



WESTHOLME

PREP | SENIORS | SIXTH FORM

SIXTH FORM OPTIONS

WELCOME

The Sixth Form years are the most exciting part of a child's educational journey, with students focusing their study to a few key subjects at post-16 Level, whilst also having countless opportunities to develop themselves in every way as they look towards their future aspirations. As part of that journey, this booklet is designed to support you in making informed and confident choices to ensure your pathway is the correct one and that every child thrives and flourishes in every way.

It provides an overview of the subjects available at Westholme for Years 12 and 13, alongside the entry requirements and wider information about course content.

Most students will study three subjects, alongside our wider Sixth Form enrichment programme, careers education and our PSHE provision. These elements are designed to support your personal development, wellbeing and preparation for life beyond school.

When making your selections, we strongly encourage you to think carefully about university entrance requirements and potential career pathways.

It is also important to understand the demands of post-16 study. Courses require a high level of independent learning, organisation and resilience. Consider honestly how you learn best and where your strengths lie so that you can give yourself the very best opportunity for success.



Mr J Oracz
Head of INSPIRED Sixth Form

Above all, enjoyment and genuine interest remain key. If you are engaged and inspired by your subjects, you are far more likely to thrive over the two years ahead.

Good luck with your choices, and keep asking the thoughtful questions that will shape your next exciting chapter.



“My teachers believed in my abilities and pushed me to realise that I was capable of achieving anything.”

Old Westholman

CONTENTS

Beyond the classroom	4
Leadership opportunities	6
Diverse destinations	8
Choosing your subjects	10
Biology	12
Business Studies	14
Chemistry	15
Classical Civilisation	16
Computer Science	18
Drama & Theatre	20
Economics	22
English Language	24
English Literature	25
Ethics, Philosophy and Religion	27
Fine Art	28
Geography	29
German	30
History	31
Mathematics and Further Mathematics	32
Music	36
Music Production	37
Performing Arts	38
Photography	40
Physical Education	42
Physics	44
Politics	45
Product Design	46
Psychology	47
Sociology	48
Spanish	49
Entry requirements	50

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Westholme, Sixth Form life is where passions are discovered, skills are sharpened and confidence flourishes. From clubs and societies to trips, performances and competitions, our wide-ranging activities give every pupil the chance to explore new interests, embrace challenges, and enjoy experiences that will stay with them for life.

Our students stand out head and shoulders above their peers because when they leave our INSPIRED Sixth Form at 18 years old, they have enjoyed a wonderfully enriching educational experience.

As a top independent School, Westholme is big

enough to offer everything that a young adult is looking for but more importantly, small enough that every student gets the opportunity to fully take part. Each year we have students who excel and achieve national recognition in their field, alongside students taking up a new discipline for the very first time.

Enrichment opportunities at Westholme include the Oxbridge Programme, Medical Society, Model United Nations, Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), The Charity and Amnesty International Human Rights Group, English Speaking Board, Artopia, Duke of Edinburgh,





Westies, Performing Arts, British Sign Language & Deaf Awareness Qualification, Sports Leadership award and so much more.

We continue to offer unequalled provision outside the classroom for our young people to acquire the 21st Century Essential Skills through fun, excitement and enjoyment. Most clubs, societies, activities and experiences are included within our fees and are provided free of charge by our inspirational teaching staff.

Alongside our Enrichment our extensive co-curricular provision is the cornerstone of our distinctive forward-thinking educational ethos and we encourage every Westholmian to think beyond their boundaries.

“I want students to throw themselves into our wider enrichment opportunities so that, when they leave, they are the dynamic, confident, stand-out leaders who will make an impact on the world. That is a Westholme student and it is our privilege to provide students with that platform to grow, thrive and flourish.”

Mr J Oracz
Head of Sixth Form

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Leadership is at the heart of life in the INSPIRED Sixth Form. Students are encouraged to take an active role in shaping the school community, developing confidence, responsibility and the essential skills needed for the modern workplace.

There is a broad programme of opportunities for students to lead, mentor and act as role models for younger pupils across the school. INSPIRED Sixth Form students play a pivotal role at Westholme, taking responsibility for House events, co-curricular activities, sports teams, charitable initiatives, clubs, societies and academic mentoring.

