

Post 16 Prospectus 2018 - 2020



**Founder Academy of the
Mercian Trust**

Welcome

Aldridge School Sixth Form is a special and exciting place to learn and work and this prospectus is designed to help you decide whether it is the right place for you to continue your education after Year 11. We offer a wide range of A Level and level 3 vocational courses, supplemented by courses offered by our partners in The Mercian Trust, as well as extra-curricular challenges and opportunities which together will help you to achieve your potential. In addition, we offer excellent facilities for sixth form students to support private study as well as relaxation and social time.

We have high expectations of our sixth form students and there are clear, non-negotiable entry requirements for the courses we offer. As a sixth form student you will be treated as an adult with increased freedom and responsibility for your own work. However, we will continue to guide you, support you and have high expectations of you. We put your welfare first and aim to ensure your success through partnership between you, our staff and your parents. If you choose to join our sixth form, we ask you to commit to our high aspirations and expectations.

At Aldridge we are proud of the quality of teaching in our sixth form and the results achieved by our students. We are offering the opportunity to achieve academic success and the chance to develop as an individual so that you leave us happy, confident and well prepared for the next phase of your life. Our dedicated staff team have a track record of successfully supporting our students with planning their future and gaining places at university, on apprenticeships and in employment.

We hope that, having read this prospectus and seen what our sixth form has to offer, you will want to join us for the next stage of your education.



Ian Bryant
Headteacher



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Faculty of Business Communication

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
Business	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate	18
Business	BTEC Level 3 Diploma	19
Business Studies	A Level	20
Health and Social Care	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate	21
IT	OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma Level 3	22
Psychology	A Level	23
Sociology	A Level	24

Faculty of Design

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
Fine Art	A Level	25
Textile Design	A Level	25
Food Science and Nutrition	Level 3 Diploma	26
Graphic Communication	A Level	27

Faculty of English

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
English Language	A Level	28
English Literature	A Level	29
Media Studies	A Level	30

Subjects by Faculty

Faculty of Humanities

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
Ancient History	A Level	31
Geography	A Level	32
History	A Level	33
Politics	A Level	34
Religious Studies	A Level	35

Faculty of Mathematics

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
Mathematics	A Level	36

Faculty of Performance

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
Music	A Level	37
Music Technology	A Level	38
Sport	A Level	50

Faculty of Science

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
Biology	A Level	52
Chemistry	A Level	54
Physics	A Level	56

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<i>Subject</i>	<i>Award Type</i>	
Business Studies	A Level	48
Economics	A Level	49
French	A Level	51
German	A Level	52
Spanish	A Level	53
Drama/Theatre Studies	A Level	54
Design and Technology	A Level	56
Sports Studies	A Level	57



Why you should join Aldridge School Sixth Form?

At Aldridge School – An Academy we have a popular and thriving Sixth Form and recognise that the choices made for life after KS4 are an important step in your educational journey; a step that will lead on to University or Higher Apprenticeships.

We are very proud of our students' success with over 80% securing places at some of the top Universities and on Higher Apprenticeships last year.

We offer a very broad range of both academic and vocational courses at level 3, ensuring that Aldridge School Sixth Form is an option for a wide range of students.

We understand the need for enrichment opportunities for all our students. We have the highest aspirations and expectations and support our students in every way to ensure that they realise their potential and personal goals.

The personal and social welfare of each of our students is of paramount importance at Aldridge School and our pastoral care extends throughout Sixth Form life. Students will be offered advice, guidance and support at the right times.

The high quality teaching that takes place at Aldridge School is provided by KS5 subject specific staff; with a proven track record of success. We believe that our Sixth Form will provide the right opportunities and environment for you to achieve your potential.



Guidance and Monitoring

We understand that whatever you choose to do after Sixth Form it is important that you are prepared. During your time with us you will be given high quality Information, Advice and Guidance at a time when you need it the most. This will be delivered as part of your weekly timetable.

The transition from KS4 to KS5 is one of the most difficult changes that students make during their education. To help with this transition we have a comprehensive pastoral system that will provide you with care and guidance. You will be allocated a Form Tutor who will help you to settle into Sixth Form life and the expectations that this demands of you. We also run an induction programme during the month of July. All applicants to Aldridge School Sixth Form are expected to attend this programme.

During Year 12 and Year 13 you will be supported in your University application (including Oxford/Cambridge, or a Russell Group University), an apprenticeship application or progression into the work place.

During your time in the Sixth Form your teachers, Heads of Faculty and Form Tutor, will give you a huge amount of academic support. We also have a Head of Year 12 and a Head of Year 13 who support those students who are not yet achieving their full potential with low aspirations being openly challenged. Students are given organisational, motivational and practical support to help ensure progress and achieve potential.

Facilities

Students at Aldridge School Sixth Form have a refurbished designated learning centre, including:

- Large independent study area, with room for students to bring their own portable devices or use computer facilities provided
- Café Aspens - offering a more relaxed atmosphere, together with food and drink throughout the majority of the day
- Free Wi-Fi within the sixth form area
- A library of sixth form resources
- Access to the whole school facilities including;

Refurbished fitness suite, a new climbing wall and extensive playing fields

A suite of Science labs

Art studios

Enrichment Opportunities

At Aldridge School Sixth Form we understand that enhancing our students' learning experiences is fundamental to their success. We place considerable emphasis on nurturing the whole person and offer an exciting range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities to develop skills that enhance personal development and encourage a smooth transition into Higher Education, further training or employment.

Enrichment opportunities available to students include:

- IAG Programme - Information, Advice and Guidance sessions run in house and by external providers exploring a range of topics including CV writing, UCAS preparation, interview technique, financial responsibility and driver awareness courses
- Careers advisory service
- Subject Ambassador - mentoring and guiding younger pupils in the school in the student's preferred subject
- Primary School links - support in English, Maths and sporting activities with our local primary schools
- Voluntary work within care settings and local primary schools
- Election to Roles of Responsibility - Head Boy or Head Girl, leading the Student Voice, student Heads of House and Sports Captains and taking a lead role in House competitions and events
- Community links - representing Aldridge School at various local and regional events and completing community projects
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Running clubs and teams for younger years, for example the Year 7 Netball squad



Life After Aldridge School Sixth Form

At each stage in a student's education, we aim to provide the best information and advice we can to allow young people to understand the choices available to them and help them to realise their potential.

Great care is taken to ensure that students understand what they are taking on when they apply for a programme of study and we work closely with our careers advisor to ensure that students are aware of the career-related implications of the decisions that are made.

Over the period of time that students are with us in the sixth form, there is regular advice and support with university applications, career planning and more broadly, preparation for the next steps that they will make. There is a very high level of success in the number of students gaining places at their first choice universities.

University	Courses
The University of Birmingham	Psychology, English Language and Classical Literature
University of Bristol	Economics and Music
University of Manchester	History, Pharmacy and Business
University of Nottingham	Economics and Psychology
University of Leeds	Biochemistry, Chemistry and Law
Birmingham City University	Textiles Design and Computer Science
Swansea University	Physical Geography, Music Technology
University of Liverpool	Ophthalmic
University of Leeds	Chemistry, Physics and Law
University of Durham	Chemistry
University of Sheffield	Maths
De Montfort University	Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacy and Adult Nursing

Making the right choices

When you are choosing the subjects that you wish to study at Aldridge School Sixth Form it is important that you choose subjects that you not only enjoy and are interested in, but subjects you will succeed in and are potentially relevant to a university course or career aspiration. Careful consideration of subject combinations is important. It is not uncommon to have a University course or job in mind when applying; and your selection of subjects should support these ambitions.

To help you make these choices it would be helpful to talk over your options with family members or friends. If you feel you need help, then feel free to contact the Sixth Form team at Aldridge School at any time. We also run a Sixth Form taster programme in July to give you a true taste of what its like to be part of the Sixth Form at Aldridge School.

Below are a number of resources that will help you with your choice of courses:

- <http://university.which.co.uk>
- <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/news/201617-edition-of-informed-choices-published>
- <http://www.careers4u.tv/what-degree/>
- <https://www.oxford-royale.co.uk/articles/how-to-choose-a-levels.html>

Working Together

We also value the role parents and guardians play in providing guidance and support for our students and we run evening events for parents and students to attend including:

- Sixth Form Open Evening
- Sixth Form Induction
- Life after Sixth Form including UCAS application preparation
- Student Finance Evening
- KS5 Progress Evenings and Reports



What are the entry requirements for Aldridge School Sixth Form?

Aldridge School has an Open Access Sixth Form for all students who wish to continue their studies from KS4 at aged 16 who meet the entry requirements and are prepared to study seriously and make a positive contribution to the ethos of the school.


We offer two pathways at Post 16; an academic route and a primarily vocational route. All students will be expected to follow three level 3 courses.

Students can do a combination of courses in both routes, but it is expected that a student on the vocational route will choose at least two vocational courses.

Level 3 A Level Academic Route Entry Requirements: Minimum of five Grade 5s or above in separate subjects. A minimum of a Grade 5 in English or Maths and at least a Grade 4 in the other. Additional entry criteria are also specified for each subject on the relevant prospectus pages.

Level 3 Vocational Route Entry Requirements: Minimum of five Grade 4s or above in separate subjects. A minimum of Grade 4 in English or Maths and at least a Grade 3 in the other. Students will be required to retake either Maths or English where they obtained a Grade 3. Additional entry criteria are also specified for each subject on the relevant prospectus pages.

