

Hall Park Academy

Sixth Form Curriculum Booklet

A welcome from the Head of Sixth Form

We are extremely proud of our Sixth Form and work hard to ensure that all students achieve well and make aspirational choices about their futures in a friendly and welcoming environment. The Sixth Form team consists of a Head of Post 16, six designated Sixth Form Tutors and a Sixth Form Administrator, supported by the Trust Director of Post-16. The team will make sure that you are challenged and well supported to enable you to not only achieve excellent results, but to also grow into a person who will successfully take their place in society.

For the majority of students this will mean continuing on to Higher Education at university. We have many years of experience guiding students successfully through the UCAS process. Furthermore, along with the Redhill Academy Trust, we run a specially tailored and successful programme for students applying to Oxbridge, Medicine and Veterinary Science. Hall Park Academy Sixth Form also believes in ensuring that students have opportunities to take part in enrichment and extra-curricular activities that will widen their experiences and help them to make a positive contribution to the school and community. We have a committee of students who work closely with the Sixth Form team in organising enrichment activities, charity fundraising and social events.

We have very high expectations in terms of academic rigour, attendance and attitude to learning and we encourage parents to play a key role in helping us to achieve this. This partnership is vital as we continue to strive for excellence and ensures that students remain focused throughout their studies.

If you require any further information, or would like a tour of the Sixth Form, please do not hesitate to contact us via the Sixth Form office. I look forward to meeting you.

Emma Kelly
Head of Sixth Form

Entry Requirements

All students must attain five 9-4 grades at GCSE (or BTEC equivalents) with preferably a grade 5 in either English language or Mathematics. Individual subjects may require a 4 grade in a particular subject at GCSE (see course details), the exception to this being Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics which require a grade 5.

All students will be expected to choose 3 A levels which they will study for 2 years. Due to recent changes in curriculum and assessment practice, students will no longer sit an AS exam at the end of Year 12 but will sit all examinations at the end of Year 13. In addition students will choose to study an enrichment course which they will follow in Year 12.

A Level Subject	Entry Requirements
Art	GCSE Grade 5 in Art. If Art not studied at GCSE, we will look at each individual case.
Biology	GCSE Grade 5 in Biology or a Combined Science Grade 5,5.
Business Studies	GCSE Grade 5 in Business. If Business not studied at GCSE we will look at each individual case.
Chemistry	GCSE Grade 5 in Chemistry or a Combined Science Grade 5,5.
Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science Grade 5.
Drama & Theatre Studies	GCSE Grade 5 in Drama and either English Lnaguage or English Literature
English Language	GCSE Grade 5 in English Language.
English Literature	GCSE Grade 5 in English Literature and English Language.
French	GCSE Grade 5 in French.
Further Maths	GCSE Grade 7 in Maths.
Geography	GCSE Grade 5 in Geography & Grade 4 in English. If Geography not studied at GCSE we will look at each individual case.
History	GCSE Grade 5 in History.
Maths	GCSE Grade 6 in Maths.
PE	GCSE Grade 5 in PE and regularly participating in a competetive sport.
Photography	GCSE Grade 5 in Art, English, or any relevant subject.
Physics	GCSE Grade 5 in Physics or a Combined Science Grade 5,5. GCSE Maths Grade 5.
Politics	GCSE Grade 5 in English.
Design & Tecnology	GCSE Grade 5 in D&T. If D&T not studied, we will look at each individual case.
Psychology	GCSE Grade 5 in English or Maths.
Sociology	GCSE Grade 5 in English.

BTEC Subject	Entry Requirements
Health & Social Care (equivalent to 1 A Level)	Standard entry requirements.
IT (equivalent to 1 A Level)	Standard entry requirements.
Applied Science (equivalent to 1 A Level)	GCSE Combined Science Grade 4,4.
Music (equivalent to 1 A Level)	GCSE Grade 4 in Music.
Sport Science (equivalent to 1 A Level)	GCSE Grade 4 in English or Maths.



A Level Biology

Why Biology?

Biology allows you to better understand the world around us from the biological molecules that make up organisms, down to the macrostructure of an ecosystem. Biology is a rapidly developing area and an in depth understanding of the subject gives you the skills and knowledge needed to make informed decisions about contentious issues such as cloning, stem cell research and xenotransplantation.

What can I expect?

During the two year A level course in Biology we study a huge variety of topics including cell structure, the human transport systems, plant transport, ecology and conservation, homeostasis, the biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis and genetics.

Through studying Biology you will also develop many different skills. For example: Practical skills required to manipulate scientific equipment with precision to gather accurate results

Analytical skills required to analyse and evaluate data and draw conclusions Problem-solving skills which allow you to apply the knowledge that you have gained to unfamiliar situations

What do I need?