Students may also apply for formal leadership roles as part of the INSPIRED Leadership Team, including Head Students, Assistant Head Students and Subject Captains, within the Student Executive. These positions provide valuable experience in public speaking, organisation, teamwork and communication, while allowing students to represent the voice of the Sixth Form and contribute to the continued development of the school.

Through these opportunities, our students leave Westholme not only with excellent academic results, but with the confidence, character and leadership skills to succeed in their future careers.



“The consistent support from my teachers and the endless opportunities at Westholme have been invaluable. I have particularly enjoyed the various roles I have played in school productions, as well as the incredible experience of performing at Disneyland Paris.”

Head Boy 2025/26



DIVERSE DESTINATIONS

Westholme students' destinations are as diverse as their talents, from prestigious universities to professional job placements and coveted spots at drama schools. Each student's journey is a reflection of the school's commitment to academic excellence, personal growth and the nurturing of ambition.

Beyond grades and results, Westholme celebrates the all-rounded education that has enabled students to reach these milestones and that will continue to carry them forward into the next exciting chapter of their lives. Every student's success story stands as a testament to Westholme's approach to education, ensuring that they leave not only with qualifications, but also with the confidence and skills to thrive in the wider world.

Armed Forces / Healthcare

Army Air Corps - Regular Officer Pilot

NHS - Health Care Assistant

Royal Navy - Marine Engineer

Overseas

Medical University Sofia - 1

Medical University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria - 11

Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria - 1

New Zealand - 1

Midlands

Coventry University - 1

Emil Dale Academy - 1

Loughborough University - 1

University of Birmingham - 1

University of Lincoln - 1

University of Nottingham - 4

University of Warwick - 1

North West

BIMM University - 1

Burnley College - 1

Edge Hill University - 1

Lancaster University - 12

Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts - 1

Liverpool John Moores University - 1

LMA - 1

Manchester Metropolitan University - 9

Myerscough College - 1

South

Anglia Ruskin University - Cambridge - 1

Italia Conti - University of Chichester - 3

Guildford School of Acting, University of Surrey - 1

University of Bath - 1

University of Exeter - 1

University of Oxford - 2

University of Plymouth - 1

University of Reading - 1

University of Southampton - 1

Scotland

University of Glasgow - 1

University of Stirling - 1

Wales

Bangor University - 1



Degree Apprenticeships

- Arup - Civil Engineer
- AMS Group Accountants
- BAE - Aerospace Engineer
- BBC - Software Engineer
- Caroola Group - Accounting
- CBRE, Manchester - Facilities Management Apprentice
- Champion Accounting - Trainee Accountant
- Inorail - Engineering Apprenticeship
- Jaguar Land Rover - Applied Professional
- Engineering Product and Design Development
- KPMG - Computing and Technology
- Lidl - Retail Leadership
- Mortimers Real Estate - Sales Negotiator
- WH Treatment- Project Engineer
- North Lancs Training Group - Recruitment
- Panache Cruises
 - Partnerships Apprentice with
 - Chartered Manager Degree
 - Marketing Design
 - Finance
 - Product and Marketing
- PwC - Accounting
- Royal Mail - Chartered Management
- Sellafield - Mechanical Design Engineer
- Schofield and Associates - Financial Services Administrator
- Waddington & Sons - Junior Paralegal Apprentice

North-East

Durham University - 2
Northumbria University - 3
University of Newcastle - 1

Yorkshire

Huddersfield University - 1
Leeds Beckett University - 2
Sheffield Hallam University - 2
University of Huddersfield - 1
University of Hull - 2
University of Leeds - 1
University of Sheffield - 2
University of York - 3
York St John University - 1

London

Imperial College London - 2
Royal Holloway, University of London - 2
University College London (UCL) - 1

All destinations 2022 - 2025

MICHAELA'S JOURNEY TO MEDICINE



Michaela is well into her first year studying Medicine at Lancaster University. She looks back on her time at Westholme gratefully, having achieved outstanding A Level results, with an A* in Chemistry and A grades in Biology and English Literature. Her journey was defined by far more than academic success. Alongside excelling in science, Michaela performed in the production of Les Misérables, showcasing her talent as a violinist.

ODYSSEY TO OXFORD



Now firmly on his path at Oxford, Enrikas reflects on the journey that began at Westholme, where he achieved outstanding A Level results of A*, A, A, A in EPR, Spanish, Classical Civilisation and EPQ. He encourages future students to “try everything, there’s so much to discover,” he says. “It’s the perfect environment to explore your interests before university.” Reflecting, Enrikas describes his time at Westholme in just two words: “An odyssey.”

