic results

- Small class sizes
- Independent learning
- Well resourced classrooms
- Broad A Level curriculum
- Scholarships available
- Impressive value-added academic results

Pastoral Care

Happiness is fundamental to being a successful teenager which is why we always prioritise the wellbeing of AW6 pupils. We offer a personalised approach to every individual within our community with staff engendering a sense of belonging and individual care for each other.

Small tutor groups provide a holistic approach to ensuring our pupils achieve progress in all facets of their Sixth Form lives and the inevitable challenges that every Sixth Former has to confront and overcome along the way. There is a strong focus on UCAS and further education applications along with guidance for alternate pathways such as degree apprenticeships or directly into employment. All guidance, advice and help is offered on a 1:1 basis.

During the course of the academic year, pupils benefit from talks delivered by internal and external speakers which focus on the pupil's physical health (the pressures of drug use, alcohol and vaping) and mental wellbeing (eg. anxiety, stress, self-esteem). The Head of Pastoral care at AW6, along with the Head of Sixth Form, tutors and the school counsellor all work together to help sustain the happiness and good health of all the pupils at AW6.

'I have really appreciated the high level of support and guidance from both my tutor and the AW6 Team since my arrival in the Sixth Form. AW6's welcoming environment has allowed me to quickly settle in' Year 12 pupil

'The great thing about the extensive support on offer is that it's not one size fits all. Everyone is treated as an individual.' Year 13 pupil



• **Sarah Jones - Deputy Head of AW6**

University and Careers support

The two years of the Sixth Form at AW6 will fly by and therefore, almost from day one, students' eyes are opened to the myriad of opportunities in their life beyond school. The majority of AW6 pupils head to higher education when they leave AW6 with most of our students gaining places at their top choice universities. Our careers team is led by Head of Careers and Futures, Mark Lambert, supported by Gavin Moffat, Head of AW6, along with the Sixth Form tutors who are all on hand to offer advice and guidance to students throughout the application process, whether that be UCAS applications or more specialist applications for medical courses, Oxbridge and international applications.

University Preparation

Not only will Sixth Form students have access to [Unifrog](#), an online platform which is an excellent portal and resource which seamlessly links with UCAS and other provider application services, but students also have support through a programme of events, workshops and talks to ensure that they are aware of the range of opportunities beyond school.

Oxbridge Universities Preparation

Every year we have a percentage of pupils making an application to the universities of Oxford or Cambridge. These applications involve a number of additional stages when compared to applications for most other UK Universities. To support AW6 pupils through this process, we run a dedicated programme of activities and guidance which begins in Year 12.

Careers

At AW6 our Careers Department aim to ensure that careers advice and guidance is available to all pupils to help them make sensible and informed decisions regarding higher education, and subject options at University as well as future career choices.

We aim to help students discover their passion for their future careers. Advice is offered on a variety of career-related issues, including university and other higher education courses, degree apprenticeships and school-leaver schemes, subject and option choices, gap years, and placements in industry.

Conferences and Careers Talks

In recent years our pupils have attended conferences in areas such as Healthcare, Law, Media and Engineering. The conferences and away days are always popular and insightful for our Sixth Form pupils who have expressed a keen interest in a particular field of potential future employment.

The Careers Department also arranges a number of talks given by people working in various high-level professions, including the automobile industry, accountancy, finance and law as well as Headstart, the Year in Industry scheme and other Gap Year programmes.

Interview Practice

A regular feature of the AW6 Futures calendar is an event in October when members of Year 13 have the opportunity to experience a mock one-to-one interview with local employers or retired business leaders with expertise in particular areas. Pupils will receive individualised feedback on their mock interview and the quality of their CV.

Life Skills Programme

In addition to the core curriculum, our Life Skills programme is designed to ensure that AW6 pupils have the practical, independent skills that prepare them for higher education and the world of work. Students have talks on careers, personal finance, car maintenance, study skills and revision techniques amongst many others.

Talks and Events

Throughout the year, a wide variety of interesting and stimulating talks from external and internal speakers are organised. These have included Dick Moore, the acclaimed speaker on teenage anxiety and depression, and Johnny Hunt, author of 'Going off the rails' who offered guidance on relationships and sex education.

