

MONTSAYE ACADEMY

SIXTH FORM

CURRICULUM OFFER SEPTEMBER 2026



We are **Montsaye**

Please note that the curriculum offer is subject to change,
and that courses may only run if there are a sufficient
number of students opting to study them.



Montsaye Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Respect ■ Honesty ■ Compassion



Art A Level

Board: Pearson Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need GCSE grade 5 or above in Art & Design, although students with a portfolio of work will be considered on an individual basis.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

The aim of the course is to encourage independence and individuality. The course offers students the opportunity to discover how to express their own ideas and styles in a creative, imaginative and personal way. Students will experiment with abstract, figurative and symbolic approaches to visual communication using a whole range of approaches including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography and computer manipulation (Photoshop). Individuals will also develop their ability to analyse and evaluate their own work and the artwork of others.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Studying Art will open up many opportunities, including Animation (stop motion, cartoons, digital, games), Architecture, Art Therapy, Ceramics, Conservation/Restoration, Fashion & Textiles, Film & Television, Fine Art (public art, painting, sculpture etc.), Gallery/Museum Curator, Graphic Designer, Glass Artist, Illustration, Photography and Set Design.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

Component 1—Portfolio (60%)

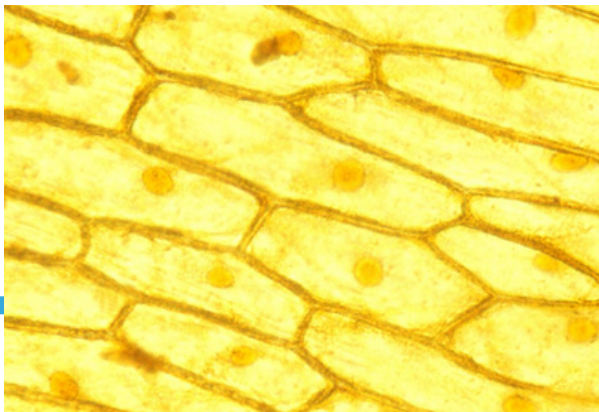
The emphasis of this component will be on the development of understanding and skills using an appropriate range of materials, processes and techniques. Each student must include in his or her portfolio:

- A selection of thoughtfully presented work, demonstrating a variety of skills and techniques
- At least one extended collection of work or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue. This should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation. It should include evidence of their ability to research and develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to relevant critical/contextual materials.
- Personal Study – extended written essay between 1,000-3,000 words based on areas studied within the practical work (12%)

Component 2—Externally set assignment (40%) Separate question papers will be provided for each title. These will consist of a choice of five questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select one. Preparatory period – from 1 February. Following receipt of the paper students should consider the starting points and select one. Preparatory work should be presented in any suitable format, such as mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, workbooks, journals etc. Supervised time – 15 hours Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time. They must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work. Students will go on a variety of gallery and city visits to record experiences and ideas.

There will also be the opportunity to visit a European city of culture for 3 days in March. Previous visits have included Barcelona and Berlin.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Thomas



Biology A Level

Board: OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need 6/6 in Combined Science GCSE, or a 6 in Biology and one other Science. You will need a grade 5 in Maths GCSE.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

Biology is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of biology. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed through the written papers and the Practical Endorsement, which supports the development of practical skills.

The content is split into six teaching modules. Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will sit three exams at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Paper 3 assesses content from Modules 1 to 6.

You will also need to complete all the practical assessments.

COURSE MODULES

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Biology – this module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module will be assessed within written examinations. Successful completion of the required practical assessments will be separately certificated with the Practical Endorsement.

Module 2: Foundations in Biology – covering key concepts required throughout the remaining modules.

Module 3: Exchange and Transport

Module 4: Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease

Module 5: Communication, Homeostasis and Energy

Module 6: Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Biology has scientific, social and environmental application and relevance, and therefore complements a wide range of academic and vocational subjects. Biology provides an excellent base from which to develop key skills in communication, application of number and ICT.

Biology A Level qualifications allow for progression to higher education in a wide range of courses and provides a range of skills appropriate for employment in many different fields.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Sutliff or Mrs Moffett



Business Studies

A Level

Board: Pearson Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need to have six grade 4's or above at GCSE. If you did Business for GCSE, you should have achieved a grade 5 or above.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

Students will study the following topics:

Paper 1: Marketing, people and global businesses environment

Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy.

Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

- Direct entry into employment in a business setting.
- Further learning opportunities in employment.
- Degrees in Business, Accountancy and Economics.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

To be successful at Business Studies, it is important that you have an interest in Business and how it is organised, operates, plans, and makes decisions.