STEPPING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT



Fully enjoying his training at the prestigious Italia Conti, Mason continues to build on the strong foundations developed during his time at Westholme. After studying Drama, Psychology and Sociology at A Level, he has taken the next step in refining his craft at an academy renowned for producing leading talent in theatre, television and film. At Westholme, Mason’s passion for performance was unmistakable, most notably when he took centre stage as Danny Zuko in Grease and performed in Les Mis.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

At Westholme, we are proud to offer 26 A Level and BTEC vocational courses across a wide range of academic and creative disciplines.

When narrowing your choices, think carefully about the combination of subjects you select. Universities and employers value students who demonstrate depth, commitment and strong academic performance, so it is usually better to choose subjects that complement one another and play to your strengths rather than simply opting for what others are choosing.

You may already have a clear pathway in mind; perhaps towards medicine, law or the creative industries. If so, check entry requirements early to ensure your subject choices support your goals. If your plans are still developing, do not worry; many students keep their options open by selecting a balanced mix of subjects that develop analytical, written and problem-solving skills.

Sixth Form study at Westholme is academically rigorous and designed to prepare you for the independence of university learning. You will be



"I've been encouraged to grasp every opportunity life throws at me. With outstanding support from my teachers I've been able to focus on my own ambitions and personal growth. I wouldn't have wanted to study anywhere else, and Westholme has always felt like a second home."

Old Westholmian

BE INSPIRED



expected to read widely, manage your time effectively and take increasing ownership of your progress. Consider honestly how you work best and choose subjects that will allow you to thrive in a more independent environment.

Our Sixth Form team is here to guide and support you throughout the decision-making process. Take advantage of:

- conversations with teachers
- attend information events and ask questions
- Sixth Form Open Evening
- Taster Days in Year 10 & 11
- 1-1 meetings with Heads of Years & Head of Sixth Form

Thoughtful choices now will help ensure a successful and fulfilling Sixth Form experience.

“Your post-16 choices are the first real opportunity to shape your own academic pathway. Choose subjects that challenge and inspire you, and you will not only achieve strong results but also develop the confidence, independence and curiosity that will serve you well beyond Sixth Form. At Westholme, we are here to support you every step of the way.”

Mrs L Cowan
Deputy Head (Academic)

BIOLOGY (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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.

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. Many students have gone on to study biological degrees at university, including a number of students for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing.

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.

Practical work is embedded across the course in well-resourced labs that allow you to link practical work to theory, develop a valuable skill set and work collaboratively with other students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Biology, or two 7s in Combined Science GCSE. Grade 6 or above in Mathematics is preferred.



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 carry out practical work for the Ecology portion of the A Level syllabus.

During both INSPIRED Sixth Form years, our students have the opportunity to take part in the Biology Olympiads organised by the Royal Society of Biology.



BUSINESS STUDIES (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL BUSINESS STUDIES?

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

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language.



CHEMISTRY (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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 also improve your problem solving skills and develop your ability to think logically and critically.

PRACTICAL OPPORTUNITIES

The course covers physical, inorganic and organic chemistry, including atomic structure, bonding, energetics, kinetics, equilibria, redox, periodicity, Group 2, Group 7, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alkenes, alcohols and organic analysis. Each topic begins with an overview that sets it in a wider

context, while the specification balances essential exam content with opportunities to develop mathematical, analytical and practical skills.

Studying chemistry develops problem solving, data analysis and critical thinking, and is excellent preparation for further study and careers in medicine, research, pharmacy, environmental science and industry. Our well-equipped labs place a strong emphasis on hands-on experiments, with plenty of sticky, smelly and colourful chemistry. There are also opportunities to extend learning beyond the syllabus, such as taking part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's School Analyst competition.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in your Chemistry GCSE or two 7s in Combined Science GCSE. Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths.



CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (OCR)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

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

Students are taught a variety of ancient Greek and Roman texts over the two years and no previous knowledge of the subject is required as all texts are studied in English.

COURSE DETAILS

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!

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.

