

# Subject Booklet 2025 – 2027



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\* Collaborative subject delivered at TGS

\* Collaborative subject delivered at SHS

(updated June 2024)

This booklet sets out details of the potential subjects available in our collaborative Sixth Form with Tadcaster Grammar School for September 2025. A wide range of subjects is offered. You can choose to specialise in similar subjects according to your interests and future career aspirations. Alternatively, you can choose a broader range of subjects. Whatever you choose, you should consider your choices carefully.

## **Why Choose Now?**

Choices must be made now to allow school sufficient time to prepare option pools and the timetable for September 2025. Once choices have been made we will create option pools based on the best fit for the majority of students.

## **What is a “non-viable” option?**

If the number of students choosing a particular option is not enough to make an appropriately sized group, that option becomes non-viable and may be withdrawn. If a subject you have chosen becomes unviable, you will be asked at a later stage to re-choose.

## **How many subjects should I choose?**

The majority of students choose three subjects through to completion at the end of Year 13. Some students may choose four subjects.

## **What do I do if I need help choosing options?**

You can seek help from Miss Jackson, the Sixth Form Team, or any of your teachers. All members of Year 11 will have the opportunity of a one-to-one discussion later in the Spring term to discuss plans for the future.

## **About the course:**

Art, Craft and Design gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. You can choose to focus on a specialist area of study from a variety of exciting processes and media to suit your individual interests and abilities. This can result in degree opportunities and careers ranging from painting portraits to producing exotic fashion costumes or designing futuristic architecture. If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.

## **Where could this take me?**

A career in the creative industry sector is one of the most lucrative and competitive employment opportunities you can take. Many of our students move on to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or go straight on to a degree course at university. The creative opportunities for employment include: animation; architecture; art therapy; exhibition designer; fashion design; furnishings; graphic

design; illustration; interior design; landscaping; make-up; packaging design; photographer; set design; teacher; advertising; web-design; sign writing; special effects or in film and television work. Some will go on to work as an artist.

## **How will I learn?**

Year 12 and 13 art students are usually grouped together to create a studio environment. Students are allocated individual pods to work in the sixth form studio. All students can share ideas and support each other throughout the course. This has a truly beneficial effect on stimulating new ideas and approaches. We want you to develop into independent learners who use their creative skills and are willing to take risks with their work.

## **How will I be assessed?**

**Year 1** - Component 1 - Portfolio  
100% practical assessment

### **Year 2 – A2 Qualification**

Personal Investigation 60%,  
Externally Set Assignment (15 hours) 40%

## **Qualification**

AQA Art and Design

## **About the course:**

Biology is an innovative and inspiring subject working from context to content. Whilst challenging, it is thought provoking and it tells us about the world around us and how we fit into it. Have you ever wondered how we replace the 40,000 skin cells we lose every minute? How we discovered the function of each brain region? How can DNA be used in forensic science? These are just a few examples of the kind of questions that as biologists we attempt to answer.

## **Where could this take me?**

Biology is an A level which works well both as a science and a complementary subject to many other disciplines. It can lead to employment or higher education opportunities in biological sciences, biochemistry, pharmacology, genetics, agriculture, dentistry, medicine, research, ecology and the environment, food industries and many more.

## **How will I learn?**

The course is supported with a textbook and a website which has animations, tutorials, interactive

tests and end of topic tests, plus links to useful websites. There is practical work incorporated throughout the course:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells and Immunity
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

## **How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1, 2 and 3 are assessed by written examinations of 2hrs. Paper 1 and 2 contribute 35% towards the final mark and Paper 3 contributes 30%. There is also an internally assessed practical endorsement to test the competency of practical skills

**Qualification** AQA A level  
Biology

## **About the course:**

An understanding of Business Studies is becoming increasingly important in a world where advances in technology and communication have taken centre stage. This course is designed to give you the chance to explore real business situations and to be practical in the application of business concepts that affect the world in which we live.

## **Where could this take me?**

Many students go on to take Business related courses at university, or go into careers in Marketing, Human Resources, Finance, Fashion, Sports Marketing, Customer Service, Administration and Law. This course can enhance whatever further study or employment you choose.

## **How will I learn?**

The AQA A-Level Business Studies programme will be assessed externally and focuses on 10 units.

### **Year 1**

**Unit 1-** What is business?

**Unit 2-** Managers, leadership and decision making

**Unit 3-** Decision making to improve marketing performance

**Unit 4-** Decision making to improve operational performance

**Unit 5-** Decision making to improve financial performance

**Unit 6-** Decision making to improve human resource performance

### **Year 2**

**Unit 7 –** Analysing the strategic position of a business

**Unit 8 –** Choosing the strategic direction

**Unit 9 –** Strategic methods

**Unit 10 –** Managing Strategic change

## **How will I be assessed?**

### **Paper 1: 2 hour exam**

Includes 15 Multiple choice questions, short answer questions and two essay questions

### **Paper 2: 2 hour exam**

3 data response questions each consisting of 3 or 4 part questions.

