



Hall Park
Academy

Sixth Form Curriculum 2024-25

Hall Park Academy

Sixth Form

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



Redhill Trust minimum entry requirements for Post-16 study.

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.

All students will be interviewed by a member of the Sixth Form team. This will enable them to make an informed choice about the best subjects to suit their individual needs. Parents are welcome to discuss these choices with the Sixth Form team following the interview.

Courses at Hall Park Academy

A Levels

Fine Art	DT Product Design	History	Photography
Biology	English Literature	Maths	Physical Education
Business Studies	French	Further Maths	Physics
Chemistry	Geography	Psychology	Sociology
Theatre Studies	German	Philosophy	Government and Politics
English Language			

Vocational Level 3 Qualifications

Health and Social Care	IT
Music	

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 55 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?

Strong mathematical skills (minimum GCSE Grade 5), as 40% of the exam papers assess mathematical ability. GCSE Combined Science (Grade 5) or Physics (Grade 5).

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.



A Level English Language

Why English Language?

This course introduces you to studying English Language as a real-life tool of communication. You will gain the skills needed to become a better speaker, reader and writer as you learn the structures and conventions that govern all human interaction. Language debates are a key element of the course with engaging topics such as child language acquisition, gender and regional variation. Moreover, you will develop your analytical skills and you will be given the opportunity to create your own creative texts.

What can I expect?

If you are interested in the power of words and you are keen to discover how written and spoken language works in our changing world, then this is the course for you. We look forward to being able to inspire young, enthusiastic linguists.

What do I need?

You will need a Grade 4 in English Literature and Language as well as a love of reading. Wider reading will be expected throughout the course as we will expect students to engage with a variety of writers and genres.

What about the future?

A qualification in English Language provides a valuable grounding for a number of academic avenues and career paths, including: forensic linguistics, secondary, primary and early years teaching, journalism, playwriting and many other related areas. Whatever your future may hold, having expertise in understanding and using language will be a vital skill.

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?; Managers, Leadership and decision making; 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 4 in at least 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

Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT

Why IT?

In a world where information technology (IT) is constantly changing, individuals increasingly need technological and information literacy skills that include the ability to gather, process and manipulate data. The impact of IT on society is enormous and as the percentage of businesses and households connected to communication networks such as the internet grows, so does the need for individuals who understand these new technologies.

What can I expect?

Recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of IT Apply knowledge, understanding and skills to produce IT-based solutions. Understand the steps that happen before producing and digital product. Creating digital products for a client with an understanding of audience and purpose. Analyse, evaluate, make reasoned judgements and present conclusions. Understanding how media works and the companies behind the modern day creation. This new course is a continuation of the offering at GCSE and will see pupils building their digital portfolio and learning a wide variety of industry standard software platforms.

Areas of theory covered are:

Recall, select and communicate knowledge and understanding of IT. Apply knowledge, understanding and skills to produce IT-based solutions. Analyse, evaluate, make reasoned judgements and present conclusions. Analyse, evaluate, make reasoned judgements and present conclusions You will explore and gain skills in all of the following areas:

- Communication
- Digital product design
- Graphics design (3D Modelling, animation, comic and graphic novel)
- Digital sound
- Group work
- Independence

What do we do?

3D modelling, Digital Animation, video game design and creation of sound in media.

What do I need?

It is preferable that students have studied the subject at KS4 due to the digital software skills required or a really keen interest to learn new skills and being creative.

What about the future?

ICT opens a world of opportunities, from IT Support Technician, Network Engineer, Software Engineer to Web Designer or Games Developer. "ICT in education is the key to unlocking the skills and knowledge of our future generations of young people. It is the tool for learning for the 21st century"

A-Level Philosophy

Why Philosophy?

Philosophy is the study of human thought. It will help you to think logically and question the world around you. You will study 4 units that will give you a good overall understanding of the subject:

Epistemology – the study of knowledge. This involves learning about what knowledge is and how true knowledge is discovered, starting with the ideas of Aristotle and Plato in Ancient Greece, and progressing through to modern times.

Moral Philosophy – the study of ethical right and wrong. You will learn theories about how we make moral judgements about what makes an action right, apply these theories to real world situations like stealing, lying, Vegetarianism and simulated killing, and also reflect on what moral Good actually is.