A Grade 5 (from a higher paper) in Biology GCSE or a Grade 5,5 in Combined Science.

What about the future?

There are a number of University courses and careers which Biology A level can lead into. For example medicine, dentistry, biochemistry, genetics, physiotherapy, sports science, nursing, midwifery, pharmacology and environmental science. Biology also has links with many other subjects including Chemistry, Physics, Maths, PE and Geography.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

A Level Physics

Why Physics?

Physics is fundamental to our understanding of how the universe works and sits right at the heart of technology development. Studying physics helps you develop skills employers' value – an ability to grasp concepts quickly, a determination to find coherent answers, not to mention problem-solving, analytical, and mathematical and IT skills. What can I expect?

Module 1 – Measurements and their errors.

Module 2 – Particles and radiation.

Module 3 – Waves.

Module 4 – Mechanics and materials.

Module 5 – Electricity

Module 6 – Further mechanics

Module 7 – Fields

Module 8 – Nuclear and Astro-Physics

What do I need?

A Grade 5 (from a higher paper) in Physics GCSE or a Grade 5,5 in Combined Science.

What about the future?

The A Level Physics course will prepare you for progression to undergraduate study, enabling you to enter a range of academic and vocational careers in astronomy, armed forces and defence solutions, engineering , medicine, meteorology and climate change, nanotechnology, oil and gas, renewable energy, scientific research, space exploration industries, telecommunications and research and education.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

A Level Chemistry

Why Chemistry?

Chemistry plays an important role in the modern world and has a huge impact on our lives. It is a science with a well-developed theory base and continues to make new advances into new materials, medicines, semiconductors, trace analysis and catalysts.

What can I expect?

During this course you will build and develop your knowledge of chemical principles. You will explore the nature of chemical reactions and structure of substances at an atomic and molecular level through a combination of practical and theory-based work.

What do I need?

Grade 5,5 in Combined Science (Higher) or grade 5 in Chemistry. You need an enquiring mind, an interest in science, strong problem solving and good mathematical skills.

What about the future?

A-level Chemistry is a highly valued qualification and can lead to a vast range of careers; only a small number of students studying A-level chemistry will go on to be chemists. If you are thinking of studying medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary science or any chemical science degree you must have A-level Chemistry.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

Level 3 BTEC National in Applied Science (Extended Certificate)

Why Applied Science?

Equivalent to one A Level in size, it is suitable for students looking to develop their applied knowledge and skills in medical sciences as part of a study programme alongside two A Levels. The qualification can link to learning in A Level subjects such as physical education and sport, sociology, chemistry and psychology. It is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education as a pathway to employment.

What can I expect?

You will have to complete a range of units, be organised, take some external assessments and undertake practical tasks and assignments. 58% of the total qualification is made up of external assessment.

Medical Science enables students to study the principles and applications of medical science through three mandatory units, and further explore other areas in more detail via an optional unit.

Mandatory units cover the following areas: Human anatomy, physiology and pathology, Health issues and scientific reporting, Practical microbiology and infectious diseases.

Optional units provide opportunity for students to choose one of the following specific specialist areas: Diseases, disorders, treatments and therapies, Biomedical science, Human reproduction and fertility.

What do I need?

Grade 4,4 in Combined Science (Higher) or grade 4 in Chemistry. You need an enquiring mind, an interest in science, strong problem solving and good mathematical skills.

What about the future?

Whatever your plans in life – whether you decide to study further, go on to work or an apprenticeship – your BTEC National will be your passport to success in the next stage of your life. This qualification can lead to progression to the following degrees: BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult Health/Child Health/Mental Health), BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science, BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

A Level Business Studies

Why Business Studies?

Fancy yourself at the head of a successful business? Got some great ideas for products or services? Or maybe you want to work for a large company by working in marketing or management. No matter what your vision for Business Studies, this A-level course gives you a great start. All the key topics of starting and running a business are covered at A Level. We also look at expanding businesses and developing business strategy.

What can I expect?

At A Level, the AQA specification introduces you to a range of topics including: What is Business?;Marketing; Operations; Finance and Human Resource Management. The specification considers strategies for larger businesses and how managers might measure the performance of the business, including the management of strategic change

What do I need?

It is preferable that students should achieve a Grade 5 in Business if studied at GCSE. If not, at least a grade 4 in one of either English or Maths.

What about the future?

Industries as diverse as chemicals, utilities, fashion, health, grocery and construction all require functional managers with a clear understanding of systems, efficiency and operational issues. Opportunities exist in management and analysis roles with employers in the private, public and voluntary sectors.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

“If you don’t do it excellently, then don’t do it at all. Because if it’s not excellent, it won’t be profitable or fun, and if you’re not in business for profit or fun, what the hell are you doing there?” - Robert Townsend

A Level Computer Science

Why Computer Science?

