NORTH BRIDGE HOUSE

SIXTH FORM
HAMPSTEAD

Introduction

Choosing NBH Hampstead (becoming Alleyn's Hampstead in September 2026) means continuing your education in a school community with a primary goal of knowing and supporting every student. Over the next 18 months (with exams beginning in May of Year 13), you'll be taught by teachers who understand how you learn best and what inspires you to succeed. They'll also guide you in maintaining that all-important balance between your studies and your personal life.

As always, your happiness will be at the heart of everything we do, because we know that happy students are successful students. Whether you're here to complete your education in a vibrant co-educational environment that prepares you for real-world experiences, or to take advantage of our strong academic reputation and amazing co-curricular programmes, you'll find plenty of opportunities to thrive.

This booklet includes information about all subjects available from Science and Humanities to Arts and Languages. We encourage you to read this information carefully. The courses on offer have been selected based on our your aspirations and conversations with our current students.

Our Sixth Form will specialise in A-level supported by a comprehensive global careers and university advice programme. In addition to interdisciplinary projects and professional mentoring, we are currently launching new charitable and educational partnerships, including expanding opportunities for pupils to attend European and American universities and gain valuable work placements in London.

You will continue to benefit from our existing broad co-curricular programme, with a new range of visits and cultural experiences tailored to your age group. With these experiences and the main academic curriculum, we will be creating opportunities for you to collaborate with students in other Cognita schools in Europe and further afield.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form, and the future Alleyn's Hampstead family.

Mr Christopher Jones
Headteacher

Choosing your subjects

Typically, pupils will study three A-Levels and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). You will need to choose three subjects from the list below.*

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Classics
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Economics
- English Literature
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology

The Extended Project Qualification is an open-ended project which is equivalent to an AS-Level. It is an excellent opportunity for students to learn new study and research skills as well as investigate a topic area which fascinates them. You can find out more about the EPQ later in this guide.

As well as your three A-Level subjects and EPQ, you will also do:

- Games (Physical Education)
- PSHE: one lesson per fortnight
- Futures programme: one lesson per fortnight
- Enrichment activities

You will also meet with your tutor during the week. S/he will be your first point of call if there are any problems. Your tutor will also monitor your academic progress.

The information contained in this booklet will give you more information about the subjects available. Please read this information carefully and do get in touch with us if you would like additional advice on subject options.

HOW DO I DECIDE WHAT TO STUDY?

The choice of subjects to be taken in Year 12 should be determined by your academic potential to succeed and a real enthusiasm to study that subject. If both are present it is entirely possible for you to do well in that subject. If either is absent it is unlikely that you will enjoy the course or make a success of it. Option blocks are prepared after students have provided their initial interests in subjects and these can help you build your desired portfolio of subject. We are more than happy to meet with prospective pupils and parents to discuss options.

**Subject offering is dependent on sufficient student interest*

ENGLISH LITERATURE

English Literature

INTRODUCTION

A-Level English Literature is a rich and challenging course that develops students' ability to engage critically and creatively with texts spanning different time periods, styles and genres. You will learn how to engage with literary criticism and craft your own critical voice; develop your skills of literary analysis and nuanced interpretation; enrich your understanding of texts through positioning them within their historical, cultural and literary contexts. Alongside the taught course, you will undertake independent reading and studies to deepen your appreciation of the literary canon and enrich your own understanding of its changing traditions. Being a passionate reader and thinker is key to success.

English Literature A-Level is a strong academic qualification which works well in combination with many other subjects. The subject is often studied with Humanities, Modern Languages, Classics and Art among others. Students often select to study English alongside STEM subjects to create a balanced portfolio.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

AO1	Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.
AO2	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
AO3	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
AO4	Explore connections across literary texts
AO5	Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations

N.B. AO1, AO2, AO3 and AO4 are the same AOs as covered at GCSE English Literature, but at a higher level. AO5 is a new Assessment Objective at A-Level.

COURSE OUTLINE

Exam 1: Drama and Poetry Pre-1900 - 40%

Section A: Shakespeare

You will study one play (King Lear) and answer two questions. You will also look at the different theatre productions and changing critical perspectives over time.

Section B: Drama and Poetry

You will answer one question which compares one play (The Duchess of Malfi by John Webster) with one poetry text (Paradise Lost by John Milton). This will also involve some exploration of historical, social, cultural and literary context as well as critical interpretations.

Exam 2: Comparative and Contextual Study - 40%

For this paper students study a specific topic area (we focus on 'Dystopia'). This involves the study of one core text and another named text from the wider list of suggestions (for us this will be 1984 by George Orwell and The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood). You answer one unseen extract question from any text in your topic area and one comparative essay question on your named texts. This is an exciting opportunity for independent reading and an exploration of a wide variety of prose texts.

Coursework: Non-Examined Assessment Component - 20%

You will study three literary texts - prose, poetry and drama. All will be post-1900 and one will be post-2000.

Coursework Task	Description	Example Text(s)
Task 1	A critical essay closely analysing one text (1000 words)	Postcolonial Love Poem (poetry collection by Natalie Diaz).
Task 2	A comparative essay on two texts (2000 words)	Death and the King's Horseman (play by Wole Soyinka) and Purple Hibiscus (novel by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie).