Metaphysics – the study of things beyond human experience. You will learn arguments for and against the existence of the Divine, and consider what level of proof can be applied to religious beliefs.

Metaphysics of Mind – the study of human consciousness. There is overlap with Psychology here, as you will contemplate what human existence is, and ask questions about how we know that we actually exist for real, where consciousness is and whether the idea of the human soul makes logical sense.

What can I expect?

There will be a fair amount of reading both in lessons and afterwards, along with essay-writing, and you will need to be willing to work both independently and as part of a group. It goes without saying that you will need to spend some time thinking things through. You will learn how to discuss ideas in a classroom environment where we are all supportive and everyone's voice will be heard. Over time you will learn how to speak effectively in public, and how to respond to debate and win the argument.

What do I need?

This will be a new subject at A' level and so there is no particular subject that you need to have already done at GCSE. You do need an interest in thinking deeply about life and a willingness to question things.

What about the future?

Philosophy will change the way you think about the world, and make you more skilful at persuading people and winning carefully constructed arguments. Previous students of Philosophy have gone on to study a range of courses at university including Law, Politics, History, Economics, and International Relations, as well as Philosophy itself.

Philosophy develops critical thinking skills and an appreciation for what makes for a good argument. You will learn how to structure a good essay and develop strategies to successfully challenge any counter argument being made. One uniqueness of Philosophy is that it combines well with every other Sixth Form course since there is no KS5 course that does not require critical thinking skills, and it prepares you for university as there is no Higher Ed course that does not require you to evaluate and debate ideas.

A-Level Sociology

Why Sociology?

Sociology is the study of how humans form societies and how they interact with each other. We study the Education system and arguments about whether education serves the needs of learners or the people in power and which groups are disadvantaged in the modern education system. We also study Crime and Deviance, including how subcultures form and why people either choose to follow or break the law. There are some shorter topics, including Households and families, where we look at how the way people live in family groups has changed, and the differences between different groups in society. We also study religion and belief in modern society, including how cults form and how shared belief systems hold societies together. Students also learn about theoretical ideas and develop an understanding of correct methodology for conducting Sociological research.

What can I expect?

Students will learn using a variety of methods, including traditional lessons, seminar discussion and private study. We will teach you how to succeed in exams and regular homework will help you to develop these important exam skills. Reading between lessons about the topics is essential, and a general awareness of current events by keeping in touch with the news will give you examples to develop answers in the exams.

What do I need?

As Sociology is a new subject at A' level there is no particular GCSE qualification that is essential, however students will need a willingness to reflect about how people live in society and be prepared to work by themselves outside of lessons. Many students combine Sociology with Psychology but it makes a good combination with any other subject as there are lots of overlapping ideas and skills with most subjects.

What about the future?

This is an excellent course for young people to develop an awareness of how the “world” works and it involves skills and knowledge that involve Politics, History, Law, Criminology, Psychology, Geography and Philosophy.

From A' level Sociology students go on to courses in Nursing, Law, Public Services (eg Police), International Relations, Politics, Journalism, Counselling and Criminology, not to mention Sociology itself. It is good preparation for careers in public sector jobs like social work, teaching and general care roles, but anyone doing a job that involves working with different groups in society will benefit from doing this course.

Beyond the classroom

Students are expected to 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. These develop the learning skills that students need to progress to university.

A-level English Literature

Why English Literature?

You will develop your skills of analysis, inference and deduction and will critically analyse a wider and more diverse range of texts than you have at GCSE. You will build on your GCSE study of English, reading to a deeper level and developing your analytical skills further.

What can I expect?

You will study a range of texts, including a Shakespeare play, poetry, novels and a range of extracts that will enable you to explore writers' techniques and thematic links across a variety of genres.

What do I need?

You will need a Grade 4 in English Literature and Language as well as a love of reading. Wider reading will be expected throughout the course as we will expect students to engage with a variety of writers and genres.

What about the future?

Careers to consider: School teacher, Journalism and writing, Publishing, TV, Radio, Film, Drama and Music.

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.

"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 Maths

Why A-Level 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 5 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 4 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 German

Why German?