Academic and Vocational Choices

Academic Choices	Vocational Choices
Ancient History	Art & Design – Textile Design
Biology	Art & Design – Graphic Communication
Business Studies	BTEC National Extended Certificate in Business
Chemistry	BTEC National Diploma in Business
English Language	BTEC National Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care
English Literature	Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma Level 3 in ICT
Fine Art	Level 3 Diploma Food Science and Nutrition
Geography	Music Technology
History	
Mathematics	
Media Studies	
Music	
Physical Education	
Physics	
Politics	
Psychology	
Religious Studies	
Sociology	



GCSE retakes in English and Mathematics

Under the new Government reforms, post-16 students who have not yet achieved a GCSE Grade 4 in English or Mathematics are required to continue to study these subjects at post-16. Aldridge School offers the opportunity for students to study these subjects and retake these GCSEs alongside their other post-16 options.

At Aldridge School we offer timetabled classes and the opportunity to retake the English and Mathematics examinations in November. If students achieve a Grade 4 or above in November then they would no longer be required to study these subjects. If they are still yet to achieve a Grade 4 in these subjects then they will have another opportunity to retake in the summer exam period.

Post 16 retake classes in English and Mathematics are taught by experienced subject specialists. Staff will liaise with students regarding examination specifications followed and work that needs to be completed.

For external students coming from other schools who have taken English/Mathematics exams with a different board, we are happy to offer advice about GCSE preparation and retake strategies, either by telephone, e-mail or at interview.

How do I make an Application to Aldridge School Sixth Form?

We welcome all applications to join the Sixth Form at Aldridge School in September 2018 using the online application form found at the address below:

www.apply.aldriggeschool.org

The application process will begin on 10th November 2017 and close on 15th December 2017. All applicants for Aldridge School Sixth Form will be required to attend an interview. These interviews will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you have regarding your application as well as for us to ascertain your suitability for Aldridge School Sixth Form. We will also offer advice on the combination of subjects you have applied for. Successful applicants will be offered a conditional place in writing.

Post 16 Courses 2018 - 2020



**Founder Academy of the
Mercian Trust**

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Business

Additional Entry Requirements:

Minimum five Grade 4s or above including in Maths or English, with a Grade 3 in the other. You need a MERIT if you did Level 2 BTEC Business.

Exam Board/Spec: Pearson

Method of Assessment:

Equivalent to 1 A Level. 4 Units have to be completed, 3 are Mandatory

Unit (1) – Exploring Business (Internally marked coursework)

Unit (2) – Developing a Marketing Campaign – (Externally marked) A case study will be issued 2 weeks prior to a 3 hour controlled assessment.

Unit (3) – Personal and Business Finance (Externally marked) 2 hour examination

Unit (8) – The Recruitment and Selection Process – (Internally marked coursework)

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

Unit (1) and Unit (8) are internally set and marked coursework units. Unit (2) is a 3 hour controlled assessment externally marked.

Subject Content

Unit (1) Exploring Business

In this introductory unit, learners study the purposes of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment, and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive

Unit (2) Developing a Marketing Campaign

Marketing is a dynamic field central to the success of any business. You will gain an

understanding of how a marketing campaign is developed. You will explore different stages of the process that a business goes through when developing its campaign and develop your own campaign for a given product/service

Unit (3) Personal and Business Finance

This unit includes aspects of both personal and business finance. Personal finance involves the understanding of why money is important and how managing your money can help prevent future financial difficulties. The business finance aspects of the unit introduce you to accounting terminology, the purpose and importance of business accounts and the different sources of finance available to businesses.

Unit (8) Recruitment and Selection Process

Learners explore how the recruitment process is carried out in a business. This unit gives you the opportunity, through role play, to take part in selection interviews. They will need to be organised and prepared so that they demonstrate your communication skills in this work-related competence

Career Prospects:

Many students progress onto University to study a Business related degree or gain employment at Higher Apprenticeship level. The BTEC National Qualifications in Business are well known and create a huge number of higher education and job opportunities. Past students have gone on to study Law, Business Management, Marketing, Accountancy, Human Resources and Event Management.



BTEC Level 3 Diploma

Business

Additional Entry Requirements:

Minimum five Grade 4s or above including in Maths or English, with a Grade 3 in the other. You need a MERIT if you did Level 2 BTEC Business.

Exam Board/Spec: Pearson

Method of Assessment:

Equivalent to 2 A Levels

8 Units have to be completed, 6 are Mandatory

Unit (1) – Exploring Business (Internally marked coursework)

Unit (2) – Developing a Marketing Campaign – (Externally marked) A case study will be issued 2 weeks prior to a 3 hour controlled assessment.

Unit (3) – Personal and Business Finance (Externally marked) 2 hour examination

Unit (4) – Managing an Event – (Internally marked coursework)

Unit (5) – International Business – (Internally marked coursework)

Unit (6) – Principles of Management – (Externally marked) A case study will be issued 2 weeks prior to a 3 hour controlled assessment.

Unit (8) – The Recruitment and Selection Process – (Internally marked coursework)

Unit (14) – Investigating Customer Service – (Internally marked coursework)

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

A number of units are internally set and marked coursework. Units (2) and Unit

(6) are 3 hour controlled assessments externally marked.

Subject Content

Unit (1) Exploring Business

In this introductory unit, learners study the purposes of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment, and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive

Unit (2) Developing a Marketing Campaign

Marketing is a dynamic field central to the success of any business. You will gain an understanding of how a marketing campaign is developed. You will explore different stages of the process that a business goes through when developing its campaign and develop your own campaign for a given product/service

Unit (3) Personal and Business Finance

This unit includes aspects of both personal and business finance. Personal finance involves the understanding of why money is important and how managing your money can help prevent future financial difficulties. The business finance aspects of the unit introduce you to accounting terminology, the purpose and importance of business accounts and the different sources of finance available to businesses.

Unit (4) Managing an Event

You will investigate a number of successful events, both large and small, and use this research to assess the feasibility of events to plan and run yourself. Examples could range from organising meetings, product launches,

exhibitions, promotions, charity events, team-building events and staff development, to a full-scale conference. Your chosen event will be carefully planned, demonstrating your ability to use planning tools. You will then stage the event, testing the effectiveness of your planning

Unit (5) International Business

Learners will study how UK businesses develop strategies to trade globally. You will look at how Governments can influence international business and how businesses can help maximise the benefits to the national economy.

Unit (6) Principles of Management

Understand how the role of management and leadership in the workplace contributes towards business success. You will investigate some of the issues that managers and leaders have to deal with in the workplace in making businesses more efficient and ensuring their survival and growth. The effective planning and organising of a business's activity can significantly influence the success of a business.

Unit (8) Recruitment and Selection Process

Learners explore how the recruitment process is carried out in a business. This unit gives you the opportunity, through role play, to take part in selection interviews. They will need to be organised and prepared so that they demonstrate your communication skills in this work-related competence

Unit (14) Investigating Customer Service

How is excellent customer service linked to business success? In this unit you will learn that attracting new customers costs a business more than keeping existing customers, so it is important to keep existing customers happy. You can do this by building relationships with internal and external customers and giving them excellent service that exceeds their needs and expectations. The unit will enable you to evaluate your own customer service skills and to create a development plan for improvement.

Career Prospects:

Many students progress onto University to study a Business related degree or gain employment at Higher Apprenticeship level. The BTEC National Qualifications in Business are well known and create a huge number of higher education and job opportunities. Past students have gone on to study Law, Business Management, Marketing, Accountancy, Human Resources and Event Management.

A level Business

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above including English Language or Maths. If you did GCSE Business, you must have a minimum Grade 5.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Paper 1: A 2 hour written exam worth 100 marks and 33.3% of the A Level consisting of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and two essay questions

Paper 2: A 2 hour written exam worth 100 marks and 33.3% of the A Level consisting of three data response questions

Paper 3: A 2 hour written exam worth 100 marks and 33.3% of the A Level consisting of one compulsory case study with 6 corresponding questions

Subject Content

Business Studies will introduce you to the challenges and issues of starting a business, including financial planning. The course then explores the key internal functions of business and how the management of these functions can assist in improving effectiveness as well as external influences on business such as exchange rates and the economic cycle. This course is designed to:

- Enable you to focus on the dynamic nature of the contemporary business world
- Provide opportunities for research into topical business issues using actual business examples

- Offer opportunities for the development and application of a full range of academic skills such as presentation skills, as well as analysis and evaluation in essay writing.

Main Features of the Course

- The need for business activity
- Managers, leadership and decision-making
- Decision-making to improve marketing performance
- Decision-making to improve financial performance
- Decision-making to improve operational performance
- Decision-making to improve human resource performance.
- Analysing the strategic position of the business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Methods of pursuing strategic change
- Managing strategic change

Career Prospects:

Many students progress on to university to study a degree in Business or Economics but it is relevant to a large number of degrees and past students have gone on to study Accountancy, Law and Architecture. The course also prepares students for a management role in employment or to start their own business.



Health and Social Care

Additional Entry Requirements:

Minimum five Grade 4 or above in separate subjects. English Language at Grade 5.

Exam Board/Spec: Pearson

Method of Assessment:

It is equivalent in size to one A Level

4 units are taken over the two-year course

3 are mandatory units

2 units are external examinations and 2 are internally-assessed units which are subject to external standards verification

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support

Unit 14: Physiological Disorders and their Care

Both are both internally assessed then externally verified

Subject Content

A broad basis of study for the health and social care sector. The course is designed to support progression to higher education as well as those thinking of applying for apprenticeships.

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development – mandatory external assessment. This unit covers physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan and the factors affecting development and the effects of ageing.

Unit 2: Working in Health & Social Care – mandatory external assessment. This unit explores what it is like to work in the health and social care sector, including the roles and responsibilities of workers and organisations.

Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs – mandatory synoptic internally assessed. This unit focuses on the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting individuals' care and support needs, which are the foundation of all the care disciplines.

Unit 14: Physiological Disorders and their Care – internally assessed. This unit explores the types of physiological disorders, the procedures for diagnosis, and the development of a treatment plan and provision of support for service users.