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A-Level English Literature is a well-respected subject that complements the study of many other subjects, and can lead to diverse career choices including Journalism, Law, Marketing, Publishing and Politics as well as many other fields. A-Level English Literature is a qualification that is held in high esteem. Employers recognise that those who have studied English Literature will have confidence in their ideas, the ability to assimilate and evaluate information, and effective communication skills.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

6+ in GCSE English Literature and/or English Language

Exam Board: OCR

Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ is worth half an A-Level and is apiece of research undertaken by students that culminates in a 6000-word dissertation together with a presentation, or an 'artefact' – a physical work, performance, or event. There is also a taught element on aspects such as how to research, reference, avoid plagiarism, choose an effective research question, organise a project and present one's findings. These topics are addressed both within the AiQ courses and as part of formal EPQ studies.

Students will be assigned a supervisor in the Summer term of Year 12 who will meet them regularly to check on progress. An important part of the EPQ is in the careful recording of these meetings and of the research process, as well as the final result. Students define their research question after Easter in Year 12, will finalise their dissertation over the summer between Years 12 and 13, and present their findings in September of Year 13, just before they need to submit their UCAS applications.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Biology

INTRODUCTION

Biology A-Level covers fascinating topics such as genetics, evolution, ecosystems, and cellular biology, which appeal to students who are curious about the natural world and living organisms. A-Level Biology is essential for many university courses in the life sciences, including Medicine, Biochemistry, and Environmental Science. It provides a strong foundation for students pursuing higher education. Biology also touches on global issues like climate change, biodiversity, human health and food security making it highly relevant to understanding and addressing real-world challenges. You need the ability to think logically and analytically, and demonstrate strong literacy and numeracy skills.

A-Level Biology allows students to learn to analyse data, evaluate experiments and draw logical conclusions from complex biological processes. You will develop research skills as you are taught how to design investigations, collect data and report findings accurately. You will also develop the ability to clearly communicate complex ideas both in writing and through presentations as well as understand biological systems which requires a problem-solving approach. You will gain hands-on experience with lab equipment, techniques, and procedures, such as microscopy, genetic testing, and fieldwork.

COURSE OUTLINE

The AQA A-Level Biology course is divided into multiple topics across two years and culminates in three exam papers. The syllabus covers a wide range of biological principles and emphasises key skills in scientific inquiry, data analysis, and practical applications.

First Year of A-Level:

Topic 1: Biological molecules – Structure and function of carbohydrates, Proteins, Lipids, Nucleic acids, Water and ATP.
Topic 2: Cells - eukaryotic cells, prokaryotic cells and viruses, the stages of mitosis, how molecules are transported across membranes and the immune system.
Topic 3: Organisms exchange substances with their environment – Circulatory and Digestive systems and transport systems within plants.
Topic 4: Genetic information, variation & relationships - evolutionary relationships and classification of organisms.

Second Year of A-Level:

Topic 5: Energy transfers in and between organisms - Process of respiration and photosynthesis, energy flows and nutrient cycles.
Topic 6: Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments - Nervous and hormonal control.

Topic 7: Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems - inheritance of genes within populations.
Topic 8: The control of gene expression - cancer biology and gene technologies in industrial and medical processes.

Practical Skills
In addition to theoretical content, the AQA A-Level Biology course emphasises practical skills. These are developed through required practical activities that are assessed both internally and externally. Practical skills cover:

- Planning experiments
- Making accurate measurements
- Analysing data and drawing conclusions
- Evaluating methodology and results

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
The AQA A-Level Biology exam consists of three papers:

1. **Paper 1** (35% of A-Level)
    - Covers content from Year 1 topics (Topics 1-4)
    - Includes multiple-choice, short answer, and extended response questions
    - Practical skills are also assessed

1. **Paper 2** (35% of A-Level)
    - Covers content from Year 2 topics (Topics 5-8)
    - Similar question types as Paper 1

1. **Paper 3** (30% of A-Level)
    - Covers content from both years (Topics 1-8)
    - Includes structured questions, critical analysis of data, and an essay
    - Paper 3 has an emphasis on synoptic skills, where students need to integrate knowledge from different parts of the course.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Students need at least a Grade 7 in the corresponding Science if taking Separate Science (or Grade 7 in Combined Science along with catch-up work set over summer).

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
A-Level Biology is a gateway to numerous career paths in science, healthcare, and beyond. It opens doors to a variety of professions, including agriculture, dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, sport sciences and veterinary sciences. A-Level Biology provides a solid foundation for careers in the life sciences, but the critical thinking and problem-solving skills it fosters are transferable to fields like law, business, and technology, making it a versatile choice for students.

Exam Board: AQA

Chemistry

INTRODUCTION

A-Level Chemistry is an intellectual rewarding subject that explores the fundamental principles of matter and its interactions. A-Level Chemistry is a core requirement for many higher education courses, especially in fields like medicine, chemical engineering, pharmacy, and biochemistry. The analytical, research and problem-solving skills gained through studying A-Level Chemistry are highly valued in various industries. Chemistry plays a key role in addressing global challenges such as climate change, renewable energy, and new drug development. Students interested in contributing to such innovations often pursue chemistry.

You will gain hands-on experience with lab techniques, such as titration, chromatography, and spectroscopy, as well as safe handling of chemicals. You will design experiments, gather data and interpret results, helping students develop strong research capabilities. Through studying Chemistry, you will also enhance your mathematical skills as well as communication skills.

COURSE OUTLINE

Year 1

Overview:

Year 1 introduces students to the foundations of Chemistry through physical, inorganic, and organic topics. Practical skills and analytical techniques are embedded throughout.