Complete an A-Level that gives you an understanding of and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. Use your ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems including writing programs to do so. Develop the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically and the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.

What do I need?

Grade 5 at Computer Science GCSE is essential

Areas Covered

• The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices

• Software and software development

• Exchanging data • Data types, data structures and algorithms

• Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues

• Elements of computational thinking

• Problem solving and programming

• Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

Computer Systems: This component will introduce learners to the internal workings of the Central Processing Unit (CPU), the exchange of data and will also look at software development, data types and legal and ethical issues. It is expected that learners will draw on this underpinning content when studying computational thinking, developing programming techniques and devising their own programming approach in the Programming project component

Algorithms and Programming understand what is meant by computational thinking, understand the benefits of applying computational thinking to solving a wide variety of problems, understand the principles of solving problems by computational methods, be able to use algorithms to describe problems, be able to analyse

Programming Project: Students independently choose, analyse, design, develop, test, and evaluate a complex practical programming solution using an appropriate high-level language • Analysis of the problem • Design of the solution • Developing the solution • Evaluation. This programming project component is a practical portfolio based assessment with a task that is chosen by the teacher or learner and is produced in an appropriate programming language of the learner's or teacher's choice.

Mathematical skills are embedded throughout the content of the three components. They will be assessed in the written papers and through the non examined assessment where appropriate.

A Level Sociology

Why Sociology?

AQA A Level Sociology offers students the opportunity to critically examine the structures and processes that shape society. Through the study of key topics such as **Education**, students explore whether the education system serves the interests of learners or those in positions of power and consider which social groups may be disadvantaged within it. The **Crime and Deviance** topic investigates the formation of subcultures, and the reasons individuals may conform to or deviate from societal norms and laws. Additional areas of study include **Family and Household**, where students analyse how family structures have evolved over time and how these changes affect different social groups. The role of media in shaping public opinion, reinforcing social norms, and influencing identity and behaviour. Throughout the course, students engage with **Sociological theories** and develop a strong understanding of **research methodologies**, enabling them to conduct and evaluate sociological investigations with academic rigour.

As a Sociology student, you'll learn through a mix of engaging teaching methods including traditional lessons, group discussions, and independent study. We'll support you in developing strong exam skills through regular homework and targeted guidance on how to succeed in assessments. These varied approaches are designed to develop key academic skills such as critical thinking, communication, and independent inquiry. Students undertaking A Level Sociology are expected to engage in regular independent study between lessons. This includes consolidating prior learning and preparing for upcoming topics through guided research and reading.

What do I need?

5 in GCSE English. Students with a 4 in GCSE English considered on an individual basis

What about the future?

Studying A Level Sociology equips students with a deep understanding of the social structures, institutions, and processes that shape human behaviour and society. This subject fosters critical thinking, analytical skills, and cultural awareness—qualities that are highly valued in both higher education and the workplace. Students develop the ability to evaluate evidence, construct reasoned arguments, and understand diverse perspectives—skills that are essential in a wide range of careers. Furthermore, the research methods component of the course prepares students for university-level study by introducing them to data collection, analysis, and ethical considerations in social research.

In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, Sociology helps students become informed, reflective, and socially responsible citizens—ready to contribute thoughtfully to society and adapt to a variety of professional environments

A Level English Literature

Why English Literature?

This course explores what is most rewarding about studying literature: uncovering deeper meanings, debating important ideas and developing your own critical interpretations. Building on the analytical skills and enthusiasm developed at GCSE, you will encounter a wide range of texts, authors and perspectives. Through discussion, analysis and wider reading, you will learn to evaluate different interpretations and express complex ideas with confidence.

What can I expect?

You will study a diverse range of texts, including Shakespeare's Othello, Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire, Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, Carol Ann Duffy's Feminine Gospels and a collection of pre-1900 poetry. Alongside exploring writers' methods, themes and contexts, you will debate different interpretations and develop your own critical voice. You will also complete an independent coursework project, producing a comparative study of two literary texts of your choice.

What do I need?

You will need a Grade 5 in both English Literature and English Language, alongside a genuine love of reading.

What about the future?

English Literature develops highly valued skills in analysis, interpretation, communication and independent thinking. As a result, it is highly regarded by universities and employers across a wide range of professions. English Literature students can progress into careers such as law, teaching, journalism, publishing, marketing, public relations, media and advertising. The subject also provides an excellent foundation for careers in politics, business, civil service, communications and the creative industries.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom, students are expected to complete regular independent study. As a guide, for every hour spent in lessons, a further hour should be dedicated to reading, research, revision and coursework preparation. Engaging with literature beyond the classroom through novels, poetry, theatre, film and literary criticism will help students develop the breadth of knowledge and insight needed for success at A Level.

