

6th form @ Swakeleys

Course Guide
2025

Art, Craft & Design

Course Type	A level - 2 Years
Exam Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 and above in Art or Textiles
Lead teacher	Mrs Kumar

Why study Art, Craft & Design?

A-level Art and Design lays excellent foundations for a career in the creative industries, although the ability to 'think outside the box' and the observational skills learnt through this subject are considered valuable in a whole spectrum of professions. There are many art-related career paths that Art A-level can ultimately lead to, although even for those students focusing on more scientific subjects, Art can provide a welcome and useful contrast that equips them with a complementary set of skills.

Art allows me to explore my creativity and opens up new possibilities.

What will you study?

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two- and three-dimensional media, processes and techniques. They will explore both traditional and new technologies, relevant images, artifacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples.

This will be integral to the investigating and making process. Their responses to these examples will be shown through practical and critical activities, which demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

What skills will you develop?

Students will become aware of the four assessment objectives and will explore drawing using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. Students will use sketchbooks/workbooks/journals to underpin their work where appropriate.

Art and design supports and develops pupils beyond the curriculum in many ways; it helps them to interpret the world around them, develops confidence, creativity and creates open thinkers. There are many enrichment trips including the British Museum, photoshoots in London, workshops at the National Gallery and painting workshops.

How will you be assessed?

Each component is marked out of a total of 96 marks. As the assessment objectives are equally weighted in each component, there is a maximum of 24 marks for each of the assessment objectives. The marks, out of 24, for each assessment objective must be added together to produce the total mark out of 96.

Where could Art & Design lead to?

Architecture, Illustrator, Graphic designer, Photographer, Interior designer, content creator, website designer, Furniture designer and more!



Biology

Course Type	A Level - 2 years
Exam Board	OCR
Entry Requirements	Minimum grade 7-7 in science, grade 6 in maths
Lead teacher	Mrs O'Sullivan

Why study Biology?

Biology is the 'study of life' in all its forms, from microscopic organisms to complex ecosystems. It allows us to understand the world around us and the workings of our own bodies. Today, biological science remains at the forefront of ground-breaking developments that will shape the future of human kind. Do you want to be part of these developments? If so, Biology is the course for you.

What will you study?

There are six modules in the biology Course:
Module 1 - Development of Practical Skills in Biology
Module 2 - Foundations in biology
Module 3 - Exchange and Transport
Module 4 - Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease
Module 5 - Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
Module 6 - Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

What skills will you develop?

During the course of your studies you will develop skills in practical coursework as well as theoretical components which can open up a range of career opportunities including: biological research, medical, environmental, forensics, sports and science communication. The course offers opportunities to develop ICT skills, data handling, and effective research techniques as well as communication and team work skills.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% examinations at the end of Year 13. You will have 3 examinations made up of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Where could biology lead to?

Gaining a qualification in biology at this level can lead into Higher Education in areas such as, Biological Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacology, Dentistry, Veterinary, Dietetics, Nursing, Forensics, Sports Science, Psychology, Teaching and more. It is widely accepted for most university courses and demonstrates excellent transferable skills valued by employers.

"Studying biology inspires me to explore how life works at every level, from cells to ecosystems, and it makes me appreciate the world in a whole new way."



Business

Course Type	A Level – 2 years
Exam Board	Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in maths & Grade 5 in business (if studied)
Curriculum Leader	Mrs Arnold

Why study Business?

Business is the right subject for you if you enjoy: communicating and explaining your ideas, exploring and presenting alternative courses of action, thinking strategically and making decisions working with numbers to solve business problems, keeping up to date with national and international business news, learning about the world of business through research and investigation.

“Business keeps you up to date with what’s going on in the world and allows you to be a step ahead at all times.”

What will you study?

Business is a dynamic subject. You will learn about the diverse nature of business enterprise and the interdependence of the various parts of the business world. You will explore business success and business failure, investigate local, national and global business markets, and understand how businesses need to adapt and respond strategically to the changing environment in which they operate to survive and grow. This constant evolutionary process makes business a fascinating subject.

We cover four themes over the two year course:

Theme 1: Marketing and people activities

Theme 2: Managing business

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy

Theme 4: Global business

What skills will you develop?

Through studying business you will develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. You will become skilled in making decisions, solving problems, applying numerical skills (including understanding finance and working with data) and understanding the business environment. You will also develop commercial awareness.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% examinations at the end of Year 13. You will have 3 examinations, each 2 hours in length. The examinations are made up of data response questions broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question.



Where could Business lead to?

Suitable higher education courses include business management, accountancy and finance, marketing, Business students can also progress to a wide range of careers, such as banking, sales, product management and general management.

Chemistry

Course Type	A-level – 2 years
Exam Board	OCR A
Entry Requirements	Grade 7-7 in science, a grade 6 in maths
Lead teacher	Miss G Gowrikanthan

Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry helps us to understand the world in which we live and underpins a wide range of science-based degree courses and careers. Success with A level chemistry will prepare you for a future in chemistry, pharmacy, pharmacology, chemical engineering, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, medicine and dentistry.

What will you study?

There are 6 modules in chemistry:

Module 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

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 skills will you develop?

- Teamwork
- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Attention to detail
- Technical ability
- Problem solving
- Numeracy
- Discipline

How will you be assessed?