Students will study 3 modules at A Level

- World of the Hero (40%) – Literary analysis of Homer's 'Odyssey' and Virgil's 'Aeneid', alongside a cultural awareness of the Mycenaean Age and the mythological beliefs and practices of the heroic culture.
- Greek Theatre (30%) – Source analysis of Greek Theatre in Classical Athens, including literary analysis of 3 ancient plays: Sophocles' 'Oedipus the King', Euripides' 'Bacchae', Aristophanes' 'Frogs'.
- Love and Relationships (30%) – Study of the beliefs and ideas regarding Greek and Roman marriages and relationships. Further analysis of the philosophical beliefs on love and desire by Plato and Seneca, and the works of Sappho and Ovid.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in English Literature or any written subject at GCSE including History and EPR.

No previous knowledge of the subject is required, however, Classicists should have an inquisitive mind, be willing to debate, and have a passion for mythology, history and literature.



COMPUTER SCIENCE (EDUQAS)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL COMPUTER SCIENCE?

In today's digital world, Computer Science is at the heart of innovation and technological advancement. Studying A Level Computer Science equips students with the skills and knowledge to understand how computers work, how software is developed, and how technology can be used to solve real-world problems.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy logical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. It offers a rigorous and rewarding curriculum that blends theoretical concepts with hands-on programming experience using Python and SQL. Students will develop a deep understanding of computational thinking, algorithms, and data structures, while also learning how to design and build software systems.

A Level Computer Science is highly regarded by universities and employers alike.

COURSE DETAILS

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.

The following two areas are studied at A Level:

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

A standout feature of the EDUQAS course is the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)—a substantial project where students identify a user-driven problem and develop a complete software solution.

This project allows students to:

- Analyse a real-world scenario
- Design a suitable system architecture
- Implement the solution using appropriate programming techniques
- Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of their solution

This practical experience not only reinforces theoretical learning but also prepares students for university-level study and careers in the tech industry.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Computer Science.

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths.



DRAMA & THEATRE (EDUQAS)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL DRAMA & THEATRE?

You can develop your existing performance ability and use this towards achieving an A Level. You will 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.

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.

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 the 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. students 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE English and/or Drama.
No previous knowledge of the subject is required.



“Westholme’s Miss Saigon showcased the extraordinary impact of performing arts in education.”

National School Theatre Awards

ECONOMICS (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL ECONOMICS?

Choosing A Level Economics provides a powerful lens through which to understand the modern world. It is a rigorous and dynamic subject that equips you with a unique, highly sought-after skill set, bridging the gap between the mathematical and the human. If you've ever wondered about the real story behind the headlines, Economics gives you the tools to find the answers.

At its core, Economics trains you not what to think, but how to think logically and critically. You will learn to deconstruct complex problems, analyse data, and build evidence-based arguments. This powerful way of thinking has direct links to a range of other subjects including Mathematics, History, Politics and Psychology.

From the cost of living and climate change to international trade and technological disruption, economic principles are at the heart of the most significant issues we face. This subject makes you a more informed and engaged citizen.

Ultimately, A Level Economics is an investment in a versatile and analytical way of thinking that will provide a strong foundation for your future success.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics. Grade 7 or above in GCSE English.

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.



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.

"I have developed a love for Economics at Westholme. It has helped me understand how the world actually works, from prices and businesses to global issues. It is really interesting seeing theory link to real life, and it challenges how you think. It has definitely made me more curious, analytical and aware of what is going on around me."

Current Economics Student

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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.

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.

Studying English Language will give you the opportunity to deconstruct a range of texts and write analytically.

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 is divided into two separate examinations. Paper 1

covers 'Othello', 'A Doll's House' and the poetry of Christina Rossetti. Paper 2 explores the gothic genre and focuses on how to analyse an unseen extract. Furthermore, students will study 'Dracula', and 'Frankenstein'.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You must have achieved a GCSE Grade 7 in both English Literature and English Language in order to be able to access the academic requirements of this course.



ENGLISH LITERATURE (OCR)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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 English 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 Sixth Form develops a great variety of workplace skills but most of all, you should choose to study English Literature because you desire to do so.

An A Level in English Literature is an advantage in 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.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You must have achieved a GCSE Grade 7 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.



ETHICS, PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION (PEARSON)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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?

If the answer is yes to any of the above questions, then EPR would be a great choice of subject for you to choose at A Level.

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.

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. A Level EPR 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 ways forward in our own thinking.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Religious Studies or any written subject at GCSE including English or History.