"When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young." – Maya Angelou

A Level English Language

Why English Language?

This course explores how language is woven into every aspect of our lives. Building on the reading and writing skills developed at GCSE, you will investigate how and why language varies according to different contexts. You will explore how children acquire language, how English has changed over time, and how language can shape ideas, identity and culture. Our language is evolving constantly. So, the more you study it, the more exciting new territory you will discover.

What can I expect?

This is a dynamic and engaging course that combines analytical thinking with creativity. You will analyse a wide range of spoken, written and electronic texts. Alongside this, you will conduct your own independent language investigation and produce an original writing project for your NEA (coursework). The course encourages students to read widely, think critically and communicate ideas with precision and flair.

What do I need?

You will need a Grade 5 in both English Language and English Literature, alongside a genuine interest in reading, writing and the power of words.

What about the future?

English Language develops highly valued skills in analysis, communication, research and creative thinking. As a result, it is respected by universities and employers across a wide range of sectors.

English Language students can progress into careers such as journalism, law, teaching, publishing, marketing, public relations, advertising, speech and language therapy, and forensic linguistics.

The subject also provides an excellent foundation for careers in media, business, politics, human resources, and the rapidly growing fields of digital communications and content creation.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom, students are expected to complete regular independent study. As a guide, for every hour spent in lessons, a further hour should be dedicated to reading, research, revision and coursework preparation. Engaging with language in the wider world through podcasts, articles, books and current affairs will help students develop the insight needed for success at A Level.

"Linguistic creativity is not simply a property of exceptional people but an exceptional property of all people". – Ron Carter

A Level Maths

Why Maths?

The main reason for studying Mathematics to an advanced level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction. You should also be aware of the wide importance of Mathematics and the way in which it is advancing at a spectacular rate. Mathematics has a pervasive influence on our everyday lives and contributes to the wealth of the country.

What can I expect?

Mathematics is a selection of higher level algebra including co-ordinate geometry with traditional calculus and trigonometry. The statistics element overlaps with some GCSE content and delves further into looking at the mathematical models surrounding many theoretical probability and data driven situations. You will also study further applications of mathematics in mechanics, including Newton's laws of motion and vectors.

What do I need?

GCSE Maths Grade 6 from the Higher Tier Exam is the entry requirement. A full understanding of the more complex topics studied at GCSE such as solving quadratic equation, surds and indices, transformation of graphical functions and the more advanced trigonometry (using the sine and cosine rules) is required. There is also a heavy demand of algebraic fluency and you will need to show a consistent high level of understanding in all of the algebraic content at a GCSE level.

What about the future?

Many careers lend themselves to highly numerate individuals who succeed at A-Level maths, including (but not limited to) Actuarial work, Accountancy, Engineering and Medical Statistics.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

"The difference between the poet and the mathematician is that the poet tries to get his head into the heavens while the mathematician tries to get the heavens into his head." - GK Chesterton

A Level French

Why French?

Speaking another language helps you to get to know other people and other cultures. More than 200 million people speak French across five continents. Learning another language opens your mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world. An ability to speak French is a huge advantage in the international job market, not only in France, but also in countries such as Canada, Switzerland, Belgium and parts of Africa. France is the world's fifth largest economy and the number three destination for foreign investment.

What can I expect?

The A-Level French course builds, and rapidly expands, upon the knowledge and skills gained at GCSE. Your communication skills will flourish, as will your knowledge of grammar. During the course you will study different aspects of French and Francophone society, as well as studying a book and a film. You will also complete an independent research project on the topic of your choice. Students will work more independently than at GCSE, but will be well-supported throughout the course.

What do I need?

GCSE French Grade 5 is essential.

What about the future?

There is a wealth of opportunities for students with French at A-Level and beyond. Language skills are highly prized in business and even small business can require staff who can communicate on the European platform. Finance, Marketing, Sales, Customer Services, Engineering and IT businesses all regularly require Modern Foreign Language speakers in high profile roles, as well as the more obvious opportunities in the industries of Travel and Tourism, Translation, Interpreting and Teaching.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

"If you talk to man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart." – Nelson Mandela

A Level Spanish

Why Spanish?

Spanish is so much more than a language. It is a passport to over 20 countries, hundreds of millions of people and a huge variety of cultures, traditions and perspectives.