Career Prospects:

It is highly recommended for students considering careers in: Nursing, Midwifery, Paediatrics, Paramedic, Social work. Education: primary, early years, secondary.

Police, Prison, Probation, Youth Offending, Mental health and counselling

"Health and social care really expands your knowledge on the health conditions in which you are surrounded by every day. The course also helps to make you aware of how you communicate with people on a daily basis"

Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma Level 3

IT

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 4 in English or Maths and at least a grade 4 in GCSE Computer Science or a Distinction in level 2 ICT if taken at GCSE.

Exam Board/Spec: OCR - Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT Level 3

Method of Assessment:

Examination – 2 externally assessed examination units

Coursework – 3 units of internally assessed coursework

Subject Content

There will be five units of work to complete that will be assessed either internally or externally to give you your overall grade. The course will also allow students to undertake a unit of work that will allow them to specialise in a IT 'pathway'.

The course will consist of the following:

Unit 1 - Exam unit 'Fundamentals of IT'

Unit 2 - Exam Unit 'Global information'

Then the completion of three units of internally assessed coursework:

Unit 8 – Project Management

Unit 17 – The Internet of Everything

Unit 5 - Virtual and augmented reality

Career Prospects:

This qualification allows the opportunity for students to study for an HND (Higher National Diploma) or a degree in computer science and any other areas of the computer industry.

The skills acquired in the qualification are also highly sought after in all areas of work and industry as well as specialising in IT industry jobs like hardware engineer, web developer, computer programmer or systems analyst.

"The course has been very helpful as I have built a knowledge that can be easily applied to practical and real world situations."





A level

Psychology

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in English and Grade 5 in Maths or Science.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Three 2 hour exams at the end of Year 13

Subject Content

This interesting and dynamic subject involves the study of the behaviour of individuals and their mental processes. Psychologists observe and conduct experiments to find out more about the way people act and interact. They try to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us and use this understanding to help us tackle personal and social problems.

We cover the AQA exam specification at Aldridge School and further details can be found at www.aqa.org.uk.

The A Level will be assessed by three exams taken at the end of Year 13. These will each last 2 hours.

Paper 1 – Introductory Topics in Psychology. Studying topics such as social influence, memory, attachment and psychopathology. Paper 2 – Psychology in Context. Studying topics such as approaches in psychology, biopsychology and research methods.

Paper 3 - Issues and Options in Psychology. Studying topics such as relationships, schizophrenia and forensic psychology alongside issues and debates in psychology.

The skills which are developed through studying psychology include analytical skills which can be useful in a number of different subjects. Students will also develop the ability to analyse behaviour from a variety of approaches in psychology. The exam will assess their ability to apply their understanding to new situations.

Career Prospects:

Students have many opportunities to study the subject at a higher level, either choosing a BSc or BA degree. There are further opportunities to pursue a career in Psychology, by undertaking a Postgraduate qualification in a variety of Psychology related areas, for example, Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology and Forensic Psychology.

Psychology is a useful subject for any job involving people, because students will gain an understanding of human behaviour, which can be applied in a variety of roles including; counsellor, family and marriage therapist, psychiatric nurse, childcare worker, social worker, youth counsellor.

A level Sociology

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in English.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Three 2 hour exams at the end of Year 13

Subject Content

Students who have an interest in the society we live in today and how it has changed throughout history would find this subject enjoyable. This subject involves the study of sociological thought and methods. It allows for the integration of sociological themes, such as socialisation, culture and identity, and social differentiation, power and stratification. Students would be expected to think critically about how society develops and how the people in our society change. Students will be required to study key sociologists' work and evaluate how successful the work has been at explaining society.

We study the AQA specification, further information can be found at www.aqa.org.uk. The new A level will be assessed by three exams taken at the end of Year 13 each exam is 2 hours.

Paper 1 – Education with Methods in Context
Paper 2 – Families and Households and Beliefs in Society.

Paper 3 - Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

Sociology requires students to write essays, which are constructed well and reflect on more than one perspective. Such as feminist, Marxist and functionalist. This will allow students to develop their debating skills, by presenting different arguments and forming a conclusion.

Sociology fits well with Arts and Humanities subjects, such as English and History, but would also combine with subjects such as Psychology due to the scientific nature of the research methods used. It may also combine well with Health and Social Care

Career Prospects:

Students would find that Sociology would help them with further careers in Health Care, Business, Local Government, Social Work, Military, Criminal Justice, Education, Law or Child Welfare.



A level Art and Design

Fine Art

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above or a portfolio of work seen to be an equivalent to this.

Exam Board/Spec: OCR

Method of Assessment:

We follow the OCR specification. Work is internally assessed and externally moderated by a visiting moderator

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

60% Personal investigation – starting points set by the centre.

40% Externally set task – starting points set by the exam board.

Subject Content

The A level course will enable students to develop a wide range of skills and techniques, together with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of Art, Craft and Design. The course offered is extremely adaptable to the student and the area of art that they wish to explore.

Personal investigation – Students will be given a starting point and will be required to conduct their own research into artists and art forms they have an interest in, experimenting in areas and recording ideas they feel relate to this. Both traditional media such as painting and drawing are routes that could be followed as well as digital media and photography. The personal investigation has an accompanying written study, with a minimum of 1000 words.

Externally set task - Students receive an early release paper in February, this will provide the students with a number of themes and a wide range of starting points set by the exam board. From this they will choose one option and produce a body of work that culminates with the 15 hour controlled time in which they produce a personal response.

Career Prospects:

Students who study a design related course will have access to a variety of higher education opportunities, ranging from foundation studies to BA honours degrees. Courses applied for often include Fine Art, Animation, Graphic Design, Fashion and Textiles, Photography, Architecture, Computer Game Graphics and Character Design and Illustration.

A level Art and Design - Vocational Route

Textile Design

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above in an Art or design technology specification or portfolio of work seen to be an equivalent to this.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Work is internally assessed and externally moderated by a visiting moderator.

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

60% Personal investigation – starting points set by the centre.

40% Externally set task – starting points set by the exam board.

Subject Content

Personal investigation:

Textile design: Students will be given a range of starting points/project briefs. The course we deliver aims to cover a range of areas related to the textile and fashion industry. Projects delivered include textile design, Upcycling, Costume/Fashion design, Costume/Fashion production and Wallpaper design.

Externally set task:

The exam board release an externally set task paper in February which will be completed in the second year of the course. The paper will contain a range of briefs from which they will choose one. They will produce a body of work for this which leads to a final outcome being produced over a 15 hour period.

Career Prospects:

Students who study an arts related course will have access to a variety of higher education opportunities, ranging from foundation studies to BA honours degrees. Courses applied for often include Fine Art, Fashion, Textiles, Set design and Costume design.

Food Science and Nutrition

Additional Entry Requirements:

Minimum five Grade 4s or above in separate subjects including Maths or English at Grade 4 with a Grade 3 in the other.

Exam Board/Spec: WJEC

Method of Assessment:

3 units of assessment. Unit 1 = 50% of overall grade with 2 further units completing the course

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

50 % of final qualification.

Unit 1 - external exam in June of Year 12.

50 % of final qualification.

Unit 2 – An 8 hour timed Assignment related to food safety

Unit 4- A research project on current issues related to Food and Nutrition.

Subject Content

Unit 1 Meeting Nutritional needs of specific groups

will enable the learner to demonstrate an understanding of nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts, and through on-going practical sessions, gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals.

Unit 2 Ensuring food is safe to eat

will develop an understanding of hazards and risks in relation to the storage, preparation and cooking of food in different environments and the control measures needed to minimise these risks.

Unit 4 Current issues in food science and nutrition

will develop the skills needed to plan, carry out and present a research project on current issues linked to issues related to food science and nutrition. This could be from the perspective of a consumer, food manufacturer, caterer and/or policymaking perspective.

Career Prospects:

When students successfully complete this course they can go on to degree courses in food technology, hospitality and catering, even travel and tourism. This subject would also be valuable to students considering careers in food science, nutrition and health. Design and technology is often highly regarded by university admission tutors as the approach to problem solving and communication that is developed by students is transferable to other subjects





A level Art and Design - Vocational Route

Graphic Communication

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 or above or a portfolio of work seen to be an equivalent to this.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Work is internally assessed and externally moderated by a visiting moderator

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

60% Personal investigation – starting points set by the centre.

40% Externally set task – starting points set by the exam board.

Subject Content

Personal investigation:

Personal investigation: The course we deliver aims to give students a wide range of experiences related to the design industry. Students will produce work from a range of centre set briefs. Projects intended to be delivered include Corporate Branding, Graphic Illustration – Comic book/Childrens book, Character design and design for advertising.

Externally set task:

The exam board release an externally set task paper in February which will be completed in the second year of the course. The paper will contain a range of briefs from which they will choose one. They will produce a body of work for this which leads to a final outcome being produced over a 15 hour period.

Career Prospects:

Students who study a design related course will have access to a variety of higher education opportunities, ranging from foundation studies to BA honours degrees. Careers in Fine Art, Animation, Graphic Design, Fashion and Textiles, Photography, Architecture, Set design, Costume design, Computer Game Graphics, concept art, Character Design and Illustration.

* Students cannot choose **BOTH** Textile Design and Graphic Communication.

A level English Language

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Two exams of 2 ½ hours

Paper 1 Language, the individual and society

Paper 2 Language diversity and change

80% of the overall marks

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

Two pieces of independent work

Language investigation

Original writing

20% of overall marks

Subject Content

This is a scientific study of how language works on different levels and is completely unlike GCSE. You will explore the ways in which language works on many levels and how context (such as purpose and audience) shapes language use in all its forms. There is a focus on the spectrum between spontaneous speech and formal written documents through contemporary multi-modal texts. How language creates representations and manipulates audiences (including you) is a fascinating aspect of the course. The development of children's language use is also studied in Y12. In Y13, language change across time and language diversity across communities and the regions in which English is spoken are the main topics. Written responses for exams and the NEA take a variety of forms and so these are explored in detail too, such as theoretical essays, fiction texts and editorial articles.