### **Paper 3: 2 hour exam**

One case study followed by approximately 6 long answer questions.

## **Qualification:**

AQA A Level Business Studies

## **About the course:**

Chemistry is the science of the material world. It is concerned with the structure and interactions of all matter in the universe. Chemists use their knowledge and skills to benefit and protect the human race. Our life would be very different without the developments that have been made to fuels, smart materials and medicines!

## **Where could this take me?**

Chemistry is a subject which can be studied further at degree level or as an excellent foundation for a wide variety of higher education courses or careers: Medicine, Pharmacy, Finance, Forensic Science, Law, Physiotherapy, Sports Science and many more. Students often do not realise they need A level Chemistry to study for many Biology related degrees.

## **How will I learn?**

The AQA course has been designed to incorporate modern developments in Chemistry and also the impact of Chemistry on modern society and resources. There is an increased emphasis on understanding and application rather than recall. The course and activities within it have been

solving and literacy skills. Typical activities include practical work, group work, modelling, presentations and research exercises.

## **Year 1**

Modules include: Inorganic Chemistry (Transition metals, Group 2 metals and Periodicity), Physical Chemistry (Atomic structure Bonding, Acids and Bases) and Practical skills.

## **Year 2**

Modules include: Organic Chemistry (Alcohols, Esters and Alkanes/alkenes), Physical Chemistry (Bonding, Energetics and Kinetics) and Practical skills.

## **How will I be assessed?**

Inorganic and Physical Chemistry: 2x 2 hour written exam with short and long answer questions.  
Practical skills in Chemistry: 2 hour written exam with practical based questions, data analysis and multiple choice questions.

## **Qualification**

AQA A Level Chemistry

## About the Course:

Computer Science has computational thinking at its core; thinking that provides solutions to problems, designs systems and recognises the nature of human and machine intelligence. Students embarking on this course should have previous programming experience and an interest in how computers actually work and how they are used to solve problems.

## Where could this take me?

Whether in employment or university education, the opportunities available to you are vast. Game development, web design, app development, network security and network engineering are just some of the possibilities associated with studying Computer Science.

## How will I learn?

A mixture of taught theory lessons, delivered in various formats, including lectures, research tasks, practical experiments and studying existing products.

**Component 01 - Computer Systems:** the internal workings of the CPU; data structures used in programming; Boolean algebra

and floating point numbers; legal, moral and ethical issues.

## Component 02 - Algorithms and Programming:

computational thinking; programming techniques; an introduction to a range of algorithms used by developers, and how to program them.

## Component 03 - Programming project:

analyse, design, develop, test and evaluate a program written in an approved language. The actual problem is one that each student will choose, allowing them to focus on an area of interest.

## How will I be assessed?

Two written papers: Computer Systems (40%), Algorithms and Programming (40%)

Programming Project - Non Examination Assessment (20%)

**Qualification** OCR A Level Computer Science



## **About the Course:**

Criminology is the study of the law enforcement and criminal justice system. You will learn about the sociological, psychological and biological theories of crime and be able to use these explanations to analyse criminal situations. You will also gain an understanding of the criminal justice system. In addition, you will also examine the reporting of crime in the media to see the impact this has on public perceptions of crime.

## **Where could this take me?**

Criminology leads to the following undergraduate degree programmes: Criminology, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Psychology, Law, Sociology, Politics. Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals service or the National Offender Management service. The diploma will help develop the analytical, evaluative & research skills needed for a range of University subjects.

## **How will I learn?**

You will develop research skills, critical analysis and judgement along with discussion and presentation skills. Due to the vocational nature of this course there will be regular application to the real world through external speakers, educational visits and carrying out practical investigations.

## **How will I be assessed?**

**Changing Awareness of Crime:** the wide range of different crimes and the reasons people have for not reporting such crimes.

**Criminological Theories - external:** the different types of crime and the criminological approaches to theory.

**Crime Scene to Courtroom:** the criminal trial process and the many different people and agencies involved.

**Crime and Punishment - external:** the criminal justice system in England and Wales and how it operates to achieve social control.

**Qualification:** Eduqas Applied Diploma in Criminology

## **About the Course:**

A level Drama and Theatre Studies is a practical course that emphasises hands-on creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically through devising and working on performances.

## **Where could this take me?**

Drama and Theatre Studies qualification provides a strong basis to access academic areas of study helping prepare students for careers in a wide range of fields e.g. PR, Law, Teaching, Media, Advertising but it is ideal for those interested in working in theatre, film, television, the music industry and the arts.