Core Topics:

1. Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table: Subatomic particles and Electron configuration and ionisation energy.
2. Bonding and Structure: Ionic, covalent, metallic bonding and Shapes of molecules and intermolecular forces.
3. Redox I: Oxidation, reduction, oxidation states and balancing redox equations.
4. Inorganic Chemistry and the Periodic Table: Group 2 elements and compounds and Group 7 (Halogens) chemistry.
5. Formulae, Equations, and Amount of Substance: Moles, reacting masses, gas volumes, and solutions.
6. Energetics I: Enthalpy change, Hess's law, and calorimetry.
7. Kinetics I: Collision theory, factors affecting rate.
8. Equilibrium I: Reversible reactions, Le Chatelier's Principle.
9. Introduction to Organic Chemistry: Naming, isomerism, drawing molecules.
10. Hydrocarbons: Alkanes and alkenes and Mechanisms: radical substitution, electrophilic addition.
11. Halogenoalkanes and Alcohols: Nucleophilic substitution and elimination.
12. Modern Analytical Techniques I: Mass spectrometry and IR spectroscopy.

Year 1 Practical Skills:

- ·Making standard solutions and titrations
- ·Distillation and organic synthesis
- ·Test tube reactions for identifying ions
- ·Calorimetry experiments

Year 2

Overview:

Year 2 builds upon the foundations of Year 1, developing a deeper understanding of physical, inorganic, and organic chemistry. It includes advanced analytical techniques and more challenging mechanisms and concepts.

Core Topics:

1. Redox II: Electrode potentials and cells.
2. Transition Metals: Complexes, colour, reactions and catalysis.
3. Kinetics II: Rate equations, determining orders.
4. Equilibrium II: Equilibrium constant Kc and Kp.
5. Acids, Bases and pH: Strong and weak acids/bases, pH calculations, buffers.
6. Energetics II: Lattice enthalpy, entropy, and feasibility.
7. Further Organic Chemistry: Carbonyl compounds (aldehydes and ketones) and Carboxylic acids and esters. Amines, amides, and chirality and Aromatic chemistry (benzene and mechanisms). Polymers and synthesis pathways.
8. Modern Analytical Techniques II: NMR spectroscopy (^{1}H and ^{13}C) and Chromatography

Year 2 Practical Skills:

- *Redox titrations and electrochemical cells*
- *Buffer solutions*
- *Multistep organic synthesis and purification*
- *Chromatography and melting point determination*
- *Measuring reaction rates and equilibrium constants*

Practical Endorsement (Non-Exam Assessment)

Students will complete a minimum of 12 required practicals across the two years. These are assessed internally and assessed on the following:

- Following procedures safely
- Recording and interpreting results
- Use of laboratory techniques and apparatus

Practical skills are also assessed in written exams.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
The Edexcel A-Level Chemistry course is assessed through three written examination papers taken at the end of Year 13.

- Paper 1: Focuses on advanced inorganic and physical chemistry (30% of the final grade).
- Paper 2: Covers advanced organic and physical chemistry (30% of the final grade).
- Paper 3: A synoptic paper assessing general principles and practical skills across the full specification (40% of the final grade).

SYNOPTIC SKILLS
Synoptic skills in Edexcel A-Level Chemistry involve applying knowledge and understanding from across the entire specification to unfamiliar contexts, integrating concepts from organic, inorganic, and physical chemistry. Students are expected to analyse data, interpret experimental results, evaluate methods, and communicate their reasoning clearly using appropriate chemical terminology.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Students need at least a Grade 7 in the corresponding Science if taking Separate Science (or Grade 7 in Combined Science along with catch-up work set over summer).

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
A-Level Chemistry can lead to a wide variety of careers especially in science, healthcare and industries such as petrochemicals, polymers, food and cosmetics. Students can also take career paths in renewable energy development, water quality science and toxicology. The analytical, practical, and problem-solving skills gained through A-Level Chemistry are also highly transferable, allowing students to excel in areas such as business, finance, and technology, making it a valuable qualification.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Physics

INTRODUCTION

A-Level Physics is a fundamental subject that explores the laws of nature and the universe, from the smallest particles to the largest galaxies. Students choose to study A-Level Physics for a variety of reasons such as delving into curiosity about the universe, such as the forces governing the universe, the behaviour of particles and the mysteries of space and time,

Conducting experiments and using specialized equipment (e.g., oscilloscopes, lasers) enhances students' technical and hands-on abilities in experimental Physics. Students will also design experiments, collect accurate data and draw conclusions. Students will learn to explain complex physical concepts clearly and concisely, both in written reports and through presentations.

COURSE OUTLINE

The Edexcel A-Level Physics course is structured to provide a deep understanding of fundamental physical concepts and principles, with an emphasis on theoretical knowledge, practical work, and mathematical applications.

Paper 1: Advanced PhysicsI (30%)

- Working as a Physicist
- Mechanics
- Electric Circuits
- Further Mechanics
- Electric and Magnetic Fields
- Nuclear and Particle Physics

Paper 2: Advanced Physics II (30%)

- Working as a Physicist
- Materials
- Waves and Particle
- Nature of Light
- Thermodynamics
- Space Nuclear
- Radiation
- Gravitational Fields
- Oscillations

Paper 3: General and Practical Principles in Physics (40%)
Questions in this paper may draw on any of the topics in this specification. The paper will include synoptic questions that may draw on two or more different topics.

