



WESTHOLME

UNRIVALLED HOLISTIC EXCELLENCE

Your
INSPIRED
Journey

WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to our INSPIRED Sixth Form experience and know you will be impressed with the multitude of opportunities, personalised support and unique benefits provided to ensure both an inspiring and exciting INSPIRED Sixth Form journey. The relationships you will build upon with both your teachers and peers will ensure you not only achieve beyond your potential, but that every day will be filled with fun and laughter within our warm family atmosphere. The INSPIRED Sixth Form facilities provide a perfect atmosphere to study, where academic rigour and freedom go hand-in-hand. Here, you will be individually known and valued, in an environment that is tailored to you, your success and development so you are ready to leave at 18 as independent, well-rounded and exceptional young adults.

Here we go!

Mrs Louise Cowan

Senior Deputy Head - Academic



“Our INSPIRED Sixth Form has been developed for you to thrive during the most important two years within the Westholme family.”

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YOUR INSPIRED JOURNEY



This booklet contains information on each A Level we offer at Westholme's INSPIRED Sixth Form.

As you will read, we offer a wide range of A Levels, each taught in small seminar-based classes. This personalised learning experience, which includes 1:1 academic and pastoral support will ensure you flourish in your chosen subjects and achieve your aspirations, be that to study at a top Russell Group university, the world of work or a highly coveted Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship. At Westholme, you will not only be provided with dynamic, stimulating A Level lessons, but will also develop those key 21st century skills that are essential for success in the modern world.

Please find myself or Miss Lloyd (Deputy Head of INSPIRED Sixth Form), or a member of our amazing tutor team to discuss your potential choices at any time.

Happy picking!

Mr Jonathan Oracz
Head of Sixth Form

BIOLOGY

Why choose Biology?

Biology is the study of all living organisms, including humans, other animals, plants and microbes. It is an exciting, relevant and rapidly advancing science. New discoveries are made, and new applications of biological techniques are developed almost daily. The A Level syllabus reflects these innovations and Biology is at the 'cutting edge' of science today.

Biology is one of the most popular A Level courses in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Many of these students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a Biology related degree course.

Many students have gone on to study for a biological degree at university, including a number of students for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing. Practical work is embedded across the course in well-resourced labs that allow you to link practical to theory, develop a valuable skill set and work collaboratively with other students.

Course details

The AQA A Level course includes the study of cells, biological molecules including DNA, immunology, energy and substances transferred in and between organisms, human physiology and homeostasis, populations, evolution and ecosystems, genetics and gene expression.

Higher Education and career options

Biology is a great choice of subject if you want a career in health and clinical professions such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine/science,

physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry, nursing and medical research. Careers in zoology, marine biology, forensic science, occupational therapy, sports science and environmental science also require biological knowledge and skills. Skills developed throughout the course are also invaluable in a wide variety of other industries.

Course requirements

You do not have to have studied Biology as a separate science in order to undertake the A Level course. Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology or Additional Science is essential. Grade 6 or above in Chemistry and Mathematics is preferred.

Related subjects

Chemistry, Food Technology, Geography, Mathematics, Physical Education, Physics, Psychology.

Further information

At the end of Year 12, there is a residential field trip to the Blencathra Field Studies Centre in the Lake District, where students receive specialised tuition and experience necessary for the Ecology portion of the A Level syllabus. During both INSPIRED Sixth Form years, our top students have the opportunity of taking part in the Biology Olympiads, and prestigious national competitions organised by the Royal Society of Biology.

Exam Board: AQA



BUSINESS

Why choose business?

Business is all around you; from the minute you wake up, everything you do will have something to do with one or more businesses. A simple task like brushing your teeth involves the chemical industry, plastics, advertising and transport. Business Studies is a dynamic subject that will provide you with an understanding of the internal functions of all types of organisations, the rapidly changing environment in which all businesses operate, topical issues that generate change and a range of stakeholder perspectives.

Course details

A Level Business is divided into ten areas which are all assessed by external examinations. The units covered are:

- What is business?
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Decision making to improve marketing performance
- Decision making to improve operational performance
- Decision making to improve financial performance
- Decision making to improve human resource performance
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: How to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

Higher Education and careers options

Business is a great subject choice if you'd like to pursue a career in business management, retail, hospitality, leisure, accountancy, financial services, law, media, marketing, human resources, production, public relations and sales.

Related subjects

Business fits well with any combination of subjects whether it be sciences, humanities or practical subjects. Whatever career you enter, you will work in a business and having knowledge about them and how they work can only be beneficial.

Course requirements

No previous knowledge of the subject is required although it would be an advantage if you have an enquiring mind and an interest in current affairs. There will be some use of statistics but this should not present a problem for students with a Grade 5 or higher in GCSE Mathematics.

Further information

The course will enable you to acquire a range of important transferable skills such as: data analysis, problem solving, making judgments, recommendations, planning, researching and challenging assumptions that will prove a valuable asset to anyone wishing to continue their education at a higher level.

Exam Board: AQA

Westies 

CENTENARY
M



BUSINESS

CHEMISTRY

Why choose Chemistry?

The study of Chemistry opens our eyes to the composition of the world around us and helps us to make sense of substances and phenomena we encounter in our daily lives. The course combines theory and experimental work and allows students to explore the social, environmental and economic contributions chemistry makes to our society. From discovering why petrol blends are altered in different seasons, to applying ideas about chemical bonding and explaining how straighteners alter the appearance of your hair, you will further your understanding of the world around you.

In studying Chemistry you will build up a valuable skill set that is appreciated by both employers and universities. You will improve your problem solving skills and develop your ability to think logically and critically. Working independently and in groups, you will develop your ability to communicate scientifically through research, discussion and practical investigations.

Practical opportunities

Our laboratories are well equipped and we place a high emphasis on practical work, carrying out sticky, smelly and colourful Chemistry every week! You can really get stuck in and explore key ideas for yourself so that you become fully confident when completing practical work. Students will be able to work individually on almost all practical tasks, aiding their practical skills even further.

Related subjects

If you are studying Chemistry to A Level, it is helpful to study another Science subject or Mathematics. Studying Mathematics will improve your numerical chemistry skills and problem-solving techniques,

both of which are important skills in the A Level course. Chemistry also helps with the study of Biology and Physics. If you are thinking of studying Chemistry to degree level, A Level Mathematics or Physics are a great advantage and, at top universities, may be essential.

Co-curricular activities

There are lots of opportunities to expand your understanding beyond the syllabus and have fun with people on your course. Students may be entered as a team for the Royal Society of Chemistry's School Analyst competition.

Course requirements

You do not have to have studied Chemistry as a separate science in order to undertake the A Level course. Many students choose A Level Chemistry having undertaken the Combined Science: Trilogy course at GCSE. However, we do insist upon achieving at least a Grade 6 or above in your Chemistry GCSE or two 6's in Combined Science GCSE, in order to cope with the demands of the course.

Further information

Pupils routinely achieve places on highly competitive courses at university. Recently our students have gone on to study Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Engineering and, of course, Chemistry! It is an essential A level choice if you wish to study either Medicine or Dentistry.

Exam Board: AQA

Higher education and careers options

Studying Chemistry at university allows you to develop subject specific and transferable skills which are valued by all employers, meaning your future career does not have to be in a lab. A Chemistry degree will lead you to a wide variety of opportunities including: archaeology, biotechnology, drug discovery, environmental science, food technology, forensics, marine chemistry, engineering and teaching. Chemistry is also excellent training for careers in: business and finance, consultancy, journalism, information technology, law, sales and marketing and much more. Furthermore, it is an essential A Level for acceptance on to courses studying Medicine and Dentistry.



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION

Why choose Classical Civilisation?

The study of Classical Civilisation allows students to look at many aspects of the classical world which are significant in the development of the modern world.

Course details

Students are taught a variety of ancient Greek and Roman texts over the two year course, ranging from the epics of Homer and Virgil, to the tragedies and comedies of Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes.

You do not need any knowledge of Latin or Greek for this A Level as all texts are studied in their English translations.

Pupils will critically analyse each text, focusing on authorial style, characterisation, historical background and the performance of each piece. Each topic is examined at the end of the year.

Classical Civilisation is a highly regarded subject, and is on Trinity College Cambridge's 'A List' of acceptable A Level subjects for Cambridge entry. Clearly it is a subject worth giving serious consideration to!

Modules studied

- World of The Hero – Homer's 'Odyssey' and Virgil's 'Aeneid'
- Greek Theatre – Sophocles' 'Oedipus the King', Euripides' 'Bacchae' and 'Aristophanes' 'Frogs'
- Love and Relationships – Greek and Roman men and women; Seneca; Plato; Sappho; Ovid

Related subjects

Classical Civilisation can be taken with any combination of A Level subjects. As it does not need any specific GCSEs as an entry requirement to take the course, and can be taken without any prior knowledge of the subject beforehand, it is open to all Year 12 students. Nevertheless, it does complement some subjects such as English Literature, Drama, History, Philosophy, and the Classical Languages.

Related careers

According to the Independent News Guide for students, people graduating from Classical Studies and Ancient Language degrees are highly valued by employers. Thanks to their studies, they learn to think logically, to compile and evaluate evidence and to express themselves clearly and succinctly both orally and in writing. The more common careers include architecture, journalism, education, language-based careers and theatre; however, they can make their way into careers as diverse as computing, the civil service, gold dealing, insurance, law, accountancy, public relations and the wine trade.


Further information

The aims of the Classical Civilisation specification are:

- To encourage candidates to develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, the classical world
- To acquire, through studying a range of appropriate sources, knowledge and understanding of selected aspects of Classical Civilisation
- To develop awareness of the continuing influence of the classical world on later times and of the similarities and differences between the ages. In addition to these aims, the Classics department aspires to provide students with educational, varied, fun lessons, which allow them to enter into an imaginative world of mythology and history.

Students are encouraged to immerse themselves in ancient culture and legend, something which is aided by the popular Classics trips abroad to the ancient sites in Italy or mainland Greece, and the opportunity to watch a number of stage productions of Greek tragedy and comedy.

Exam Board: OCR



“I know you will enjoy it! It’s the most fun, enlightening and uniquely beneficial subject”
– CURRENT STUDENT

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Why choose Computer Science?

You can be part of an exciting new course that will open doors to endless opportunities. Our A Level Computer Science qualification will inspire and challenge students to apply the knowledge they gain with the creative and technical skills they acquire. The qualification focuses on programming, builds on GCSE Computer Science and emphasises the importance of computational thinking as a discipline. There is also a Maths focus, much of which is embedded within the course. Computational thinking will be at the core of all work.