## **How will I learn?**

A wide range of learning and study methods will be employed ranging from direct teaching, practical exploration, student led workshops, independent group rehearsal and independent research and preparation.

## **How will I be assessed?**

### **Component 1: Drama and Theatre – written examination (40%) - 3hrs**

Section A: one extended question on a set text; Section B - an unseen text extract from a second set text; Section C is an extended question on a live theatre production.

### **Component 2: Creating Original Drama – practical unit (30%)**

You will devise an original piece of theatre from a stimulus for performance to an audience which takes into account the ideas of a recognised drama practitioner.

### **Component 3: Making Theatre – practical unit (30%)**

For the examination (assessed externally) you will perform/present one extract and submit ideas for the performance of extracts from the other two texts in a reflective report.

## **Qualification**

AQA Drama and Theatre Studies

## **About the course:**

If you study Economics you will find out how economists view the world. Something as seemingly uninteresting as drinking a cappuccino in a shop would be interesting to an economist. An economist would see players in an intriguing game of signals and negotiations. The game is for high stakes; some of the people who worked to get that coffee in front of you made a lot of money, some made very little. The economist knows the cappuccino is the product of an incredible team effort. While economists are constantly thinking about the things going on around them, they are not limited to discussing local matters.

## **Where could this take me?**

Economics graduates are highly sought after. Economists develop skills of data handling and analysis which are vital in today's workplace.

## **How will I learn?**

In Economics you will learn largely by doing. You will take part in the Bank of England's Target 2.0 competitions and a student investment competition. These

learning experiences help to generate a great deal of economic understanding. In addition you will be encouraged to contribute your views and ideas in class. Most importantly, you will be given the examination practice to ensure top grades. You will study competitive and concentrated markets, you will also look at the market mechanism, market failure and government failure. You will look at the national economy in a global context and you will study the macroeconomic performance indicators of inflation, unemployment, economic growth and the balance of payments. You will also study the labour market and the distribution of income and wealth in the UK and poverty and inequality.

## **How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1: Market and Market failure  
- 2 hour paper (33.3%)

Paper 2: National and International  
Economy - 2 hour paper (33.3%)

Paper 3: Economic Principles - 2  
hour paper assessing the whole  
course (33.3%)

## **Qualification**

AQA A Level Economics

## **About the course:**

The English Language A Level course will allow you to develop and apply your understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of the English language. You will develop your own skills as producers and interpreters of language.

## **Where could this take me?**

English Language A level provides a basis for further specific study in higher education or provides a qualification that can be used to support other qualifications for access to other areas of study. Many of our students use English Language A-Level as a qualification for entry into higher education. Career routes that may follow from the study of English Language include: journalism and the media; childcare and teaching; publishing; advertising; legal work and any job where there is an emphasis on communication.

## **How will I learn?**

A wide range of learning and study methods will be

employed ranging from direct teaching; group work; discussion and independent investigative work.

- Language Diversity
- Language and the Individual
- Language change over time
- Child language acquisition
- Your own journalistic writing
- A language investigation into a topic of your choice.

## **How will I be assessed?**

The course is 80% exam and 20% coursework.

## **Qualification**

AQA A Level English Language

## **About the Course:**

The study of literature comes back to those crucial questions of what it means to be human and our place in the universe. By studying English Literature at A Level you will gain an awareness of our rich literary and cultural heritage, exploring your own literary tastes through a flexible coursework component. You will have the opportunity to discuss ideas in a sympathetic and supportive environment and you will be encouraged to develop your own writing and interpretation skills.

## **Where could this take me?**

English Literature complements all other A Level subjects and is a highly regarded subject to offer at higher education level. The subject may lead to degree courses in English Literature/Language, Law, Media Communications, Journalism, Creative Writing, Philosophy and Arts subjects in general.

## **How will I learn?**

There will be a variety of teaching methods, including direct teaching, small group work and class discussion. You will often

productions and attend external lectures and conferences to support classroom teaching. To support you with your coursework, teachers will meet with you in tutorial sessions, discussing your individual requirements.

Year 12 Literary Genres - Aspects of Tragedy. Paper 1:

Shakespeare's Othello; Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles and the modern American play, Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller. You will also begin work on a coursework submission: Independence and Theory (internal assessment)

Year 13 Texts and Genres - Elements of Political Writing.

Paper 2: Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, William Blake's poetry Songs of Innocence and Experience, and Hosseini's The Kite Runner.