Science Practical Endorsement
A-Level qualifications in Physics will give students opportunities to use relevant apparatus and techniques to develop and demonstrate specific practical skills. These skills will be assessed through 16 identified core practical activities with outcomes being reported separately on students' certificates as either 'pass' or 'not classified'.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

- To study Physics you need at least a Grade 7 in the corresponding Science if taking Separate Science (or Grade 7 in Combined Science along with catch-up work set over summer).
- For Physics, you must also gain Grade 7 in Mathematics; a good knowledge of GCSE-level Maths is essential as the course involves a lot of numerical problem solving—40% of the marks in A Level Physics are Maths-based.
- Please note that it is not necessary to be studying A-Level Mathematics in order to study A-Level Physics— any mathematics that are beyond GCSE Maths will be taught as part of the A-Level. However, if you wish to study Physics or Physics-related courses such as Engineering at university, then you must be studying A-Level Maths. Further Maths is highly desirable for Physics and Engineering degrees. If you plan to apply for a highly competitive university course in Physics/Engineering then you are strongly recommended to study Further Maths.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
A-Level Physics is essential for students interested in pursuing further education in fields like engineering, astrophysics, electronics, or aeronautics. It is also highly regarded for other STEM subjects. Because Physics students learn how to consider any problem, they are not bound by context. This inventive thinking makes physicists desirable in any field. Physics A-Level is an ideal foundation for careers in journalism, law, finance, medicine, engineering, computer science, astronomy and architecture, to name a few.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Computer Science

INTRODUCTION

Computing and computer technology are part of just about everything that touches our lives from the cars we drive, to the movies we watch, to the ways businesses and governments deal with us. Understanding different dimensions of computing is part of the necessary skill set for an educated person in the 21st century. Every industry uses computers so naturally computer scientists can work in any field. Problems in science, engineering, health care, and so many other areas can be solved by computers.

A Level Computer Science helps you think about how technology is created. It allows you to understand how people work together with computers to develop world-changing programmes and applications. You'll develop the skills that universities and employers are looking for – and they'll prove valuable for the rest of your life.

KEY CONCEPTS FOR CIE A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE

Data Representation and Structures

- Computers use binary and understanding how a binary number can be interpreted in many different ways is important. Programming requires an understanding of how data can be organised for efficient access and/or transfer.

Communication

- Communication is a core requirement of computer systems. It includes the ability to transfer data from one device or component to another and an understanding of the rules and methods that are used in this data transfer.

Computer Architecture and Hardware

- Computer architecture is the design of the internal operation of a computer system. It includes the rules that dictate how components and data are organised, how data are communicated between components, to allow hardware to function.

Computational Thinking

- Computational thinking is a set of fundamental skills that help produce a solution to a problem. Skills such as abstraction, decomposition and algorithmic thinking are used to study a problem and design a solution that can be implemented.

Programming Paradigms

- A programming paradigm is a way of thinking about or approaching problems. There are many different programming styles that can be used, which are suited to unique functions, tools and specific situations. An understanding of programming paradigms is essential to ensure they are used appropriately, when designing and building programmes.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 - Written Paper on Theory Fundamentals (25% of A-Level)

Paper 2 - Written Paper on Fundamental Problem-solving (25% of A-Level)

Paper 3 - Written Paper on Advanced Theory (25% of A-Level)

Paper 4 - Practical on Computer without Internet (25%)

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

You don't need GCSE Computer Science to take it at A-Level. But it would be beneficial if you had, to give you better preparation. If you didn't, the best thing to do is practise programming on your own because the course involves a great deal of programming. If you have little to no prior learning, you'll find the subject difficult.

Mathematics plays a massive role in Computer Science. The extent to which you enjoy Maths will also most likely be the degree to which you'll enjoy Computer Science. This is because both subjects are based on logic and problem-solving. It's about using computation to get to the solutions.

GCSE Mathematics: 6+ (ideally 7+)

GCSE Computer Science: 6+ (ideally 7+) if chosen GCSE Computer Science or sound programming skills if not taken.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Potential careers with this A-level include software engineering, computer security, data analysis, IT consultant, network engineer, and video game developer.

Exam Board: Cambridge International Education (CIE)

Psychology

INTRODUCTION

Psychology is the study of how humans think and behave. It is a fascinating subject where rigorous scientific processes are used alongside philosophy and medicine to explain a wide range of behavioural phenomena. For example, why do people commit crimes? How does memory actually work? Are you who you are because of your genetics, or your environment, or both? Because it is a fairly new science, there are many debates in psychology, and experts often disagree with one another. Essay writing skills are therefore essential, as composing arguments using different scientific evidence or theoretical viewpoints is required. You need to be able to think like a scientist – psychology is not 'touchy-feely'. You also need an interest in human behaviour and the ability to interpret different types of data.

To study Psychology successfully you should have a combination of curiosity, scepticism, plus an interest in explaining human behaviour. You should be literate, scientifically adept, and with a measure of mathematical ability. Psychology is a mixture of many other subjects from Biology to History, Chemistry to Politics, English to Art, with new ideas you have never studied before.

COURSE OUTLINE AND METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

The course culminates in three 120-minute exams, equally weighted. These are comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions, and longer essay-style questions.

Year 12:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Research methods

Year 13:

- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Issues and Debates in Psychology
- Cognition and Development
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychology

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 5+ in Mathematics
- Grade 6+ in either English Language or English Literature
- Grade 6+ in either Combined Science or Separate Science Biology.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Psychology is a broad subject with lots of transferable skills, such as critical thinking, empathising with others, and essay writing. Psychology will make you a better scientist, a better debater, and will help you understand human behaviour and thinking in both yourself and others. For university applications, Psychology counts as both a science subject and an essay subject.