Ever wondered what life is really like in Spain or Latin America? Why people are moving away from traditional ideas about family? How social media is changing young people's lives? Or how Spain has dealt with some of the most important events in its history?

At A-Level Spanish, you get to explore all of this – in Spanish!

And, of course, Spanish is an incredibly useful skill. It can open doors across Europe, Latin America and beyond, giving you an advantage in an increasingly international world.

What can I expect?

You will develop your ability to speak, listen, read and write Spanish with much greater confidence and sophistication, while building a much deeper understanding of grammar and vocabulary.

You will explore fascinating questions about Spanish and Hispanic society, including topics such as changing family structures, technology, music, media, immigration, multiculturalism, politics and social issues.

You will also study a Spanish-language film and a literary work, allowing you to explore characters, ideas and cultures in much greater depth.

And there is even an opportunity to become an expert on something that interests you. As part of your independent research project, you will choose a topic connected to the Spanish-speaking world and research it in depth before discussing it as part of your speaking assessment.

What do I need?

GCSE Spanish Grade 5 is essential.

You don't need to be fluent already, but you do need to be curious, hardworking and willing to have a go.

What about the future?

Employers increasingly value people who can communicate across languages and cultures, and Spanish can be combined with almost any university subject or career. Spanish is useful in careers including: Business, Finance, Marketing, Law, ournalism, International Relations, Engineering, IT, Travel & Tourism, Translation, Interpreting, Teaching

You could work in the UK, Spain, Latin America or anywhere else where Spanish is spoken. Spanish doesn't have to be your whole career – it can be the extra skill that sets you apart from someone else applying for the same job.

Beyond the classroom

The best language learners don't only learn Spanish when they're sitting in a Spanish lesson!

You could watch a Spanish film, listen to Spanish music, follow Spanish-speaking influencers, watch the news, practise vocabulary online or simply try to use Spanish whenever you can.

For every hour of learning completed in lessons, students should aim to spend a further hour on independent study. The more Spanish you hear, read and use, the more natural it becomes.

A Level Geography

Why Geography?

Understanding geographical issues is vital for understanding the key issues which the world is facing today. It gives you an in depth insight in to the world, its cultures and its concerns. Geography opens up a variety of career opportunities from engineering and marketing to teaching and tourism. It effectively bridges the gap between the sciences and arts and is recognised as a subject that provides the necessary academic rigour for potential university placement. It is a solid qualification that has merit both in the workplace and academia.

What can I expect?

You will learn in a wide variety of ways such as by using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos and videos. You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and showing your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing. You will improve or gain an ability to work constructively in a team environment, gain cultural awareness, learn project management skills, including effective time management and learn research and critical thinking skills. You will learn a range of current topics which are affecting the world today such as water conflicts, energy security, superpowers, the development gap, tectonic hazards, migration and many more.

What do I need?

You need a strong interest in the subject and the correct attitude towards work, a Grade 5+ in GCSE Geography would be a great advantage.

What about the future?

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 subject that really fits well for your future progression. Having geography on your C.V. will impress potential employers and universities as it is a facilitating subject. The skills you will acquire in geography will help you in many careers such as business, economics, politics, environmental science, engineering, development work, international relations, tourism, armed forces, retail and many more.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

"Geography is the key to our future" Michael Palin.

A Level History

Why History?

Knowledge of History is vital for understanding key issues in the world today. It is an interesting course which offers topics that you are both familiar with and also ones which you may have never studied before.

What can I expect?

History is an exciting and well respected A Level. You will experience a wide variety of teaching methods.

Through individual and group work you will learn how to analyse and interpret a wide range of historical sources and you will have debates on key issues and will use information and resources from internet sites, together with developing your ICT skills.

In A Level History you will study:

Britain 1785-1870: democracy, protest and reform

The Unification of Germany 1840-1871

The making of modern Russia 1855-1991

The Holocaust - Coursework worth 20%

What do I need?

5 in History or another humanities subject

What about the future?

The skills gained in History are required for a wide variety of careers: including Law, Media and Journalism, Banking, the Civil Service and many others. It is recognised by the Russell Group of Universities as being a 'facilitating' subject (one that helps with others). Adding an A Level History qualification to your CV is always impressive to both prospective employers and higher education establishments.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

"Study the past if you would define the future" - Confucious

A Level Photography

Why Photography?

We live in a world incredibly rich in visual information: pictures and photographs in newspapers, magazines, posters, advertising, television, film, and printed books. Photographs change the way we see the world. As our ability to record has become less technically difficult, more people have taken advantage of it. Many more photographs are being produced. Stripped of its technical complexities, the 'Art' of photography has become increasingly important; photography is as much about seeing and thinking, as it is about content.

What can I expect?