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

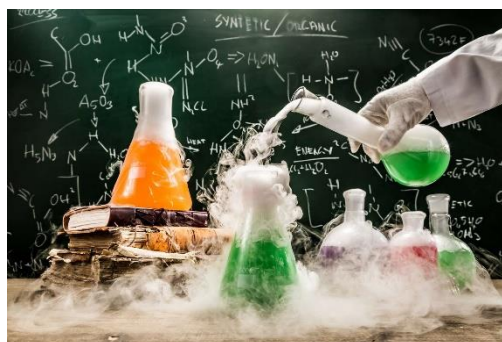
Paper 2 assesses the content from Modules 1, 2, 4 and 6

Paper 3 assesses the content from Modules 1 to 6.

Where could Chemistry lead to?

Gaining a qualification in chemistry at this level can lead into Higher Education in areas such as medicine, pharmacology, dentistry, veterinary, dietetics, nursing, forensics, sports science, psychology, teaching and more. Students of chemistry have also progressed into other less related areas such as business and law.

Chemistry is incredibly challenging but rewarding too when you analyse problems and learn how to solve them. It teaches you lots of skills you need for life



Early Childhood Development

*Please be aware that the BTEC qualifications are undergoing reform. There will be further announcements made in spring 2025 about how this course should be delivered by the exam board.

Course Type	Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National Extended Certificate
Exam Board	Pearson
Entry Requirements	4 GCSEs at Grade 9-4
Curriculum Leader	Mrs Dhokia

Why study Early Childhood Development?

Studying BTEC Level 3 Early Childhood Development offers a detailed curriculum for those who are passionate about a career working with young children and committed to their development. It allows students to engage in a broad investigation of the children's care and the education sector (0-8 years).

What will you study?

Unit 1 - Children's Development - Children's developmental progress from birth up to eight years.

Unit 2 - Keeping Children Safe - The responsibilities of a professional to maintain health and safety as well as ensuring effective safeguarding measures are in place.

Unit 3 - Play and Learning - The concept of play, the influence of theories and approaches to play, and the benefits of play and learning activities for children.

Unit 4 - Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood Setting Understanding of how research findings influence policy and provision for children to reflect on how this influences behaviour and expectations in the work placement environment.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop a range of transferable skills such as managing yourself and deadlines, primary research skills, interpersonal skills, and critical thinking skills. You will develop the professional values and skills expected of professionals, as well as the cultural and social intelligence when working with individuals in a truly modern and evolving early year's environment.

How will you be assessed?

The extended certificate qualification is the equivalent to one A-Level. Work is assessed on a pass, merit, distinction, distinction* grading. All four units are mandatory units consisting of two examinations and two internally assessed to make up the final grade.

Where could Early Childhood Development lead to?

This qualification can lead to progression on to university degrees in fields such as teaching, social work and childcare.

"Studying childhood development has opened my eyes to the incredible journey of growth and learning that every child experiences. It's not just about understanding milestones; it's about seeing how I can support each child's unique path."



Computer Science

Course Type	A Level 2 years
Exam Board	OCR
Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science and Grade 6 in maths
Lead teacher	Miss Vasanthakumaran

Why study Computer Science?

The A Level Computer Science course provides students with a deep understanding of computer systems, programming, and the theoretical principles of computing. Pursuing A Level Computer Science offers a solid foundation for students interested in technology and its applications. It not only prepares them for higher education but also equips them with skills essential for a successful career in an increasingly digital world. Embrace the challenge and innovation that comes with studying computer science!

"With technology evolving so fast, studying Computer Science feels like you're learning the language of the future. It's empowering to know how things work behind the scenes."

What will you study?

- Programming - Learning core programming concepts, data structures, and algorithms using languages like Python.
- Computer Systems - Understanding hardware, software, and how they interact, including the workings of operating systems.
- Data Representation - Exploring how data is stored, manipulated, and communicated, including binary systems and data structures.
- Algorithms - Developing problem-solving techniques through the study of algorithms and their efficiency.
- Networking - Learning about computer networks, internet protocols, and cybersecurity principles.
- Ethical, legal and Environmental Considerations - Discussing the impact of computing on society, including ethical dilemmas and sustainability issues.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop the skills in languages such as Python, which are highly sought after in the job market. You will also develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The curriculum encourages logical reasoning and analytical thinking, valuable in any career.

How will you be assessed?

You will have 2 examinations, each 2 and a half hours in length at the end of year 13 which equals 80% of the final grade. The other 20% comes from an independent programming project that must be coded and well documented during year 13.

Where could subject lead to?

This subject opens doors to various careers, including: Software Developer/Data Analyst/Cybersecurity Specialist/Systems Analyst/Game or Web Developer



Economics

Course Type	A Level - 2 years
Exam Board	Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in maths
Curriculum Leader	Mrs Laguillo

Why study Economics?

The simple answer is it affects our everyday lives through important areas such as tax, interest rates, wealth, and inflation. Economics is about *choice* and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our lives, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. The economic way of thinking can help us make better choices. Economics focuses on the world economy not just Britain, and looks at current problems facing governments, businesses and individuals

Economics is so interesting and relevant to your everyday life. We learn about current issues that are talked about in the news and this makes the subject real.