“EPR is fun, interactive and inspiring. It is relevant in everyday life and the subject has helped me to grow in confidence. Learning how to appraise and defend arguments convincingly has also been invaluable in my preparation for university.” - Current EPR student

FINE ART (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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.

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.

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/lecture and art therapist.

COURSE DETAILS

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.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 in Art at GCSE.

GEOGRAPHY_(AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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.

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 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 using maps, GIS skills and data analysis and you will 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You need to achieve at least a 6 at GCSE in Geography. Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths and/or Science.



GERMAN (EDUQAS)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL GERMAN?

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. Studying German at A Level:

- enables students to develop and build upon the skills acquired at GCSE
- enhances employment prospects and improves self-confidence, analytical and communication skills.
- provides an insight into another culture and society
- facilitates foreign travel and increases opportunities to study or work abroad

COURSE DETAILS

The German A Level course is two years long. 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 are based on the four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or higher at GCSE.

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.



HISTORY (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in GCSE History. Grade 7 or above in GCSE English.



COURSE DETAILS

Component One: The Early Tudors (1485-1547) - 25%

You will be introduced to the lives and policies of the Early Tudor Monarchs, including Henry VII and VIII, Edward VI and Mary I.

Component Two: Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany (1919-1963) - 15%

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

Component 3: Civil Rights in the USA (1865-1992) - 40%

This course tracks the development of the civil rights of 4 different groups of people; African-Americans, Native-Americans, Women and Workers.

Component 4: The NEA (coursework) - 20%

In addition to the taught units above, you will also write a 4,000-word piece of coursework on a topic of your choosing.

MATHEMATICS (EDEXCEL)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics at A Level is not a subject to be taken lightly. It demands resilience, curiosity, and a willingness to grapple with abstract ideas. If you enjoy solving complex problems, thinking logically, and making sense of patterns and structures, then Mathematics could be the right choice for you. You will develop the ability to approach problems methodically and assess data critically; skills that are increasingly vital in a world driven by information and technology.

This subject will help you see the connections between theory and the real world, deepening your understanding of both natural and human-made systems. Mathematics trains the mind in logical thinking, precision, and analytical reasoning. Qualities that are not only essential in STEM fields but also highly sought after in a wide range of careers.

A Level Mathematics is a versatile qualification that serves as a foundation for many university courses, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It is regarded as a rigorous and respected subject by both universities and employers.

COURSE DETAILS

The A Level Mathematics course is divided into three main areas: Pure Mathematics (approximately two-thirds of the content), Mechanics (one-sixth), and Statistics (one-sixth).

- Pure Mathematics focuses on algebra, calculus, coordinate geometry, sequences, trigonometry, and other fundamental mathematical concepts.
- Mechanics explores motion, forces, Newton's laws, and momentum, making it particularly relevant for students interested in Physics or Engineering.
- Statistics involves data analysis, probability, the Normal distribution, regression, correlation, and interpretation of statistical diagrams.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 8 or above in GCSE Maths. Grade 7 would be discussed on an individual basis. As algebra is such an essential tool at advanced level, a clear and consolidated understanding of algebraic techniques studied at GCSE is vital.





FURTHER MATHEMATICS (EDEXCEL)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

Further Mathematics is widely regarded as one of the most intellectually challenging A Levels. It is ideally suited to students who are passionate about Mathematics and eager to explore the subject in greater depth. If you relish working through multi-stage problems, enjoy abstract reasoning, and want to push your mathematical thinking to new levels, this course offers a stimulating and rewarding opportunity.

Studying Further Mathematics not only enhances your problem-solving skills but also broadens your mathematical toolkit, introducing new areas of mathematics that are not covered in the standard A Level course. It is especially beneficial for those considering degrees in Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, Engineering, or other mathematically intensive subjects. In fact, for many competitive university courses, Further Mathematics is either highly recommended or essential.

COURSE DETAILS

Further Mathematics must be taken alongside A Level Mathematics and can be chosen as a fourth A Level. Due to the advanced nature of the content, students are encouraged to speak with their Mathematics teacher to assess their suitability for the course.

The structure of the course includes two compulsory Pure Mathematics modules, covering more advanced algebra, calculus, and mathematical proofs. In addition, students choose two optional modules, selected from areas such as additional Pure Mathematics, Mechanics, Statistics, or Decision Mathematics.