Speaking another language helps you to get to know other people and other cultures. More than 200 million people speak German around the world. Learning another language opens your mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world. An ability to speak German is a huge advantage in the international job market, not only in Germany, but also in countries such as Switzerland, Austria and much of Eastern Europe. Germany is the world's fourth largest economy and is the USA's largest European trading partner. German is also the second most commonly used scientific language, and the world's third largest contributor to scientific research and development.

What can I expect?

The A-Level German 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 Germany and German-speaking countries, 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 German Grade 4 is essential.

What about the future?

There is a wealth of opportunities for students with German 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 I'm selling to you, I speak your language. But if I'm buying, dann müssen Sie Deutsch sprechen ." – Willy Brandt

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 into 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 4 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?

The most important aspect is a strong interest in the subject. You will need to enjoy reading and possess strong writing skills, however a GCSE History at Grade 4 or above would be a great asset in studying this course.

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" -
Confucius

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 and 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?

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.

Health & Social Care

Why BTEC Health & Social Care?

This course is designed to provide students with a broad introduction to the Health and Social Care sector. The qualification aims to develop and sustain an interest in health, early years (care and education), social care and issues affecting the care sector.

What can I expect?

This course is ideal for those students who know that they want a job which involves helping people in some way, even if they are not sure which type of employment they wish to enter. The vocational placement part of the course gives students the opportunity to gain an insight into a number of different job roles, as well as allowing individuals to gain the actual hands-on experience which is so important to universities and employers. The course is very generic, allowing students to study a variety of different topics.

What do I need?

It is preferable that students should achieve a Grade 4 in at least one of either English or Maths

What about the future?

Past students who have taken the Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care have either gone straight into a job role or have gained entry to a university course of their choice. Many are now working towards careers in teaching, social work and nursing / midwifery, whilst others have enrolled on an apprenticeship programme.

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.

“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 Theatre Studies

Why Theatre Studies?

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 influential theatre practitioners and companies and scripted and devised performance.

What do I need?

A Grade 4 or above at GCSE level is essential and wider experience of drama and theatre is desirable. 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, business management, social work 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.

A-Level Art

Why Art?

Range: 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.

Creative Thinking: Many employers are looking for creative thinking skills; art allows you to develop and demonstrate these skills.

A skill for life: On completion 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 huge 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 where they will get the opportunity to do life drawing.

What do I need?

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 as a means 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 study of how the human brain influences and affects our behaviour. It allows us to debate a range of fascinating and real-life topics to explain the reasons why people behave in the way that they do.

We study many individual topics concerning human behaviour, including how humans influence others, memory, how relationships form, Psychopathology, romantic relationships, aggression, forensic Psychology and Schizophrenia.

We also learn about key theories about the human mind and develop research skills that may be useful in a future career in Psychology.

Psychology is a popular subject in Sixth Form and combines well with most subjects, particularly Sociology and Biology which have overlapping content. Many students go on to study Psychology at University.

What can I expect?

Psychology will challenge your existing ideas about how your brain works. Reading is an important part of how Psychology is learnt, both reading about theoretical ideas and reading about Psychological studies and experiments. Throughout all of the course you will be required to study and understand the methods that researchers use to collect data and draw conclusions about behaviour from the data that they collect. We will focus on exam style from the beginning of the course and you will learn to apply your knowledge of Psychology to the real world.

What do I need?

As Psychology is a new subject at A' level there is no particular GCSE subject that you need, however, students who succeed at Psychology tend to be good at studying detail and writing longer answers. Psychology is very varied, there will be lots of essay writing as well as the need to interpret and use data so a can-do attitude is a must.

What about the future?

Psychology can lead to many careers, such as healthcare, medicine, teaching and human resources. There are other specific career paths from Psychology such as therapy, counselling and forensic Psychology, but it is also useful in other careers that you may not automatically associate with it, like retail design, marketing, recruitment and sports. Many students go on to University courses in Psychology that are accredited by the British Psychological Association, which can lead to becoming a Chartered Psychologist.

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. Students will be given homework tasks to complete and will need the textbook, from which they should be reading around the topics between

A-Level Physical Education

Why Physical Education?

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 4 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 delicious 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 practical design and make test.

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?

A Level Product design is the natural progression for those who have studied Product Design at GCSE. Although there are no specific entry requirements for Product Design 3D having a GCSE or equivalent in a Design & Technology subject or Art would be considered an advantage.