What will you study?

You will study both Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of individual people and specific industries and goods. How do people make choices? What is Supply & Demand? How much should we tax cigarettes? Macroeconomics looks at the Economy as a whole. What *is* a recession? How do we reduce unemployment? What should the Government response to the Coronavirus pandemic be?

We cover four themes over the two year course:

Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure

Theme 2: The UK economy: performance & policies

Theme 3: Markets and business behaviour

Theme 4: The national and global economy

What skills will you develop?

Studying economics will teach you lots of transferable skills and by the end of your course you will have developed a number of employable skills, such as: analytical and critical thinking, communication skills, problem solving and quantitative methods.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% examinations at the end of Year 13. You will have 3 examinations, each 2 hours in length. The examinations are made up of shorter knowledge based questions, data response style questions and longer essay questions.

Where could economics lead to?

Economics can lead to a wide range of careers in Economics and Finance-related professions including: Accountant, Actuarial Analyst, Chartered Accountant, Data Analyst, Economist, Finance and Banking, Financial Risk Analyst, Financial Planner, Forensic Accountant, Investment Analyst, Statistician.



English Literature

Course Type	A level – 2 years
Exam Board	Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade 5-5 in English Lit & Lang
Curriculum Leader	Ms Pimbert

Why study English Literature?

For many years, writers have produced texts that capture the essence of who we are, and also comment on, question and challenge the society around us. English Literature is a subject which looks at a wide range of poems, plays and novels that enable us to think independently, critically and imaginatively. We are trained to understand how writers use their craft to reflect our world. This is a subject which offers a wide-ranging set of skills and knowledge.

'In English Literature, I love learning about the way writers see the world and also thinking about ideas from new perspectives.'

What will you study?

There are three areas of focus in the English Literature Course:

Drama – you will study one Shakespeare play and a modern drama text.

Prose – you will compare one pre-1900 novel to a modern text.

Poetry – you will study one set poet and a variety of modern poetry. With the modern texts, there will be an element of comparison.

What skills will you develop?

During the course, you will develop the ability to analyse, compare and critically evaluate texts from a wide range of literary eras. You will acquire an appreciation of the impact that context can have on poems, plays and novels, whilst also considering texts from a variety of perspectives. You will develop the ability to write detailed essays, in the style of literary criticism.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 80% examinations at the end of Year 13 and 20% is made up of Non Exam-Assessment (coursework). You will have 3 examinations that vary in length, during which you will have access to blank copies of the texts, and the coursework will be one single piece of approximately 2500 words.

Where could subject lead to?

Higher Education in areas such as journalism, marketing, politics, history, law, and teaching. It is widely accepted for most university courses and demonstrates excellent and wide-ranging transferable skills valued by employers.



English Language and Literature

Course Type	A level - 2 years
Exam Board	Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade 5-5 in English Lit & Lang
Curriculum Leader	Ms Pimbert

Why study English Lit & Lang?

The way that we express ourselves through the texts we create, can reach a variety of different audiences and achieve multiple purposes. Studying the A level that combines both language and literature gives students the opportunity to consider a broad range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, from a wide variety of sources, enabling students to gain a comprehensive understanding of the ways we express ourselves through the medium of the written and spoken word.

'These lessons were really enjoyable and encouraged me to pursue my love for both English language and literature. I also loved creating my own texts.'

What will you study?

Paper 1— Voices in speech and writing

Paper 2 - Varieties in Language and Literature

Non Exam-Assessment - (coursework) - Investigating and creating texts.

What skills will you develop?

During the course you will develop the ability to analyse, compare, create and evaluate texts from a wide range of sources and prompts. You will acquire an appreciation of the impact that language and literature can have on the world around us, whilst also considering a variety of perspectives, purposes and audiences. You will develop the ability to write detailed essays in the style of literary criticism and create imaginative and informative texts of your own.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 80% examinations at the end of Year 13 and 20% is made up of Non Exam-Assessment (coursework). You will have 2 examinations that vary in length, during which you will have access to blank copies of the texts, and the coursework will be 2 creative pieces, accompanied by a commentary.

Where could English Lit/lang lead to?

Higher Education in areas such as journalism, marketing, politics, history, law, and teaching. It is widely accepted for most university courses and demonstrates excellent and wide-ranging transferable skills valued by employers.



Film Studies

Course Type	A Level – 2 years
Exam Board	Eduqas
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in Media Studies (if studied)
Lead teacher	Miss Sebley

Why study Film Studies?

Discover the art of storytelling through cinema! In Film Studies, you'll explore a wide range of films, from Hollywood blockbusters to international and independent gems. Learn how directors use visual techniques, narrative, and sound to create powerful emotional and cultural messages. You will develop analytical skills, study film theory, and even have the chance to create your own short film. This course is perfect for those with a passion for movies and a desire to understand how they reflect and shape society.

Film Studies has completely changed the way I watch movies and television. I've learned how to see beyond the surface and understand the deeper meanings directors are trying to convey.

What will you study?