This course offers learners an opportunity to fully develop and explore the chosen specialism of Photography whilst expanding knowledge, understanding and skills in a range of specialist areas. It is designed to encourage learners to develop skills, creativity, imagination and independence. It provides an opportunity for learners to take a personal interest in why Photography matters and to be inspired and changed by studying a coherent, worthwhile course of study, together with gaining experience of the working practices of individuals, organisations and creative and cultural industries. Learners will experience one or more areas of Photography, such as with portraiture, landscape photography, commercial photography, still-life photography, documentary photography, experimental imagery, editorial photography, photographic installation, the photographic process and the moving image. The following are some of the techniques available to learners in Photography: digital technology; the use of camera equipment and lenses; lighting and exposure techniques; moving image; image manipulation and printing.

What do I need?

Grade 5 in Art. You must have a genuine interest in Art and Design and a desire to study Photography in great depth. You are expected to put in a considerable amount of study time, both in lessons and at home due to the nature of the course and to fulfil content.

What about the future?

Possible career routes include Portrait Photographer, Landscape Photographer, Commercial Photographer, Scientific and Medical Photographer, Documentary Photography, Editorial Photographer, Fashion Photographer, Photojournalist, Aerial Photographer, Fine Artist, Graphic Designer, Teacher, Forensic Photographer, Advertising and Marketing Communications, Film, Television and Games Photography.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care

Why Health & Social Care?

The Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care offers a thorough and engaging introduction to the health, social care, and early years sectors. It is an ideal qualification for students who are passionate about supporting others, promoting wellbeing, and making a meaningful contribution to society.

This course blends academic study with practical application, helping students develop essential skills such as communication, empathy, teamwork, and problem-solving. Key areas of study include human development, health promotion, safeguarding, and the roles and responsibilities of professionals working within care environments.

What do I need?

It is preferable that students achieve at least a Grade 4 in either English or Mathematics, as these skills are fundamental to success in both the coursework and future career pathways.

What about the future?

Students who complete the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care have successfully progressed to university courses, apprenticeships, or direct employment. Many former students are now pursuing careers in: Teaching , Social Work , Nursing and Midwifery , Early Years Education , Mental Health Support

This qualification provides a strong foundation for further study and is recognised by universities and employers across the sector.

Beyond the classroom

To succeed in this course, students are expected to dedicate time outside of lessons to independent study. For every hour of classroom learning, it is recommended that students commit at least one additional hour to private study, research, or coursework preparation.

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." - World Health Organization, 1948

A Level Drama & Theatre Studies

Why Biology?

Studying drama and theatre at A level gives you the opportunity explore a wide range of play texts, theatre genres and dramatic styles as a performer, director and audience member. Through a range of creative and inspiring units, you will develop your skills to experiment with practical ideas, deepen your understanding of building and presenting performance work as an actor or designer and develop your ability to evaluate the drama and theatre created and watched. This course is ideal for anyone who is inspired by drama and theatre and keen to progress as a performer, director and/or designer. The course is highly regarded due to its practical and theoretical demands.

What can I expect?

The A Level course will be assessed through a combination of a written examination and non-examined assessment. The non-examined assessment will include performance or design work based on texts studied and devised material explored. Through written and practical responses, you will be expected to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of complete play texts and key extracts, the work and methodologies of theatre practitioners and companies and scripted and devised performance.

What do I need?

Grade 5 in drama. Students with a 4 on GCSE Drama will be considered on an individual basis

If you have not taken drama at GCSE level but have an aptitude for performance work, this will be considered. The course is practically demanding and students are expected to experiment with contrasting performance styles and forms. In order to succeed, you will need to demonstrate the skills of commitment, collaboration and determination throughout the rehearsal and performance process. In addition, the theoretical demands of the course are high and you should be able to evaluate the drama and theatre explored, created and watched with understanding and insight.

What about the future?

The study of drama and theatre opens a pathway to many possible careers within the performing arts industry including: acting for stage or screen, directing, producing, writing, technical or design work with a focus on lighting, sound, costume, make up or set, teaching and theatre in education, drama therapy, community drama work. In addition, the skills gained through the study of drama and theatre can lead to successful careers in various fields: law, media, publicity, teaching, social work and many more.

A Level Art

Why Art?

Whether you intend to pursue a career in the arts or follow a path that is unrelated to art, having an A-Level in Art can show that you have a wide range of skills, and another side to your talents.

Many employers are looking for creative thinking skills; art allows you to develop and demonstrate these skills. On completion of the A-Level Course, you will leave with technical skill in a wide range of media, knowledge and understanding that will enrich your appreciation and enjoyment of the arts.

What can I expect?