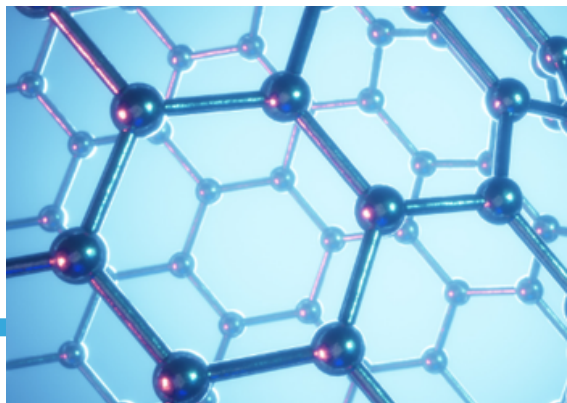
A Level Business mixes well with a broad range of other 'A' Levels and vocational courses.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will sit three exams at the end of Year 13. Paper 1 and paper 2 are worth 35% each. Paper 3 is worth 30%.

Students should be made aware that there is no coursework component, and the course is assessed entirely on exams.

For more information about the course, please see Mr Lea or Mrs Hagan



Chemistry A Level

Board: OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need 6/6 in Combined Science GCSE, or a 6 in Chemistry and one other Science. You will need a grade 5 in Maths GCSE.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

Chemistry is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of chemistry. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed through the written papers and the Practical Endorsement, which supports the development of practical skills.

The content is split into six teaching modules. Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will sit three exams at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Paper 3 assesses content from Modules 1 to 6. You will also need to complete all the practical assessments.

COURSE MODULES

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Chemistry – this module underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that students should develop throughout the course. The practical skills in this module will be assessed within written examinations. Successful completion of the required practical assessments will be separately certificated with the Practical Endorsement.

Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry – covering key concepts required throughout the remaining modules.

Module 3: Periodic table and energy

Module 4: Core organic chemistry

Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements

Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Follow degree courses including chemistry, medicine, veterinary science, physiotherapy, biological sciences, environmental science, pharmacy, chemical engineering, forensic science, biochemistry, geology, law, accounting, business, management, sport science, brewery, architecture, conservation management, archaeology, food science and physiotherapy.

If you choose not to follow a degree route you could use your A level in, for example; science apprenticeships, quality control, textiles, food production, management, accountancy, medical services, building, police, armed forces, engineering and logistics.

For more information about the course, please see
Mrs Cooper, Mr Miola or Mr Stanger

Computer Science A Level

Board: OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You will need to have gained at least a grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science to follow the A Level Computer Science course.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

The A Level Computer Science course will allow you to ...

- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Apply skills in and an understanding of computing (including programming) in a range of contexts to solve problems
- Delve into producing graphical user interfaces and object-orientated programming solutions

Through the creation of a programming project, you will have the opportunity to create a substantial piece of software using modern design methods and, guided by teachers, they will look to display their skills and talents.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A Level Computer Science is assessed through two written exams (each worth 40%) and a Programming Project (worth 20%).

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

The A Level Computer Science qualification is suitable for anyone who is looking to develop an advanced understanding of all aspects of computer science and programming. You will get the opportunity to apply your programming skills to real-world situation and problems.

If you are interested in working in any area of computer science, including programming, or want to study a computer science related degree at university, this could be a good choice for you.

This qualification is not just about being able to use computers. Employers need people who are able to help them develop digital solutions for their customers. Therefore, this qualification is designed to give learners a range of specialist computer science knowledge.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Learners could progress onto a Level 4 apprenticeship in any computer science related area, university or employment.

For more information about the course, please see Mr Lea



BTEC Performing

Arts - Dance

Board: Pearson

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students studying Level 3 Dance will have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE Dance, or will have taken part in dance-related activities outside school, and will be prepared to take part in an audition process.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

If you are interested in performing and studying the theory of Dance and are keen to develop and improve your Dance technique and choreography, then you will enjoy this course.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

After studying Level 3 Dance you will be well placed for Dance courses at University or Dance colleges. A-Level Dance can be used to apply for a range of courses at University, including; Dance studies, Musical Theatre Performance, Performing arts, Dance Science or Dance Education. Alongside Dance qualifications, this course supports many transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving, which can support all university and job applications.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

In Level 3 Dance you will study the following four units:

- 1. Investigating practitioners work:** This is the written element of A-level Dance. You will be assessed on your knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of two professional practitioners.
- 2. Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance:** This is a practical element of A-level Dance. You will be assessed performing two solo and/ or a group dance that is linked to a specified practitioner.
- 3. Contemporary Dance:** This is a practical and written element of the A-level Dance. You will study the pioneers of contemporary dance. You will be assessed performing a solo from contemporary dance; as well as a written piece of coursework.
- 4. Group Performance:** This is the practical element of A-level Dance. You will be assessed on your performance and contribution to a group choreography which responds to the brief set by the exam board.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs George

English Language A

Level

Board: AQA



WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society Section A: Textual Variations and Representations - Students study a range of texts, about various subjects, from various writers and speakers, for various audiences, for various purposes, in a variety of genres, using a variety of modes (written, spoken, electronic), from different times, from different places (global, national, regional). Section B: Children's Language Development - Students explore how children develop their spoken and written skills.

Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change Section A: Language Diversity and Change - The aim of this area of study is to allow students to explore language diversity and change over time, including global English use. Topics include gender and language and multicultural English. Section B: Language Discourses - Students should study a range of examples of opinion based writing about language and be able to produce an evaluative response.

Non-examination Assessment: Language in Action Language Investigation - Students may choose to pursue an area of individual interest. For example, this might include investigating gender specific language use, occupational language use or even the way people talk to their pets! Original Writing - Students will produce one piece of original writing based on one of the following three areas: The Power of Persuasion, The Power of Storytelling and The Power of Information. They will also produce an accompanying analytical commentary.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need to have gained a grade 5 in English Language, as well as meeting the standard entry criteria.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

The English Language course is designed to suit students who are interested in the way language can be used to represent and influence society, as well as in the development of the English language over time and the way children learn to speak and write. Over the two years of the course, the areas of study and investigation are based on analysis, creativity and research into the wider social and political issues raised by language use. There is a considerable amount of freedom to study in fields and write in genres which suit students' own interests and future academic or career plans. English Language may be successfully combined with any number of other subjects. It can prove a valuable addition as it helps to develop candidates' skills in the essential areas of reading for meaning and analytical thinking.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

A qualification in English Language is an excellent grounding for any number of careers, particularly those that require the ability to communicate clearly, in speech or writing, and those that require the ability to analyse. Those interested in journalism, media, law or the civil service would benefit from studying English Language.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Mooney



English Literature A Level

Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

This course offers a challenging exploration of drama, prose, and poetry across time. You will engage critically and creatively with a wide range of texts, from canonical works to contemporary voices, developing a nuanced understanding of how literature reflects and challenges society. Through close reading, discussion, and independent study, you'll learn to develop and effectively apply your knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation, honing skills in argument, interpretation, and expression. This course fosters intellectual curiosity, developing candidates' abilities as informed, independent readers – skills that are invaluable for university and beyond.

Paper 1: Drama

This unit comprises of the study of two texts: one Shakespearean tragedy and one other drama. The unit is assessed through an open book examination of 2 hours and 15 minutes and is worth 30% of the total qualification.

Paper 2: Prose

This unit comprises of the study of two prose texts. These texts will be thematically linked (Science and Society and/or the Supernatural) with at least one of the prose texts being published pre-1900. The unit is assessed in an open book examination of 1 hour 15 minutes and is worth 20% of the final A-level qualification.

Paper 3: Poetry

The unit focusses on the study of poetic form, meaning and language. It comprises of one post-2000 poetry anthology and a specified range of Romantic and/or Victorian poetry. The unit is assessed in an open book examination of 2 hours and 15 minutes and is worth 30% of the total A-level qualification.

Non-examination Assessment:

The unit is the comparative study of two texts. The unit is assessed through one extended comparative essay of 2500-3000 words and is worth 20% of the total A-level qualification.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need to have gained a grade 5 in English Literature, as well as meeting the standard entry criteria.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

All students will need to enjoy reading novels, plays, poetry and non-fiction and must understand that success in this qualification is largely dependent on independent wider reading as well as the study of set texts. English Literature may be successfully combined with any number of other subjects: complementary areas include History, Sociology or Modern Languages, but this subject can prove a valuable addition to any combination of other subjects as it helps to develop candidates' skills in the essential areas of reading for meaning and analytical thinking.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

A qualification in English Literature is an excellent grounding for any number of careers, particularly those that require the ability to communicate clearly, in speech or writing, and those that require the ability to analyse. Those interested in journalism, media, law or the civil service would benefit from studying English Literature.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Mooney or Mrs Jones



Ethics and Philosophy

A Level

Board: AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

Fascinating and enlightening, A level Religious Studies can be an excellent subject choice. Not only will you develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of world religions, philosophy and ethics but you will also gain many valuable transferable skills along the way. The A level syllabus combines the in-depth study of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics with the study of a major world religion and the development of thought within it.