Course details

The following two areas are studied at AS and A Level:

- Programming and system development
- Computer architecture, data, communication and applications

Each component will be a traditionally marked and structured question paper and will include a mix of question types: short-answer, longer-answer, and levels of response mark-scheme-type questions.

A Level Computer Science programming project

At A Level students select their own user-driven problem of an appropriate size and complexity to solve. This will enable them to demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the assessment

objectives. Students will need to analyse the problem, design a solution, implement the solution and give a thorough evaluation.

Entry requirements

A GCSE in Computer Science is essential, preferably at Grade 6 or above.

Related subjects

Logical thinking, problem solving and a mathematical brain are all desirable qualities for Computer Science students. Benefits will be noticed for students also studying Mathematics and some theoretical concepts could be closely related to the Business Studies curriculum.

Higher education and career options

Computer Science opens many doors to the future. There are many benefits that will be recognised by a wide range of employers and Higher Education institutions for students possessing a good A Level Computer Science qualification, specifically, for those wishing to pursue similar careers to computer programmer, graphic designer, architect, IT support, systems analyst, engineering, project management or any other career or course related to the use and understanding of computers in a technical sense.

Exam Board: EDUQAS



CRIMINOLOGY

Why choose Criminology?

Have you ever wondered why criminals commit crime? How is evidence collected from crime scenes? How does the way the media portrays crime affect the public perception of it? Or why do we have different punishments for crimes in different countries, and what works best?

Criminology is a modern, interesting and engaging subject, and if you are interested in and enjoy looking at crime in the news, on Netflix, or in books, this is the course for you!

An A Level equivalent, Criminology offers a unique structure as the subject is comprised of four modules, two of which are traditional written exams; whilst the other two are open book, seen question exams, completed on a computer. The flexibility of this new and exciting course is particularly appealing to students who don't feel they thrive in traditional exam settings, taking the pressure off of Year 13.

Course details

Criminology is made up of four modules worth 25% each. Units 1 and 2 are sat in Lower Sixth, and units 3 and 4 in the Upper Sixth.

Criminology offers an overview of all aspects of the study of Crime, from an introduction to different types of crime:

Unit 1 – Changing Awareness of Crime
Unit 2 – Criminological Theories
Unit 3 – Crime Scene to Courtroom
Unit 4 – Crime and Punishment

Units 1 and 3 are internal controlled assessments which are typed, open book, seen question exams, whereas units 2 and 4 are written examinations.

Related subjects

Criminology can be taken with any combination of A Level subjects. As it does not need any specific GCSEs as an entry requirement to take the course, and can be taken without any prior knowledge of the subject beforehand, it is open to all Year 12 students. Nevertheless, it does complement subjects such as Sociology, Psychology, Biology (if wanting to pursue a career in Forensics), EPR and Business Studies.

Co-curricular activities

Throughout the course you will experience Criminology both in and outside of lessons, with multiple guest speakers, from reformed criminals, to barristers and police. Additional to this, trips to local prisons, both active and closed, as well as Criminology lectures and trips to university crime houses will expand your understanding of the course.

Related careers

Criminology provides a valuable first step for university courses in Criminology, Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, Law and many other subjects. In terms of careers, it can assist students in progressing onto multiple professions, from within local government, the probation service, civil service, forensic psychology and the police force, to name a few – however the career possibilities are not limited to the above.

Course requirements

No previous knowledge of the subject is required, however an interest in crime, and an enquiring mind is advantageous.

Further information

Whilst not a traditional A Level, the Applied Criminology Level 3 Diploma is an A Level equivalent, and is considered an equivalent by Russell Group Universities.

In addition, the Criminology Level 3 Diploma UCAS points are like for like that of a traditional A Level.

At A Level, this subject is not recommended for students wanting to study Medicine, Dentistry, or Veterinary Science at University.

Exam board: WJEC



DANCE

Why choose A Level Dance?

Studying Dance at A-Level will allow you to pursue your creative passions and develop your technical dance skills and fitness levels. In the Critical Appreciation module, you will be able to choose whether you want to specialise in Ballet, Modern Dance, or Jazz, while still enjoying all of these skill areas in Choreography and Performance modules. The written paper also accounts for 50% of the overall mark, making Dance a great choice for students looking to continue into Higher Education.

Course details

Component 1: Performance (practical) 50%

- Solo performance in the style of a studied practitioner
- Performance in a quartet
- Creating original choreography for a group
- Written Programme Note

Component 2: Critical Engagement (exam) 50%

- Study of Christopher Bruce's 'Rooster' and Rambert Ballet
- Study of a further set work in chosen style
- Short essay questions
- Set work to be chosen from the following:
 - Giselle, Coralli and Perrot
 - Appalachian Spring, Graham
 - Singin' In The Rain, Donen and Kelly
 - Sutra, Cherkaoui

Dance at A Level requires students to develop, demonstrate and articulate practical and theoretical knowledge, understanding and experience of a variety of genres and styles of dance, as well as technical skills and appreciation of other works. The study of professional dance works, within the areas of study, promotes the integration of theory and practice as well as enriching your own understanding of both choreography and performance.

Higher Education and careers options

People who choose to study Dance at degree level are usually those students for whom Dance is more than just a hobby or passion. Whether on a university Dance course or at a specific Performing Arts School, Dance at this level is challenging, demanding and intensive. Study at a university, however, may also include much more theoretical written work than courses at the top Performing Arts schools. Students who pursue Dance at A Level may also wish to continue studying Drama, Musical Theatre, Acting, or Music at degree level, all of which require the same levels of determination and commitment, and for which the study of Dance would be an asset. There are also, however, students who study Dance at A Level and beyond without knowing exactly what industry they would like to eventually go into. Dance at degree level will allow you to explore careers in teaching, Arts administration and planning, fitness, directing or community Arts work.

Related careers

Dancer; Choreographer; Actor; Musician; Dance Movement Therapist; Lecturer; Teacher; Dance School Owner; Arts Administration; Community Arts Work; Personal Trainer; Fitness Instructor; Events Manager Theatre Director.

Course requirements

Previous Dance experience is advantageous, although you do not need to have studied Dance at GCSE to take the course. A Grade 5 in English would be desirable due to the demands of the written content of the course.

Related subjects

Art, Drama, Business Studies, P.E, English Literature, Music, Photography.

Further information

Dance at Westholme is a new and exciting opportunity. There is one major production every year, which offers plenty of opportunity for dancers to showcase their skills. In addition, there are Dance and Drama showcases throughout the school year, and opportunities to get involved in community projects and performances. There is also a range of trips to support your studies, including a trip to MOVE IT in London in the Spring.



DRAMA & THEATRE

Why choose Drama & Theatre?

You can develop your existing performance ability and use this towards achieving an A Level. You'll gain confidence and have fun. You'll learn to work within a team and balance a range of ideas. You'll have a mix of practical and written work unlike any other subject.

How will A Level Drama and Theatre help me in the future?

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report predicts creativity, innovation and ideation will be key skills for the workforce of the future. When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace capability to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Drama, is becoming even more important.

What does the course involve?

The Eduqas GCE A Level Drama and Theatre is an exciting and inspiring course. This highly practical specification provides you with the opportunity to work as either performers and/or designers. You will collaborate in devising your own piece of theatre and perform in a performance from a text. You will also perform in a reinterpretation of a text performance which is a combination of selected text and original ideas. You will explore a range of texts and view a variety of live theatre productions. The specification has three components: Theatre Workshop, Text in Action, Text in Performance.

Course details

Component 1: Theatre Workshop 20%: Learners will be assessed on either acting or design and participate in the creation, development, and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract.

Component 2: Text in Action 40%: Learners will be assessed on either acting or design and will participate in the creation, development, and performance of two pieces of theatre.

Component 3: Text in Performance 40%: Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes. They will also analyse the ways in which different performance and production elements are brought together to create theatre. Candidates choose the following options: • Directing • Acting • Costume design • Mask or puppet design • Set design • Technical elements – lighting or sound.

What could I do next?

The possibilities are endless. Drama will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities will be looking for. Some students go on to study Drama in some of the most recognised Drama colleges and conservatoires in Britain such as RADA. Many also choose to study Drama as degree courses in universities. A number of students forge successful careers as Actors, Directors, Lighting or Sound Designers, Costume, Hair and Make-Up Designers or Stage Designers. There are many other career paths within the industry including Stage Managers, Press and PR Managers and Producers. Others go on to various universities (including Russell Group) to read a diverse range of

subjects and work within an extremely broad range of careers including teaching, law, publishing, politics, translation, science, occupational therapy, and journalism.

Course requirements

No previous knowledge of the subject is required although it would be an advantage if you had an interest in the theatre. Grade 6 or higher in GCSE English and/or Drama is advisable.