Career Prospects:

If you are thinking of a career in journalism, broadcasting, speech therapy or publishing this is the ideal course for you. However, communication skills are key in many occupations such as law, nursing, police work, teaching, business, and social work, indeed any career that involves dealing with the public and colleagues. At university level, linguistics can be studied in a single honours course or combined with other disciplines such as literature, politics, psychology, sociology, law or other languages.

"This is nothing like I expected and it's far more interesting!"

"Learning about English language has totally changed my idea of what is meant by communication."

"Children's language acquisition is fascinating."

"I wasn't planning on going to university until I did this course. Now I can't wait to learn more."





A level

English Literature

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Two exams, one of 2½ hours and another of 3 hours

Paper 1A: Aspects of tragedy

Paper 2A: Elements of crime writing

80% of qualification

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

Two pieces of independent work on texts selected by the students (one poetry and one prose), explored using a critical anthology featuring a range of critical approaches (feminist, Marxist, post-colonial, narrative, eco-critical).

Subject Content

Students study the genres of tragedy and crime writing across the two-year course. Forms studied are poetry, drama and prose fiction and examples include a collection of Victorian poetry, a Shakespeare play, a modern play and modern novels.

Career Prospects:

English Literature is a highly recognised qualification and can open the door to infinite career prospects. More specifically, those looking to advance further in any field of English – be it journalism, teaching or publishing – will find this a useful and rewarding subject, however the subject has much wider scope with skills that could be applied in law, business, marketing or the public sector. At university level, literature can be studied in a single honours course or combined with other disciplines such as linguistics, politics, psychology, history, law or languages such as French.

"It's great to really get stuck in to a book."

"I didn't realise that Literature was about far more than reading books. I have learnt about philosophy and politics as well."

A level Media Studies

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Two 2 hour exams worth 70% in total

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

Cross-media production worth 30% in total.

Subject Content

It has been argued that media in the 21st Century dominates our lives and that the media we consume is the basis for our understanding of the world in which we live.

Television, radio, newspapers, magazines, film, the Internet, videos, DVDs, CDs and computer games have become, to varying degrees, central to our lives. In the same way that it is essential for everyone to be able to read and write, it is now increasingly important that everyone should develop media literacy.

Students who study Media Studies will be interested in developing a critical and analytical approach to the mass media and be interested in the ethical, social and cultural issues surrounding the deployment, expansion and impact of media technologies. A range of theories, such as Marxism, Post-Colonialism, Semiotics and Post-Modernism will be explored, allowing students to see the media saturated world we live in, in a way they have never known.

Students will also be able to expand their creative minds, working with a range of software to produce their own media texts.

Career Prospects:

An A-level in Media Studies is a valuable qualification which can be used in further education, as well as practically in the world of work. Students will be able to use programmes such as Photoshop and Movie Maker, which are widely used in a range of industries. After completing an A level in Media Studies, career prospects in journalism, film, television, radio and many others can be undertaken. The Media Studies course opens many doors in terms of employment and education, including Public Relations, Television/ Film Producer, Advertising, Presenting, Journalism, Market Research.





A level

Ancient History

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in English and/or Grade 6 in one the following; History, Geography, Citizenship or RST.

Exam Board/Spec: OCR

Method of Assessment:

Two exams at the end of Year 13. These will assess knowledge and understanding of the topics but also of the ancient source materials studied

Greek component exam (2 hours 30 mins) will test your understanding of the Greek depth and period study;

Greece and Persia

The Rise of Macedon

Roman component exam (2 hours 30 mins) will test your understanding of the Roman depth and period study

The Julio-Claudian emperors

Roman Britain

Subject Content

An A Level in Ancient History will allow you to study the ancient world, its momentous events and its larger than life personalities including Alexander the Great, Caligula and King Leonidas of Sparta. You will see how ancient civilisations like the Romans, Greeks and Egyptians have shaped the world that we live in today and develop a passion and curiosity for antiquity. The course will also allow you to gain a greater understanding of the literature of the period, including the first great historians like Herodotus, Thucydides and Livy.

Career Prospects:

Many of our students enjoy the subject so much, that they go on to study this subject at University, taking degrees in Ancient History and Classics. Given the critical thinking skills that Ancient History develops, students can also enter a wide variety of careers, including law, journalism and the media in general; advertising, accountancy, business management, marketing, public relations, the armed forces and the police; the civil service, the dramatic arts and education at all levels.

"There is little as illuminating as civilisation's distant past, especially as we move towards a global age of increasing tensions. In the same vein, there are few subjects like Ancient History— within which our ancient pasts can be rediscovered and learnt from. Take the rise of 5th century Athenian demagogy against modern American politics, for example: the likes of Cleon vs. Donald Trump serve as a clear parallel and prove the eternal relevance of the classical world"

A level Geography

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in Geography and Grade 5 in Maths GCSE. If not done Geography GCSE then a Grade 6 or higher in one of History, Citizenship, RST.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Physical: 2.5 hour exam paper (40%)

Human: 2.5 hour exam paper (40%)

Geographical Investigation: (20%)

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

Geographical Investigation: (20%)

3000-4000 word individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. Students will be expected to conduct fieldwork. There will be a residential field trip in the summer term of Year 12. The trip aims to consolidate the core topics of the course whilst preparing students to use a wide range of skills. Parents and students will be required to cover the cost of the 4 day residential to a Field Studies Centre. There will be a payment scheme available from September in order to pay in instalments.

Subject Content

Geography is quite a wide-ranging subject and can focus on aspects to do with people (populations, demographics and so on) or on Earth processes. Suggested combinations with Geography would be – Economics, Sociology, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Foreign Languages.

A Level Course – Geography A level qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit their exams and submit all their non-exam assessments at the end of the two year course.

Physical: 2.5 hour exam paper (40%)

- Water and Carbon Cycle
- Coastal Systems and Landscapes
- Hazards OR Ecosystems under Stress OR Cold Environments.

Human: 2.5 hour exam paper (40%)

- Global Systems and Global Governance
- Changing Places
- Contemporary Urban Environment OR Population and the Environment OR Resource security.

Career Prospects:

For careers such as Planning, Estate Management, Agriculture, Forestry, Business Management, Accountancy, the Police Force and Sales and Marketing, a geographical training provides valuable knowledge and insight.





A level History

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in English and/or Grade 6 in one the following; History, Geography, Citizenship or RST.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

2 x 2hr 30min exams taken at the end of Year 13

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

1 x 3,000-word essay

Unification, Revolution and Disintegration: The South Slavs, 1878 - 1995

Subject Content

Paper 1 – Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855 – 1964

- Autocracy, Reform and Revolution: Russia 1855 – 1917
- The Collapse of autocracy
- The Emergence of a Communist dictatorship, 1917 – 1941
- The Stalinist dictatorship and reaction, 1941 - 1964

Paper 2 – Royal Authority and the Angevin Kings, 1154 – 1216

- The reign of Henry II, 1154 – 1189
- Richard I, 1189 – 1199
- King John, 1199 - 1216

Career Prospects:

Thanks to the highly valued academic and life skills provided by studying History, students can enter a wide variety of careers, including law, journalism and the media in general; advertising, accountancy, business management, marketing, public relations, the armed forces and the police; the civil service, the dramatic arts and education at all levels.

A level Politics

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in English and/or Grade 6 in one the following; History, Geography, Citizenship or RST.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

3 x 2 hour exams taken at the end of Year 13

Subject Content

Unit 1: Government and Politics of the UK

People, Politics and Participation:

An introduction to the political world: Why do people vote? Who do they vote for? How do elections work? Why do people take part in political protests?

Governing Modern Britain

How is Britain governed? How are laws made? Who holds the real power in this country?

Unit 2: Government and Politics of the USA

Politics of the USA

This unit looks at how Politics in the USA is conducted. How is the President elected? What is the difference between a Primary and a Caucus? Why do Republicans and Democrats dominate? How much power do pressure groups in the USA wield?

Government of the USA

How is the USA governed? What is the difference between a senator and a governor? How much power does the president really have? What is the constitution?

Unit 3: Political Ideas

Students study 4 ideologies including the 3 core ideologies of liberalism, conservatism and socialism. They will also study one non-core ideology, Nationalism.

Career Prospects:

Students can enter a wide variety of careers, including law, journalism and the media in general; advertising, accountancy, business management, marketing, public relations, the armed forces and the police; the civil service, the dramatic arts and education at all levels.





A level

Religious Studies

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in English and/or Grade 6 in one the following; History, Geography, Citizenship. If taken at GCSE a Grade 6 in Religious Studies is required.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

At the end of the course, component one and two will each be examined separately. Each will have a three hour written examination of equal weighting. Each examination is marked using the AO1 and AO2 criteria. AO1 asks students to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the topics studied. AO2 asks them to analyse and evaluate the topics studied. AO1 will constitute 40% of the overall marks, while AO2 will account for the remaining 60%.

Subject Content

Religious Studies is an inclusive subject, designed for people of any faith... and people who have no faith. It is not necessary to have taken Religious Studies at GCSE. It is beneficial to all students who wish to pursue their studies in any area of Humanities for example, teaching and social work.

During the course, topics are split into two different components. Component one being Philosophy and Religion, component two is Christianity and Ethics.

Year 12 will compromise of -

Philosophy and Religion - topics will range from Self, Death and the Afterlife to Religious Identity.

Christianity and Ethics - topics range from Arguments for the Existence of God to Evil and Suffering.