Further Mathematics is both demanding and enriching. It not only prepares students for higher education but also develops a level of mathematical fluency and confidence that will be invaluable in many future careers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 9 in GCSE Maths.
Grade 8 would be discussed
on an individual basis.

As algebra is such an
essential tool at advanced
level, a clear and
consolidated understanding
of algebraic techniques
studied at GCSE is vital.



MUSIC (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL MUSIC?

A level music is academic, practical, creative and enjoyable. It draws together a wide range of skills, and provides a range of different challenges during the course. No two lessons will be alike - a must for anyone wishing for Music to be an ongoing part of their life!

A Level Music is vital for anyone considering a future in the music industry, whether that be performing, teaching or composing. Anyone wanting to develop skills they have built up by learning an instrument or singing should also consider it.

COURSE DETAILS

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Music. 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.

Please note that only one musical course (Music or Music Production) will run in any given academic year, depending on demand for the subject.

MUSIC PRODUCTION (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE BTEC MUSIC PRODUCTION?

If you want to learn how technology aids every aspect of the Music Industry, this is the course for you. The Digital Music Production BTEC, equivalent to one A level in weight, gives you the technical and creative skills needed to thrive in a competitive industry.

From choosing the right microphones to exploiting the latest computer software, using effects to creating synthesised sounds, you will learn the principles of how sound is recorded, created, mixed, mastered and produced.

COURSE DETAILS

There are two mandatory units which make up 50% of the course. These are:

- DAW Production. A DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) is the name given to computer software used to record, create and mix audio content. We use ProTools, which is industry standard software.
- Music and Sound for Media. This unit explores the different demands for music in the current industry, from promotional videos to animation, websites to apps, gaming to film.

There are a further three optional units, taken from a choice of four.

- Creative Synthesis and Sampling: we create both Man Made and sampled sounds and then use the DAW to get really creative with them.
- Remixing and Reworking: songs are constantly being remixed – but what does this involve?
- Mixing and Mastering Techniques: how do we go from a recorded sound to a final mix? EQ, noise gates, compressors, reverb, delay and so much more....
- Commercial Music Production: how to be successful in the industry?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music. 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.



PERFORMING ARTS (PEARSON)

(ACTING, DANCE AND MUSICAL THEATRE)

WHY CHOOSE BTEC PERFORMING ARTS?

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts helps you develop a range of practical, creative, and professional skills that are valuable both within the performing arts industry and in many other careers. The course builds confidence and communication skills. Through rehearsals, performances, and group work, you learn how to express ideas clearly, speak in front of an audience, and collaborate effectively with others. These skills are highly valued in careers such as teaching, media, business, and public speaking.

The qualification develops creative and practical performance skills. You will gain experience in acting, rehearsal techniques, character development, and responding to different performance styles. This prepares you for further study in performing arts, theatre, film, or drama at university or drama school.

The BTEC qualification is recognised by universities and employers. It can support progression to higher education courses in performing arts, drama, theatre studies, musical theatre, or media. This A Level can also lead to careers in acting, directing, performing, theatre management or arts education.

COURSE DETAILS

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Performing Arts is an exciting and inspiring course that offers a highly practical approach to learning. It provides students with the opportunity to work as performers and/or designers, developing both creative and technical skills.

Over the two-year course, students will study Acting, Dance and Musical Theatre, which consists of five units, and gain hands-on experience across a range of performance disciplines. Assessment takes place in a variety of ways, including focused practical projects, audition-style scenarios, professional workshops and live performances, allowing students to build confidence, creativity and collaboration skills while experiencing the world of performance.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in GCSE English, Maths and/or Drama.

No previous knowledge of the subject is required, however, a practical ability and interest in Performing Arts is desirable.

"Performing Arts at Westholme has given me the confidence to express myself, take risks and truly find my voice."

"Whether on stage or behind the scenes, every opportunity has helped me grow."

Current Upper Sixth student



PHOTOGRAPHY_(AQA)

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.

COURSE DETAILS

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.

Photography is broken down into two components:

- Component 1 - Personal investigation (60%)
- Component 2 - Exam practical 15 hours (40%)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Photography or a Creative Arts or Technology subject at GCSE.





PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PEARSON)

WHY CHOOSE BTEC PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

If you are interested in all aspects of sport, health and fitness, then this is the course for you. The BTEC Sport Extended Certificate is equivalent to an A Level and is designed to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical and technical skills. 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.