You will study a wide range of film movements and time periods, including Classical and Contemporary Hollywood, British Films, non-European Global films, and documentaries. You will also look at a variety of film theorists and explore how their theories can be applied to the films. There is also a coursework component where you have the opportunity to create a short film or a screenplay.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop analytical skills through the study of whole films, examining techniques like cinematography, editing, sound, narrative, and mise-en-scene to understand how filmmakers create meaning. Critical thinking is also developed through exploring complex themes and social issues that are presented in films, fostering an ability to think deeply about culture, society, and representation. You will develop research skills through investigating historical, cultural, and theoretical contexts of films. Creativity is developed through the coursework component, where you will develop practical filmmaking skills including scriptwriting, storyboarding, recording and editing.

How will you be assessed?

You will have two written assessments totalling 70% of your overall grade; both exams are 2 hours and 30 minutes and involve essay-style questions. You will also complete a coursework component equivalent to 30% of your grade, with a choice between a short film or a screenplay.

Where could Film Studies lead to?

The wide range of skills you will develop are suitable for many future pathways, such as marketing, advertising, media, broadcasting, and psychology.



French

Course Type	A level French
Exam Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Grade 7 GCSE French (or is a native speaker of the language)
Lead teacher	Mrs Nanuck

Why study French?

French is a lot more interesting at A level as you study up-to-date topics which are more relevant to everyday life. At A level, your vocabulary becomes more complex so that you can have longer discussions. You learn to speak the language more fluently with a better understanding of it. As you develop your knowledge of grammar, you get a better understanding of how the language is used and how to adapt it to say what you want. You will soon become able to speak and write more creatively as well as think in French!

A-Level French is undoubtedly a respected and reputable A-Level subject to study. The transferable skills you learn do stay with you forever and the hard work pays off enormously!

What will you study?

You will study how French speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. Aspects of the social context are studied, together with highlights of French-speaking artistic culture as well as the French political landscape. You will also study a novel and a film.

- Current trends: the changing nature of family, the 'cyber-society', voluntary work
- Current issues: positive features of a diverse society, how criminals are treated
- Artistic culture: a culture proud of its heritage, contemporary music, & cinema
- Aspects of political life: the right to votedemonstrations, & immigration
- Film: La Haine -Novel: L'Étranger

What skills will you develop?

You will develop your linguistic skills alongside your understanding of the culture and society of countries where French is spoken. You will also develop your research skills. You will learn to analyse and summarise research findings through oral presentation and discussion. You will also learn to analyse and to respond critically in writing in French

How will you be assessed?

Listening/reading/writing: Translation into English & translation into French

Writing: One essay on the film & one essay on the novel

Speaking: Discussion of a sub-theme based on a stimulus card, presentation and discussion of individual research project

Where could French lead to?

Studying a language at A level greatly improves your employability, especially in companies with international markets. Careers include journalism, international trade, education, diplomatic services and many more.



Geography

Course Type	A Level - 2 years
Exam Board	Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in geography (if studied)
Curriculum Leader	Mrs Bradnum

Why study Geography?

Geography is a naturally diverse and dynamic subject, changing to meet the needs of modern day society. This syllabus is an exciting course allowing students the chance to investigate shifting global patterns and current world views for themselves. Geography at A level offers the chance for students to learn about the links between people and their place in the natural world, so equipping them with the knowledge and skills to make their own choices towards a sustainable future.

“Geography talks about current, real issues. This makes you stand out as a student as you're far more knowledgeable of the world.”

What will you study?

Area of Study 1: Dynamic Landscapes

Tectonic processes & hazards

Landscape systems processes & change: Coastal Landscapes and Change

Area of Study 2: Dynamic Places

Globalisation / Shaping Places: Diverse places

Area of Study 3: Physical Systems and Sustainability

The water cycle and water insecurity / The carbon cycle and energy insecurity

Area of Study 4: Human Systems and Geopolitics

Superpowers / Global development and connections: Health, Human Right and Intervention

What skills will you develop?

Geography encompasses a wide range of physical, human and environmental concepts and it is important for students to have a broad interest in these topics. Students will develop their awareness of global issues and the ability to look at things from a range of perspectives. Critical thinking is pivotal to geography as a subject. The ability to work independently and collaboratively, both in class, and on home based research as well as in the field, is important. Good data handling skills are essential and students must be prepared to undertake four days of fieldwork.

How will you be assessed?

The course comprises 3 examination papers at the end of Year 13. Papers 1 and 2 are both 2 hours and 15 minutes and make up 30% each of your grade. Paper 3 is also 2 hours and 15 minutes and is worth 20% of your grade. The final 20% is made up of an Independent Investigation (Non Exam-Assessment) which you will complete over both years.

Where could Geography lead to?

Geography is useful for a wide range of careers including environmental and political sciences, economics, town planning, meteorology and hazard management.



German

Course Type	A level German
Exam Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Grade at GCSE German (or is a native speaker of the language)
Lead teacher	Mrs Violet

Why study German?

German is a lot more interesting at A level as you study up-to-date topics which are more relevant to everyday life. At A level, your vocabulary becomes more complex so that you can have longer discussions. You learn to speak the language more fluently with a better understanding of it. As you develop your knowledge of grammar, you get a better understanding of how the language is used and how to adapt it to say what you want. You will soon become able to speak and write more creatively as well as think in German!

Exploring German at a much deeper level and delving into its culture, democracy and daily life was really fascinating and something which only the A level course can offer.