## **How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1—Examination: 2½ hours, closed book (40%)

Paper 2—Examination: 3 hours, open book (40%)

Internal assessment, on-going in Year 12 and Year 13 (20%)

**Awarding Body** AQA A Level English Literature Specification B

## **About the course:**

At A level we build on the basic skills acquired at GCSE to use language in more complex situations whether it is enjoying a film, talking about politics or winning an argument.

**See the world:** travel abroad is far more interesting when you can speak the language of the country you are visiting. There will be opportunities to visit France during your studies.

## **Where could this take me?**

"The need for people with language skills in UK businesses has never been higher".

"One in five UK companies is losing business because it lacks language or cultural skills" – Independent.

'Unemployment rates are low among those who study a language at university.'

amongst graduates at the end of their graduation year is 7% - for French graduates the figure drops to 4% - Bangor University.

## **What will I learn?**

Unit 1 - Listening, reading, translation into English and into target language

Unit 2 - Written paper; 1 question on the film and 1 question on the book

Unit 3 - Speaking test

## **How will I be assessed?**

Unit 1 - Examination 50% 2hr30

Unit 2 - Examination 20% 2hrs

Unit 3 - Speaking test 30%  
21-23 mins

## **Qualification**

AQA A Level French

## **About the course:**

Further Mathematics is a stimulating, challenging extension to the Mathematics course. As such, it is only available to students who have opted to take A level Mathematics. It is strongly advised for students who wish to study Mathematics or Mathematics related subjects beyond the Sixth Form.

If you are a natural mathematician with a desire to be absorbed into the subject, and study Mathematics or a directly Mathematics related degree course at university, then Further Mathematics is for you.

## **Where could this take me?**

In recent years, students followed Further Mathematics at A Level with degree courses in Mathematics at highly prestigious universities. Further Mathematics is particularly useful for anyone intending to go on to study Computing, Physics and Engineering.

## **How will I learn?**

Teacher led tutorials, including presentations, group and paired work and investigations, form the

basis of the methods of study. Individual work, where you take the techniques that you have learned and apply them to a variety of problems, is essential to ensure that you are fully familiar with their applications and uses.

The Further Mathematics course consists of three equally weighted modules; two pure mathematics modules and one applied module.

The pure module covered in year 1 includes the study of complex numbers, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates and hyperbolic functions. This is supplemented in year 2 with proof, matrices, differential equations, trigonometry and coordinate geometry.

The applied module will include the study of two of the following: statistics, mechanics and decision mathematics.

## **How will I be assessed?**

100% examination

There are three exams each lasting 2 hours

## **Qualification**

AQA A Level Further Mathematics

## **About the course:**

If you are interested in social, economic or political events that are currently shaping our world or if you want to know more about the planet we live on and consider how we can carefully manage our use of it then this course is for you. In addition, the course will provide you with valuable skills of data analysis and synthesis which are skills employers highly value.

## **Where could this take me?**

Studying Geography leads to an understanding of people, society and the environment. It allows us to understand the complexities of how human activities and environments impact on each other. Geographers have always been “marketable” because of their research, analysis and synthesis skills. People who study Geography at A level or beyond can be found across all fields of employment and professions. In short, Geography opens doors to many careers and closes very few.

## **How will I learn?**

### **1. Physical Geography**

You will study: major stores of water and carbon cycles at or near the

earth’s surface; investigate impacts and human responses to natural hazards including seismic and storms in contrasting areas across the world.

### **2 – Human Geography**

This section explores the relationships between population numbers, population health and wellbeing, levels of economic development and the role and impact of the natural environment.

### **3 – Geographical Investigation**

You will be given the opportunity to conduct a minimum of four days of fieldwork which relate to both human and physical elements of the course. This will enable the opportunity to explore a range of data collection techniques as well as analyse and interpret findings before concluding and critically evaluating in relation to a hypothesis/key question.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Two exams on the Human and Physical elements lasting 2 hours 30 mins each with each exam worth 40%. The Geographical Investigation will be internally assessed and contributes to 20%

**Qualification** AQA A Level  
Geography



## About the course:

Most people will gain employment where they are working with people. Over 40% of the working population are employed by caring organisations either in the statutory sector i.e. The NHS and Social Services including schools or the independent sector through private and voluntary organisations. BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care will provide you with some of the skills you will need for a career in the caring professions

## Where could this take me?

The course will provide a good foundation for students who are considering a career in the Health Service, Social Services, the Police Service, Teaching or any career in which there is an element of working with people.

## How will I learn?

**First Year: Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development:** You will develop your knowledge and understanding of patterns of human growth and development, and the experience of health and well-being.

## Unit 3 - Health and Social Care

**Practice:** You will learn about the values, skills and principles of meeting care and support needs and how they should be applied in practice and how legislation, governance and regulation affect provision of care.

**Second Year: Unit 2 - Human Biology and Health** You will learn how the body is organised and how healthy bodily function is achieved.