What about the future?

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

"Design is good thinking made visual" - Saul Bass

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance

Why Music?

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance is intended to be an Applied General qualification. It is for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the music sector or the creative sector as a whole.

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level and aims to provide a coherent course of study covering both performance and the music industry. It is designed to be taken alongside other Level 3 qualifications.

What can I expect?

Learners taking this qualification will study three mandatory units: • Unit 1: Practical Music Theory and Harmony • Unit 2: Professional Practice in the Music Industry • Unit 3: Ensemble Music Performance. Learners choose one optional unit. These have been designed to support progression to more specialist music courses in higher education and to link with relevant occupational areas, such as: • composing music • improvising music • solo performance.

What do I need?

What about the future?

This qualification gives learners transferable and higher-order skills that are valued by higher education providers and employers, for example performance techniques, communication skills, team working. It also gives learners an opportunity to focus on their personal vocal/instrumental technique.

It will support entry to higher education courses in a wide range of disciplines, depending on the subjects taken alongside it.

In the BTEC National units, there are opportunities during the teaching and learning phase to give learners practice in developing employability skills. Where employability skills are referred to in this specification, we are generally referring to skills in the following three main categories: • cognitive and problem-solving skills: using critical thinking, approaching non-routine problems by applying expert and creative solutions, using systems and technology • interpersonal skills: communicating, working collaboratively, negotiating and influencing, self-presentation • intrapersonal skills: self-management, adaptability and resilience, self-monitoring and development.

A-Level Politics

Why Politics?

A-Level politics provides a deeper understanding of political systems and institutions that govern our society. 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. This knowledge is not only intellectually stimulating but also empowers students to actively engage in the political process, promoting an informed and active citizenry, which is vital for a thriving democracy. 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 government, public policy, journalism, or international relations.

What can I expect?

You can expect a dynamic and intellectually stimulating journey through the world of politics. You will get an understanding of the key ideas that have shaped political thought throughout history. 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 organizations. Furthermore, you will engage with contemporary political issues, enabling you to analyse and debate topics like environmental politics, human rights, and globalization.

What do I need?

This will be a new subject at A-Level and so there is no particular subject that you need to have already done at GCSE. You do need an interest in politics and government.

What about the future?

A-Level Politics equips you with a profound understanding of political systems, both locally and globally, which is crucial for informed citizenship. 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 a tremendous 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 Technical Diploma in Art and Design

Why Cambridge Technical in Art and Design?

This course is for any learner who wants to continue their education through applied learning and who aims to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment within any area of the creative sector. The qualification is equivalent to A Level in UCAS points and is welcomed by universities and higher education establishments.

Learners will develop essential knowledge, transferable skills and personal skills in Fine Art, Photography and/ or Fashion depending on which specialism you choose, with the aim of building your technical skills to be able to pursue a pathway in the creative sector.

Learners will also have the opportunity to acquire the essential knowledge and tools for the world of work by developing transferable skills such as planning, research and analysis, presenting, working with others and effective communication.

What can I expect?

Cambridge Technicals are vocational qualifications that are designed to give you a work-focused alternative to A Levels. They've been designed to give you opportunities to demonstrate and develop the practical application of knowledge and understanding in Art and Design. The assessment for the qualifications is task-based, so you won't need to take exams to achieve Cambridge Technicals qualifications. Learners can choose from an Introductory Diploma (equivalent to 1 A Level) in Art, Photography or Fashion, a Diploma choosing two of these options or an Extended diploma choosing all three. The course consists of 1 mandatory unit and a wide selection of optional units which can be tailored to you such as; exploring digital photography, exploring artists as photographers, fashion design, exploring ceramics, fine art print making and many more.

What do I need?

The Cambridge Technical is a natural progression for those who have studied GCSE Art. Although there are no specific entry requirements for the Cambridge Technical having a GCSE Art would be beneficial to study the Art pathway. There are no entry requirements to study Photography or Fashion.

What about the future?

The Cambridge Technical in Art and Design will allow you to progress on to a wide range of degrees within the Arts as well as careers within creative industries such as; Architecture, Fashion, Education, Film, Photography, Textile Design, Graphic Design, and Teaching as well as many more.