What will you study?

You will study how German-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. Aspects of the social context are studied, together with highlights of the artistic life of German-speaking countries as well as the German political landscape. You will also study a novel and a film.

- Social issues and trends: changing families, the digital world, youth culture
- Artistic culture: festivals and traditions, art and architecture, cultural life in Berlin
- Multiculturalism: immigration, integration, racism
- Aspects of political life: Germany and the EU, politics and youth, German reunification
- Film: Goodbye Lenin
- Novel: Der Vorleser

What skills will you develop?

You will develop your linguistic skills alongside your understanding of the culture and society of countries where German is spoken. You will also develop your research skills in German. You will learn to analyse and summarise research findings through oral presentation and discussion. You will also learn to analyse and to respond critically in writing in German to the novel and film on the study programme.

How will you be assessed?

Listening/reading/writing: Translation into English & translation into German

Writing: One essay on the film & one essay on the novel

Speaking: Discussion of a sub-theme based on a stimulus card, presentation and discussion of individual research project

Where could German lead to?

Studying a language at A level greatly improves your employability, especially in companies with international markets. Careers include journalism, international trade, education, diplomatic services and many more.



Health and Social Care

*Please be aware that the BTEC qualifications are undergoing reform. There will be further announcements made in spring 2025 about how this course should be delivered by the exam board.

Course Type	Alternative Academic Qualification Extended Certificate
Exam Board	Pearson
Entry Requirements	4 GCSEs at Grade 9-4
Curriculum Leader	Mrs Dhokia

Why study Health and Social Care?

Studying Health and Social Care offers a practical and comprehensive foundation for those interested in careers within the healthcare or social care sectors. It combines classroom learning with real-world work experience, equipping students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills

What will you study?

Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development -PIES and factors affecting growth and development, interventions and the different professionals providing care and treatment

Unit 2 - Human Biology and Health - Human body structure and systems, normal physiological functioning and the impact of common disorders

Unit 3 - Health and Social Care Practice - Core principles, values and legislation that underpin and influence health and social care, and the effect of social determinants on an individual health status

Unit 5 - Promoting Health Education - Health education, its purpose and use of different approaches and models to achieve positive health outcomes

What skills will you develop?

During the course of your studies you will develop a range of transferable skills such as managing yourself and deadlines, primary research skills, interpersonal skills and critical thinking skills. You will develop the professional values and skills expected of professionals as well as the cultural and social intelligence when working with individuals across the lifespan with different needs, alongside methods of managing challenging situations.

How will you be assessed?

The extended certificate qualification is the equivalent to one A-Level. Work is assessed on a pass, merit, distinction, distinction* grading. There are three mandatory units consisting of two examinations and two internally assessed task which make up the final grade.

Where could health and social care lead to?

It can lead to progression on to university degrees in fields such as nursing, social work and teaching.

It has opened my eyes to the complexities of health and social systems. I've gained valuable knowledge and learned how to apply theory to real-life situations, which has really boosted my confidence in pursuing a career in this field



Mathematics

Course Type	A Level - 2 years
Exam Board	Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade 7 in mathematics + Algebra entrance exam
Curriculum Leader	Mr Ladva

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is often described as the language of the universe, unlocking insights into everything from the smallest particles to the largest galaxies. But in today's world, it's much more than that—it is a core tool driving technological advancements, economic models, and scientific breakthroughs. Studying A Level Mathematics will challenge you to think in new, creative ways. It's not just about solving equations—it's about building a mindset capable of tackling complex, real-world problems.

It's been enjoyable and satisfying to understand the work!

What will you study?

The A Level Mathematics course provides a strong grounding in both Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, including Statistics and Mechanics. You'll delve into areas like calculus, trigonometry, and algebra in greater depth, while also exploring how these mathematical tools apply to real-world scenarios such as data analysis and modelling physical phenomena. The course is designed to be rigorous yet rewarding, offering a blend of abstract theory and practical applications. It's not just about equations, but how these mathematical tools can build bridges, predict economic trends, or optimise digital algorithms.

What skills will you develop?

Analytical Thinking: Breaking down complex problems into manageable steps and finding efficient solutions. **Logical Reasoning:** Strengthening your ability to construct sound arguments and critically evaluate different approaches. **Numerical Proficiency:** Deepening your understanding of numbers and their relationships in a variety of contexts. **Data Interpretation:** Learning how to make sense of real-world data, identify trends, and draw conclusions from statistical information. **Practical Problem-Solving:** Applying theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios in physics, engineering, economics, and more.

How will you be assessed?

Your progress in A Level Mathematics will be assessed through a combination of 3 written exams at the end of your two-year study period. Each paper contains a blend of short and extended response questions that require a strong understanding of the underlying principles and methods.

Where could subject lead to?

Whether you pursue a degree in Mathematics, Engineering, Medicine, Economics, or even Architecture, the problem-solving mindset you develop here will give you a distinct advantage. Careers in fields as diverse as data science, software development, aerodynamics, and climate modelling are built on a foundation of strong mathematical skills.