## Optional Units - a choice from 4:

1. Health, Social Policy and Wellbeing
2. Promoting Health Education
3. Safe Environments in Health and Social Care
4. Health Science

## How will I be assessed?

### Year 1

Unit 1 – Human Lifespan Development - Examined unit

Unit 3 - Health and Social Care Practice– Coursework Based

### Year 2

Unit 2 Human Biology and Health – Examined unit

Optional Units – Coursework Based

**Qualification** Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care – 1 A Level Equivalent.

## **About the course:**

Russia, China and the United States have been the dominant forces of the twentieth century, and disputes between all three continue to shape our present-day world. Meanwhile, closer to home, the conflicts of the so-called 'Wars of the Roses' have been crucial in forging a local identity and the Battle of Towton, fought 4 miles to the north of the school site, was a key turning point in this long-running dynastic struggle and also the single-bloodiest battle ever fought on English soil. Together, our A-level offer will help you understand key events that have had a huge influence on the local and global contexts in which you live.

## **Where could this take me?**

As a traditional academic subject, History opens doors into a wide range of career sectors, including Law, Politics, the Civil Service, Education, Journalism, Social Work, Accounting and Finance. It is a highly respected subject in its' own right, but also, as a third subject, complements students aiming for a STEM-based degree such as Medicine, Pharmacy or

Engineering as it will develop other skill sets required for those courses that might not come through a pure Science or Maths route.

## **How will I learn?**

The course consists of three exams and one piece of coursework. For the Year 12 content we follow Edexcel Route E, exploring Communist States in the Twentieth Century. For Year 13 we study Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII and complete coursework.

## **How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1E: Russia 1917-1991 – From Lenin to Yeltsin (2h 15 m exam)

Paper 2E: Mao's China, 1949 - 1976 (1h 30m exam)

Paper 3: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII 1399-1509 (2h 15m exam)

*Coursework: Students complete a 3,500-4,000 word essay focusing on an element of 20th century history of their choosing.*

**Qualification:** Edexcel A Level History

# Information Technology



## **About the course:**

In today's world, where ICT is constantly changing, individuals will increasingly need technological and information literacy skills that include the ability to gather, process and manipulate data and digital media technologies. These skills are now as essential as the traditional skills of numeracy and literacy. The impact of ICT on society is enormous and as the percentage of businesses and households connected to communication networks such as the internet grows, so does the need for individuals who can master and manipulate these new technologies. As well as the rapid development of new technologies that gather, organise and share information, familiar technologies like television, multimedia, telephone and computers are evolving and being expanded by digitised information, causing a convergence of technologies.

## **Where could this take me?**

Information Technology at this level is a popular choice. The skills gained in this qualification allow students to enter further or higher education, or

the workplace with a rigorous IT skill set. Students obtaining this qualification have gone on to study graphic design, computing and game design, Media and Communications and Digital Marketing at University.

## **How will I learn?**

The course consists of five units:

- Fundamentals of IT (Exam)
- Global Information (Exam)
- Virtual and Augmented Reality (Coursework)
- Social Media and Digital Marketing (Coursework)
- The Internet of Everything (Coursework)

## **How will I be assessed?**

There are 2 written exams and 3 units of coursework.

## **Qualification**

OCR Cambridge Technical  
Introductory Diploma

## **About the course:**

You may wish to be a successful lawyer in order to enter into politics, business, international finance and banking or simply practice law in your home town or city. Studying law can often be considered a smart career move as it commands status, prestige, employment, and promotion prospects. The course is aimed at helping you to develop an understanding of legal methods and reasoning. To develop the techniques of logical thinking and the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems, by applying legal rule. You will also develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions, with reference to appropriate legal authority. Finally it is aimed at creating a critical awareness of the changing nature of Law in society.

## **Where could this take me?**

A large proportion of students continue on to study Law. The study of Law also opens opportunities to work in the police service, courts or any job requiring logical and reasoning skills.

## **How will I learn?**

You are encouraged to be independent and are taught how to be effective learners.

## **Year 12:**

- The Nature of Law and the English Legal System
- Criminal Law
- Tort Law

Year 13 builds on all three topics studied in Year 12 and includes; law and morality, murder and manslaughter, economic loss and psychiatric injury together with a module on the law of contract.

## **How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1: English Legal System, Nature of Law and Criminal Law - 2 hours (33.3%)

Paper 2: English Legal System, Nature of Law and Tort Law - 2 hours (33.3%)

Paper 3: English Legal System, Nature of Law and Contract Law - 2 hours (33.3%).