The A Level in Art has been designed to develop an adventurous and enquiring approach to Art and Design. In particular, the aim of the A Level is to develop intellectual, imaginative and creative powers. Students will build up a broad skill base, which will give them the opportunity to refine and extend technical, expressive and experimental skills. Students will explore a wide range of media and materials, from large scale paintings to small scale etchings. Students extend their knowledge and understanding of art through explorative study and investigation, as well as visits to galleries and artists' studios.

What do I need?

Grade 5 in Art. Students wishing to take the A Level in Art should be open minded and willing to try new things. They should have an enjoyment of art, both in terms of creating their own work as well as an enthusiasm to know more about artists, designers and the contexts in which they operate. It is recommended that pupils have studied GCSE Art before undertaking the course.

What about the future?

A-Level Art can allow you to progress on to a wide range of Degrees within the arts, spanning out to specialisms such as Design, Architecture, Fashion, Education, Film etc. Our students also use their A-Level in Art to gain the UCAS points to get onto the Degree of their choice. Art is a recognised subject at Russell Group Universities such as Oxford. Most students complete a Foundation studies course before choosing a specialised area to study at degree.

Beyond the classroom

Outside the classroom it is recommended that for every hour of learning completed in lesson, a further hour should be dedicated to private study around the subject.

'Art is that in which the hand, the head and the heart of man go together' John Ruskin

A Level Psychology

Why Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. It explores how mental processes influence actions, emotions, and interactions, offering valuable insights into why individuals think and behave the way they do. The subject encourages critical thinking and debate around real-life issues, helping students to understand both themselves and others more deeply.

Throughout the course, students investigate a range of engaging topics including social influence, memory, attachment, schizophrenia, and forensic psychology. These areas provide a broad understanding of human behaviour across different contexts and life stages.

In addition to exploring psychological theories and approaches, students develop essential research skills, learning how to design studies, analyse data, and evaluate findings—skills that are highly transferable and beneficial for future academic and professional pathways.

What can I expect?

A Level Psychology offers a fascinating exploration into human behaviour and mental processes. The course will challenge your existing assumptions about how the brain works and encourage you to think critically about the factors that influence thoughts, emotions, and actions. Independent reading is a key component of the course, including engagement with psychological theories, studies, and experiments. Throughout the programme, you will develop a strong understanding of the research methods used by psychologists to gather data and draw evidence-based conclusions about behaviour. From the outset, there is a clear focus on exam preparation. You will learn how to apply psychological knowledge to real-world contexts, analyse data, and construct well-reasoned arguments. Lessons incorporate a variety of learning approaches, including teacher-led instruction, collaborative group work, and student presentations, all designed to build the academic and analytical skills required for success at university and beyond.

What do I need?

Students will need either a grade 5 in English or Maths, but Maths needs to be a minimum of a grade 4.

What about the future?

Studying A Level Psychology opens the door to a wide range of future opportunities. It is directly relevant to careers in healthcare, medicine, education, and human resources, and provides a strong foundation for more specialised roles such as therapy, counselling, clinical psychology, and forensic psychology. Beyond traditional pathways, Psychology is increasingly valued in fields such as marketing, recruitment, retail design, and sports performance, where understanding human behaviour is key to success. The analytical, research, and communication skills developed throughout the course are highly transferable and sought after across many industries. Many students choose to progress to university-level Psychology degrees, particularly those accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS). These degrees are essential for those wishing to become Chartered Psychologists, a professional status that opens doors to advanced practice and leadership roles within the discipline.

A Level Physical Education

Why PE?

This course provides students with a programme aimed at understanding and evaluating sport and physical activity. Strong emphasis is placed on the application of theory to practical issues such as participation, performance and skill acquisition. If you love playing and watching sport, keeping fit and healthy and are interested in how the body works, you will enjoy this course.

What can I expect?

The Exam: The exam element of the course is worth 70% of the final grade. The majority of your lessons will be theory based.

Content includes; applied anatomy and physiology, Skill acquisition, sport psychology, sport in society, exercise physiology, sport and society and sport and technology. This is assessed through three separate exam papers. The practical: The practical element of the course is worth 30% of the final grade. The student is assessed in one sport, as either a performer OR coach.

You must also complete a piece of coursework, this is an oral speech in which pupils are asked to evaluate and suggest improvements to a practical performance in their chosen sport.

What do I need?

You must be a competent performer in one sport and play sport outside of school to take this course. You need to have a genuine interest in sport and physical education. The course is theory based and hard work is definitely required. A Grade 5 in GCSE PE is required to take this A Level subject.

What about the future?