Further Mathematics

Course Type	AS/A2 Level – 1/2 years.
Exam Board	Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE mathematics. Must be studied alongside A level Mathematics.
Curriculum Leader	Mr Ladva

Why study Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics is for those who enjoy the challenge of advanced problem-solving and want to explore deeper mathematical concepts. It's more than just an extension of A Level Maths—it introduces entirely new areas such as complex numbers, matrices, and advanced calculus, often encountered only at university level. **If you're aiming for a degree in Mathematics, Physics, Engineering, or Economics at a top university, note that many institutions require or prefer Further Maths as an entry requirement.**

The more
maths
I learnt, the
more
I love doing it!

What will you study?

Further Mathematics builds upon A Level Maths, covering topics like pure mathematics, mechanics, and statistics in greater depth. You'll explore:

Pure Mathematics: Complex numbers, hyperbolic functions, and differential equations.

Further Mechanics: Forces, energy, and momentum, but at a more advanced level.

Further Statistics: Probability, regression, and statistical modelling.

What skills will you develop?

Abstract and Analytical Thinking: You'll learn how to think more abstractly, applying mathematical concepts in situations that are not immediately familiar. Higher-Level Problem-Solving: The course encourages you to approach each problem from multiple angles, using advanced techniques like matrices, vectors, and calculus. Logical

Structuring of Ideas: You'll refine your ability to communicate complex mathematical ideas clearly and concisely. Resilience and Determination: Whether you're working through complex proofs or interpreting data, this course will sharpen your perseverance and critical thinking.

Resilience and Determination: Whether you're working through complex proofs or interpreting data, this course will sharpen your perseverance and critical thinking.

Resilience and Determination: Whether you're working through complex proofs or interpreting data, this course will sharpen your perseverance and critical thinking.

How will you be assessed?

For AS Level: Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 – Focusing on the pure aspects of the subject, including algebra, calculus, and vectors. Paper 2: Applied Mathematics – A mixture of mechanics and statistics to test how you apply mathematical theory to real-world situations.

For A Level: Paper 1 & 2: Core Pure Mathematics – These papers delve deeply into the theoretical aspects of the subject, testing your understanding of complex numbers, matrices, and advanced calculus. Paper 3 & 4: Applied – These papers focus on further mechanics and statistics mathematics, ensuring you're assessed on both your theoretical knowledge and its application.

Where could subject lead to?

Further Mathematics sets you apart. Whether you are aiming for a career in data science, software development, theoretical physics, or any field that requires sophisticated mathematical understanding.

Media Studies

Course Type	A Level - 2 years
Exam Board	Eduqas
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in Media Studies (if studied)
Lead teacher	Miss Sebley

Why study Media Studies?

This exciting course offers the opportunity to study a range of areas within the media industry. It is an extremely contemporary subject and allows students to combine practical production elements with the theoretical study of a wide range of media topics. The nature of this course provide opportunities for individual interpretations of current media, thus permitting a dynamic and accessible course of study covering this rapidly growing subject area.

What will you study?

You will study a wide range of media texts, including but not limited to magazines, music videos, video games, TV shows, and internet personas. You will also look at a variety of media theorists and explore how their theories are significant across multiple time periods and modes. There is also a coursework component where you create multiple linked texts. The four areas of media studies covered are:

1. Media language - the choices in design and composition of texts
2. Representation - how and why specific groups are represented
3. Industry - the setup of various industries and how this influences the creation of texts
4. Audiences - how and why specific audiences are targeted and engaged

What skills will you develop?

You will develop strong analytical skills through studying both the set and unseen texts to develop an argument through comparison. You will critically evaluate theorists and their applications to a wide range of media texts. The ability to decode a wide range of text types will help you with a range of other subjects and with future employment opportunities. Creativity is nurtured within the coursework component.

How will you be assessed?

You will have two written assessments totalling 70% of your overall grade; the first exam is 2 hours 15 minutes and the second is 2 hours 30 minutes. These compile of a wide range of question lengths, from 1 mark up to 30 marks. You will also complete a coursework component equivalent to 30% of your grade.

Where could Media Studies lead to?

As the scope of the subject lends itself to many aspects of the working world, the skill set becomes adaptable to any prospective environment.

I have learnt how the media has influenced us so much to the point where a majority of our daily lives is influenced by it. It is also fun to get to pick your own pathway with the coursework and explore what you truly want to make.



Photography

Course Type	A Level – 2 years
Exam Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in Art (if studied)
Curriculum Leader	Mrs Kumar

Why study Photography?

Photography is a creative subject and therefore allows students to experiment and develop their own individual voice as image makers. Photographs are everywhere, so to have a range of advanced technical skills when making photographs as well as a sophisticated understanding of the history and the wider context of the medium, is a huge advantage.

Photography has given me the opportunity to express myself through still image, while also learning how to use applications used in the creative industry.

What will you study?

We start with an 'Introduction to Photography' where you learn the technical skills of how to use a DSLR, find out about the exposure triangle, and explore using the darkroom. These skills are taught in workshop style lessons to quickly get everyone up to speed, thinking and working at 'A-Level' standard. During this time you will also learn a range of Photoshop and image manipulation skills to help you present your work in a digital sketchbook. Working in digital sketchbooks keeps the cost of printing down and streamlines the process of uploading and managing your workflow. Students will also be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. They will explore relevant images, artifacts and resources relating to Photography and a wider range of digital media and art. This will be integral to the investigating and making process.