Exam Board: AQA

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics

INTRODUCTION

A-Level Mathematics is the most popular A-Level choice in the UK for good reasons. It is a highly respected qualification that equips students with critical skills such as logical reasoning, problem-solving, and analytical thinking. These skills are essential for success in a wide range of careers and university courses, from engineering and data science to economics and medicine. By studying A-Level Mathematics, you gain the tools to approach challenges with confidence and adaptability—qualities that are highly valued in today's fast-changing world.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course has 3 components: Pure Mathematics, Statistics, and Mechanics.

- Pure Mathematics develops a deep understanding of mathematical principles and techniques used across all areas of Mathematics.
- Statistics teaches you to interpret and analyse data, an essential skill for fields like business, science, and medicine.
- Through Mechanics, you explore real-world applications in physics and engineering.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

There will be 3 exams at the end of the 2-year course. Each paper is a 2-hour written examination worth 33.3% of the A Level qualification.

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics 1
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics 2
Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics

Paper 1 and Paper 2 may contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content:

- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry in the (x, y) plane
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Numerical methods
- Vectors

Paper 3 will contain questions on topics from the **Statistics** content in Section A and **Mechanics** content in Section B:

Section A: Statistics

- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Statistical hypothesis testing

Section B: Mechanics

- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's laws
- Moments

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- To study Mathematics at A-Level, students need at least a Grade 7 at GCSE.
- To study Mathematics at A-Level, you must love doing Maths! The more challenging aspects of the GCSE course form the foundation of A-Level. Students must be confident in working with algebra and number.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Mathematics

INTRODUCTION

Further Mathematics is designed for students with a real passion for the subject. It goes significantly beyond the standard A-Level Mathematics curriculum and introduces new and exciting areas such as complex numbers, matrices, graph theory and algorithms.

Taking Further Mathematics is a strong signal to universities and employers that you are an ambitious and capable mathematician. It develops deep mathematical understanding and rigorous problem-solving skills, ideal for students considering Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, or Economics at a top university. It also supports strong performance in standard A-Level Mathematics by reinforcing and extending key concepts.

COURSE OUTLINE

Students study four components:

1. Core Pure Mathematics 1 (CP1)
2. Core Pure Mathematics 2 (CP2)
3. Further Pure Mathematics 1 (FP1) – chosen module
4. Decision Mathematics 1 (D1) – chosen module

Core Pure Mathematics (CP1 & CP2)

These two papers cover the fundamental building blocks of further mathematics:

- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Hyperbolic functions
- Polar coordinates
- Differential equations
- Vector geometry
- Proof techniques
- Series and summation

Further Pure Mathematics 1 (FP1)

This extends the pure content even further and includes:

- Roots of polynomials
- Complex numbers (extended)
- Series and recurrence relations
- Matrices and transformations
- Proof by induction
- Vector geometry (further)
- Further calculus methods

Decision Mathematics 1 (D1)
A modern branch of mathematics with real-world applications in computing, logistics, and operations research:

- Algorithms and flowcharts
- Graphs and networks
- Route inspection and shortest path problems
- Critical path analysis (project planning)
- Linear programming
- Binary search and sorting algorithms
- Matching and allocation problems

ASSESMENT OBJECTIVES
There will be 3 exams at the end of the 2-year course. The examination criteria are:

1. AO1: Recall and apply standard mathematical techniques
2. AO2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically
3. AO3: Solve problems in diverse contexts, applying mathematics to real-world scenarios

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
You will sit four papers at the end of Year 13. Each is:

- A 1 hour 30 minute written examination
- Worth 25% of the qualification
- Marked out of 75
- Calculators allowed for all papers

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics
- A Level Mathematics must also be taken alongside Further Mathematics
- Strong algebraic fluency, perseverance, and an enthusiasm for problem solving are essential
- Prior exposure to problem-solving competitions or UKMT Maths Challenges is an advantage

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
Further Mathematics is highly regarded and often required or preferred for the most competitive Mathematics, Physics, and Engineering courses at Russell Group universities. It provides an excellent foundation for degrees in:

- Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Engineering, and Computer Science
- Data Science, Actuarial Science, Economics, and Artificial Intelligence
- Logical reasoning-heavy fields such as Law, Architecture, or Finance

Studying Further Maths keeps your options wide open and gives you a real edge in competitive academic and career paths.

Exam Board: Edexcel

THE ARTS

Art & Design

INTRODUCTION
This course is designed to build on skills and knowledge from GCSE and encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to Art and Design. Successful students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary Art and Design practice and be able to produce artwork that embraces a wide range of ideas and materials. You will need to display investigative, analytical and experimental skills. You will also need an understanding of the interrelationships between Art and Design and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate.

Under Art & Design you can choose any of these specialisms: Fine Art; Photography; 3D Design; Textiles.

COURSE OUTLINE
Year 12: Component 1: Personal Portfolio and Personal Study (written essay) – 60%

This component allows you to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). Final piece(s) will be presented for an end of year exhibition.

Year 13: Complete Component 1: Personal Portfolio and Personal Study (written essay) - 60% & Component 2: Externally Set Assignment - 40%

You will continue with your coursework based on themes and subject matter developed from personal starting points that require you to communicate your understanding through integrated images and texts that includes a written essay of no less than 1000 words.

The Externally Set Assignment comprises of an Exam Project based on a theme set by the exam board.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
Your work will be judged against four criteria:

- Planning (developing ideas through sustained and focused investigations)
- Experimenting (selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops)
- Recording (Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress)
- Presenting (Present a personal, and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, making connections between visual, and other elements).