Related subjects

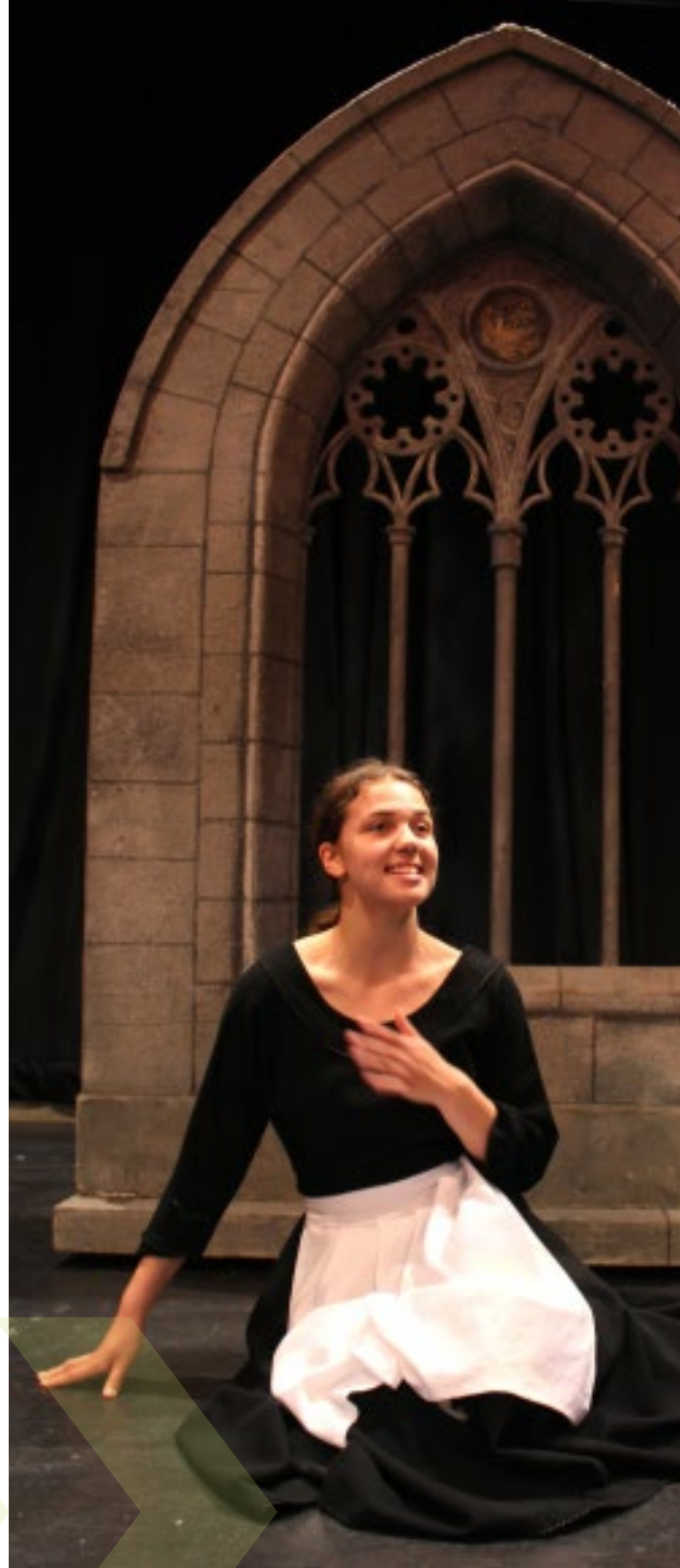
Art, Business Studies, Classics, Design Technology, English Literature, EPR, History, Music, Photography, Psychology, Sociology.

Further information

Westholme has a very strong drama tradition. There is one major production each year, held in the Croston Theatre. The Drama Showcase includes pupils from all year groups and the summer production includes pupils from Years 9 – 13.

We organise regular theatre visits to major theatres in the North and our students are encouraged to experience a broad range of theatrical forms for personal enrichment and to support their curriculum studies. There are educational trips to the Royal Exchange and the Lowry in Manchester, the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, The Dukes Lancaster and the Octagon Theatre, Bolton.

Exam Board: EDUQAS



ECONOMICS

Why choose Economics?

Studying Economics can open you up to a whole world of opportunity. Perhaps without realising it, you encounter economics everyday – deciding between a cup of tea or a deluxe caramel infused creamy latte. All of these can be explained using economics.

Of course, it also embraces bigger issues such as the current financial crisis, poverty reduction, the environment – the list is seemingly endless.

As economics is all around you, you can almost guarantee you will find an area that interests you.

Related subjects

Economics fits well with any combination of subjects, whether sciences or humanities. Whatever career you enter you will work in a business and be affected by the economy. You learn a lot of skills and knowledge that you can apply to other subjects or to your personal life. A sound knowledge of economics opens a lot of doors.

Further information

As an Economics student you will have a number of skills that are applicable to many work places. Your A Level will teach you quantitative skills, the ability to analyse, to explain complex economic issues in simple, digestible forms and to understand the implications of economics. All of these skills are transferable allowing you to do all manner of things in the future. Economics is a fantastically diverse and interesting subject that can create many different opportunities.

Course details

- The operation of markets and market failure
- Economic methodology and the economic problem
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets
- The national economy in a global context
- The measurement of macroeconomic performance
- How the macroeconomy works: The circular flow of income, aggregate demands/aggregate supply, analysis, and related concepts
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy

Related careers

Finance and banking, public policy, sales and marketing, civil service, insurance and actuarial work. You can also go on to do further studies in Economics, Political Science, Business, or a variety of other fields.

Exam Board: AQA

Course Requirements

No previous knowledge of the subject is required, although it would be an advantage if you had an enquiring mind and an interest in current affairs. There will be some use of statistics but this should not present a problem for students with a Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Mathematics. Studying A Level Mathematics alongside Economics may be advantageous if you decide to study Economics at degree.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Why choose English Language?

The English Language A Level offers clear progression from GCSE, enabling students to build upon their skills of analysis, creative writing, research and investigation. The course is a fascinating insight into how children learn language and how language has changed over time, as well as offering the opportunity for creative writing.

Course details

20% of the A Level is coursework-based, which incorporates areas of study that are genuinely fascinating such as accent and dialect variation, child language acquisition and gender differences in the use of language. The remainder of the course represents a return to more traditional examination procedures where candidates have longer papers which allow 'thinking time'.

Higher Education and careers

An A Level in English Language is an advantage when applying to enter almost any profession as it proves strong communication skills, an ability to read and analyse a great deal of written material with speed and precision as well as demonstrating the ability to construct convincing prose.

Specific career options related to the study of A Level English Language are as follows:

- Law
- Journalism
- Education
- Politics
- Social services
- Civil service
- Advertising
- PR
- Speech therapy
- Broadcasting
- Advertising/Marketing
- Forensic linguistics

Course requirements

You must have achieved a GCSE Grade 6 in both English Literature and English Language in order to be able to access the academic requirements of this course.

You need to possess an analytical mind, prepared to deconstruct the nuances of spoken and written language. You should find language fascinating in its own right and enjoy the opportunity for original thought and creativity.

Related subjects

English Literature, History, Religious Studies, Theatre Studies and any language studies.

The English department really enjoy and celebrate our subjects. We expect INSPIRED Sixth Form students to participate in English Department Co Curricular activities such as public speaking, debating, creative writing and celebrations such as National Poetry Day and World Book Day.

Exam Board: AQA



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Why choose English Literature?

Writers throughout the ages and across genres have addressed the same human concerns, analysed the same human emotions and upheld the same human ideals. Studying Literature increases our understanding of what it is to be human within a variety of contexts, as well as developing vital analytical and critical skills and encouraging fluent, confident and reasoned argument, both orally and in writing. The study of English Literature in INSPIRED Sixth Form develops a great variety of workplace skills but most of all, you should choose to study Literature because you desire to do so.

Course details

20% of the A Level is coursework based, which allows students to read independently and produce essays about areas that they find fascinating. Students are expected to produce an essay on a novel and an anthology of poetry. The remainder of the course is divided into two separate examinations. Paper 1 covers the tragedy genre; students study 'Othello', 'Death of a Salesman' and 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles'. Paper 2 explores the crime genre: 'Atonement', 'Brighton Rock' and 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. Alongside studying the texts, students learn how to master the art of producing an academic essay and applying literary criticism to support their interpretation.

Higher Education and careers

An A Level in English Literature is an advantage when applying to enter almost any profession as it proves strong communication skills, an ability to read and analyse a great deal of written material with speed and precision as well as demonstrating the ability to construct convincing prose.

Specific career options related to the study of these A Levels are as follows:

- Law
- Journalism
- Education
- Politics
- Social services
- Civil service
- Advertising
- PR
- Speech therapy
- Broadcasting
- Advertising/Marketing
- Forensic linguistics

Entry requirements

You must have achieved a GCSE Grade 6 in both English Literature and English Language in order to be able to meet the academic requirements of this course.

You need to possess an open mind, a passion for debate, an ability to analyse literary language, character and theme, the determination to construct a logical and coherent argument and, above all, a real love of reading.

Exam Board: AQA SPEC B

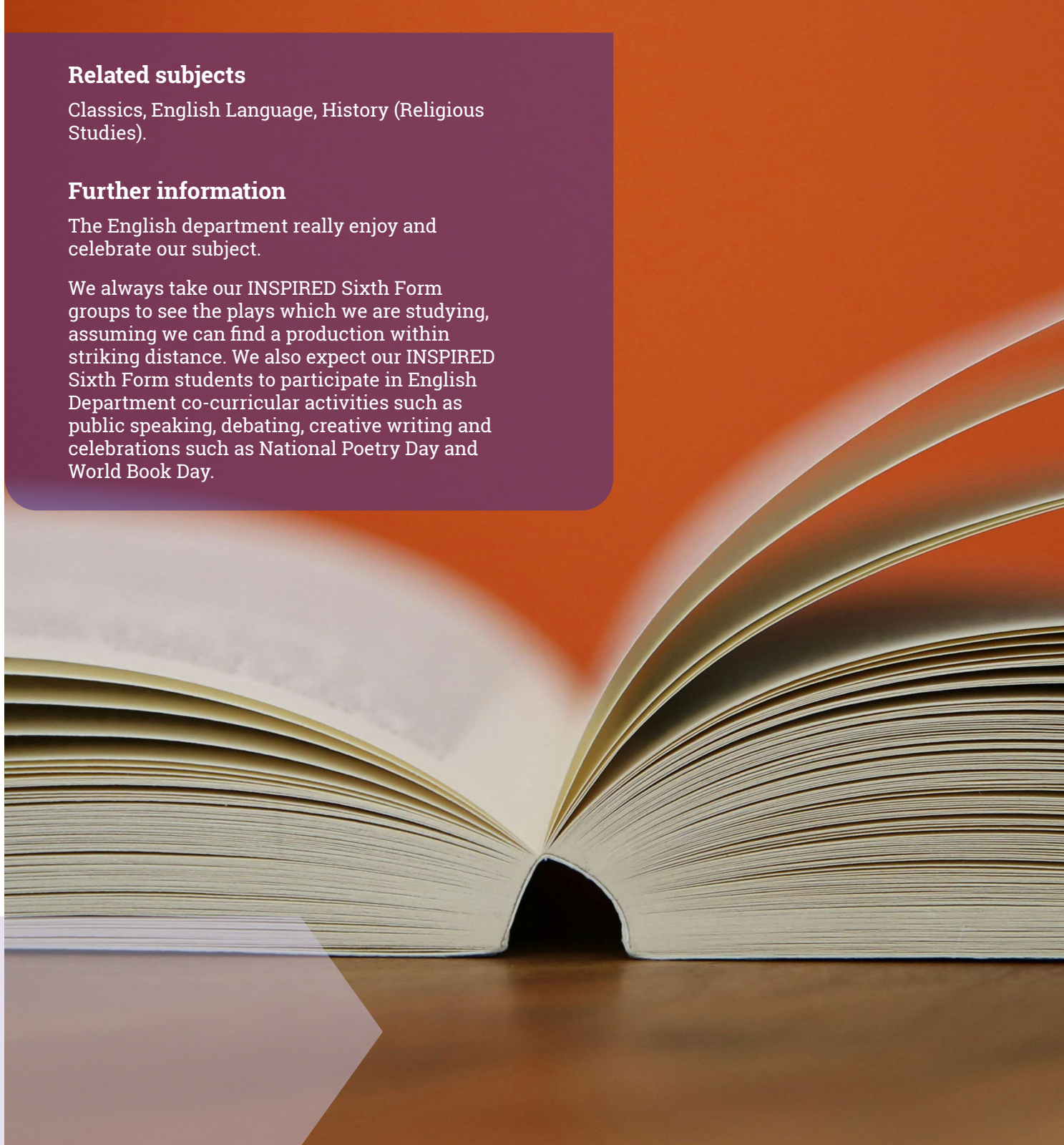
Related subjects

Classics, English Language, History (Religious Studies).