Community and Leadership

Whether it is fulfilling a senior pupil leadership role at AW6, masterminding a presentation on behalf of your Young Enterprise group, mentoring a younger pupil at the senior school or helping out at the local old people's care home, there is a plethora of opportunities available at AW6 to work in the school and wider community.

'The weekly talks, assemblies and masterclasses that we have at AW6 have been a real highlight for me. From how to cook healthy food, learning about finance to tips on how to revise more effectively for exams have been an integral part of my AW6 experience.' New Yr12 pupil into AW6.



The Co-Curricular Enrichment Programme

Making the most of the activities offered beyond the classroom at AW6, developing one's character and existing skills, travelling or embracing new challenges all provide a great way for our pupils to develop as young adults.

A thriving Young Enterprise programme, debating, Model United Nations and chess are a selection of our intellectually stimulating and enjoyable activities. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is very popular and helps develop the attributes of resilience, leadership, responsibility, perseverance and teamwork.

Further afield, the school's Outdoor Adventure Programme offers AW6 pupils the opportunity to undertake charity work in remote and exotic locations around the world. Last year's trip was to the wilds of Borneo comprising charity work in remote jungle villages. There is an upcoming trip to Ecuador in the pipeline.



Young Enterprise

The Young Enterprise Scheme runs throughout the whole of Year 12, enabling participants to find out what it's really like to set up and run a business. Our pupils make all the decisions about their company, from deciding the company name and product to creating a business plan, managing the company finances and selling to the public at trade fairs. All this takes place with the support of a volunteer Business Adviser who brings a wealth of business knowledge and expertise. Teams can track their progress using self assessment tools and even compete against other schools in local, regional and a national final. The AW6 Young Enterprise team regularly makes the regional finals and recently won four awards including Best Logo and Best Business Plan.

How does it work?

- September – December
- Students set up and plan their business, appoint key roles, create a product, raise capital and promote their product to the public.
- January – March
- Teams sell their product to the public at trade fairs organised by Young Enterprise, while continuing to perfect their product and marketing and sales plans. The AW6 team has the chance to compete against local schools in area and county finals.
- April – July
- Teams continue to run their business. Towards the end of term, teams begin the closure of their business which includes deciding what to do with any profit. In 2022-23 the AW6 team progressed to the regional final finishing runners-up and winning four awards amongst which were Best Quality Logo and Best Presentation.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a distinguished registered charity, presents a transformative opportunity for young individuals aged 14-25. It is a voluntary and non-competitive program designed to unleash their potential through a series of exhilarating, constructive, challenging, and enjoyable activities.

This prestigious award fosters personal growth, cultivating self-confidence, invaluable skills, and outstanding leadership abilities. Its reputation resonates strongly with employers and educators alike, recognising the exceptional qualities honed through this remarkable experience.

At Akeley Wood, we are proud to offer the coveted Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award with Year 12 & 13 pupils at AW6 usually looking to complete the Gold Award during their time in the Sixth Form. These comprehensive levels encompass various domains, allowing students to explore their passions and develop into well-rounded individuals:

- **Service/Volunteering:** Engage in meaningful acts of service, making a positive impact on the community.
- **Skills:** Embark on a journey of personal enrichment by mastering hobbies, skills, or exploring newfound interests.
- **Physical Recreation:** Foster a healthy and active lifestyle, embracing physical challenges that invigorate the body and mind.
- **Expeditions:** Embrace the spirit of adventure through rigorous training, meticulous planning, and successful completion of a captivating journey.
- **Residential Project (Gold Award only):** Embark on a purposeful enterprise alongside individuals previously unknown to the participant. This extraordinary experience spans a minimum of 5 days and 4 nights.



The Arts Award

The Arts Award is a unique set of qualifications that support young people to enjoy the arts and develop as artists and arts leaders. Young people completing Arts Award acquire creativity, leadership, reflective thinking and communication skills that are essential for success in 21st century life.

The Level 3 Gold Arts Award is worth 16 UCAS points and entails 90 guided learning hours + 60 independent learning hours = 150 hours' total qualification time.

The Gold Arts Award is designed for ages 16 and above but is open to anyone aged 11 to 25 to develop arts skills and lead the way! The Gold Arts Award has two units: personal arts development and leadership of an arts project.

To achieve the Gold Arts Award, young people lead the way:

- Involved in the world of the arts through placements, volunteering, training and research.
- Extend their arts practice, experience another art form and create new work.
- Review arts events and find out about artists or craftspeople and their career paths.
- Research and make the case for an arts issue.
- Develop leadership skills through taking individual responsibility for planning, delivering and reviewing an arts project and sharing it publicly.