Year 13 will compromise of -

Philosophy and Religion - topics will range from The Nature and Function of Religion to Religion and Sexual Identity.

Christianity and Ethics - topics range from Miracles to Free Will and Moral Responsibility.

Career Prospects:

Teacher, Administrator, Advice worker, Counsellor, Housing Advisor, Journalist, Librarian, Social Worker, Youth and Community Worker, Nursing, Police, Philosopher, Charity Worker.

"I chose Religious Studies because I thought it would help me with my career in the health sector. I moved to Aldridge School as an external student and didn't know what to expect. So far, Religious Studies is my favourite subject as there's so much to learn and so many questions to ask. The teachers are so supportive and helpful"

A level Mathematics

Additional Entry Requirements:

Mathematics is considered one of the most challenging A level courses on offer. Students are expected to have achieved a Grade 7 or higher in Mathematics at GCSE.

Exam Board/Spec: Edexcel

Method of Assessment:

The course consists of three two-hour written examinations, of equal weighting. Paper 1 & 2 contain questions on any topics from the Pure Mathematics content, paper 3 contains questions from the Applied Content (covering Statistics and Mechanics). A calculator is essential for all three papers

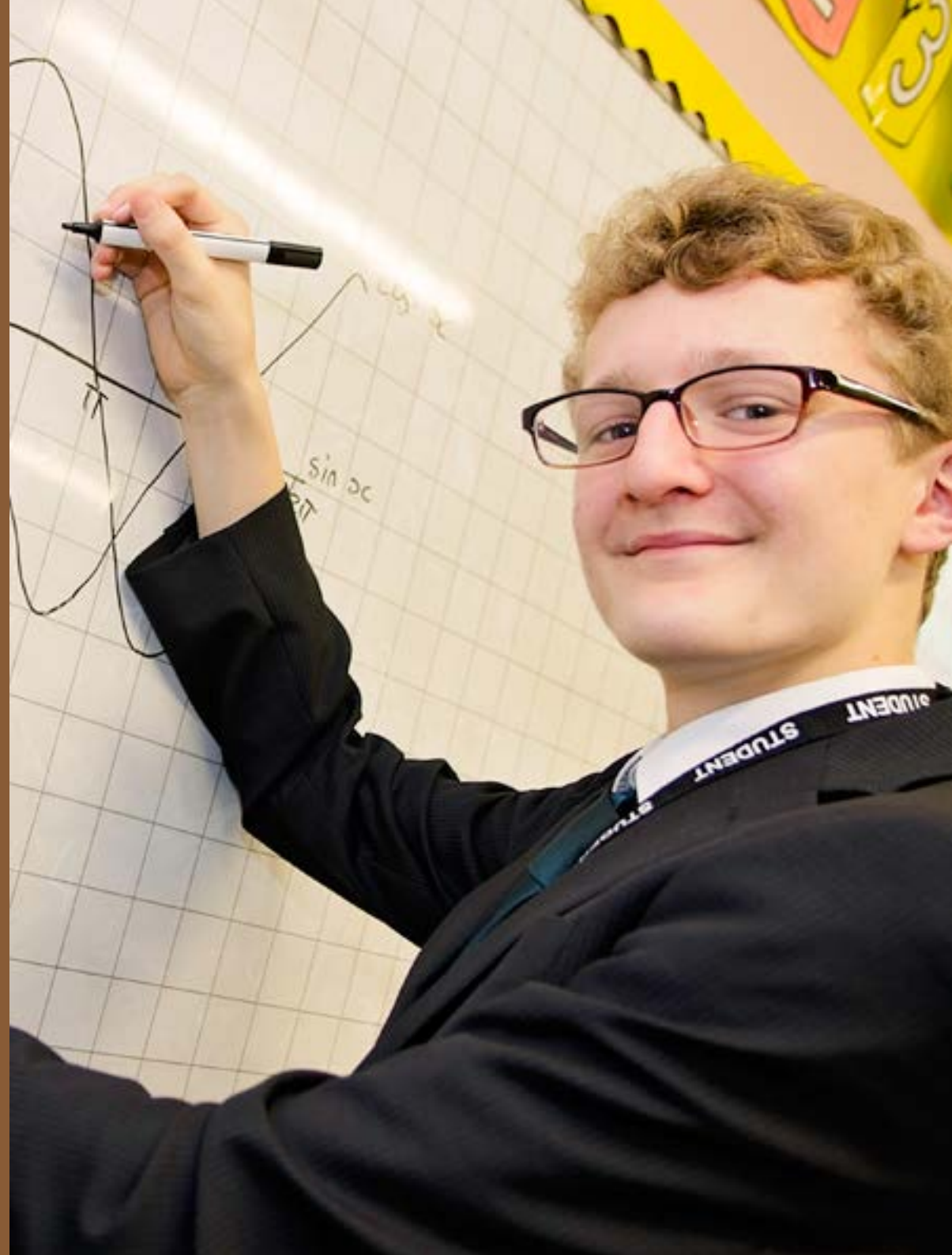
Subject Content

You will cover the essential pure mathematical methods that can be applied to real world scenarios. Topics include solving equations, graphs and transformations, coordinate geometry, logarithms and exponentials, trigonometry and differentiation and integration. You will also develop an in-depth knowledge of statistics, focusing on the representation and analysis of data, probability, probability distributions, linear correlation and linear regression, and mechanics covering kinematics, forces and moments.

Career Prospects:

In almost any career you choose you are certain to meet mathematics at some stage. A Level mathematics is therefore highly valued by employers as well as being a formal requirement for many good university courses. A good pass at A level mathematics will be looked upon very favourably by universities, even if mathematics is not directly related to your chosen course. An A level mathematics qualification is a valuable key to any scientific degree, architecture and design as well as economics and medicine amongst many others.

Further Mathematics is available as an enrichment opportunity for those achieving the highest grades in Year 11 and wishing to take a fourth A level. Students need to be aware that it will take up another four periods of teaching time per week for two years.





A level Music

Additional Entry Requirements:

If students have studied Music at GCSE they require a grade 6 to continue to A-level. Students also need to have Grade 5 ABRSM in their chosen instrument. Students who have not studied Music at GCSE need a pass in Grade 5 Music Theory – ABRSM.

Exam Board/Spec: OCR

Method of Assessment:

Over the two year course students cover Listening, Composing and Performing in three units

Subject Content

The course offers a variety of alternatives which enable students to submit work demonstrating their strengths in the subject. There are three units of study. External assessments take place in May of Year 13.

In units 1 and 2 Students may opt for Option A or B. This flexibility means they can gain up to 35% in the option for higher study and 25% in the option where they choose the smaller amount of study.

Unit 1: Performing (35% or 25%)

Here students have the opportunity to perform both as a soloist and in ensembles. Performances can take place on any instrument, including voice. A recital is prepared for Year 13 and should last either for six to eight minutes (Option A) or twelve to fifteen minutes (Option B)

Unit 2: Composing (25% or 35%)

Students are required to compose two pieces. One from a brief set by the board and one working from their own brief. For option A an extension to their composing comprises of four part harmony and two part counterpoint.

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising (40%)

This work is undertaken through the study of four areas. Areas 1 and 2 are compulsory and a further two are selected from areas 3-6. They are

- 1: Instrumental Music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven;
- 2: Popular Song: Blues, Jazz, Swing and Big Band;
- 3: Developments in Instrumental Jazz from 1910 to the present day;
- 4: Religious Music of the Baroque period;
- 5: Programme Music;
- 6: Innovations in Music 1900 to the present day.

Music may be combined with Arts and Sciences and many universities offer combined degree courses. A number of colleges are now offering degree courses in Performing Arts where Music may be studied along with Movement and Drama, Art and Literature. Intending performers would usually apply to music colleges, through the CUKAS system. Music is welcomed by universities and colleges in particular even if the subject is not to be continued beyond that level. Aldridge School has a long tradition of sending young musicians to further education and has had students at all major conservatoires in the UK and major universities including Oxford and Cambridge It can also lead to a life-long cultural interest in the arts generally. Music brings people together and strengthens the local community. A level Music combines well with a wide range of A level subjects. It is highly regarded as an academic A level but it is practical and enjoyable.

Career Prospects:

Musician, Conducting, Teaching, recording studios, member of orchestra, theatre, session players, TV companies, radio, film scoring, music composition, recording engineer.

A level - Vocational Route

Music Technology

Additional Entry Requirements:

Minimum of five Grade 4s or above in separate subjects. A minimum of Grade 4 in English or Maths and at least a Grade 3 in the other. GCSE music is not a prerequisite to succeed in A level music technology.

Exam Board/Spec: Edexcel

Method of Assessment:

60% examination, two exams both in Year 13

40% portfolio work submitted in Year 13

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

Two pieces of coursework, one composition and one multi track recording, 20% each of the total A2.

Subject Content

History of sound recording.

Modern recording techniques.

Arranging and producing a pop song.

Composing using technology.

Career Prospects:

Studio sound engineer or live sound engineer at festivals, concert tours or theatre. Record producer, tour manager or radio work.

"The hands on approach to learning really helps in real world situations outside the classroom."

"An interesting and varied course covering all aspects of sound recording and producing."

"A great mixture of science and creativity."





A level

Physical Education

Additional Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in English and Grade 5 in Science or Grade 5 in GCSE PE.

Exam Board/Spec: OCR

Method of Assessment:

3 examinations

2 hours - Physiological factors affecting performance (20%)

1 hour - Psychological factors affecting performance (20%)

1 hour Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport (20%)

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

Performance in Physical Education (30%)

Practical performance

EAPI

Subject Content

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanics
- Skill acquisition
- Sports Psychology
- Sport and society
- Contemporary issues in Physical Activity and Sport
- Performance or Coaching
- Evaluation and Analysis of performance for improvement (EAPI)

Career Prospects:

Sports performer

Sports coach

PE teacher

Physiotherapy

Sport psychologist

Sports Journalist

"Interesting learning about the history of sport and where sports started and how the body works within different sporting events. The depth of knowledge needed was more than I thought."