## **Qualification**

AQA A Level Law

## **About the course**

A level Mathematics builds on and extends the skills and knowledge that you have developed during the study of GCSE Mathematics. As such, some of the topics for example trigonometry and algebra will already be familiar to you, whilst others, such as calculus, will present you with a fresh perspective on mathematics.

By studying mathematics, you will not only learn about mathematical concepts and techniques, but will develop your problem solving and logical thinking skills. As such, mathematics is an A-level highly prized by universities and employers.

## **Where could this take me?**

A level Mathematics is helpful for many careers and university courses, particularly those relating to science and engineering as well as financial services including banking and accounting. Possible future routes following A level mathematics include Medicine, Accountancy, Computer Science, Economics and Business Studies, Psychology, Sports Science, Geography and, of course, further Mathematical study.

## **How will I learn?**

Teacher led tutorials, including presentations, group and paired work and investigations, form the basis of the methods of study. Individual work where you take the techniques that you have learned and apply them to a variety of problems is essential to ensure that you are fully familiar with their applications and uses.

A level Mathematics combines the study of Pure Mathematics with its applications in both Statistics and Mechanics. Pure Mathematics includes proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration and vectors. In A level you then learn how to apply this to both Statistics and Mechanics.

## **How will I be assessed?**

100% examination: three exams each lasting 2 hours. One exam is solely on Pure Mathematics. Another combines Pure Mathematics with Statistics. The final combines Pure Mathematics with Mechanics.

## **Qualification**

AQA A Level Mathematics

## About the course:

A large proportion of the information we receive comes from the mass media: television, radio, the internet, the press and many other forms, many of which have developed rapidly over the last few years due to the boom in digital technology. The Media Studies course does help to develop creative and practical skills; students produce media texts using video, photography and desktop publishing technology. However, it is mainly an academic subject with written analytical essay answers and independently researched theory and debates. It is a theoretical and analytical subject covering political, social and current affairs so this will aid a range of other subjects and careers where insight, critical analysis and hypothesising, as well as reading and extended written communication are involved.

## Where could this take me?

As well as providing a grounding for students who wish to enter a career in media areas, Media Studies is excellent for developing critical, analytical and creative skills. It is therefore a good choice for students who wish to study Drama, Art or

linked to the media such as journalism or film studies.

## How will I learn?

A range of study methods are used from independent research and presentations, to discussion, group work and written responses. Practical skills are built by presenting learning in practical ways as well as traditional essays.

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Exam based unit on an unseen media text - compare this with a range of media texts covering advertising, film, videogame, music video, radio and newspapers

Component 2: Exam based unit in which you study several texts in more depth in relation to various theoretical frameworks, studying institutions, audiences, media language and representations within the text as well as theoretical views such as feminism, postmodernism and Marxism.

NEA 30%: Practical coursework unit in which you have to produce media products.

## Qualification

Eduqas A Level Media Studies

## About the course:

A Level Music is an exciting, dynamic and challenging course that will develop your performance, composition and analytical skills to a new and exciting level. The A Level course forms a natural progression from GCSE Music and follows a traditional path that you will be familiar with if you've studied Music at GCSE. It focused on performance, composition and analysis of works from the western classical tradition through to more contemporary twentieth century classical music, Music in the Theatre and Jazz Music.

## Where could this take me?

Music may well be your first choice subject. You may be aiming for further study at College or University, or for a career in the music industry. On the other hand, you may simply enjoy music and wish to continue your studies. It is viewed highly by universities and indicates that you are both academic and have wider interests.

A Music A level can lead to:

- Single study and joint arts courses at university
- Study at specialist music conservatoires
- Music Technology/sound

## How will I learn?

The skills you will develop through the course include not only the obvious ones of listening, composing and performing, but also analysis, criticism, organisation, decision making, communication and presentation. Music students benefit from being taught in small groups and are encouraged to work independently.

### Listening and Appraising

The Baroque Concerto, The Marriage of Figaro, Jazz and Blues and Music for Theatre.

**Performing:** A minimum ten minute solo and/or ensemble performance.

**Composing:** Two compositions  
Minimum of 4 minutes 30 seconds  
1 composition – free composition  
1 composition – composing to a brief – set by the exam board

## How will I be assessed?

Performing Externally assessed (35%)

Composing Externally assessed (25%)

Appraising One written paper (40%)

## Qualification

A Level Music

## **About the course:**

Photography is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating ideas. It inspires creative thinkers. Photography means 'drawing with light' and that is what photographers do when they take a picture. Many photographers have explored various techniques to create images that make a personal statement about things that have interested or concerned them. The most exciting aspect of photography is that you are capturing the world as you see it.

## **Where could this take me?**

Many of our students move on to photography degrees at university, or to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. Photography students can consider a career in any of the following areas: fashion; graphic design; architectural; illustration; forensic; journalism; studio based photography; wedding; Photoshop specialist in special effects or in film and television work. Many photographers become self-employed and establish their own business.