Sports Leadership Award

The Sports Leaders UK Level 3 Award in Higher Sports Leadership is a nationally recognised qualification that is great for a personal statement and UCAS application (16 UCAS points). This course gives students the opportunity to learn the skills needed to plan and deliver sessions for specialist community groups and schools and to develop their knowledge on coaching/leading on different sports. It helps to develop confidence and the ability to communicate effectively with other people and peers. The course is of value to those who wish to further develop their coaching skills or progress onto a career involving any leadership.

The course is taught over 3 lessons per week and is one year long. Students will complete workbook tasks to show theory content learnt and deliver 30 hours of sporting activities working with different specialist groups.

Learning styles

Learning takes place mostly through practical experience but there is also an element of written work.

- Subject Modules and Assessment
- Course content:
 - Unit 1 – Developing leadership skills.
 - Unit 2 – Plan, lead and evaluate a sport/physical activity event.
 - Unit 3 – Lead safe sport/physical activity sessions.
 - Unit 4 – Plan, lead and evaluate a sport/physical activity sessions for children.
 - Unit 5 – Plan, lead and evaluate a sport/physical activity sessions in the community.
 - Unit 6 – Plan, lead and evaluate a sport/physical activity sessions for disabled people.
- Learners will gain a lot of coaching experience through various means.
- Assessment is through portfolio work, practical demonstration, community work and the running of a major sports event for local primary schools.

OUR SUBJECT OFFERING INCLUDES:

- Art
 - 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
 - Photography
 - Physical Education
 - Physics
 - Politics
 - Psychology
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- EPQ/Cyber EPQ

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.



Why study Art at A level?

Pupils are encouraged to develop their own practical skills, and to become independent thinkers and learners. Alongside their own practice pupils develop their ability to research and investigate historical, cultural and contemporary art practices to inform their own work.

We offer the AQA A Level in Fine Art – Pupils produce work in one or more areas including: painting, drawing, mixed-media, sculpture, land art, installation, printmaking, lens-based and/or light-based media.

COMPONENT: Personal Investigation

ASSESSMENT: 96 marks (60% of A Level)

CONTENT: Practical investigation supported by written material.

Pupils are required to conduct a practical investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the pupils and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Pupils should carefully select, organise and present their work for their Personal Investigation to ensure it is well structured and provides evidence that meets the requirements of all four assessment objectives.

Pupils are required to submit a written component of 1,000-3,000 word related to their topic. The essay, which can be presented in the form of a journal or a traditional essay, must be illustrated and written in continuous prose, using specialist vocabulary appropriate to the subject.

COMPONENT: Externally set assignment

ASSESSMENT: Preparatory period + 15 hours supervised time (40% of A Level)

CONTENT: Response to an externally set assignment.

- The exam board will issue papers with eight questions to be used as starting points. Pupils are required to select one. Pupils will be provided with examination papers on 1 February, or as soon as possible after that date.

- Following a period of preparatory work, pupils must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time. In the 15 hours pupils must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work.

- Preparatory work and the work produced during the 15 hours of supervised time will be assessed together, as a whole, against all four assessment objectives.

Grade 6 Art is required to study A Level

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

Grade 7 or above in Biology (or 7-7 in combined science) and Mathematics is required at GCSE to study this A level subject (reviewed on a case-by-case basis).

Business Studies

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)

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 Richie, Kevin Costner.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Grade 6 required GCSE English and Maths.

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.

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%.)

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

Grade 7 or above in Chemistry (or 7-7 combined science) and Mathematics is required at GCSE to study this A level subject (reviewed on a case-by-case basis).

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

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

Exam board: OCR

Grade 6 or above at GCSE is required to study Computer Science at A Level.

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). The second project is the Externally Set Assignment, where students respond to a theme provided by the exam board. The students explore the theme through research and experimentation, and it culminates in a 15 hour examination during which a final piece is created. 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.

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 – approximately 8 months.

40% Exam project roughly 3 months preparation and 15 hour exam.

Grade 6 at GCSE is required to study A Level Art.

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

Grade 6 at GCSE is required to study A Level Design Technology.

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

Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required to study A Level Economics.

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.