Further information

The English department really enjoy and celebrate our subject.

We always take our INSPIRED Sixth Form groups to see the plays which we are studying, assuming we can find a production within striking distance. We also expect our INSPIRED Sixth Form students to participate in English Department co-curricular activities such as public speaking, debating, creative writing and celebrations such as National Poetry Day and World Book Day.



ETHICS, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION (EPR - RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

Why choose Ethics, Philosophy, Religion (EPR)?

Do you want to explore the profound philosophical questions of life? Do you want to develop your analytical thinking? Are you prepared to engage with the complex ideas and issues facing contemporary society?

Course details

At A Level, you will be delving into the depths of human thought through a study of Philosophy and Ethics; two subject areas that seek to grapple with questions that challenge our everyday thinking about reality, meaning and the actions we take in life. The third aspect of the course is a critical and analytical study of the New Testament. You will explore the Biblical narrative and search for meaning in the messages of this ancient text.

This A Level develops enquiring minds and seeks to explore the complexity of human understanding. You will conduct in-depth analyses of philosophical, ethical and Biblical texts and develop an insight into the thought of the intellectual champions of our past which help us contemplate the ways forward in our own thinking.

Higher Education and career options

The subject equips you with the 21st Century Essential Skills required at university and in the future workplace. Each lesson will challenge students to engage in critical and reflective thinking

as they analyse and deconstruct complex ideas and philosophical arguments. Developing confidence and emotional intelligence through fascinating debates enables you to prepare yourself for tackling problem solving, and evaluating difficult dilemmas, that you will encounter in a range of different life and professional situations. The subject is recognised as a discipline that enables the training of students to think critically; this would be a key aptitude for many degree courses/careers. Religious Studies students have gone on to study a range of subjects at university for example Law, Classics, English Literature, Modern Languages and Business Management.

The transferable skills you will develop studying the subject opens doors to many different occupations. In an increasingly global economy, the skills of vision, creativity and religious sensitivity are at a premium. Students have gone on to become lawyers, teachers, academics, civil servants, social workers, journalists and politicians.

Related subjects

Religious Studies complements a whole range of A Level subjects. Past students have taken it alongside Sciences, Mathematics, Business Studies, Geography and Modern Languages. The subjects that it will make explicit links with are: Classical Civilisation, English Literature, History, Psychology, Science and Sociology.

You will be delving into the depths of human thought through a study of Philosophy and Ethics

EXAM BOARD: PEARSON Edexcel

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Religious Studies GCSE Level 6.

English Language GCSE Level 6 is advisable.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Religious Studies department seeks to inspire a 'love of learning' in its students. Providing engaging lessons with a variety of teaching styles enables students to explore the subject in a creative and academic manner. Students are given the opportunity to look at the course content through film, art, drama and the Co Curricular opportunities offered enrich the learning experience. In the past EPR staff have taken students to see the Dalai Lama at MEN Arena, Durham University, theatre productions, lectures and had movie and pizza evenings. We're always looking to seize exciting chances to look at the subject in different ways.

**"I love learning EPR!
It has given me the
ability to think outside
the box and to always
express my points
with solid reasoning
and critical ideas."**

– CURRENT STUDENT

FASHION & TEXTILES

Why choose Fashion & Textiles?

This is arguably one of the most interesting times to study Fashion & Textiles. Consumers are no longer dictated to, nor slavishly follow a handful of haute couture fashion figures. Today anything goes and emerging new talents are a constant feature of the London fashion world and across the world.

This is a creative and thought-provoking qualification and gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in many careers.

A global recession and an emphasis on recycling means vintage clothing has been pushed to the forefront and with it a renewed appreciation for historical colours, prints and designs.

Globalisation, cheap travel and easy communication facilities mean the exchange of ideas and inspirations has never been easier or faster. The study of Textiles is exciting and challenging. Students work with a range of different materials and produce original, experimental work, whether printing on silk or making toiles from paper.

Course details

Exams:

Paper 1 Technical Principles 30%
Paper 2 Design and Making Principles 20%
Non-Exam Assessment – Design and Make Project. 50%

Students gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by Higher Education and employers.

This academic course will give you an insight into Fashion and Textiles and the wider roles of a professional designer. The work produced involves creative innovative design ideas, problem solving and working in various media including Computer Aided Design, embroidery, and pattern adaptation. Students will learn about the history of design, design influences, commercial practices, and materials and their properties.

Higher Education and career options

The UK's thriving fashion industry makes a huge contribution to the economy. It is worth 9 billion and is set to increase. Creative Industries are the country's second biggest employer and employment in the sector is growing year on year. Students who have studied Fashion and Textiles have gone on to university to study the subject, but this course can also lead to many opportunities in higher education and modern apprenticeships in design-related industries and beyond. Students who have studied A Level fashion & Textiles have gone on to study the following courses: Architecture, Furniture Design, Silversmithing and Marketing, as well as more obvious ones like Textile Design, Fashion Buying and Merchandising, Fashion Communication, Fashion Branding & Fashion Design and Retail Management.

Related subjects

Art, Business Studies, Maths, Photography, Sciences, Sociology.

Exam Board: AQA



FINE ART

Why choose Fine Art?

Creativity is not just about the pursuit of artistic interest; it can also open the door to exciting career opportunities for our students. The AQA Fine Art course stimulates creativity by allowing students to explore, develop and refine their skills within specific mediums. Themes are varied and are changed regularly to suit the individualised strengths and passions of students, enabling them to explore a range of media, processes and techniques freely. There are an excellent range of facilities within the department which allows us to teach a broad and varied course. Students are afforded the experience to explore visual imagery in many mediums such as drawing, painting, printmaking, 3D modelling, ceramics, glass fusing, mixed media and collage which develop strengths in traditional and more modern techniques and processes. Artists, designers and cultures all influence the stimulation of artwork and are studied closely alongside practical endeavours. The course facilitates the production of an extensive portfolio of work which can be taken to interviews for Higher Education or employment. Work submitted can take many forms but usually includes sketchbooks and a variety of outcomes in response to a theme.

Higher education

Fine Art is an excellent subject which evokes imagination and creativity, helping students to think outside the box and problem solve whilst responding to briefs set. Related careers include artist, graphic designer, interior designer, photographer, architect, games designer, gallery curator, stylist, animator, product designer, teacher/lecturer, art therapist.

Course requirements

Preferably a minimum of Grade 6 in Art at GCSE.

Further information

Trips to important exhibitions and photoshoots are conducted in cities such as London, Liverpool and York. We also arrange an annual Artist in Residence workshop run by a visiting practitioner which always inspires outstanding work and allows students the opportunity to ask questions about their experiences, journeys and inspiration.

Exam Board: AQA





**“Art allows us to be creative and truly express ourselves. It enables us to see things differently and interpret another person’s perspective of the world around them”
– CURRENT STUDENT**

FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION

Why choose Food, Science and Nutrition?

An understanding of food and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Food and drink is the largest manufacturing sector in the UK. Many employment opportunities within the field of food and nutrition are available to graduates including: Food Scientists, Food Technology, Food Marketing, Food Product Development, Dietetics, Nutrition, Teaching, Catering, Nursing, Hotel Management, Environmental Health, Social Health, Sports Science.

This course explores the relationship between food, nutrition and health and offers the opportunity for creative, investigative and analytical study.

Course details

WJEC Level 3 Diploma/Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition

The Certificate is the equivalent of an AS level and the Diploma is equivalent to an A-Level.

Grading

Students will be graded as Level 3 Pass, Level 3 Merit and Level 3 Distinction.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade C or above in English Language, and Science is expected. It is not a prerequisite to have a GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition/Food related

subject. An enquiring mind and a genuine interest in looking in depth at where food comes from, food choices and the science behind nutrition is a distinct advantage.

Progression from the qualifications

The specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of academic or vocational courses in higher education, including careers in Food Technology, Nutritional Science, Sports Science and Diet, Consumer Protection, and food retail and manufacture.

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition is accepted for university entry especially on courses such as BSc Human Nutrition, BSc (Hons) Public Health and Nutrition or BSc (Hons) Food Science and Technology.

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition complements other A Level courses such as Biology, Physical Education and Health and Social Care.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Meeting nutritional needs of specific groups

Unit 2: Ensuring food is safe to eat

Unit 3: Experimenting to solve food production problems

Unit 4: Current issues in food science and nutrition

Certificate (Year 12) comprises of Unit 1. Diploma (Year 13) comprises of Unit 1 in Year 12 plus mandatory Unit 2 with an optional unit being Unit 3 or 4.

Studying one of the two optional units will allow learners the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest or relevance to them, building on previous learning and experience.

Unit 1 in Year 12 consists of 50% coursework plus 50% exam. External Assessment is a 90-minute examination with three sections out of 90 marks.

- Section A – short answer questions
- Section B – extended answer questions
- Section C – relates to a case study

Exam assessment areas on:

- Understand the importance of food safety
- Understand the properties of nutrients
- Understand the relationship between nutrients and the human body
- Be able to plan for different people's nutritional requirements

Unit 2 Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat is an eight hour timed assignment over three weeks that is externally assessed.

The aim of this unit is to develop an understanding of hazards and risks in relation to the storage, preparation and cooking of food in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks.

Unit 3 Experimenting to Solve Food Production Problems. The aim of this internally assessed unit is to understand the properties of food in order to plan and carry out experiments.

Unit 4 Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition. In this unit students will carry out research on current issues relating to food science and nutrition.



FRENCH

Why choose French?