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

If you are interested in working as an artist or in a design-based or creative industry in the future, the knowledge and skills you develop studying Art and Design will benefit you. Art and Design will help you in any career which involves using your creativity, problem solving, aesthetic understanding and presenting your own ideas. Many pupils go on to do a Foundation or a Degree, which can lead to careers in design, advertising, fashion, film and television.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 6+ and/or based on Portfolio

Exam Board: Edexcel

Drama and Theatre

INTRODUCTION
This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding. Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. You are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as you explore plays practically, devise and work on performances.

The course provides opportunities for learners to develop their skills as theatre practitioners, engaging with theatre and performance in ways that are practical and creative but also scholarly. You will study a wide range of theatrical genres, styles and texts, and over the course will become skilled, well-informed, reflective and confident. You will work with others to understand the power of drama to engage, influence and persuade, creating original drama and developing imaginative responses to well-known plays.

Performance is a compulsory part of the course, so some experience of performing is useful. The course does have a large written component, so writing skills are a great asset. Other than that, you simply need a love of theatre, an enquiring mind and a determination to learn, work with others, and develop as a person.

COURSE OUTLINE/METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
Two non-examination assessment components and one externally examined paper.

Component 1 – Devising
Non-examination assessment (80 marks; 40% of the qualification). Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Content overview
- Devise an original performance piece.
- Use one key extract from a performance text and a theatre practitioner as stimuli.
- Centre choice of text and practitioner.
- Performer or designer routes available.

Assessment overview
- There are two parts to the assessment: a portfolio (60 marks) and the devised performance/design realisation (20 marks).

Component 2 – Text in Performance
Non-examination assessment (60 marks; 20% of the qualification). Externally assessed.

Content overview

- A group performance/design realisation of one key extract from a performance text.
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text.
- Centre choice of performance texts.

Assessment overview

- Group performance/design realisation (36 marks).
- Monologue or duologue/design realisation: (24 marks).

Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (80 marks; 40% of the qualification). Extended response questions.

Content overview

- Live theatre evaluation – choice of performance.
- Practical exploration and study of a complete performance text – focusing on how this can be realised for performance.
- Practical exploration and interpretation of another complete performance text, in light of a chosen theatre practitioner – focusing on how this text could be reimagined for a contemporary audience.

Assessment overview

- Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation (20 marks)
- Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text (36 marks)
- Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text (24 marks)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 6+ in Drama
- Grade 6+ in either English Language or English Literature

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Students of Drama and Theatre develop skills that are not just essential for Drama but applicable to a wide range of higher education subjects and in the workplace. This specification refines students' collaborative skills, their analytical thinking and their approach to research. Students grow in confidence and maturity as they successfully realise their own ideas. They learn to evaluate objectively and develop a sound appreciation of the influences that cultural and social contexts can have on decision making. Whatever the future holds, students of A Level Drama and Theatre emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills preparing them for their next steps.

Exam board: Edexcel

HUMANITIES

Classics

INTRODUCTION

The A-Level in Classical Civilisation course is designed to provide learners with a broad, coherent and rewarding study of the literature and culture of the classical world. It offers learners the opportunity to study elements of the literature, visual/material culture and thought of the classical world, and acquire an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts.

OCR's A-Level in Classical Civilisation will help learners to understand the legacy of the classical world, whilst equipping them to progress to higher education. You do not need to have studied any Classics (either Classical Civilisation or Latin/Greek) before. All ancient literature is studied in English. What is most important is that you should have an interest in the classical world and an enquiring mind.

COURSE OUTLINE AND METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

This is a linear course with 3 exams at the end of Year 13:

The World of the Hero – 40%

The important and ever popular literary genre of epic forms the basis of the mandatory component 'The World of the Hero'. This component will explore both Greek and Roman epic, with the study of either Homer's Odyssey or Iliad and Virgil's Aeneid. The works of Homer are the foundation of the Western literary canon, and the Greeks themselves considered them the cornerstone of Greek culture. In his Aeneid Virgil pays homage to Homer, but also to Rome and its leader, Augustus. With their unique composition, and exciting tales of gods and heroes, these works of literature form an excellent grounding for exploration of the classical world.

Culture and the Arts – 30%

For the component 'Culture and the Arts' students will study 'Greek Art', For this unit they will be exploring physical remains of the ancient world, including statues, vases and temples and exploring how these artistic mediums developed from the Archaic period through to the Classical period. This unit make the classical world more tangible for learners, bringing it truly to life.

Beliefs and Ideas 30%

Finally, in 'Beliefs and Ideas' learners are given the opportunity to explore some of the ideas and ideals important not only to the ancient world but also to the modern one. We will be exploring the birth of democracy; the 'Athenian Democracy' unit involves the study of Athenian democracy as a concept, in combination with the study of literature in translation and visual culture.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

- Grade 6+ Classical Civilisation GCSE (if studied)
- Grade 6+ in either English Literature or English Language or History (if studied)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Classics qualifications are naturally particularly valued by Classics departments in UK universities, but it is not just Classics departments who value these subjects. The study of A Level Classics qualifications can often lead to the university level study of Classics, Drama, English, History, History of Art, Philosophy and Politics. However, information from UCAS shows that students who studied Classical Civilisation went on to study in such diverse disciplines as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Chemistry. Classical Civilisation graduates find careers in media, business, government, arts administration, education and the civil service amongst others.