"A level PE makes you understand about performance and the foundations of sport, which is interesting. Everything is relatable to real life."

A level Biology

Additional Entry Requirements:

Combined Science Grades 7, 7. If completing separate sciences Grade 6 in Biology and Maths Grade 6.

Exam Board/Spec: OCR

Method of Assessment:

The course is linear meaning students will sit three external examinations at the end of Year 13.

Paper 1 – Biological processes 2 hours 15 minutes in length 100 marks

Paper 2 – Biological diversity 2 hours 15 minutes in length 100 marks

Paper 3 – Unified biology – 1 hour 30 minutes in length 70 marks

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

There is no coursework on this course. However, a separate 'endorsement' of practical work will be assessed by teachers. This will not be graded. If students pass, it will be reported on their certificate, otherwise it will not be reported.

Subject Content

First year of A-level:

Students study the following topics; Cell structure, Biological molecules, Nucleic acids, Enzymes, Biological membranes, Cell division, Exchange surfaces and breathing, Transport in animals, Transport in plants, Communicable diseases, Biodiversity, Classification and evolution.

Second year of A-level:

Students study the following topics; Communication and homeostasis, Excretion, Neuronal communication, Hormonal communication, Plant and animal responses, Photosynthesis, Respiration, Cellular control, Patterns of inheritance, Manipulating genomes, Ecosystems, Cloning and biotechnology, Populations and sustainability.

Career Prospects:

A-level Biology can lead to many different degree courses such as medicine, biomedical sciences, forensic science, dentistry and veterinary science. Biology also lead on to careers in industry, education and research.





A level Chemistry

Additional Entry Requirements:

Combined Science Grades 7, 7. If completing separate sciences Grade 6 in Chemistry and Maths Grade 6.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Paper 1 – Inorganic and Physical Chemistry. 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A-level

Paper 2- Organic and Physical Chemistry. 2 hours, 105 marks, 35% of A-level.

Paper 3 – All practical skills and content. 2 hours, 90 marks, 30% of A-level

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

There are 12 core practical activities which will assess your competency of 5 different skills. A folder of results for each practical will need to be produced as evidence of these skills. Questions relating to these core practical activities will be asked in paper 3.

Subject Content

A level chemistry involves the study of, physical, inorganic and organic chemistry. The course builds on many of the topics studied at GCSE, such as group 2, group 7, kinetics, equilibria, thermodynamics and organic synthesis

Career Prospects:

Chemistry A-level can lead to many different degree courses such as chemistry, medicine, pharmacy, pharmacology, toxicology, biomedical science, forensic science, chemical engineering, optometry, veterinary science and dentistry. This list isn't remotely complete. Chemistry is a very versatile science and can be used in industrial, educational, scientific or governmental fields. Mastery of chemistry is associated with excellent analytical and mathematical skills which are useful for any job!

A level Physics

Additional Entry Requirements:

Combined Science Grades 7, 7. If completing separate sciences Grade 6 in Physics and Maths Grade 6.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

3 written papers, each of 2 hours duration

Paper 1 – questions based on sections 1-5 and part of section 6

Paper 2 – questions based on sections 6-8

Paper 3 – questions based on practical skills, data analysis and the optional topic

Controlled Assessments/NEA:

Students have to carry out a number of required practicals and show competence in a range of practical skills such as: working safely, dealing with uncertainties in experimental measurement, handling complex equipment and following instructions.

Subject Content

Compulsory Sections

- 1 Measurements and their errors
- 2 Particles and radiation
- 3 Waves
- 4 Mechanics and materials
- 5 Electricity
- 6 Further mechanics and thermal physics
- 7 Fields and their consequences
- 8 Nuclear physics

Options; one of the following sections will be studied

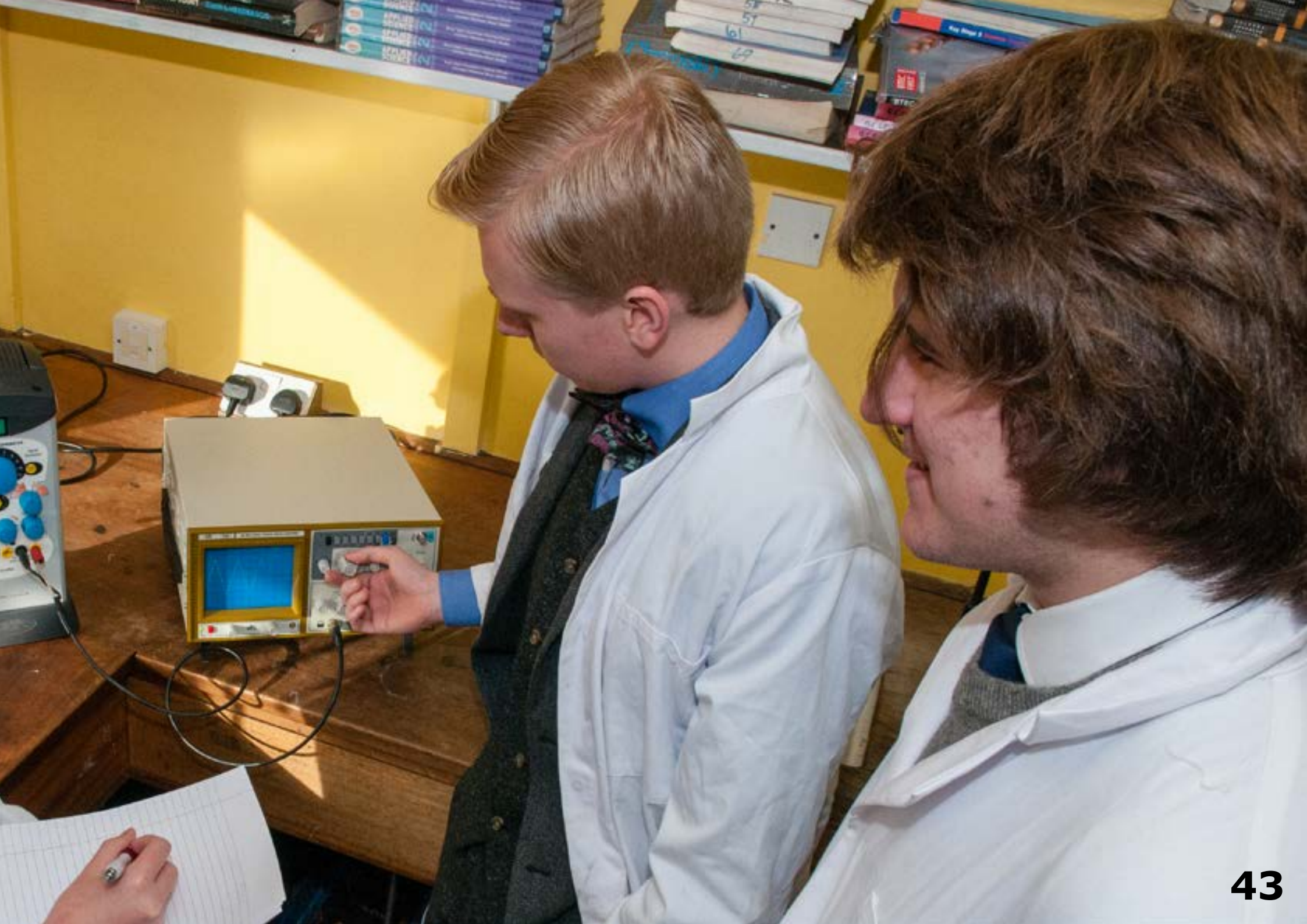
- Astrophysics
- Medical physics
- Engineering physics
- Turning points in physics
- Electronics

Career Prospects:

Studying Physics at A-level is a good foundation for countless higher education courses in physical sciences and technological subjects. Either by going to university for further study or by following an apprenticeship, A-level Physics could lead to careers in the following areas:

Telecommunications, Scientific research, Armed forces, Astronomy, Education, Atomic & Nuclear Industry, Engineering, Climate change, Energy & the environment, Medicine.







THE MERCIAN | TRUST

Mercian Trust Welcome

The Mercian Trust is a new and exciting development for education in Walsall. It brings under one banner five successful schools to work together as a Multi-Academy Trust or MAT. The five schools are unique in their identity and united by their ambition to offer the best possible future for their students.

The five Schools are:

- Aldridge School
- Queen Mary's Grammar School
- Queen Mary's High School
- Shire Oak Academy
- Walsall Studio School

Each School has its own distinct ethos and approach, but we have this over-arching aim in common: we prepare all our students to enjoy life to the full by inspiring them to:

- Realise their potential as learners
- Thrive in the world of work
- Make a positive contribution to the local, national and international community

The Mercian Trust respects the autonomy of its member schools but, through collaboration, fosters strengths that are greater than the sum of its parts. Working together as a Multi Academy Trust provides a framework for sharing expertise and enthusiasm, resources and ideas.

For the students in the Trust's schools, we have a strong focus on pastoral care and family values. We recognise that good relationships underpin successful education. We aim to ensure that excellent teaching and learning are complemented by care and support which value and applaud each student's gifts and abilities.

As you start making important choices for your future, we hope that The Mercian Trust will increase your range of options and opportunities. Choosing the right School for the Sixth Form is important. We hope that the information in this booklet will help you reach the best decision.

We look forward to welcoming you to our family of schools in Walsall.

Mr Timothy Swain
Queen Mary's Grammar School

Mr Ian Bryant
Aldridge School

Dr Alison Bruton
Queen Mary's High

Mr Ray Beech
School Shire Oak Academy

Mr Dan Parkes
Walsall Studio School

Specialist Subjects across the MAT

By working together in The Mercian Trust, our plan is to offer a full range of subject options, whatever your academic interest and aptitude may be.