- To enable students to develop and build upon the skills acquired at GCSE
- To provide an insight into another culture and society
- To facilitate foreign travel and increase opportunities to study or work abroad
- To enhance employment prospects and improve self-confidence, analytical and communication skills.

Course details

The French A Level course is two years long, with the option of gaining accreditation at the end of Year 12 (AS).

In Year 12, students study a range of topics alongside the novel *No et Moi*.

In Year 13 students study further topics based on social issues and a historical period, plus the film *La Haine*.

There are three examinations which test the topics studied through the skills of speaking, listening, reading and translation, and writing.

Higher Education and careers

Having studied a Modern Foreign Language at A Level, students can progress their studies by completing a pure languages degree or combining a language with another discipline.

Course requirements

Grade 6 or higher at GCSE.

Related subjects

Languages combine well with all other subjects to give you an extra string to your bow. For example:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Business Management
- Geography
- History
- Linguistics
- Politics
- International Relations

Further information

All students are allocated an extra lesson per week with the Foreign Language Assistant to focus on improving speaking skills and developing cultural knowledge. During their studies students can have the opportunity to go on a work experience placement in the country where their chosen language is spoken. Students also participate in culturally relevant events. INSPIRED Sixth Form students also have the opportunity to mentor GCSE students.

Exam Board: EDUQAS



CAFE
CULTURE
♥



GEOGRAPHY

Why choose Geography?

The A Level Geography course will cover both the physical and human environments and the complex interaction of processes that shape our world. It will also, importantly, show the applied side of the subject – how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. Geography is highly valued by universities due to its interdisciplinary nature and can lead to diverse and exciting careers from urban planning and environmental management to international relations.

Course details

Students will cover Physical Geography in Component 1 (40%), looking at Water and Carbon, Coasts and Natural Hazards. Component 2 (40%) covers Human Geography and students will investigate the topics of Global Systems and Governance, Contemporary Urban Issues and Changing Places. The final 20% of the course is assessed via the NEA (Non-Examined Assessment). You will learn in a wide variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS skills and data analysis and be encouraged to present your ideas on Powerpoint presentations to the rest of the group. You will frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and show your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing.

Higher Education and careers

Students who have studied A Level Geography have acquired the skills necessary to progress to a wide range of degree courses which include Medicine, Law, Economics and Veterinary Science, as well as the more obvious options of Geography and Geology.

Course requirements

You need to achieve at least a 6 at GCSE in Geography.

Related subjects

Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects. You may already be thinking ahead to potential university and career choices, so it is worth bearing in mind that Geography is a broad-based, 'facilitating' subject that really fits well for your future progression.

Further information

The flexibility and expertise which we have as a department enables us to arrange trips to accommodate individual students' interests when planning and carrying out fieldwork for the NEA. Students will experience four days field work throughout the A Level course. This includes a coastal study of the management of erosion at Morecambe and an evaluation of the regeneration of Leeds Waterfront. The Geography department has also run several very popular trips abroad, with recent destinations including China, Iceland, Italy (Vesuvius and the Bay of Naples), Sicily, Switzerland and the USA's West Coast. These enrichment opportunities develop students' depth and breadth of understanding and foster a love of the subject.

The Geography department also participates in the Lancashire branch of the Geographical Association lecture programme to enrich the students' subject knowledge, often hosting the lectures at Westholme School. Many of our students go onto study Geography or geography related degrees, such as Environmental Science, at good universities. Geography is a well respected academic A Level and one of the top facilitating A Level subjects.

Exam Board: AQA



GERMAN

Why choose German?

- To enable students to develop and build upon the skills acquired at GCSE
- To provide an insight into another culture and society
- To facilitate foreign travel and increase opportunities to study or work abroad
- To enhance employment prospects and improve self-confidence, analytical and communication skills.

Course details

The German A Level course is two years long, with the option of gaining accreditation at the end of Year 12 (AS).

In Year 12 students will study a range of topics and study a film, Goodbye Lenin!

In Year 13 students will study further topics based on social issues and a historical period, then a book, Der Vorleser.

Examinations will be based on the four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Higher Education and careers

Having studied a Modern Foreign Language at A Level, students can progress their studies by completing a pure languages degree or combining a language with another discipline.

Course requirements

Grade 6 or higher at GCSE.

Related subjects

Languages combine well with all other subjects and fields to give you an extra string to your bow. For example:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Business Management
- Engineering
- Geography
- History
- Linguistics
- Politics
- International Relations

Further information

All students are allocated an extra lesson per week with the Foreign Language Assistant to focus on improving speaking skills and developing cultural knowledge. During their studies students can have the opportunity to go on a work experience placement in the country where their chosen language is spoken. Students can also participate in culturally relevant events. INSPIRED Sixth Form students also have the opportunity to mentor GCSE students.

Exam Board: EDUQAS



GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Why choose Graphic Communication?

Graphic Communication affords individuals to develop their creative ideas through multiple platforms using both traditional and modern artistic methods to explore, develop and refine ideas. Graphic Design orchestrates artistic ideas that are transformed into purposeful designs which may take the form of branding and identity, typography, illustration, design for print, interactive design (including web, app and game) and communication graphics. Students will develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the subject content to realise personal intentions relevant to graphic communication and their selected area(s) of study. The AQA A Level course facilitates the production of an extensive portfolio of work which can be taken to interviews for Higher Education or employment. Work submitted can take many forms but usually includes sketchbooks and a variety of outcomes in response to a theme.

Higher Education and careers

Graphic communication is an excellent subject which evokes creativity and design for purpose, helping students develop skills and problem solve whilst responding to briefs to those posed in industry. Related careers include graphic designer, Web designer, artist, interior designer, photographer, architect, games designer, gallery curator, stylist, animator, product designer, teacher/lecturer, art therapist.

Course requirements

Preferably a minimum of 6/7 in Art, Photography or Media Studies at GCSE.

Further information

Trips to important exhibitions and photoshoots are conducted in cities such as London, Liverpool and York. We also arrange an annual Artist in Residence workshop run by a visiting practitioner which always inspires outstanding work and allows students the opportunity to ask questions about their experiences, journeys and inspiration.

Exam Board: AQA



HISTORY

Why choose History?

You enjoy History – that’s why you chose it for GCSE, right? You were interested in what you studied for GCSE. You liked finding information for yourself, questioning historical sources, looking at both sides of the argument and making your own. History is both interesting and useful.

As a History student, you will never experience the events that you study; instead you have to build up a picture from the evidence that remains. You have to become skilled at asking questions, so that you do not take everything at face value. You have to develop empathy and understanding of the actions and achievements of others; you have to be prepared to put your case and argue it well; you have to draw conclusions and make judgements. Historians are trained to look for bias and prejudice in all the evidence they study.

History helps you to make decisions about people and to decide if you trust what they say. These skills are highly desirable in many different careers and A Level History is excellent training for any career where you have to use evidence or make decisions, especially where those decisions affect other people.

Careers and Higher Education

If you enjoy History, it can lead you to a great future. Consider Dermot Murnaghan (journalist), David Sainsbury (Sainsbury’s), Anita Roddick (founder of The Body Shop), Jonathan Ross, Louis Theroux, Melvin Bragg, Gordon Brown, Sacha Baron Cohen (Ali G/Borat), Al Murray, Michael Palin (Monty Python), Prince Charles, Lord Coe, Chris Martin of Coldplay and Shakira – all History graduates!

Course details

We have decided to offer the most popular and well resourced topics available to study at A Level. Here is a flavour of the first few lessons:

Component One:

You will be introduced to King Henry VIII whose voracious nature and hot temper have become legendary. He is known for being a man of ferocious appetites – in all aspects of life – and he was prepared to use any means necessary to quell his opposition. The exact number of executions ordered by Henry VIII is generally believed to be between 57,000 and 72,000. As a gruesome aside, he also made ‘death by boiling’ a legitimate form of execution.

Component Two:

You will begin to explore how the Nazis came to power, how they ruled and above all, how a cultured nation could be responsible for such acts of inhumanity as seen in the Holocaust.


Course requirements

Grade 6 or higher at GCSE.

Related subjects

Classics, English and Religious Studies.

Exam Board: AQA

A detailed portrait of a man, likely a historical figure, wearing an ornate black hat with a large white fur plume and a gold-embroidered band. He has a light beard and is wearing a white garment with intricate black patterns and a gold chain. The background is a solid blue color.

“A Level is a step up from GCSE so there is more independent learning involved but the areas of study are far more interesting.”

– CURRENT STUDENT

LATIN

Why choose Latin?

Studying A Level Latin is a unique opportunity for students to delve into the intricacies of the Latin language and appreciate original texts from eminent authors such as Livy, Tacitus, Ovid, Juvenal, and Cicero.

This not only develops their language skills from GCSE but also allows them to explore the stylistic and thematic nuances present in classical literature.

A Level Latin provides a foundation for linguistic analysis and critical engagement with a diverse range of texts, fostering a holistic appreciation for the classical world and its literary contributions.

Course Details

Students study four texts over the two years of the A-level, which will be a mixture of history, poetry and political speeches. This will allow them to develop a lasting interest in, and enthusiasm for, the literary, historical and cultural features of the ancient world. In addition to this, they enhance their grammatical foundations through weekly language lessons; this includes the opportunity to study prose composition (writing in Latin) although this is optional in the final exam.

Modules Studied

- Unseen Translation
- Prose Comprehension or Composition
- Verse Literature
- Prose Literature

Course Requirements

A grade 6 in Latin GCSE will be required.

Related Subjects

Latin complements a range of subjects such as:

- Classical Civilisation
- English Literature
- History
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Modern Languages

In addition, the analytical skills and ability to problem solve pair well with those wanting to study Maths, Economics, or the Sciences.

Related Careers

Students who study Latin are highly valued by universities and employers due to their logical thinking, evidenced evaluations, and clear ability to express themselves. For this reason, Latin can be combined with pretty much any combination of subjects. Career paths may include going into academia, translation, law, journalism, and other diverse fields like computing, civil service, insurance, and public relations. The versatility of Latin studies opens doors to a range of professions. Notably J.R.R Tolkein, the renowned author of 'The Lord of the Rings,' studied Classics at university alongside C.S. Lewis and other pivotal figures.

Further Information

The aims of A Level Latin are multifaceted. Firstly, it encourages students to deepen their understanding of the Latin language and its application to classical texts. Secondly, it fosters an appreciation for the nuances of linguistic and stylistic features within original prose and verse literature. The Classics department delivers engaging and educational lessons, inviting students to immerse themselves in the richness of the language and its historical context. Furthermore, we regularly run trips both in the UK and abroad to give our students an immersive learning experience.