Exam Board: OCR

Economics

INTRODUCTION
A-Level Economics is a dynamic and highly relevant subject that explores the decisions made by individuals, businesses, and governments, and their impact on society. It equips students with a deeper understanding of how the economy works, covering topics such as market dynamics, fiscal policies, international trade, and economic development.

By studying Economics, you will develop critical skills such as analytical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to interpret data and evaluate arguments. These skills are not only highly valued by universities and employers but are also essential for making informed decisions in daily life.

The subject will appeal to students who have a keen interest in current affairs, and who would like their education rounded out with a framework of tools which are used to understand most markets and organisations today. Skill requirements are drawn from a variety of other disciplines, with essay writing and basic numeracy being important.

COURSE OUTLINE/METHODS OF ASSESSMENT
Assessment takes the form of three equally weighted 2-hour exams. Each is out of 80 marks and is 33.3% of the A-Level.

All are compulsory:
Paper 1: Markets and market failure (covers sections 1-8)
Paper 2: National and international economy (covers sections 9-14)
Paper 3: Economic principles and issues (covers sections 1-14)

Papers 1 and 2 have the same structure:
Section A: data response questions requiring written answers, choice of 1 from 2 contexts (40 marks)
Section B: essay questions requiring written answers, choice of 1 from 3 (40 marks)

Paper 3 has the following structure:
Section A: multiple choice questions (30 marks)
Section B: case study questions requiring written answers (50 marks)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
Economics is a versatile subject that opens doors to a wide range of academic and career pathways. Whether you are interested in business, finance, politics, or international relations, A-Level Economics provides the foundation you need to succeed. It also encourages you to engage with current events and understand the global challenges shaping our world.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 6+ in Mathematics
- Grade 6+ in either English Language or English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Geography

INTRODUCTION

Have you got a deep appreciation of our planet? Keen to find out more about the big rock we live on? Then A-Level Geography would be a great choice for you. This course doesn't just give you a comprehensive understanding of the geographic environment but explores how people interact with it and the impact we make.

A-Level Geography covers contemporary geographical issues as well as physical and human geography, builds geographical skills and explores fieldwork. The course deals with environmental impact as well as management and sustainability. You will also build on your statistical skills and learn how to analyse and evaluate feedback. Geographers need map reading, data analysis, critical thinking, research, essay writing, fieldwork techniques, effective communication, and problem-solving skills. More important than any of these is an inherent interest in our world and current affairs.

COURSE OUTLINE

Component 1: Physical geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (worth 40% of the A-Level)

- Water and carbon cycles
- Hot desert systems and landscapes
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Glacial systems and landscapes
- Hazards
- Ecosystems under stress

Component 2: Human Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes (worth 40% of the A-Level)

- Global systems and global governance
- Changing places
- Contemporary urban environments
- Population and the environment
- Resource security

Component 3: Geography fieldwork investigation (20% of A Level)

There is a four day fieldwork requirement and NEA (non-examination assessment) to be completed as part of this course. Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
6+ in GCSE Geography

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?
Geography is a broad-based subject which provides lots of opportunities for future progression. For example, Geography is an obvious choice for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change. It can also provide useful skills in a variety of fields including business, law, human rights, international relations, and more.

Exam Board: AQA

Government and Politics

INTRODUCTION

Politics is the study of power: how power is used and abused by our leaders, how power is distributed and amassed, and how decisions by those in power affect our lives. In A Level Politics you will study the politics of Westminster and Washington as well as developing your own ideas of how society should be run. Politics A Level will not only add considerably to your knowledge of current affairs, but it will also develop your skills of analysis and evaluation, your ability to write well-structured essays, and your capacity to present your arguments in a logical and persuasive fashion.

The Politics course will especially appeal to students who:

- enjoy discussing what is happening in the world today
- like discussion and debate– most lessons are discussion-based and all students are expected to contribute
- want to understand how and why things happen
- like to feel that they are contributing to decisions that affect their everyday lives
- find the rapidly changing world of Politics exciting and challenging and possibly frightening
- want to know more about current events in Britain, the USA and the world
- want to understand political ideology and philosophy

COURSE OUTLINE

This course is three parts:
1) Government and politics of the UK
2) Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics
3) Political ideas

ASSESSMENT

There are three papers, one for each section of the course, sat at the end of Year 13. All three are assessed the same way:

- Written exam worth 77 marks (2 hours)
- Mixture of medium length 9-mark 'explain' questions and 25-mark 'essay' style questions
- A compulsory 25-mark essay question linked to an extract.

1) Paper 1 will cover the Government and Politics of the UK, covering topics like the Prime Minister, Parliament, pressure groups, elections & voting.
2) Paper 2 will cover Government and Politics of the USA, covering topics such as Congress, the President, Constitution, Political Parties, Voting Behaviour and Pressure Groups
3) Paper 3 on Political Ideas: Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Feminism – this includes studying 5 key thinkers for each ideology.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- You do not need a History GCSE to study Politics but a Grade 6+ is expected if you have taken it as the skills used are transferable to Politics A-Level.
- Grade 6+ in English Literature or English Language as it is an essay-based subject and analytical and evaluative skills are vital.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

This course lends itself to a plethora of careers including public policy, law, and journalism, but also provides analytical and argumentative skills that can be applied to a variety of degrees and careers.

Exam Board: AQA

History

INTRODUCTION

AQA A-Level History has been designed to help students understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history and the nature of change over time. The qualification will help you to gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The engaging topics available to you throughout the course will provide you with the knowledge and skills you require to succeed as A-Level historians.