What skills will you develop?

A-Level Photography is a dynamic and practical course that will introduce you to a variety of experiences, processes and techniques including: Technical skills needed to take high quality images using a DSLR camera. Contextual Studies to aid your understanding of the role of photography in modern society. Digital manipulation techniques and manual experimentation

How will you be assessed?

Each component is marked out of a total of 96 marks. As the assessment objectives are equally weighted in each component, there is a maximum of 24 marks for each of the assessment objectives. The marks, out of 24, for each assessment objective must be added together to produce the total mark out of 96.

Where could photography lead to?

Photography opens doors to a broad range of industries. Creative sectors such as fashion, advertising, graphic design, web design, architecture, film, publishing and marketing all require a photographer's creative skillset and offer opportunities for employment.



Physics

Course Type	A Level - 2 years
Exam Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Grade 7-7 in science & grade 7 in maths
Lead teacher	Mrs Hayes

Why study Physics?

Physics governs the world we live in, from the smallest atoms to the vastness of space. It uses fundamental concepts to invent new technologies and change lives. Physics A level sharpens your problem solving skills and opens doors to exciting careers in a variety of fields. If you want to foster your curiosity and sense of wonder about the natural world, choose physics.

What will you study?

Measurements and their errors

Particles and radiation

Waves

Mechanics and materials

Electricity

Further mechanics and thermal physics

Fields and their consequences

Nuclear physics

Option topic - Choose one from the following:
Astrophysics, Medical physics, Engineering physics, Turning points in physics, Electronics.

*Physics is truly captivating!
It allows us to understand
the world around us in
greater depth and has been
an effective catalyst for
developing our quantitative
reasoning skills.*

What skills will you develop?

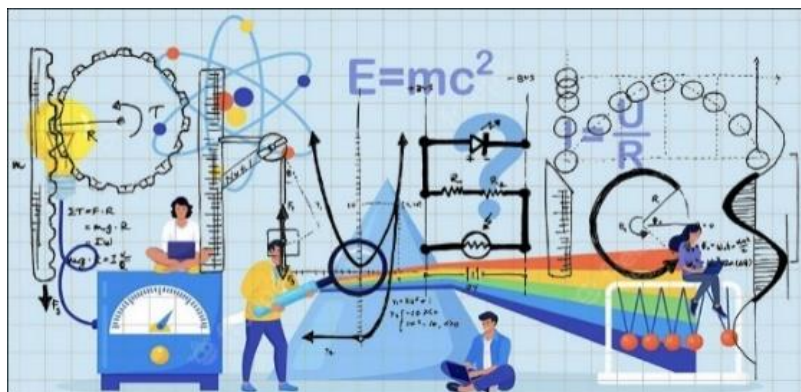
During the course of your studies you will develop the ability to grasp theoretical concepts, alongside an interest in designing and conducting practical experiments. You will also develop your data handling skills and mathematical competency.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% examinations at the end of Year 13. You will have 3 examinations, each 2 hours in length. The examinations are made up of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Where could physics lead to?

The course is a sound preparation for degree level courses in physics and related science, engineering and medicine as well as chemical engineering and related programmes. A level physics is also recognised as a suitable qualification for a wide range of employment in the science sector.



Politics

Course Type	A Level - 2 years
Exam Board	Edexcel
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in Citizenship or History (if studied)
Curriculum Leader	Ms Cherry

Why study Politics?

Decisions made by politicians impact our lives in so many different ways, from what we learn at school, to how to tackle the climate crisis. Politics is the study of how and why these decisions are made both here in the UK and in the United States. Politics A level also teaches you how citizens can participate in the political process. If you want to understand how power is given and used, and how you can get your voice heard, choose politics.

What will you study?

There are three areas of focus in the Politics Course:

UK Politics – This covers key topics involving how the UK is governed. It includes areas such as how does parliament work? What is the role of the Prime minister? What is democracy and how do we participate?

US Politics – This is a comparative study with the UK and covers similar areas to UK Politics from a US context, in order to compare and contrast. In US Politics we cover areas such as the power of the President, the importance of the US Constitution and the role of the Supreme Court.

Political Ideas – Decisions made by politicians are often the result of particular beliefs about what our society is and should be. In this unit we study key political ideologies – Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism and Feminism. We look at their impact and evaluate their significance.

What skills will you develop?

During the course of your studies you will develop the ability to analyse sources and compare and contrast information. You will learn to critically analyse arguments and evaluate their strength and weaknesses. You will develop your ability to write detailed and persuasive essays.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% examinations at the end of Year 13. You will have 3 examinations, each 2 hours in length. The examinations are made up of shorter knowledge based questions and longer essay questions.

Where could politics lead to?

A qualification in politics can lead to Higher Education in areas such as politics, history, law, journalism and teaching. It is widely accepted for most university courses and demonstrates excellent transferable skills valued by employers

'If you enjoy finding out about current affairs in the UK and the US and the systems in place to allow these events then you will enjoy this subject.'



Psychology

Course Type	A Level - 2 years
Exam Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in psychology (if studied)
Curriculum Leader	Mrs Popat

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour. Understanding why people act in certain ways helps us to foster empathy and develop our interpersonal skills, while predicting how people might act in particular situations has a significant impact on improving the everyday lives of individuals (e.g. therapy) as well as society as a whole (e.g. reducing aggressive crimes).