Exam Board: OCR



MANDARIN

Why choose Mandarin Chinese?

Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world. Learn to speak Mandarin and you can speak with millions of people!

Culture: With thousands of years of history, Chinese culture is endlessly fascinating. Whether your interests are in history, architecture, music, or cuisine, knowledge of Mandarin will enrich your understanding of Chinese culture.

Business: Business people who speak Mandarin have a huge advantage in tapping into the Chinese market. It is much easier to develop all-important relationships if you can speak Mandarin.

Travel: The greater China region offers exciting travel opportunities. Getting around is much easier if you can speak Mandarin.

Course details

Person Edexcel A Level Chinese course builds on the understanding developed at GCSE level and gives students the opportunity to learn and apply important transferable skills in critical thinking and analysis, enabling them to make a smooth transition to the next level of study.

The content of the course aims to foster an awareness of the Chinese history, changes in the contemporary world and its link with the rest of the world; as well as to inspire an appreciation of the language, literature, film and culture of the Chinese-speaking world.

During the two-year course, students will study a range of topics and will also study a book and a film. Examination will be based on the four skills of

listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Higher education and careers

Having studied a Modern Foreign Language at A Level, students can progress their studies by completing a pure languages degree or combining a language with another discipline such as Business, Law or Engineering.

Career options include traineeships and working for western manufacturing companies, trading, consultancy, business, banking, multinationals in Europe, Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan or Chinese companies in Europe; government departments of economics, internal and external affairs, foreign service; journalism; travel; interpreter; academics; education (teaching); publishing; supporting companies entering the Chinese market.

Course requirements

Grade 7 or higher at GCSE.

Further information

Students of the Edexcel A Level Chinese course will have the opportunity to attend the British Council Language Programme in China and take a gap year to teach English in a Chinese school, as well as applying for a full scholarship to study Chinese in one of the leading universities in the country. Students can also take part in a national speaking competition; a bi-annual China trip and other cultural events to enhance and enrich their language learning.

Exam Board: Edexcel



MATHEMATICS & FURTHER MATHS

Why choose Mathematics?

This subject is not for the faint-hearted. Can you deal with abstract ideas and then relate them to real life situations? Do you like solving problems? Do you have the intellectual stamina to produce a solution to a multi-stage problem? Do you want to learn how to think logically, approach tasks systematically and cast a critical eye over the figures quoted in the media? Do you want to gain a better understanding of the world (both natural and man-made) around you?

Course details

The Mathematics A Level is made up of Pure Mathematics (two thirds of the course), Mechanics (one sixth) and Statistics (one sixth).

Pure Mathematics includes extensive algebraic techniques, calculus, trigonometry, coordinate geometry and sequences. Mechanics includes the study of the equations of motion, Newton's laws, forces and momentum. Statistics includes data handling graphs, summary measure of data sets, regression, lines of best fit and correlation, the Normal distribution and probability.

Students may also choose to take Further Mathematics A level in addition to Mathematics A level. This can be chosen as a fourth A level. It is a very demanding A level and if considering this as an option, students should discuss their suitability for the course with their teacher. The course has two compulsory Pure Mathematics modules and there are two other optional modules where the class chooses from additional Pure, Mechanics, Statistics or Decision modules. Decision mathematics

uses algorithms and other methods to find efficient solutions to real life problems, such as finding the shortest route around a network. The techniques are important in business, logistics and computer science.

Related subjects

Mathematics can be studied alongside any other discipline; perhaps the most significant syllabus overlap is with Physics or Economics. Mathematics is an essential supporting subject for those who wish to study Economics, Engineering or Physics at university. It is also very useful if you are studying Biology, Geography, Chemistry, Business Studies and Architecture.

Further information

Mathematics and Further Mathematics are subjects which require hard work and determination, and as a consequence are very rewarding. Candidates must have a calculator able to compute summary statistics, access standard statistical distributions and perform iterations. More information will be given on request about the recommended calculators.

Course requirements

A minimum of Grade 6 GCSE is an essential baseline requirement for studying Mathematics at A Level, and preferably a 7. As algebra is such an essential tool at advanced level, a clear and consolidated understanding of algebraic techniques studied at GCSE is vital. For Further Mathematics students would be expected to obtain a minimum of a grade 7 at GCSE, but students are more likely to be successful with a grade 8 or 9.

Related careers

Economics, medicine, archaeology, banking and finance, teaching, business, IT, natural sciences, computer science and all engineering disciplines.

Exam Board: PEARSON Edexcel

Higher Education and Careers Options

A Mathematics degree provides excellent training of the mind for a variety of careers. It is still seen as a rigorous academic subject and as such is a highly desirable attribute for a potential employer.

Obvious career paths are the actuarial profession, accountancy, finance, computer programming, logistics, engineering and of course academia; but mathematicians may end up doing anything from law or weather forecasting right through to journalism. When considering a career/ university degree in engineering, studying Further Mathematics as well as Mathematics is highly recommend.



MUSIC

Why choose Music?

Anyone considering a future in the industry, teaching, performing or composing needs to take A level Music. Anyone wanting to get good value for skills they have built up by learning an instrument or singing should also seriously consider it!

Course details

Students follow the AQA A Level Music course. This is weighted more toward performance than GCSE Music – something which plays to the strengths of students. 35% is performing, 25% composing and 40% the exam.

For full performing marks, students should be looking to perform at grade 8 standard by the end of Year 13. A performance of pieces lasting over 10 minutes is required. Unlike at GCSE, there is no requirement for any of it to be in an ensemble – although this is possible.

Like GCSE, there are two compositions; one free choice and one from a brief. We use Sibelius software on PCs to bring your compositions to life.

The exam component contains choices! There is a compulsory core unit of “Western Classical Tradition 1650 – 1910,” although there are choices within this about particular areas which can be focussed on. Students then choose two further units from Pop Music, Music for Media, Music for Theatre, Jazz, Contemporary Traditional Music or Art Music since 1910.

Further Information

It is expected that students undertaking the A Level Music course will act as musical role models to the rest of the school, participating in concerts and rehearsals. This will greatly improve performing skill leading to better marks in the performance component of the course.

Related Subjects

Most subjects relate to Music as it has its own use of Languages, Social Sciences, Science, Mathematical patterns, and so on. It can also be taken as a contrast to other subjects.

Course Requirements

GCSE Music is an advantage but not essential, though you will need to play a musical instrument or sing to Grade 5 or 6 standard for AS Level and Grade 7 or 8 for A Level.

Related Careers

You could be a performer, composer, arranger, teacher or administrator of music. You could be a recording engineer or a writer of music or this subject may be just an enjoyable pastime!

Exam Board: AQA



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Why choose Music Technology?

Covering core production values such as studio and live recording as well as sequencing and composing, this course will give you the skills to go on to further study in music production.

Which mic to use? Where to place the mics effectively? Which effects to apply? These questions and more will be answered in our new, state of the art recording studio. High-end computing power is combined with industry standard digital mixing equipment to enable professional standard recordings to be made. Whether in a live situation or a studio, this course provides the skills you need.

Course details

RECORDING – 20%

You will make a professional standard recording of a song chosen from a list of songs provided each year by Pearson. You will learn about the appropriate mics to use for different instruments and situations, and how to edit the raw audio to make a professional mix.

TECHNOLOGY-BASED COMPOSITION – 20%

You will compose a three minute piece in response to a choice of briefs. Your composition will make use of synthesis, sampling/audio manipulation and creative effects.

LISTENING AND ANALYSING – 25%

This forms the exam and it tests you on your ability to listen to music and work out the techniques used in recording. This is particularly useful for a career

in the music industry as it allows you to emulate different styles in your own work.

PRODUCING AND ANALYSING – 35%

The music industry is a fast-paced and competitive place. This part of the course challenges you to quickly combine audio and MIDI materials into a complete mix in exam conditions, before demonstrating your knowledge in written questions.

Further information

The Music Tech A Level course is enhanced by many co-curricular activities. For instance two main highlights of the school year are the productions, where many of our A Level musicians perform in the school band. Other performances include Prizegiving (held annually), the Carol Service, a Gala Concert (to showcase INSPIRED Sixth Form students) and several other high profile concerts during the year. An annual Choir Tour also takes place every summer.

Course requirements

As the course includes composition, GCSE Music or Grade 5 theory is required. Additionally, Grade 5 standard on an instrument or voice is recommended.

Career options

Degree courses in music technology; jobs in music industry (TV, film, freelance, corporate audio work, music studios, live events).

Exam Board: PEARSON Edexcel

"I'VE WRITTEN MY
BEST SONG YET."

(MCCARTNEY)

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY



PHOTOGRAPHY

Why choose A-Level photography?

Photography allows an audience to view the world through someone else's lens. It can open opportunities to wonderful and exciting ways of seeing the world and delivering work as a creative individual. The AQA Photography course is a fantastic and innovative subject that gets students thinking outside the box and developing their own ideologies and pushing the boundaries of photography in the traditional sense. Students develop and refine their skills in working with a range of cameras and learning to shoot in manual mode, allowing them complete freedom to manipulate their own photography and develop unique styles.

There are an excellent range of facilities within the department which allows us to teach a broad and varied course. Students are afforded the experience to explore visual imagery through both modern and traditional methods. The department has a fantastic live studio space with an infinity wall, studio lights, projectors and camera equipment enabling students to explore their ideas fully. The course facilitates the production of an extensive portfolio of work which can be taken to interviews for Higher Education or employment. Work submitted can take many forms but usually includes sketchbooks and a variety of outcomes in response to a theme.

Higher education

AQA Photography is a great choice of subject if you want to pursue a degree in Fine Art, Graphic Design, Product Design, 3D Design, Textiles Design, Jewellery Design, Architecture and Photography.

Related careers

Related careers include artist, graphic designer, interior designer, photographer, architect, games designer, product designer, teacher/lecturer, film editor, medical illustrator, photojournalist.

Course requirements

Preferably 6/7 in Art or Photography at GCSE.

Further information

Trips to important exhibitions and photoshoots are conducted in cities such as London, Liverpool and York.

Exam Board: AQA



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why choose Physical Education?

If you are interested in all aspects of sport, health and fitness, then this is the course for you. Not only do you have the opportunity to benefit from your sporting talents, but you also learn to analyse and evaluate performances so that you can improve further, both as a performer and a coach.