In the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics section, areas of study include the application of ethic theories to contemporary issues including abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and embryonic research. The philosophical element looks at a variety of fascinating topics, including the nature of the mind, body and soul, arguments for and against the existence of God, and the problem of evil.

In addition students will study Christianity in greater depth, building on their learning in KS3 and KS4.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

2 x 3 hour exam papers

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need GCSE grade 5 or above in Ethics and Philosophy, although students with a grade 5 in both English and History will be considered.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will learn to evaluate arguments, examine historical and social contexts and consider your own views from a range of angles. You can expect classes to involve a considerable amount of discussion and debate. To get the most out of the subject, you must be willing to participate in these discussions, both sharing your own ideas and listening and respecting the views of others. You will develop skills of critical evaluation and analysis, which you will practice within these discussions and in essay-writing.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

A level Religious Studies can provide you with excellent transferable skills, from essay writing, developing confidence in debating, to developing the ability to appreciate other viewpoints. These skills can be incredibly helpful in a range of University degrees involving critical thinking and discussion.

Possible jobs from a Religious Studies degree include: Lecturing, teaching, advice worker, archivist, work within 'third sector' organisations, counselling, community development worker, and police officer or youth worker.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Lopes



French A Level

Board: AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study French, you need to have a grade 6 or above at GCSE French.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing – 50% The examination will test students' knowledge and understanding of current trends in French-speaking society, current issues (social and political) in French-speaking society, artistic culture in the French-speaking world, aspects of political life in the French-speaking world, and grammar.

Paper 2: Writing – 20 % In the writing examination, students will be tested on a film and/or literary text from a list of set films and literature: Either, one text and one film or two texts. There will also be a grammar section.

Paper 3: Speaking – 30% The speaking test includes 2 sections; an Individual research project and one of four themes (Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends, Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world)

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

All students will need to enjoy speaking French, listening to news extracts on French radio, reading authentic French materials and writing creatively and independently in French. French may be successfully combined with any number of other subjects. Most importantly, A-Level French study will allow students to develop confidence and fluency when communicating orally and in the written word; skills which are seen as a benefit by Universities and in industry and business.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course consists of three examinations, including all four language skills and grammar.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

A qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is an excellent grounding for any number of careers, particularly those that require the ability to communicate clearly, in speech or writing, and those that require the ability to analyse. Those interested in journalism, media, law or the civil service would benefit from studying French.

For more information about the course, please see Mr Severn



Geography A Level

Board: AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 or above in GCSE Geography.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

In the course you will study themes such as:

- Changing Places
- Global Cycles (Water and Carbon)
- Global Governance
- Tectonic Hazards
- Contemporary Urban Environments
- Coasts
- Ecosystems

You will:

- Use a range of fieldwork techniques and research methods.
- Participate in a residential fieldtrip and in local fieldwork.
- Learn how the world is contested and the dilemmas facing us in the future.
- Learn and use a variety of transferable skills including collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communicating findings in different ways, and identifying and developing links between different parts of the subject

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course consists of two examinations worth 80% and an independent investigation, worth 20%, based on fieldwork and research.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

Geography will appeal to you if you are interested in:

- Investigating the features of the natural environment around you and understanding the processes that form these features.
- Investigating the processes that shape and change human environments.
- Investigating the interactions between these natural and human processes. Using fieldwork techniques and research methods as part of your investigations.
- Getting out into a range of different physical and human environments during your study.
- Gaining a broad based, academically rigorous qualification, which includes elements of the sciences and the humanities.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Taken with sciences like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry or Biology, Geography supports applications for almost any science-based university course such as geography, geology, environmental sciences, oceanography, engineering, maths, chemistry, physics or biology.