Each School will continue to offer its own curriculum (as you will have already seen in this booklet), and from September 2018, we will continue to collaborate to provide the opportunity to study a subject which may not be on offer in the school where you are registered as a student (and will spend most of your time).

We have done this by creating a MAT Block: part of the working day which will be timetabled not just in one school, but across all the schools working together in the Multi Academy Trust. You can choose to do a subject from the MAT Block in a different school. (You can, but you don't have to!) This may mean a bit of extra travelling a couple of times a week, but it will be worth going the extra mile if it allows you to take a subject which really interests you and prepares you for the post 18 pathway you have in mind.

You can find information about MAT Block subjects in the next few pages. You may not have thought about some of these opportunities before. It's worth taking a look and finding out more.

The Mercian Trust will give you access to 35+ A Level courses and a range of specialist technical and vocational programmes. At a time when many schools and colleges are having to cut their curriculum offer, we think that our collaboration is something to celebrate!

Exciting Enrichment

It is still very early days for The Mercian Trust. You will be pioneers in this exciting new venture.

Our aim is clear. We want to use the new partnership to your advantage, giving you the opportunity to participate in activities and trips organised by different schools in the MAT.

Walsall Studio School is housed in The Goldmine in Walsall Town Centre. Through the MAT, you may get the chance to experience what it is like to work in a TV studio.

Within The Mercian Trust, we have access to our own Field Centre in Wales. We can offer Biology and Geography Field Courses or an Oxbridge immersion weekend at affordable rates. You can benefit by collaborating with students from other schools.

You might be interested in a ski trip or a sports tour abroad; you might be attracted to the experience on offer in a Cadet Force or join a cohort preparing for the Duke of Edinburgh Award; or you might enjoy the chance to get involved in a big-scale concert or drama production.

Joining a Mercian Sixth Form gives you access to more than we can provide as single schools. A new opportunity has opened up across the Borough and you can be part of the story. Join us as we continue turning our vision into a reality.

Business Studies

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Entry Criteria

At least Grade 4 in Maths and English at GCSE.

Assessment

Paper 1 Business 1

This paper contains a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and two essay questions.

- written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Paper 2 Business 2

This paper contains three data response compulsory questions

- written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

Paper 3 Business 3

This paper contains one compulsory case study followed by approximately six questions

- written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks in total
- 33.3% of A-level

This A level course will introduce students to businesses in a variety of contexts such as large/small, UK focused/global, service and manufacturing. It will particularly focus on the important decisions that have to be made in order to make businesses successful in a competitive and global business world. Students are expected to keep themselves up to date with current business news such as the potential impact of BREXIT on a variety of businesses operating within and outside of the UK.

Opportunities

Entrance to degree courses like marketing, accountancy, law and business related subjects. Teacher training is a possibility, as are management careers in insurance and banking. It is also an excellent foundation for anyone who aspires to run their own business.

A level Economics



Course delivered by

Queen Mary's
Grammar School

Entry Criteria: Grade 7 in either Economics or Business Studies. A Grade 7 in Maths would be accepted for those who have not studied a related subject or not achieved a Grade 7 in the related subject.

Course content:

Studying A level Economics will allow students to apply economic theory to support analysis of current economic problems and issues, and encourage students to appreciate the interrelationships between microeconomics and macroeconomics.

The A level covers the following 14 topic areas:

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure

- 1 Economic methodology and the economic problem*
- 2 Individual economic decision making
- 3 Price determination in a competitive market*
- 4 Production, costs and revenue*
- 5 Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly*
- 6 The labour market
- 7 The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- 8 The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets*

The national and international economy

- 9 The measurement of macroeconomic performance*
- 10 How the macroeconomy works : the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts*
- 11 Economic performance*
- 12 Financial markets and monetary policy*
- 13 Fiscal policy and supply-side policies*
- 14 The international economy

*Indicates content will be a feature of the first year of study (Year 12)

Examinations:

Paper 1: Markets and market failure (33.3% of A-level)

What's assessed

Content 1–8 above

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks

Questions

Section A: data response questions requiring written answers, choice of one from two contexts worth 40 marks

Section B: essay questions requiring written answers, choice of one from three worth 40 marks

Paper 2: National and international economy (33.3% of A-level)

What's assessed

Content 9–14 above

Written exam 2 hours

80 marks

Questions

Section A: data response questions requiring written answers, choice of one from two contexts worth 40 marks

Section B: essay questions requiring written answers, choice of one from three worth 40 marks

Paper 3: Economic principles and issues (33.3% of A-level)

What's assessed

All content 1–14 above

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks

Questions

Section A: multiple choice questions worth 30 marks

Section B: case study questions requiring written answers, worth 50 marks

Are there any extra-curricular activities?

Shares4schools – an exciting national school's competition where as part of a team you get to invest £1,500 of real money into the stock exchange! You will meet your investors and aim to make a profit through buying and selling shares.

Target 2.0 - what better way to test your economic knowledge than by making the next interest rate decision on behalf of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee. This prestigious school's competition is a richly rewarding activity which requires dedication and a passion for the subject. The school came third in the country overall in 2012.

A level French



Course delivered by
**Queen Mary's
Grammar School**

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Grade 7 or above in French.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

Paper 1 – 2 hours 30 minutes Listening/Reading/Translation to/from French

Paper 2 – 2 hours – 2 essays on two books or a book and a film

Paper 3 – Speaking – 21-23 minutes – Discussion of card (5 mins' prep) + presentation/discussion of chosen topic

Subject Content:

If you love to talk, have ideas, have an interest in some aspect of the world and the people around you, then French in the Sixth Form at QM is for you.

The course is accessible to the gifted linguist as well as to those who wish to keep breadth and variety in their studies. For years, employers have complained that the young do not listen. You can go out ready to prove otherwise with advanced aural, oral, written and comprehension skills, not only in your own tongue but another as well. Who does not have to learn to give presentations in their job in order to survive and progress in the modern world?

Unlike at GCSE, we explore aspects of the culture of the countries where the language is studied, and delve into history, geography, literature and current affairs. Many of our students go on to further language studies beyond, often picking up an extra language as part of their degree, whether this be purely linguistic or studied jointly alongside other subjects, such as Business or Economics, English or Law.

In Year 12, the course naturally builds on the vocabulary and structures of GCSE, through the areas of Social issues and trends/Artistic culture /Study of a literary text or film, guiding the student to a more advanced content and degree of interest, appropriate to their age.

In Year 13, the content moves to further study of Social issues and trends / Political and artistic culture / and Literary texts or films.

In addition to the usual lessons with online materials and the internet in frequent use, we have additional conversation lessons each week, we hope to arrange a visit to France to put speaking skills into practice, we give the opportunity to run a French Club for Years 7 and 8, involvement in mentoring from Y7-11, trips to French films when opportunities arise and involvement in Study Days when available at local Universities.

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Grade 7 or above in German.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

A2 : All exams are taken at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1 is the Listening / Reading / Writing paper assessing:

- Aspects of German-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world
- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society
- Aspects of political life in German-speaking society
- Grammar.

Paper 2 is a written paper assessing:

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

Paper 3 is the Speaking Test with Stimulus Card material followed by a more general conversation assessing:

- Individual research project
- One of four sub-themes i.e. Aspects of German-speaking society or Artistic culture in the German-speaking world or Multiculturalism in German-speaking society or Aspects of political life in German speaking society

Subject Content:

Topics covered include aspects of daily life, leisure and entertainment, communication, media and popular culture.

The course builds upon and develop the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing which have been acquired in GCSE work. An important difference is that the subjects concentrate not on basic transactional language but on wider social, political, economic and cultural issues. The course will develop not only skills, but also understanding of the grammatical systems of the languages studied; and give a better insight into the way of life, history, geography, political system, economic life and customs of countries where the languages are spoken. Students may also have the opportunity to study the literature of the country and where possible to visit the theatre, cinema or watch video and on-line material.

Furthermore, experience of a working environment using languages is underlined by the possibility of a programme of work experience in Europe for Year 12 students and/or a study tour in the Summer

Career Prospects:

Statistics show that employment amongst language graduates is second only to medicine and law.

More and more employers expect a high level of competence in a modern foreign language and there are now a large number of degree courses with a language component.

Career opportunities include Teaching, Interpreting / Marketing and Business.

Entry Requirements:

GCSE Grade 7 or above in Spanish.

Exam Board/Spec: AQA

Method of Assessment:

A2: All exams are taken at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1 is the Listening / Reading / Writing paper assessing: (2 hours 30 minutes)

- Aspects of Spanish speaking society
- Artistic culture in the Spanish speaking world
- Multiculturalism in Spanish speaking society
- Aspects of political life in Spanish speaking society
- Grammar

Paper 2 is a written paper assessing: (2 hours)

- One text and one film or two texts from the list in the specification
- Grammar

Paper 3 is the Speaking Test with Stimulus Card material followed by a more general conversation assessing: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

- Individual research project

One of four sub-themes i.e. Aspects of Spanish speaking society or Artistic culture in the Spanish speaking world or Multiculturalism in Spanish speaking society or Aspects of political life in Spanish speaking society

Subject Content:

The course builds upon and develop the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing which have been acquired in GCSE work. An important difference is that subjects concentrate not on basic transactional language but on wider social, political, economic and cultural issues. The course will develop not only skills, but also understanding of the grammatical systems of the languages studied; and give a better insight into the way of life, history, geography, political system, economic life and customs of countries where the languages are spoken. Students will also have opportunity to study the literature of the country and where possible to visit theatre, cinema or watch video and on-line material.