## **How will I learn?**

We want you to develop into independent learners who use their creative skills and are willing to take

risks in their work. We encourage a collaborative studio environment reflecting an art college atmosphere. You will want to develop your technical skills and be able to apply new techniques and follow your own ideas. Do you need your own camera? – Yes, it helps, but we have some you can experiment with.

## **How will I be assessed?**

### **The Portfolio**

You will be encouraged to develop your knowledge of how your camera works and apply this knowledge to your own photographs.

### **Personal Investigation**

This unit provides you with an opportunity to explore an independent theme of your choice.

### **The Externally set Assignment**

The exam board releases several themes and then you select and respond to a theme of your choice.

### **AS Qualification**

Component 1 100% internally assessed

### **A2 Qualification**

Personal Investigation 60%  
Externally Set Assignment (15 hours) 40%

### **Qualification**

AQA A level Photography



## About the course:

This A-Level is a challenging and rewarding course. Students will look at a range of issues from movement and motion to psychology, sociology and physiology. It gives a fantastic insight into depth and breadth of the world of sports science, demonstrating just how much detail athletes at the top level go into in order to be the best.

## Where could this take me?

This course will allow you to study at university. If you are interested in physiotherapy, sports massage, coaching, teaching, sports development, being a physical training instructor or working in sport then this course is the right one for you.

## How will I learn?

There are three main areas of study; anatomy and physiology, sports psychology and sociology of sport. You will have different teachers specialising in different topics. One half of the course being 70% of the theory content including psychology, anatomy and physiology, as well as coursework. The other half of the course contains the remaining 30% of the theory element focusing on the sociology of sport.

The practical work will be done outside of school and you will be required to video a number of your performances and then submit them to school along

with a written commentary of what you did during the performances and why. The coursework element requires you to use all of the theory work you have covered, to analyse and evaluate performance.

## How will I be assessed?

The exams for both sections are two hours long and will include multiple choice, short answer and extended writing tasks for all the different topics covered in the course.

The assessment takes place as follows:

*Two written exams:*

- 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35 % each paper - 70% total

*Non-exam assessment (NEA):*

- Internal assessment, external moderation. Pupils can be assessed as a performer or coach in a full sided version of one sporting activity. For this reason pupils choosing this course must be fully committed to playing or coaching competitive sport out of school throughout year 12 and year 13 or they will not be able to be assessed on the NEA aspect of the course
- 90 marks
- 30% of A-level

**Qualification** AQA A Level Physical Education

## **About the course:**

Physics is everywhere in our modern world. From improving our performance in sporting events and enhancing our experience of music, to developing food production and refining our health care. Life would be very different without our understanding of Physics!

## **Where could this take me?**

Physics qualifications develop many sought after skills which are transferable in the workplace. These include problem - solving, numeracy and the ability to analyse and evaluate information. Physics is a highly regarded qualification for other degree courses and also in the jobs market. This course will help you to access Physics at degree level along with many other Science and Engineering courses. There are a massive range of career opportunities which can be accessed through Physics including Medicine, Engineering, Architecture, Forensics, Computing, Meteorology, Law, Finance and Journalism.

## **How will I learn?**

The context of the course is often modelled through experimentation, and these facilitate a teaching

approach which is based on problem solving. In addition to practical work, typical activities include group work, presentations and research exercises.

The modules included are:

- Working as a Physicist
- Good enough to eat
- Higher, faster, stronger
- Technology in space
- The Sound of music
- Digging up the past
- Spare – part surgery
- Transport on track
- The medium is the message
- Probing the heart of the matter
- Build or bust?
- Reach for the stars

## **How will I be assessed?**

The examination papers will include a variety of question styles from: structured; extended response; calculation based; multiple- choice and problem- solving.

## **Qualification**

Edexcel A-level Physics

## About the course:

If you have enjoyed the challenge and innovation of GCSE Design Technology and would like to develop and sustain these skills, then this is the course for you. Product Design is a subject that provides the opportunity to study, propose and bring to life prototype solutions closely linked to the real world of product manufacture in a range of material areas. Some students lean towards particular areas such as resistant materials, textiles, graphics, or a combination of materials.

## Where could this take me?

There are many different routes available after studying A Level Product Design. Product design could take you into a variety of exciting career paths. Students have the opportunity to go onto studying degree courses in a wide range of design areas. The course will also provide students with valuable skills for practical apprenticeships.

## How will I learn?

This course will encourage you to initiate design solutions and to develop, test and trial working models and prototypes. Using your

imagination, innovation and flair, you will work with concepts and materials, developing an understanding of contemporary design and technological practices and consider the uses and effects of new technologies and modern materials.