Taken with humanities like English, Sociology, History or Business, Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as business, law, politics, philosophy, history, and English.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Patterson



AAQ in Health and Social Care

Board: Pearson

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need to have six grade 4's or above at GCSE. You do not need to have studied HSC at GCSE Level

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

Topics include the following Mandatory Units:

- Human Lifespan and Development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs

There will also be the choice of optional units, which are still to be confirmed by the teaching team.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

A vocational qualification that can lead to further study at college, university or a career in the social care setting. The BTEC provides a route to employment into the many diverse areas of Health and Social Care. With the merit and distinction grading, the qualifications may be used in applications to appropriate courses at university.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

This course is for:

- Those who have an interest in the social care setting (e.g. Nursery, Teaching, Counselling, Social Worker, Family support worker, Behaviour Support Worker, Fostering, Prison Officer, Emotional and Wellbeing Therapist) or the health care setting (e.g. NHS, Private Care, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist)
- Those who may want to go straight into work rather than higher education.
- Those who prefer coursework to exams as you will prepare for four internal assessed assignments and two external assessed units.

There is some teaching but there is also a lot of independent research and written work in terms of regular assignments. The ability to write clearly and accurately is important, as well as being an independent learner. You need perseverance and the ability to take feedback.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs George or Mrs Edney



History A Level

Board: Pearson Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 5 or above in GCSE History.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

During the course you will learn about the significance of events, individuals, issues and society. How and why these societies have changed over time. How the past has been interpreted and represented. The course is broken down into the following units:

- Communist Russia 1917-1991
- Mao's China 1949-76
- Independent Coursework studying the origins of World War One
- Poverty and Public Health in Britain 1760-1934

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

During the course, you will be assessed using both coursework and examination. The weighting for each method of assessment is 20% coursework and 80% examination.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

You will benefit from studying History if you enjoy:

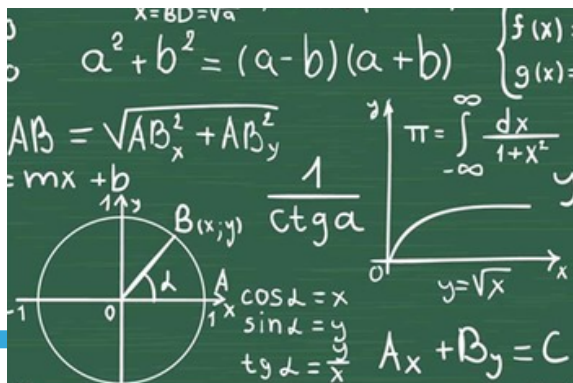
- Investigation and discovery through reading
- Debating, communicating ideas and arguments
- Analysing factors that make History i.e. political, economic and social
- Recording history through essays, speeches, grids etc.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

History is about structuring a convincing argument and supporting it with evidence. It is widely regarded as a very useful qualification for most higher education courses and career choices. These are just some of the jobs an A Level History qualification is relevant for:

- Lawyer
- Journalist
- Newspaper Editor
- Marketing Manager
- Town Planner
- Accountant
- Politician
- Film maker
- Teacher

For more information about the course, please see Mr Wiggins



Maths A Level

Board: Edexcel

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 6 or higher in GCSE Maths.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

Few areas of human activity have not been touched by Mathematics. The ability to analyse, plan, predict and generally make sense of numbers and space has underpinned our technological advances. Furthermore, doing mathematics is fun; strange but true!

The course is comprised of a combination of Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. Pure Mathematics expands on the algebra and trigonometry studies at GCSE. Applied Mathematics is Statistics and Mechanics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A Level Mathematics will be assessed by three exams at the end of the second year of study. These exams will focus on Core (Pure) Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

A willingness to work hard is essential, and you will be expected to be proactive in seeking help if or when problems arise.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

A level Mathematics is highly regarded by employers and universities as evidence of the ability to think logically, analytically and precisely. It is obviously necessary for degrees in Mathematics or Engineering, but is also useful for Accountancy, Finance and most Science and Computing courses and highly sought after for Law degrees. The Statistics module will be very beneficial for anyone going on to study subjects such as Geography, Sociology, Biology or Psychology, which involve analysing data.

National research suggests that students who have successfully studied Mathematics at A level regularly receive significantly higher salaries than their peers do. Mathematics is useful, pays well and is interesting... What more could you want?

For more information about the course, please see Mr Sipple



BTEC in Music

Board: Pearson

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Five subjects at grade 4 or above including English and maths
- While it may help to have a GCSE in Music (Grade 5 or above) it is not a prerequisite. You should, however, be able to play an instrument or sing to a good standard
- Whilst you do not need an official instrument grade, you should be able to play to at least a grade 5 standard (e.g. ABRSM/Rock School etc).