COURSE OUTLINE AND METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

- Two exams that consist of 40% of the total grade each. These written exams are a mix of compulsory questions and a choice of essays.
- A historical investigation (4,500 max word essay) is 20% of the grade. This is an independently researched essay on the causes of the European Witch Craze, 1560 – 1660.

Component 1J: The British Empire, c1857–1967 – Breadth Study

This option allows students to study in breadth issues of change, continuity, cause and consequence in this period through key questions about imperial policy, economics and development, British attitudes and culture, relationships with indigenous peoples, and more.

Component 2Q: The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

This option provides for an in-depth study of the challenges faced by the USA at home and abroad as it emerged from the Second World War as a Superpower. For many Americans, post-war prosperity realised the 'American dream' but the prosperity was not shared by all and significant problems at home and abroad challenged the extent to which the 'American dream' was a reality. It explores concepts and ideas such as American identity at home and abroad, anti-communism, social equality, ethnic identities and federal versus states' rights. It also encourages students to reflect on the nature of democracy in a pluralist society, political protest and the power of the media.

Component 3: Historical Investigation – The European Witch Craze, 1560 – 1660

The historical investigation is the non-examined element of the course. It involves examining the causes, nature, and impact of widespread persecution of individuals accused of witchcraft during this period, particularly focusing on the social, religious, and political factors that fueled the craze.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 6+ in GCSE History
- Grade 6+ in either English Language or English Literature due to essay-writing requirements

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Common careers following this course include journalism, law, politics, archaeology, and the Civil Service. Historians need to display powers of analysis and evaluation; they also need effective written communication and research skills. This makes A-Level History a valuable qualification for a wide range of careers.

Exam Board: AQA

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French

INTRODUCTION

This qualification develops students' skills in communication, intercultural understanding, and critical thinking, providing a strong foundation for further study or careers in translation, international relations, and global business. The course also encourages the analysis of literary texts and films, deepening cultural insight. Assessment is designed to reflect authentic language usage and prepares students for practical applications of the language in real-world contexts. Studying French at A Level will further develop your language acquisition across the four skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Learning French at A Level will not only developyou linguistically to a level of fluency,but the course also introduces you to French and francophone socio-historical culture, preparing you to better understand the world in which you live and work.

French is the official language in 29 countries across five continents, which puts it in second place behind English. French is also the procedural language for the European Union, the only language used for deliberations at the European Court of Justice, and one of the recognised working languages of the United Nations. Due to population growth in Africa, where approximately 50% of native French speakers live, the total number of French speakers is estimated to rise to as much as 700 million by 2050, according to demographers.

COURSE OUTLINE AND METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

Core content

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar

Options

- Works: Literary texts and films

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

What's assessed:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
- Grammar

How it's assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 50% of A-Level

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed:

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

How it's assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 20% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed:

- Individual research project
- One of the four themes:
    - Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
    - Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
    - Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
    - Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world).

How it's assessed:

- Oral exam: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 30% of A Level

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 6+ in GCSE French
- Additionally, a general interest in French Language and culture is beneficial

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

Whatever you choose to do in the future, knowledge of French will increase your employability in the global jobs market. You will develop many transferable skills, such as independent research, analytical thinking and essay writing. You also develop excellent 'soft power' skills such as acute cultural awareness, which makes you extremely desirable to global businesses. As a languages graduate, you stand to earn more than your monolingual colleagues in a range of professions. Whether you are interested in law, teaching, banking, medicine, the diplomatic service or journalism, to name but a few, a French degree will allow you to progress quickly in your career and, if you wish, provide more opportunities for you to travel internationally within your job.

Exam Board: AQA

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education

INTRODUCTION

If you have a desire to gain a greater understanding of the scientific and socio-cultural factors that underpin physical activity, you love playing sports, and are a dedicated sports person, then A-Level Physical Education is for you. I

f you are considering studying Physical Education at A-Level, you should have a genuine interest in sport and physical activity; we would expect you to be playing your chosen sport at club level. The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students.

COURSE OUTLINE

Year 12

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society
- Biomechanics

Year 13

- Exercise physiology
- Sports Psychology
- Contemporary issues and sport
- Performance in one chosen activity
- Evaluation and planning for the improvement of performance

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

This course is assessed with a mixture of written papers and non-exam assessments (NEA).

(See chart on following page)

Physiology factors affecting performance	Psychological factors affecting performance	Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport
30%	20%	20%
2 hour exam paper (90 marks)	1 hour exam paper (60 marks)	1 hour exam paper (60 marks)
• Skeletal & Muscular systems • Cardiovascular & Respiratory systems • Energy for Exercise • Environmental effects on the body systems • Diet & Nutrition • Preparation & training methods • Injury prevention & Rehabilitation of injury • Biomechanics	• Skill Acquisition • Sports Psychology	• Sport and Society • Contemporary issues in sport

NEA:

- Practical performance (15%) - candidate chooses 1 activity from an approved list
- Evaluating and analysing performance for improvement EAP (15%)

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE LEAD?

A-Level Physical Education is accepted by all top Russell Group universities and will prepare you for further studies in either sports science degrees and support related applications in a wide range of subjects including, but not exclusive to, Psychology, Sociology, Biology and Physics. You will develop many transferable skills in demand at university and the world of work.

This course develops transferable skills including: decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking and acting under pressure. The study of A-Level Physical Education opens up a range of possibilities for further study and careers associated with the subject.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Studying GCSE PE is desirable but not essential.
- The entry requirement for Physical Education will be a Grade 6+ in PE if taken, 6+ in English and a 6+ in Biology.

Exam Board: OCR


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