## How will I be assessed?

*Written Paper 1: Technical Principles 30% 2 h 30: 120 marks, mixture of short and extended response, Maths questions in a D&T context.*

*Written Paper 2: Designing and Making Principles 20% 1h 30: 80 marks, mixture of short and extended response, product analysis questions, commercial manufacture questions.*

*Non Examination Assessment (NEA) 50%: Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles - 100 marks, single substantial design and make task. Written or electronic portfolio. Must include photographic evidence of practical outcome.*

**Qualification:** AQA A Level Design and Technology: Product Design

## **About the course:**

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour. It encompasses a variety of approaches to try to fully explain the causes of human (and animal) behaviour. Topics can range from the social causes of aggression to the biochemical basis of depression. Psychology involves finding out what psychologists have discovered about behaviour. It is therefore necessary to support any theory with evidence and the examination will require you to quote named studies to support your answers. There is rarely a single view in Psychology, so as well as a sound knowledge base, you will need the ability to formulate a rational argument and use critical thinking to justify a point of view

## **Where could this take me?**

Leading to specific careers such as a Clinical or Forensic Psychologist and supporting many other career routes through Medicine, Nursing, Business, Industry and Public Services, Psychology is rarely an essential A Level for University entrance but is always an excellent subject to have in your portfolio. Psychology is classified as a Science A Level for most degree courses. The A Level will tell you what to expect in a Psychology degree and

help develop analytical and evaluative skills needed for a range of University subjects.

## **How will I learn?**

You will develop a number of skills over the course including analysis, evaluation and application. You will also be expected to use research findings to good effect in constructing and developing coherent arguments.

- Social Psychology and Cognitive Psychology
- Biological Psychology and Learning Theories
- Clinical Psychology and Criminal Psychology
- Psychological Skills

## **How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1: Foundations of Psychology  
Social, Cognitive, Biological and Learning Theories 2 Hours (35%)

Paper 2: Application of Psychology  
Clinical and Criminal Psychology - 2 Hours (35%)

Paper 3: Psychological Skills  
Methodology and review of studies- 2 Hours (30%)

## **Qualification**

Edexcel A Level Psychology

## **About the course:**

Why should you study Sociology? Sociology is the study of human societies in all sorts of contexts. You will investigate and discuss political, economic and social dimensions of society, and will regularly consider the way in which contemporary governments respond to the demands of things like the provision of education to the population and problems created by crime. Sociology will help to stimulate your interest in a broad range of issues which affect our lives, and in so doing will provide a link between theoretical perspectives and practical responses to current social problems.

## **Where could this take me?**

The study of Sociology requires you to think objectively about a broad range of issues and problems highly relevant to our lives today. Such a contemporary awareness will be seen as important in many types of occupations and careers, ranging from employment in local government and the civil service, to work in finance or the social services sector. Universities highly value students with a mature awareness of contemporary issues, and who can offer considered viewpoints on

subject matter such as education and welfare spending, or responses to problems created by poverty.

## **How will I learn?**

Study approaches are varied and will often depend upon the nature of the topics being covered. A general theme which will run throughout the course is the encouragement of classroom discussion, and objective decision making processes, with the aim of helping you to formulate judgements which can be supported by empirical evidence and sound theoretical arguments. On a general level, the objective of reading more widely will be promoted, as will the need to be aware of current news items, particularly those linked to domestic United Kingdom based issues.

## **How will I be assessed?**

Paper 1: 2 hours Education/Theory and Methods (33%)

Paper 2: 2 hours Families and Households/The Media (33%)

Paper 3: 2 hours Crime and Deviance/Theory and Methods (33%)

## **Qualification**

AQA A Level Sociology

# Extended Project Qualification



## About the course:

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is popular with students and teachers alike. It provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond their sixth form course of study, stand out and prepare for university or their future career.

## Where could this take me?

An EPQ will help you develop a useful range of extra study skills, helping you prepare for the demands of university work. It is valued by higher education institutions as it demonstrates your dedication to independent learning and is often included in offers made by institutions to applicants. An EPQ is worth half an A Level; it's graded A\* to E and can be worth anywhere up to 28 UCAS points, which can help students to secure the university place they want. An EPQ also provides you with employability skills that are really valued by employers: independence, creativity, initiative, enterprise and problem solving skills.

## How will I learn?

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non specialist audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

One of the many benefits to the EPQ is that you pursue an area of interest independently. You will spend approximately 120 hours in guided study in order to complete your project.

## How will I be assessed?

An EPQ is 100% coursework. You will be assessed on your presentation and the evidence you provide for all stages of the design, development and production of your project.

## Qualification

AQA Extended Project Qualification