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

Grade 6 at GCSE is required to study A Level English Literature.

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

Grade 6 at GCSE is required to study A Level Geography.

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 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

- 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.

Grade 6 at GCSE is required to study A Level History.

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.

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.pearsonactivelearn.com

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

Grade 7 at GCSE is required to access the subject content and study Mathematics at A Level.

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.pearsonactivelearn.com

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

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.

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, Journalism, Education, Film Studies, Film and TV Production, PR, Advertising, 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.

Exam Board: Eduqas

Grade 5 in GCSE English is required to study Media Studies at A Level.

Modern Languages: French & Spanish

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

Grade 7 at GCSE is required to study either A Level French or Spanish.

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, Rockschooll, 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

Grade 6 is required to study Music at A Level



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

Grade 6 is required to study Music Technology at A Level

Photography

Why study Photography at A Level?

To develop a visual awareness and critical analysis. To enhance personal expression, aesthetic appreciation, imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, practical skills as well as historical and cultural awareness. For those wishing to study an Art-related subject at university, Photography allows pupils to create a portfolio for entry to Art College and university courses.

The A Level Photography course.

Component 1. Personal Investigation (60% of A Level).

This personal investigation consists of coursework with no time limit and is worth 60% of the marks. Students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or a series of related outcomes. It must be supported by a related written piece of 3000 words.

Component 2. Externally set Assignment (40% of A Level)

This is an externally set assignment worth 40% of the A Level. AQA will provide the question papers for distribution to students at the start of February. Each endorsement title will have its own paper with a chance of eight questions to be used as starting points. Students will have to choose one and they will have 15 hours of supervised time. Students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes in the 15 hours.

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

Photography is an exciting subject where you get to develop a host of important transferable skills and personal values. Determination, creativity, curiosity and independence are the most obvious.

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

Graduates are readily employed in professions such as Publishing, Journalism, Design, Fashion, Advertising, Marketing, Film & Television, Entertainment and Architecture.

Those who wish to apply for Art Foundation courses and Art degree courses at Art School will compile a portfolio of work as part of their course.

Exam board: AQA

Grade 5 required across a range of GCSE subjects.

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 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, Performing Analyst, Data Scientist, Sports Technology Engineer, Strength and Conditioning Coach, Personal Trainer, PE Teacher/Lecturer.

Exam board: AQA

Grade 6 is required to study Physical Education at A Level

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 subjects 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

Grade 7 or above in Physics (or 7-7 in combined science) and Mathematics is required at GCSE to study this A level subject (reviewed on a case-by-case basis).

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.

Exam Board: Edexcel

- 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.

Grade 6 or above in English Language is required at GCSE to study this subject.

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

Grade 6 in English and Mathematics is required to study Psychology at A Level (reviewed on a case-by-case basis).



The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a qualification open to students in England and Wales and is equivalent to half an A-level. The EPQ qualification takes dedication and commitment and requires pupils to produce either a dissertation (5,000 words), music or drama composition or report/artefact (supported by full paperwork). The EPQ is greatly valued by universities because it supports the development of independent research skills that are needed at the next level of education. An increasing number of universities make lower grade offers to those who have achieved a strong result in an EPQ. Extended Project Qualification is the equivalent to 28 UCAS points and therefore can be used by pupils to earn extra UCAS points and provides an additional area of expertise supporting university applications.

Alastair Houghton-Brown, our EPQ Coordinator said; "We were extremely pleased with the quality of the projects this year, the scope of topics studied and of course the excellent results with 80% of grades at A*-B. The interest in EPQs has grown enormously this year. Students now realise how important this is to demonstrate to universities that they are capable of independent research and dissertation writing."

Students are able to research any topic which is of interest to them and this leads to a rich variety of outcomes. Some of our students previous EPQ project topics were:

To what extent does leadership impact the commercial success of a hospitality business? To what extent does cannabis have an effect on adolescent mental health?
Are the moral messages portrayed in the Classic Disney Princess films more important than the gender stereotypes?



The Cyber EPQ is the UK's first and only Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in Cyber Security. This unique Cyber Security qualification has been developed by a consortium of education and Cyber Security partners to help provide a starting point for anyone considering a career in Cyber Security. The EPQ is a Level 3 qualification, accredited by City & Guilds, worth up to an extra 28 UCAS points. The course is delivered using a distance learning platform (the Moodle).