Furthermore, we strongly recommend experience of a working environment using the language through a programme of work experience in Y12.

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Statistics show that employment amongst language graduates is second only to medicine and law. More and more employers expect a high level of competence in a modern foreign language and there are now a large number of degree courses with language component.

Career opportunities include Teaching, Interpreting / Marketing and Business.

Drama/Theatre Studies



Entry Requirements

GCSE Drama Grade 6 or above or L2 BTEC Performing Arts DISTINCTION and English Literature Grade 7 or above. If students didn't take GCSE Drama, we would need evidence of both their acting and written abilities before embarking on the course.

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment Model

Drama is assessed through both practical components and a final written examination.

Written Examination: Drama and Theatre (3 hours)

40% of total A-level

Practical Assessment One: Creating original Drama

30% of total A-level

Practical Assessment Two: Making Theatre

30% of total A-level

Drama and Theatre studies is a challenging subject suited to students who are creative, questioning and observant. Students who enjoy reading and watching plays, taking part in them; acting and directing will find this course extremely stimulating and rewarding. Group work and collaboration is at the heart of this course and students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. It is a varied course with students studying a wide range of theatrical styles, plays, practitioners and theatre conventions; learning about approaches to theatre and applying knowledge to practical and theoretical components.

The teachers in the Drama department are experienced and work to encourage students to become independent learners; a learner who is self-motivated, disciplined and confident. During the course you will develop your acting skills, take part in workshops and develop your understanding of 'The Art of Performance'. You will also develop your writing skills as you critically analyse scripts and performances over the duration of the two years.

Skills: Students of Drama will develop skills such as:

- Knowledge and understanding of a range of practical drama skills including:
- Acting
- Directing
- Costume
- Set designing
- Technical design
- Understanding of the major theatrical styles
- Performance techniques – interpretation, voice, physicality, stage relationships with others
- Collaborative skills with others to present a performance piece
- Communication and problem solving skills
- Design skills – interpretation, visual and design impacts and set creation
- Technical abilities – lighting and sound design, special effects, technology and appropriate equipment
- Practical skills – from making masks and building sets to creation of period style and make-up
- Confidence, team-building, communication and other life skills.

You will be given the opportunity to devise original work, develop your understanding of how plays relate to historical, social and cultural context and consider the connections between theory and practice. In addition to Drama lessons students will go and see a number of live performances, access online Digital theatre shows and have the opportunity to work with a Theatre Company in a workshop context.

Course Overview:

There are three components to the A-level:

Unit 1: Drama and theatre:

This unit prepares you for the final written examination and during this module you will develop understanding of the theatrical processes and practices involved in interpreting and performing theatre, how conventions, forms and techniques are used in drama and live theatre to create meaning and how creative and artistic choices influence how meaning is communicated to an audience. Using a practical approach, you will learn how style, genre, form, structure, language, stage directions and character construction are used and applied to convey meaning and how performance texts are informed by their social, cultural and historical contexts and are interpreted and performed for an audience. Students will analyse and critique live theatre during the course and apply knowledge and understanding of theatre to interpret two set texts from either a performance or director perspective.

Our set texts are:

- 'A Servant to Two Masters' by Carlos Goldoni: A Commedia Dell'Arte style play, expect huge laughs and lively fun from this physical, energetic comedy.
- 'Our Country's Good' by Timberlake Wertenbaker: A play that is set in the 1780's and explores the relationships between a group of Royal Marines who have been sent over to Australia and the convicts they have been sent over with.

Unit 2: Creating Original Drama:

Students learn how to create and develop original devised ideas to communicate meaning as part of the theatre making process. You will develop ideas, research relevant processes and theatre practices, apply what you have learnt from live performances, explore devising work, rehearsal methods and refine work in progress. You will study the work and methodology of one influential practitioner and apply working methods, principals, artistic intentions, style and conventions of this practitioner to your final piece. The assessment also includes preparatory and development work, shown through a working notebook.

Unit 3: Making Theatre:

- You will learn how to contribute to text-based drama in a live theatre context for an audience. Working in groups to develop and present three extracts from three different plays. You will learn how to interpret texts, create and communicate meaning, realise artistic intention in text-based drama, analyse and evaluate your own work.
- The third extract must be influenced by the methodology and practises of an influential Practitioner, Director, Theatre Company or Designer (different to the one studied in the devised module). You will develop understanding and knowledge of the connections between theory and practice in a range of periods, theatrical styles, social, historical and cultural contexts. A reflective report is also submitted which documents, analyses and evaluates the theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

Career options

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) value and respect the skills our drama and theatre qualifications give students. A-level Drama and Theatre Studies is useful for students considering Higher Education in any arts or humanities subject including English Language and Literature, Journalism, Dance, Music, Art and Design, and Media Studies. Students have also gone on to study Law, Speech Therapy, Drama Therapy, Psychology, Counselling and Teaching.

Further career opportunities for students who study A-level Drama and Theatre Studies include: Arts/Theatre Administration, Arts Journalism, Director, Actor, Designer, Playwright, Stage Management, Theatre Management, Theatrical Agent, Technician, Broadcasting, Media Presenting, Education, Drama therapy and Scriptwriting.

Design & Technology

Examination Board: AQA

Entry Requirements:

Grade B in GCSE Design and Technology, ideally textiles.

Assessment Model

D&T Fashion & Textiles is assessed by examination with a mixture of short answer and extended response questions, and through a Design & Manufacture project. (Non Examined Assessment)

Exam 1: Technical Principles (2.5 hours)

30% of total A-level

Exam 2: Designing & Making Principles (1.5 hours)

20% of total A-level

NEA: (Non Examined Assessment)

A substantial Design & Make Project - 50% of total A-level

Introduction

Do you love solving problems, being creative, and making things? If so then this course could be for you. Design and Technology: Fashion and Textiles is an area of study that focuses on planning, designing and creating. This course focuses on two main elements; Technical Principles, and Designing and Making Principles. You will develop your textiles knowledge further by applying these principles in a number of practical projects all leading to the final Design & Make project which will be assessed as part of the course. For this part of the course students will be required to undertake a substantial design and make task and produce a final prototype based on a context and design brief developed by themselves.

This course will help to build a number of different skills including; problem solving, planning, designing, and evaluating – as well as manufacturing skills. You'll also work on your communication and team working skills. These are skills that are vital within the textiles

industry itself, but are also important for many other jobs, courses and careers. Evaluative and analytical skills are key elements of the course, as is the ability to carry out independent research.

Design and Technology goes well with Art, but also Science and Maths. All A-level specifications in Design and Technology now require students to demonstrate their application of knowledge, understanding and skills of maths and science in both theoretical and practical ways. When it comes to the sciences, having knowledge of how physical and chemical processes work can come in handy when designing different products.

Course overview

The course content falls under two main headings; Technical Principles, and Designing and Making Principles.

- Core Studies
- Technical Principles
- Materials and their applications
- Performance characteristics of materials
- Methods of joining and using components
- The use of finishes
- Enhancement of materials
- Modern industrial and commercial practice
- Digital design and manufacture
- The requirements for textile and fashion design and development
- Health and safety
- Protecting designs and intellectual property
- Design for manufacturing, maintenance, repair and disposal
- Enterprise and marketing in the development of products

- Fashion cycles
- Design communication
- Designing & Making Principles
- Design methods and processes
- Design theory
- How technology and cultural changes can impact on the work of designers
- Design processes
- Critical analysis and evaluation
- Selecting appropriate tools, equipment and processes
- Accuracy in design and manufacture
- Responsible design
- Design for manufacture and project management
- National and international standards in product design

Career options

Design & Technology: Fashion & Textiles opens the door to many career options both within and outside of Design & Technology itself. This course would allow direct access to the wide variety of University courses in Fashion or Textiles. Universities and employers value the project focus and team working aspects of this subject. This course would also be of value to students considering future careers in Design, Engineering, and Manufacturing.

Further Study in Fashion and Textiles could lead to the following careers:

Garment Technologist, Fashion Designer, Textile Designer, Retail Buyer, Fashion Illustrator, Visual Merchandiser, Fashion Stylist, Textile Designer, Personal Stylist, Fashion Public Relations, Fashion Writer.

A level Sports Studies

Our A Level qualification in Physical Education has four components assessed through two externally assessed written examination papers (scientific and social), one practical performance and a Performance Analysis that includes a Personal Development Programme (PDP).

Component 1

Scientific Principles of Physical Education
Anatomy and Physiology
Exercise Physiology
Applied Movement Analysis
2 hours 30 minutes
140 marks
40%

Component 2

Psychological and social principles of Physical Education
Skill acquisition
Sport psychology
Sport and society
2 hours
100 marks
30%

Component 3

Practical Performance
Skills performed as either a player/performer or a coach
40 marks
15%

Component 4

Performance analysis and Performance Development Programme
Performance analysis
Performance Development Programme (PDP)
40 marks
15%

Key Changes

- There is an increased emphasis on the theoretical content, now worth 70% of the qualification. It is assessed through written examinations. It also includes more detailed expectations for developing qualitative and quantitative data skills - up to 5% of the qualification.
- The requirements for carrying out and assessing the Non Examined Assessment (NEA) have changed. NEA is now worth 30% of the qualification, comprising of practical performance and performance analysis, both of which will be internally assessed and externally moderated.
- The practical is now worth 15% of the NEA and must be assessed in one activity - either as a player/performer or as a coach.
- Performance analysis is worth 15% of the NEA.

Entrance Qualifications

Due to the demanding scientific aspects of the A Level syllabus we require a GCSE pass of at least a Grade 6 in Biology and/or Physics. Students also **must** be playing or competing in a sporting activity at club level or equivalent on a regular basis.

Related Subjects

Science subjects, especially Biology and Physics, as well as Psychology are good choices if choosing A Level Physical Education.

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