The theory section will help you to develop your knowledge and understanding in many aspects relating to physical activities, including anatomy and physiology, biomechanics, psychology, sociology, history, technology and current affairs. Plus, you will learn how to apply this knowledge to your sport and fitness and its implications for a healthy lifestyle.

Course details

A Level structure for the two year course:

There are four components:

1. Physiological Factors Affecting Performance: Theory unit worth 30% (90 marks) of overall A Level – 2 hour written paper.

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanics

2. Psychological Factors Affecting Performance: Theory unit worth 20% (60 marks) of overall A Level – 1 hour written paper.

- Skill acquisition
- Sports psychology

3. Socio-Cultural Issues in Physical Activity and Sport: Theory unit worth 20% (60 marks) of overall A Level – 1 hour written paper.

- Sport and society
- Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport

4. Performance in Practical Activities: Practical unit worth 15% (45 marks) of overall A Level – Assessment of practical ability in one sport from the approved activities list.

5. Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI): Non-exam unit worth 15% (45 marks) of overall A Level- Live 30 minute verbal presentation

Course requirements

Grade 6-9 at GCSE Physical Education, plus Biology, is beneficial. The ability to perform at an academy/club level in one chosen activity from the approved list is also recommended.

Related subjects

Biology, Chemistry, Food Technology, History, Psychology and Sociology.

Related careers

Any careers involving sports, health and fitness, healthy lifestyle, leisure and recreation, sports teaching and coaching, sports and leisure management, physiotherapy, psychology, sports science, sports injuries, sports nutrition, sports journalist, emergency services; police, fire service and paramedicine.

Most lessons will be theory-based. Students will be expected to practise their practical activities outside of lesson time.

Exam Board: OCR

PHYSICS

Why choose Physics?

Physics has a huge impact on society as it underpins the technological revolution. By studying Physics you will begin to understand how technology has developed and the impact it has had on society. You will work together with like-minded people who have a desire to understand the world around them.

While studying Physics you will acquire transferable skills including numeracy, problem solving, and an ability to reason clearly and communicate well.

Course details

Physics is a very practical subject, and as such, pupils will carry out a significant amount of experimental work in order to research topics and investigate fundamental physical laws.

Further information

Physics is a demanding subject which requires commitment and enthusiasm. Here at Westholme, students are taught in small, supportive groups where everyone has the chance to discuss their work with the teacher every lesson.

The nature of the School means that staff are always available, and positively encourage students to seek their advice outside of lesson time. A rich co-curricular programme is in place to develop a love of the subject and to build a positive team PHYSICS dynamic.

These activities include evening lecture trips and a three day trip to CERN. All of the above lead to excellent examination results.

Related careers

Physics qualifications are highly respected by a wide range of universities and disciplines. An A Level in Physics can lead to many things, including research, medicine, architecture, engineering, business and finance.

Related subjects

Medical Physics, Health Physics, Telecommunications, Microelectronics, Nuclear Power and Instrumentation, Cryogenics, Astronomy, Geophysics, Oceanography, Materials Science, Computing, Engineering, Meteorology, Environmental Physics, Aerospace Industry, Scientific Civil Service.

Course requirements

AS Level and A Level Physics are highly demanding courses and as such it is essential that a student has a minimum of a Grade 6 GCSE in both Physics/ Science and Mathematics. A Level Mathematics is not necessary as any extra skills can be taught as needed. However, if you are considering taking Mathematics, a Mathematics with Mechanics option will provide a very useful overlap with the Mechanics section of the Physics course.

Most lessons will be theory-based. Students will be expected to practise their practical activities outside of lesson time.

Exam Board: AQA

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

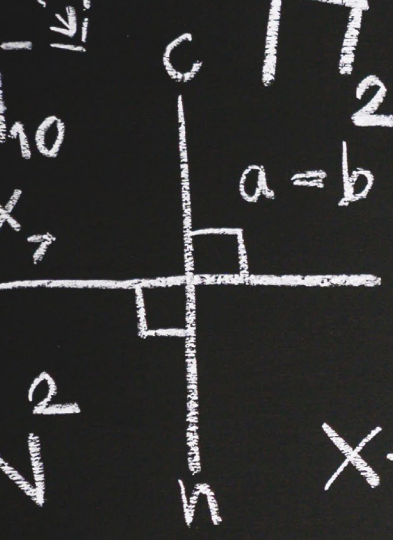
$$F = m \cdot y$$

$$E = mc^2$$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum fx}{N}$$

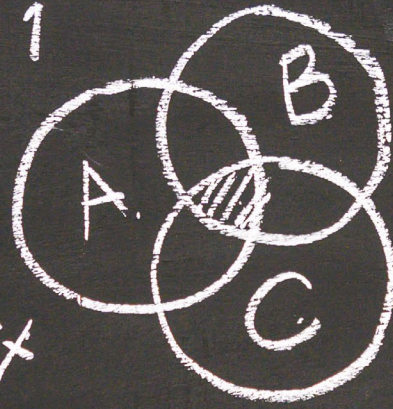


$$\frac{AD}{AB} = \frac{AD}{AB}$$



$$1 = 2$$

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$



$$\hat{A}CB =$$



$$s = vt$$

$$a^2 = b^2$$

$$x + y = a^2 b \quad P = S(1 - n \cdot d)$$

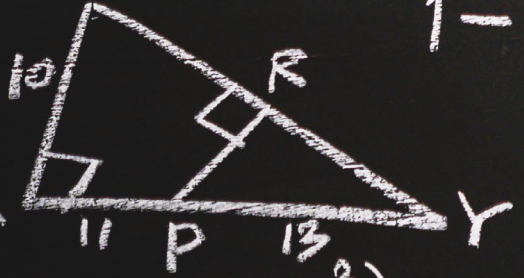
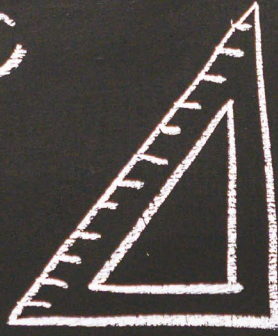
$$x = \sqrt{\frac{b}{c}}$$

$$\frac{2 \times 2x}{3z}$$

$$P \Delta ABC \sim \Delta ADC$$

$$S = \frac{P}{1 - n \cdot d}$$

$$\frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$



$$EK = \frac{mu^2}{2} = \frac{\left[\frac{P}{1200}\right] \left[1 + \frac{P}{1200}\right]^N}{\left[1 + \frac{P}{1200}\right]^N - 1}$$

$$x^2 - 2x + 4 + 4$$

POLITICS

Why choose Politics?

Politics is an important and fascinating subject as it involves the study of how power is distributed in a democratic society. Every aspect of our lives is impacted by decisions made by the government – from how much we pay in taxes, to whether we get free healthcare, from whether we go to war to whether we fulfill our pledges on climate change.

Politics involves the study of how these decisions are made, answering questions like ‘How do elections work?’, ‘How are laws made in the UK?’, ‘What powers does the Prime Minister have?’ and ‘Who are the main political parties and what do they believe in?’

Careers and Higher Education

Politics is very useful for a career in Law, as it teaches you about the UK constitution and the processes by which laws are made. Politics is also excellent for a career in journalism and broadcasting, as you will learn about the political structures that you might one day be writing about. Politics is also very useful for careers in the civil service and government, including the police and security services. Politics would also be useful for careers in the private sector, due to transferable skills of argument and analysis.

Course Details

There are 3 modules in A Level Politics;

➤ 1) UK Politics and Core-Ideas

This module looks at how we participate in Politics, including voting, political parties and joining pressure groups. It also looks at how factors like age, geography, gender, class and the influence of the media can influence how people vote. In the ‘Core-

Ideas’ section, you will study political philosophy, looking at the 3 ideas that have had the most impact on Politics in the UK in the last 200 years: conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

➤ 2) UK Government and Non-Core Ideas

The second module looks at how the Government functions in the UK. You will study the UK Constitution, the role of Parliament and the role of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. They also look at how the judiciary functions and the Supreme Court. In the ‘Non-Core Ideas’ section, you will study a political idea that is important but hasn’t resulted in a government-forming party. We will choose as a group from a range of topics including nationalism and feminism.

➤ 3) US Government and Politics

The final module looks at the Politics and Government of the USA. This involves studying the Politics of the USA (elections, political parties, pressure groups, voter behaviour) and the Government of the USA (the US Constitution, Congress, President and Supreme Court). There is also a synoptic question where you will compare the two - for example, comparing the powers of a UK Prime Minister to a US President.

Course requirements

Grade 6 or higher in any written subject (e.g. English/History/EPR/Geography) at GCSE.

Course requirements

History, English and Classics.

Exam Board: Edexcel



PRODUCT DESIGN

Why choose Product Design?

Design and Technology is vital to everything we use, and is constantly evolving. The A Level Design and Technology course allows students to be creative and explore areas of interest, with a deep-thinking and higher level problem-solving approach.

It encourages integration of environmental and ethical factors, for example considering the sustainability of materials and processes, as well as tailoring a product to a consumer's specific requirements.

The course focuses on developing practical skills using a variety of material areas, whilst allowing students to achieve high quality outcomes using industry focused design and manufacturing strategies and processes.

The approach allows students to gain experience in time management, independent learning, collaboration and communication; key skills required for future achievements, whether that be in the world of employment or higher education.

Exams

- Paper 1 – 30% of A Level Technical principles (TP) – 2.5 hours 120 marks
- Paper 2 – 20% of A Level Design and making principles (DMP) – 1.5 hours 80% marks
- Combined written paper weighting – 50% of the A Level

NEA

- Assesses practical application of technical principles and designing and making principles.
- Substantial design and make project.
- Written or digital portfolio not exceeding 45 pages.
- Candidate developed brief.
- 50% of the A Level qualification.

Higher education

A Level Design and Technology opens up opportunities to undertake higher education courses in engineering, graphic design, fashion styling, art and design, media, photography, construction and building services, motor vehicle – technology and repair.

Related careers

Careers include Aerospace Engineer; Animator; Architect; Building Control Officer; CNC machinist; Model maker; Computer-Aided Design Engineer; Costume Designer; Electrician; Fine artist; Firefighter; Medical Illustrator; Offshore roustabout; Pattern cutter; Petroleum engineer; Teacher; Quantity Surveyor; Set Designer; Sign Writer; Telecommunications Engineer; Television/ Film Producer.