This qualification enables students to engage in vocational tasks that foster the development of industry-relevant behaviours and transferable skills, preparing them for both further education and employment.

COURSE DETAILS

The Extended Certificate consists of four units, including three mandatory components; Anatomy and Physiology, Fitness Training and Programming and Professional Development in the Sports Industry.

Students will also complete one optional unit, which may vary each year based on cohort needs. Potential options include Sports Leadership, Fitness Testing

and Programming, Sports Psychology and Practical Sports Performance.

Assessment is conducted through a combination of coursework, examinations, and supervised written assessments:

- Two units are assessed via coursework, which may include assignments, video evidence, or presentations.
- One unit is assessed through a formal examination.
- One unit is assessed through a synoptic examination

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE and GCSE Biology.



FURTHER INFORMATION

The BTEC Sport qualification offers flexibility through its optional units, allowing learners to tailor their studies to their interests and career aspirations. It adopts a learner-centred approach, emphasising project-based assessments that develop practical, interpersonal, and critical thinking skills. This holistic approach ensures students are well-equipped for both employment opportunities and further academic progression.

Careers involve sports, health and fitness, coaching, sports management, physiotherapy, psychology, sports science, sports injuries, sports nutrition, sports journalist and emergency services.



PHYSICS (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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.

You'll gain strong logical reasoning, analytical skills, and the ability to solve complex problems methodically, all skills which are highly sought-after by employers and universities. A level Physics also provides a critical base for further study in physics, engineering, mathematics, computer science, and other technical and scientific fields. Universities value Physics A-level, as it demonstrates strong academic ability and is considered a key subject for a wide array of degree courses, including medicine and engineering. Finally, studying Physics deepens your understanding of the world. From the smallest particles to the largest cosmic structures, Physics attempts to explain some of the greatest mysteries of our Universe.

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.

A Level Physics is a highly demanding course and as such it is essential that a student has a minimum of a Grade 7s at 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, studying the Mechanics option will provide a very useful overlap with the Mechanics section of the Physics course. The lessons feature a mix of theory and practice, with experimental work underpinning many of the concepts you will learn.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Physics/Science or two 7s in Combined Science GCSE. Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths.

A Level Mathematics is not necessary, as extra skills can be taught as needed.

POLITICS (EDEXCEL)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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?’

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.

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. You will also look at how the judiciary functions and the Supreme Court.

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 above in any written subject at GCSE including English, History, Religious Studies and Geography.



PRODUCT DESIGN (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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.

COURSE DETAILS

Exams

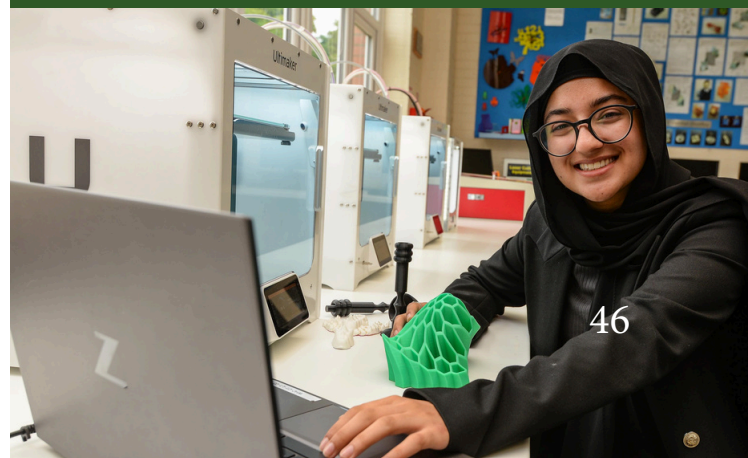
- Paper 1 – 30% of A Level Technical principles (TP) – 2.5 hours 120 marks
- Paper 2 – 20% of A Level Design and making principles (DMP) – 1.5 hours 80 marks
- Combined written paper weighting – 50% of the A Level

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Product Design.



PSYCHOLOGY

(AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY?

A Level Psychology offers students a fascinating insight into human behaviour, helping them to understand why people think, feel and act as they do.

The course develops critical thinking, analytical and research skills, while exploring real-world topics such as mental health, memory and social influence, making it both engaging and highly relevant 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. In Year 12 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 Forensics. Students enjoy applying their theoretical knowledge to high profile criminal cases, such as Ted Bundy. Another popular topic is Clinical Psychology and mental health.