'Psychology enables you to understand not just the actions of yourself but also the people around you'

What will you study?

There are three foundational areas of focus:

Research methods - You will learn about various research designs, data collection techniques, and statistical analysis.

Psychological approaches - This includes an in-depth exploration of different theoretical perspectives, such as biological, cognitive, behavioural, humanistic, and psychodynamic approaches. You will analyse how these perspectives seek to explain behaviour and mental processes.

Psychopathology - This area focuses on the study of mental disorders, including their classification, symptoms, and approaches to treatment.

In addition to these areas, you will study topics such as social influence, memory, attachment, biopsychology, relationships, and aggression.

What skills will you develop?

During the course of your studies you will develop your research skills so that you are able to design ethical research studies, collect and statistically analyse data, and reach justified conclusions about your findings. You will learn to critically think about psychological theories and studies by evaluating their strength and weaknesses. You will also develop your communication so that you can articulate complex ideas clearly through written essays and verbal.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% examinations at the end of Year 13. You will have 3 examinations, each 2 hours in length. The examinations are made up of multiple-choice, short answer, and extended response questions which will assess both knowledge and application of psychological concepts.

Where could psychology lead to?

A qualification in psychology can lead to Higher Education in areas such as counselling, marketing & advertising, law, social work, forensics, and teaching. It is widely accepted for most university courses and demonstrates excellent transferable skills valued by employers.



Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

Course Type	A Level - 2 Years
Exam Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in RE
Curriculum Leader	Mr Biedul

Why study Subject?

If you have ever wanted to discuss and explore fundamental questions such as: Does God exist? Does all life have value? Do religious teachings about gender apply to modern times? How do we know what's right and wrong? Can you believe in both God and science? Then this course could be for you!

'Religious Studies is interesting, engaging and relevant to all areas of life. It's great for a curious mind!'

What will you study?

Year 12

Christianity: Sources of Wisdom and Authority, God, Self, Death and the Afterlife, Moral Principles and Expressions of Religious Identity

Philosophy: Arguments for God's Existence, Evil and Suffering and Religious Experience

Ethics: Ethical theories, Issues of Human Life and Death, Issues of Animal Life and Death

Year 13

Christianity: Migration and Religious Pluralism, The Challenge of Secularism, Gender and Sexuality and Science

Philosophy: Philosophy of Language, Miracles, Self, Death and the Afterlife

Ethics: Conscience, Bentham and Kant, Meta-ethics, Free-will and Moral Responsibility

Dialogues: A synthesis of the relationship between Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics

What skills will you develop?

You will engage with interesting and challenging questions and you should enjoy discussing different viewpoints. This course will allow you the opportunity to develop your skills in analysing philosophical and ethical arguments, beliefs and ideas. It will also enable you to further your own perspective on ultimate issues concerning life and the world. You will learn different theories and must be able to apply them to various situations or questions, and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1- Philosophy of religion and religious ethics

Paper 1 assessment: 50% of A level mark, written examination 3 hr

Paper 2- Study of religion Christianity and religious

dialogues -50% of total A level mark, Written examination 3 hr

Where could subject lead to?

It is a recognised qualification for entrance to university and can lead to a number of varied career paths, including: banking, media, journalism, law, teaching, social work, and more.



Sociology

Course Type	A Level - 2 Years
Exam Board	AQA
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in English Literature or Language
Lead teacher	Ms Popat

Why study Sociology?

Studying sociology at A Level will give you an awareness of the social, political and economic issues that shape society. It will help you develop greater empathy towards communities that differ from your own and open your mind to a diverse range of ideas and beliefs. A Level sociology will leave you with a greater appreciation of the world around you and the diversity of contemporary society.

“Sociology makes you more aware of society and its wrongs and rights, it really makes you think and reconsider what you’ve previously known as the truth”

What will you study?

There are 4 main modules in sociology which we focus on alongside theory and research methods:

Culture and Identity - You will examine the different

aspects of culture, including popular culture, global culture and subculture. You will understand how the concepts of self and identity are socially constructed by age, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality, nationality and class.

Education - Introduces you to the education system’s functions and role and its relationship to society’s class structures and economy. You will explore how an individual’s academic achievement is influenced by their social group, age, gender and ethnicity.

Beliefs in Society - You will understand the social basis for ideologies, religions and science and how these can influence social stability and change.

Crime and Deviance - explains the social reasons for crime and deviance and will help you understand the concept of social control. By investigating recent crime patterns and trends, you will discover how identity and culture influence the social distribution of crime.

What skills will you develop?

You will be able to recognise and help find solutions to issues that specific communities and groups face and help build a fairer society for all, as a result. You will learn to critically analyse arguments and evaluate their strength and weaknesses. You will develop your ability to write detailed and persuasive essays.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% examinations at the end of Year 13. You will have 3 examinations, each 2 hours in length. The examinations are made up of shorter knowledge based questions and longer essay questions.

Where could subject lead to?

A Level sociology can help you find work in a variety of exciting and challenging roles; Youth worker, Policy officer, Social research, Probation officer. You could go on to study sociology further at university or study a related social science degree. These include criminology, psychology, human geography and even politics.