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

The course is suitable for passionate, dedicated musicians interested in developing their performance, music theory, and industry knowledge to progress to higher education or a career in the music sector

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

The course is designed to provide learners with a good introduction to the sector with a focus on performance including musical skills development and professional practice. The course will suit learners who enjoy performing, composing and learning about a range of styles of music.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through a combination of internally assessed coursework, which includes practical assignments, presentations, and project work, and externally assessed components. Grading for individual units and the overall qualification uses a Pass, Merit, Distinction scale, where the depth of study and practical skills acquired contribute to the final grade.

Students will study a total of 4 units:

3 Mandatory Units:

- Practical Music Theory and Harmony
- Professional Practice in the Music Industry*
- Ensemble Music Performance*

PLUS 1 Optional Unit:

- Composing Music
- Music Performance Session Styles
- Solo Performance
- Improvising Music
- Externally assessed units

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

After studying a BTEC Extended Certificate in Music Performance, you can progress to higher education (degree or Higher National Diploma), move into a specialised job role in the music sector, or combine it with other qualifications to broaden your options. The BTEC provides a strong foundation in music performance skills and knowledge of the industry, preparing you for various career paths in music.

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Thomas



PE A Level

Board: OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You will have achieved at least a grade 5 in GCSE PE, or a Merit in Sports Studies if you have taken either of those courses.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

If you have an interest in the theory of sport, are keen to learn more of the wider issues related to sport and physical activity then you will enjoy the course. You must also have an interest in playing sport, ideally taking part on a regular basis.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

After studying A Level Physical Education, you will be well placed to obtain employment in the sport and leisure sector. Alternatively, you could apply for a place at University. A-Level PE can be used to apply for a range of courses at university, including sport related such as Sports Science/Sports Coaching/PE Teaching. In the past students have also applied to courses such as Law, Accountancy and Physiotherapy using PE A Level.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

You will study the following components:

Component 1: Physiological Factors Affecting Performance. 2 hr exam. 30% of the final grade. Includes: Bones, Muscles & Joints; Biomechanics; Levers; Cardiovascular System; Respiratory System; Exercise Physiology; Injury Prevention.

Component 2: Psychological Factors Affecting Performance. 1 hr exam. 20% of the final grade. Includes: Movement Skills; Information Processing; Memory; Motivation; Arousal; Personality.

Component 3: Socio Cultural & Contemporary Issues. 1 hr exam. 20% of the final grade. Includes: Olympic Games; Violence in Sport; Sponsorship & the Media; Funding of Physical Activity; Commercialisation; Amateurism & Professionalism.

Component 4: Performance within Physical Education. 30%. In the practical aspect of the course, students will be assessed in their strongest practical activity (from the DfE published list). You will perform in the internal moderation, which will be at the end of January in Year 13. If you do an activity that cannot be observed in school, e.g. skiing, then you must submit video evidence of your performance to Mr Wing before Christmas in Year 13. It is strongly recommended that you are training and performing in your sport on a regular basis during both Year 12 & 13. In addition to your practical performance, you must conduct an Evaluation & Analysis of Performance task. This is where you comment on strengths and weaknesses of a sporting performance.

For more information about the course, please see Mr Wing



Photography

A Level

Board: Pearson Edexcel

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

Photography at A Level is essentially an Art and Design based course. It will build on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired at GCSE but it is not essential. An Art GCSE, or experience and an interest in Art outside school, would be advantageous.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Students will be able to access careers and higher education opportunities in the following areas:

Animation (stop motion, cartoons, digital, games), Marine and Natural History Photography, Conservation/Restoration, Fashion, Film & Television, Photo Journalism, Fine Art, Gallery/Museum Curator, Photography, Set Design and Web Design.

Students will go on a variety of gallery and city visits to record experiences and ideas. There will also be the opportunity to visit a European city of culture for 3 days in March. Previous visits have included Florence and Berlin.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

- Photography — lens and light-based media includes works in film, video, digital imaging and light-sensitive materials.
- Sometimes, techniques and processes are used to convey messages and create works related to other disciplines, such as web-based animations, photographic images in printed journals, light projections within theatrical or architectural spaces.
- Work in photography — lens and light-based media should form a means of personal enquiry and expression involving the selection and manipulation of images.
- Students must employ creative approaches which go beyond mere observation and recording.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1—Personal Investigation (60%)