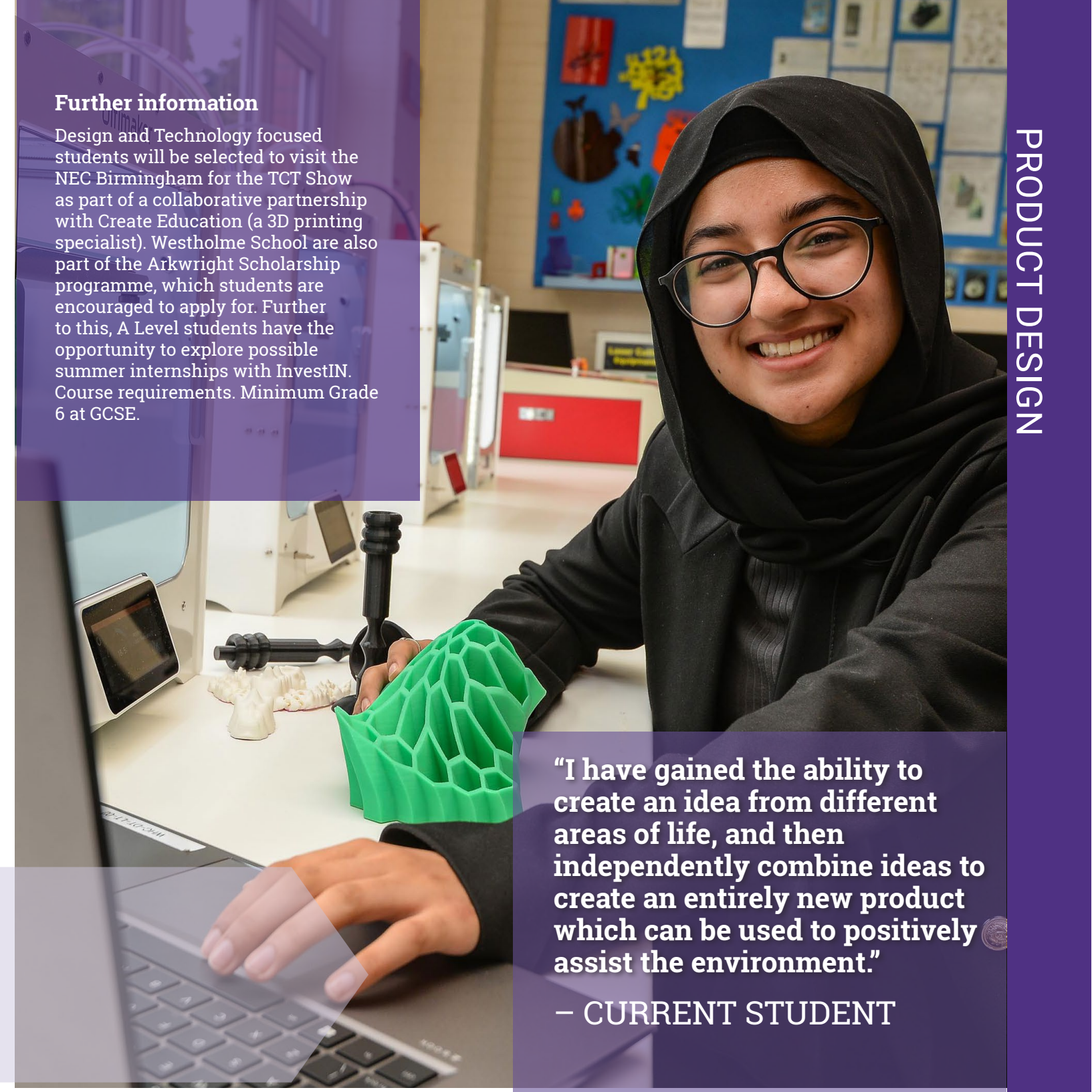
Related subjects

Art, English, Geography, History, Languages, Mathematics, Photography, Physics and Textiles.

Exam Board: AQA

Further information

Design and Technology focused students will be selected to visit the NEC Birmingham for the TCT Show as part of a collaborative partnership with Create Education (a 3D printing specialist). Westholme School are also part of the Arkwright Scholarship programme, which students are encouraged to apply for. Further to this, A Level students have the opportunity to explore possible summer internships with InvestIN. Course requirements. Minimum Grade 6 at GCSE.



“I have gained the ability to create an idea from different areas of life, and then independently combine ideas to create an entirely new product which can be used to positively assist the environment.”

– CURRENT STUDENT

PSYCHOLOGY

Why choose Psychology?

Psychology is a well-equipped department with creative and inspiring teachers.

See what the current Psychology students have to say:

“Psychology is the most interesting subject I’ve studied; it’s nice to apply psychological concepts to everyday life.”

“Psychology is great because there is a wide variety of topics which will interest every person. This subject allows you to see everything in a different light and apply your knowledge to everyday life.”

Course details

Lessons are taught using a range of methods and we give students the opportunity to conduct ‘hands-on’ practical work. AS Level students conduct practical activities using a range of different methods which allows them to develop and become familiar with the methods used by psychologists e.g. observations, questionnaires, experiments and correlations.

At A Level students study Gender Development. Students enjoy designing and conducting experiments with primary school children to investigate the changes in children’s thinking about their gender which becomes more sophisticated with age.

We aim to develop students’ ability to interpret, evaluate and comment. Students are encouraged to develop an in-depth knowledge of the core topics through a variety of teaching methods.

This course is fully examined, with no coursework. Question papers will assess students’ ability to apply their knowledge rather than just the ability to learn material.

Further information

As well as conducting practical work with local Infant and Junior School children, we frequently run trips. Students have recently been on an Exploring Crime Conference, Exam Board Revision day, Applied Psychology, a lecture on False Memory and have attended a Psychotherapy Centre to listen to a seminar on therapeutic treatments for mental health issues.

We also invite many guest speakers to come to speak to the department from forensic and clinical psychologists to people who specialise in working with children with autism.

This course will provide students with a sound understanding of the various methods and approaches used in Psychology. It is designed to develop students’ critical thinking skills and, it prepares students thoroughly for higher level study, as many students each year choose to read Psychology at university.

Course requirements

Although there is no set requirement to study Psychology at A Level, you will need to demonstrate good numeracy and literacy skills and an ability to handle scientific concepts.

Related subjects

Biology, Business Studies, English, Mathematics, Physical Education, Sociology.

Higher Education and career options

Whatever career you pursue, a background in Psychology will enhance your employability. This is because it develops a range of valuable skills including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

Psychology is a versatile subject and considered both a Science and Humanity, therefore the course may appeal to those wishing to study a Psychology degree or other associated disciplines. Psychology, due to its very broad content, has many applications in areas ranging from education, law, counselling, social work, industry, childcare, media, public relations, plus many others.

“A degree in Psychology offers not only a pathway to becoming a psychologist, but also the knowledge and skills that you can apply in a wide range of careers.” – Professor Ann Colley, CPsychol Chief Executive, The British Psychological Society.

Exam Board: AQA



SOCIOLOGY

Why choose Sociology?

- Have you ever wondered why people join cults?
- Why there are vast differences in educational achievement between middle- and working-class students?
- Why women seemingly commit less crime than men?
- Or why children used to work and be seen as 'mini adults' but now exist in a sacred stage of extended childhood?

Sociology answers all these questions and more! Sociology is the fascinating study of society, and the analysis of why people do things the way they do. Come and explore the intricacies of human society in our A-Level course – you won't regret it!

Course details

Following the AQA Specification, over the two years we cover the following topics:

- Education
- Families and households
- Beliefs in society
- Crime and Deviance
- Sociological Theory
- Research methods

Related Subjects

Sociology can fit with just about anything, as it encompasses the study of everything! Students,

however, often take Sociology with Criminology, Psychology and Politics, and it complements these all well with crossover between topics. Other common crossovers are with Business Studies, Ethics, Philosophy and Religion, as well as Biology and English.

Co-Curricular Activities

Students will engage in a variety of co-curricular activities during the two-year course, including external guest speakers in the Crime space, and trips to iconic landmarks such as the Pankhurst Centre - where Emmeline Pankhurst resided in Manchester whilst leading the Suffragettes. In addition to this, at the end of Year 12 students attend a yearly trip to Preston Crown Court where they can engage in court proceedings, as well as visiting UCLAN's state of the art Hydra Minerva Suite where students are faced with real life crimes and must work together to prioritize how to tackle these issues.

Career Options

Sociology is a fantastic subject for anyone wishing to work with people. It is studying what is going on in the 'real world' and shows that you have a sound awareness of what is going on in wider society and the issues which affect other people. It is highly respected by universities and employers. People who have studied Sociology previously have embarked on careers in teaching, management, law, the police, HR, recruitment, business and the media.

Career Requirements

There are no set requirements to study Sociology at A Level. Although a Level 6 at GCSE English is advantageous as this is an essay-based subject.

Exam Board: EDUQAS



SOCIOLOGY

SPANISH

Why choose Spanish?

- To enable students to develop and build upon the skills acquired at GCSE
- To provide an insight into another culture and society
- To facilitate foreign travel and increase opportunities to study or work abroad
- To enhance employment prospects and improve self-confidence, analytical and communication skills

Course details

The Spanish A Level course will be two years long, with the option of gaining accreditation at the end of Year 12 (AS).

In Year 12 students study a range of topics and the novel *Como Agua Para Chocolate*.

In Year 13 students study more topics based on social issues and a historical period alongside the film *El Laberinto del fauno*.

There are three examinations which test the topics studied through the skills of speaking; listening, reading and translation; and writing.

Higher Education and Careers

Having studied a Modern Foreign Language at A Level, students can progress their studies by completing a pure languages degree or combining a language with another discipline.

Course Requirements

Grade 6 or higher at GCSE.

Related Subjects

Languages combine well with all other subjects to give you an extra string to your bow. For example:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Business Management
- Geography
- History
- Linguistics
- Politics
- International Relations.

Further Information

All students are allocated an extra lesson per week with the Foreign Language Assistant to focus on improving speaking skills and developing cultural knowledge. During their studies students can have the opportunity to go on a work experience placement in the country where their chosen language is spoken. Students also participate in culturally relevant events. INSPIRED Sixth Form students have the opportunity to mentor GCSE students.

Exam Board: EDUQAS

SPANISH





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UNRIVALLED HOLISTIC EXCELLENCE



Westholme | Wilmar Lodge | Meins Road
Pleasington | BB2 6QU

www.westholmeschool.com
01254 506 070

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