Whilst studying this topic, students enjoy learning about the symptoms, causes and treatments of phobias, depression and OCD.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Science, GCSE Maths and any written subject including English, History, Religious Studies and Geography.

You will need to demonstrate good numeracy and literacy skills and an ability to handle scientific concepts.

SOCIOLOGY (AQA)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL 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!

Sociology is a fantastic subject for anyone wishing to work with people. It explores 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.

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 6 or above in any written subject at GCSE including English, History, Religious Studies and Geography.



SPANISH (EDUQAS)

WHY CHOOSE A LEVEL SPANISH?

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

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.

Almost 20% of the world's population speak Spanish, making it the second most widely-spoken language in the world. It is an official language in 20 countries, therefore learning Spanish broadens your cultural horizons and allows you to enjoy Spanish and Latin American culture through music, theatre, film and literature.

Learning another language has many benefits throughout your life. It improves your memory and cognition which later leads to success at school, higher earnings and greater employability.

COURSE DETAILS

The Spanish A Level course will be two years long.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7 or above in GCSE Spanish.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT	REQUIREMENT
Biology	Grade 7 or above in GCSE Biology, or two 7s in Combined Science GCSE. Grade 6 or above in Mathematics is preferred. You do not have to have studied Biology as a separate science in order to undertake the A Level course.
Business	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics. Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language. 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.
Chemistry	Grade 7 or above in your Chemistry GCSE or two 7s in Combined Science GCSE. Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths. 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.
Classic Civilisation	Grade 6 or above in English Literature or any written subject at GCSE including English, History and EPR. No previous knowledge of the subject is required, however, Classicists should have an inquisitive mind, be willing to debate, and have a passion for mythology, history and literature.
Computer Science	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Computer Science. Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths.
Drama & Theatre	Grade 6 or above in GCSE English and/or Drama. No previous knowledge of the subject is required.
Economics	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics. Grade 7 or above in GCSE English.
English Language	Grade 7 in both GCSE English Literature and English Language. You should find language fascinating and possess an analytical mind and be prepared to deconstruct the nuances of spoken and written language.
English Literature	Grade 7 in both GCSE English Literature and English Language. 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 have a real love of reading.
Ethics, Philosophy & Religion	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Religious Studies or any written subject at GCSE including English or History. You need to possess an open mind, an ability to analyse language, the determination to construct a logical and coherent argument and a curiosity to explore the big questions that make us think in life.
Fine Art	Grade 6 in Art at GCSE.
Further Mathematics	Grade 9 at GCSE. Grade 8 would be discussed on an individual basis. As algebra is such an essential tool at advanced level, a clear and consolidated understanding of algebraic techniques studied at GCSE is vital.
Geography	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography. Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths and/or Science.
German	Grade 7 or above in GCSE German

SUBJECT	REQUIREMENT
History	Grade 7 or above in GCSE History. Grade 7 or above in GCSE English.
Mathematics	Grade 8 or above in GCSE Maths. Grade 7 would be discussed on an individual basis. As algebra is such an essential tool at advanced level, a clear and consolidated understanding of algebraic techniques studied at GCSE is vital.
Music	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Music. 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.
Music Production	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music. 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.
Performing Arts	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English, Maths and/or Drama. No previous knowledge of the subject is required, however, a practical ability and interest in Performing Arts is desirable.
Photography	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Photography or Creative Arts or Technology subject at GCSE.
Physical Education	Grade 5 or above in GCSE PE and GCSE Biology.
Physics	Grade 7 or above in GCSE Physics/Science or two 7s in Combined Science GCSE. Grade 7 or above in GCSE Maths. A Level Mathematics is not necessary as extra skills can be taught as needed. Students will be expected to practise their practical activities outside of lesson time.
Politics	Grade 6 or above in any written subject at GCSE including English, History, Religious Studies and Geography.
Product Design	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Product Design.
Psychology	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Science and Grade 6 in any written subject at GCSE including English, History, Religious Studies and Geography. You will need to demonstrate good numeracy and literacy skills and an ability to handle scientific concepts.
Sociology	Grade 6 or above in any written subject at GCSE including English, History, Religious Studies and Geography.
Spanish	Grade 7 or above in GCSE Spanish.



WESTHOLME

PREP | SENIORS | SIXTH FORM

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

www.westholmeschool.com

01254 506070