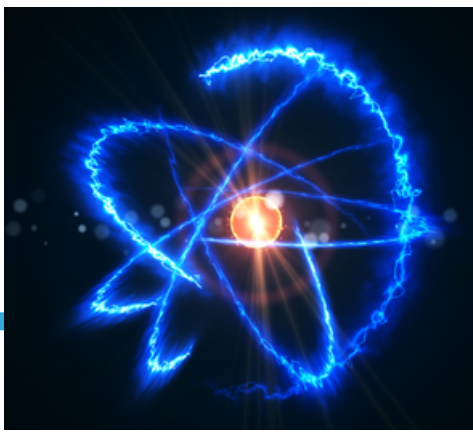
Part 1: practical work. From personal starting points students will submit supporting studies and personal outcomes

Part 2: personal study (forms 12% of the 60%) Students submit a piece of continuous prose of a minimum of 1000 words

Component 2—Externally set assignment (40%)

Externally-set, broad-based theme released to teachers and students on 1 February. A sustained focus period of 15-hours controlled assessment in which students create final response(s) to the theme. Students will submit preparatory studies and personal outcome(s)

For more information about the course, please see Mrs Thomas



Physics A Level

Board: OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You need 6/6 in Combined Science GCSE, or a 6 in Physics and one other Science. You will need a grade 5 in Maths GCSE.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

The course covers different key concepts of physics and as students' progress through the course, they will build on their knowledge of the laws of physics, applying their understanding to areas from sub-atomic particles to the entire universe. Practical skills are integrated with the theoretical topics and assessed through both written papers and the Practical Endorsement.

The content is split into six teaching modules. Modules 1 to 6, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

COURSE MODULES

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Physics.

Module 2: Foundations of physics.

Module 3: Forces and motions.

Module 4: Electrons, waves, and photons.

Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics.

Module 6: Particles and medical physics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will sit three exams at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Paper 2 assesses content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.

Paper 3 assesses content from Modules 1 to 6.

You will also need to complete all the practical assessments.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Physics complements:

- Chemistry and Biology for scientific and medical careers.
- Mathematics and IT for computing and engineering careers.
- The arts and humanities as contrasting subjects.

The physics course offers excellent opportunities for the development of ICT and application of number skills, alongside communication, teamwork and problem solving skills.

For more information about the course, please see Miss Bates or Mr Finan



Product Design

A Level

Board: AQA

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

Students who enjoy practical and/or creative work and have followed a design-based course at GCSE Level, achieving at least a grade 5 in Product Design, Food or Textiles.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

During the course, you will study a range of materials, you will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of your own design solutions. You will learn about wider design principles and the effect of design on users and the world we live in. You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products. You will develop your subject knowledge, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture. You will develop a critical mind through enquiry and problem solving, exploration, creation and evaluation of iterative designs. The course encourages freedom in approaches towards designing and making so as not to limit the possibilities of project work or the materials and processes being used. The examination content requires you to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills. This content reflects the importance of Design and Technology as a pivotal STEM subject.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Higher Education courses and ultimately careers in: Design and Manufacturing in the following sectors, Automotive Design, Architecture, Furniture Production, Engineering, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, Design Engineering or Fashion

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three strands to the course. One Non-Examined Assessment and two examinations.

A non-examined '**Iterative Design Project**' is a substantial design, make and evaluate project centred on the iterative processes of explore, create and evaluate. It is worth 50% of the qualification. You will be required to identify a design opportunity or problem from a context of your own choice, and create a chronological portfolio supported by real-time evidence of your project development. Innovative approaches will be required resulting in a final prototype that can be tested against the user and the market.

The **Technical Principles of Design and Technology** paper is worth 30% of the qualification and assesses analysis of existing products, technical knowledge and understanding of materials, product functionality, manufacturing processes and techniques and allows you to demonstrate your understanding of design thinking and wider social, moral and environmental issues that impact on the design and manufacturing industries. The paper is 2 hours 30 minutes long.

The **Designing and Making Principles in Design and Technology** paper is worth 20% of the qualification and focuses on the application of your knowledge, understanding and skills of designing and manufacturing prototypes and products through a set design task, then reflecting on your design solution in relation to wider factors and other theoretical knowledge. The paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long

For more information about the course, please see Mr Turner



Psychology A Level

Board: AQA

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

There is no need to have any knowledge of psychology before commencing the course. Most students quickly get used to the way the subject operates and the language used

The course is suitable for students who are interested in;

- The way people behave and reasons for this
- A subject that complements both arts and sciences
- A 'cutting edge' subject where new research and information is emerging all the time
- A subject that helps to develop the ability to debate concepts and evidence and make valid judgements.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students studying psychology will have achieved at least a grade 4 in Maths and will have a minimum of three GCSE's at grade 6 or above.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Psychology is about understanding people; many graduates go into teaching, social work or nursing in terms of the 'people centered' nature of the course. However, many more turn to management, marketing, advertising and journalism. Further applications for psychology include mental health treatment, performance enhancement, self-help, ergonomics and many other areas affecting health and daily life.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