A' level PE is excellent preparation for university, you will have to work independently and be responsible for much of your practical grade. It sits very well with Biology, Physics and Psychology as there are cross over topics on these courses. A' level PE is an excellent academic qualification for those considering studying it further at university or perhaps wanting a career in the sport industry. Past students have gone on to university, become physiotherapists, personal trainers, sport coaches, PE teachers, joined the army, become professional sports people, managers of leisure facilities and sports psychologists.

A Level Product Design

Why Product Design?

Think about the objects that you love. Your mobile phone with its comfortable curves was designed on a computer screen. The car you yearn for started life as a reduced size clay model. A building that you admire sprang from the drawing board of an architect. It's not a new phenomenon. Our fascination with 3D design goes back to flint arrow heads and earthenware pots.

What can I expect?

The course involves working towards 2 exams covering materials, processes, environmental issues and a knowledge of design and designing. It also involves a non-examination assessment where you produce a portfolio of design work and making a working prototype of your chosen product.

Assessments
Paper 1: Core technical principles and core designing and making principles.
Written exam: 2 hours - 100 marks - 25% of A-level
Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response.
Paper 2: Specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles.
Written exam: 2 hours - 25% of A-level
Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response.
Section A: Product Analysis & Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).
Section B: Commercial manufacture & Mixture of short and extended response questions.
Non-exam assessment (NEA)
Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.
Substantial design and make task - 45 hours - 100 marks - 50% of A-level
Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

What do I need?

We strongly advise that you achieve either a GCSE grade 5 in D&T or a GCSE grade 5 in Maths, having a GCSE or equivalent in a Design & Technology subject or Art would be considered an advantage. A Level Product design is the natural progression for those who have studied Product Design at GCSE and A-Level D&T also includes an element of maths (up to 30% of the combined papers).

What about the future?

Architecture, Automotive Design, Engineering, Ergonomic Design, Virtual Reality, Graphic Design, Product Design and Teaching are all possibilities.

"Design is good thinking, made visual" - Saul Bass

A Level Politics

Why Politics?

A-Level politics provides you with a deep understanding of British political systems, its history and political ideologies. You also learn about American politics and how The USA's unique political system was established. After studying politics you will be equipped with the tools to critically analyse political issues, fostering the ability to make well-informed decisions in a rapidly changing world. A-Level politics cultivates essential skills in research, essay writing, and debate, honing your analytical and communication abilities. Moreover, A-Level politics delves into topics such as power dynamics and social inequalities within the political realm. Furthermore, A-Level politics provides students with tools for in-depth political analysis, making it a valuable choice for those interested in pursuing careers in law, public services, journalism, and the business sector.

What can I expect?

You can expect an intellectually stimulating journey through the world of politics. You will get an understanding of the key ideas that have shaped political thought throughout history, and of course visit parliament itself. The course delves into the details of the British political system, including the roles of government, parliament, and the courts. We also study international politics, allowing you to grasp the complexities of global relations, diplomacy, and the impact of international organisations. Furthermore, you will engage with contemporary political issues, enabling you to analyse and debate topics like environmental politics, human rights, and globalization. You will be expected to keep up with political events over the time of the course and work out how political ideology affects the current political climate.

What do I need?

GCSE Grade 5 in English.

What about the future?

A-Level Politics equips you with a profound understanding of political systems, both locally and globally, which is crucial for many different career paths. The skills you develop in critical thinking, research, and essay writing will serve you well in any field you choose to pursue. Whether you're considering a career in politics, law, journalism, or even business, the ability to analyse complex issues and present well-structured arguments will be am asset. This course fosters an awareness of the world's political challenges, empowering you to actively participate in shaping the future. A-Level Politics is not just about exams; it's about preparing you for a lifetime of informed decision-making and meaningful engagement in the ever-evolving political landscape.

Beyond the classroom

Students will complete independent work between lessons to consolidate learning and prepare for topics by researching ahead. Lessons will include a variety of learning styles, including teacher-led, group work and individual presentations by students.

Cambridge Technicals Level 3 Sport and Physical Activity

Why Sport & Physical Activity?

This qualification is not just about being able to play sport; it will provide learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into Higher Education on a sport-related programme such as Sport and Physical Education, Sport Science, Sport Coaching and Development or Sport and Leisure Management

What can I expect?

The course consists of two exams and three coursework units. Over the two years, you will be learning the following topics:

Body systems

Sports coaching and leadership

Sociology in sport

Sports organisation and development

What do I need?

No practical sports are required for this course. A base knowledge of sport and an interest in sport is required to help with applying sporting examples to answers

What about the future?

This qualification will provide UCAS points for if students chose to go to university, become physiotherapists, personal trainers, sport coaches, PE teachers, joined the army, become professional sports people, managers of leisure facilities and sports psychologists.