The course covers topics that include (but not limited to):

- Psychological approaches: based on different era's and evidence, we look into whether behavior is due to genetics, the way we think (cognition), the role of the unconscious, our unique personality, or whether behavior is learnt.
- Memory: We investigate how and what we remember, factors affecting memory, and how memory is influenced in eye-witness testimony when convicting criminals.
- Attachment: The topic investigates why parent-child attachment is important for healthy psychologically developed adulthood and the effects of breaking this attachment at the wrong times.
- Research Methods: Understanding how psychologists complete research.
- Social influence: We study how to understand group behaviour. In this topic, we look at why people obey authority or conform with group norms when this may be inhumane or callous activity.

In year 13, we will be looking into three further specialist areas of psychology; Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

For more information about the course, please see Mr Jordan



Sociology A Level

Board: AQA

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To study Sociology, you need to have six grade 4's or above at GCSE.

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the study of society — how people live, interact, and shape the world around them. It's a dynamic social science that explores everything from families and education to crime and identity. If you've ever wondered why people behave the way they do, or how society influences our choices, then Sociology is for you.

WHY CHOOSE SOCIOLOGY?

- You'll explore real-life issues that affect you and the world you live in.
- It's perfect for students who are curious about human behaviour, social justice, and how society works.
- No prior knowledge of Sociology is needed — we start from the basics and build up your understanding.
- You'll quickly get used to the subject's unique language and way of thinking.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

The course is split into four key areas:

- Culture and Identity – What shapes who we are?
- Education – How does school reinforce or challenge inequality?
- Stratification and Differentiation – Who holds power in society, and why?
- Crime and Deviance – What makes something criminal, and who decides?

You'll also learn about sociological theories and research methods — the tools sociologists use to investigate society.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

Most areas of work will accept Sociology as a good traditional subject that is relevant to the outside world. Areas include Health and social welfare work, teaching, media and journalism, Business, Police/legal work, Politics, the Prison service and Tourism.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

At the end of Year 13, you'll sit three exams, each worth 33.3% of your final grade. There's no coursework.

For more information about the course, please see Mr MacDonald



Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity

Board: OCR

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You will have achieved at least six grade 4s at GCSE.

FOR WHOM IS THE COURSE SUITABLE?

If you have an interest in different aspects of sport, such as leadership, coaching and sport development then you will enjoy the course. You must also have an interest in playing sport, ideally taking part on a regular basis.

WHAT COULD I DO AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

After studying Sport and Physical Activity (Level 3), you will be well placed to obtain employment in the sport and leisure sector. Alternatively, you could apply for a place at University. This course can be used to apply for a range of courses at university, including sport related such as Sports Science/Sports Coaching/PE Teaching. This course is equivalent to 1 A-level; you could gain up to 56 UCAS points.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON THE COURSE?

In the theory part of the course you will study the following 5 units:

- **Unit 1:** Body Systems and the effects of physical activity. (EXAM)
- **Unit 2:** Sports Coaching and activity leadership.
- **Unit 3:** Sports organisation and development. (EXAM)
- **Unit 8:** Organisation of sports events.
- **Unit 18:** Practical skills in sport and physical activities.

Both exam units are sat during Year 12, leaving practical and assignment work for Year 13.

This is an overview of the 4 theory components:

- 1. Body Systems and effects of physical activity:** Skeletal system; Muscular system; Cardiovascular system; Respiratory system and Energy system.
- 2. Sports Coaching and activity leadership:** Knowledge of sports coaches and leaders; Develop skills, techniques and tactics in sport; Plan, Prepare, Deliver, Review sports activity sessions.
- 3. Sports organisation and development:** Knowledge of UK Sport; Sports development and its impact; How sport development is measured.
- 4. Organisation of sports events:** Knowledge of different sports events; Roles and responsibilities involved in sports events; Plan, Promote, Participate and Review a sports event.

Overall, the theory part of the course is worth 84% of the final grade.

Component 5: Practical skills in sport and physical activities. Worth 16% of the final grade.

Within this unit, you will be asked to demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in one individual sport, one team sport, and outdoor and adventurous activities.

Additional to this is the requirement to officiate within a sports and physical activity.

For more information about the course, please see Mr Wing