

Subject Booklet 2027 – 2029



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* Collaborative subject delivered at TGS

* Collaborative subject delivered at SHS

This booklet sets out details of the potential subjects available in our collaborative Sixth Form with Tadcaster Grammar School for September 2027. A wide range of subjects is offered. You can choose to specialise in similar subjects according to your interests and future career aspirations. Alternatively, you can choose a broader range of subjects. Whatever you choose, you should consider your choices carefully.

Why Choose Now?

Choices must be made now to allow school sufficient time to prepare option pools and the timetable for September 2027. Once choices have been made we will create option pools based on the best fit for the majority of students.

What is a “non-viable” option?

If the number of students choosing a particular option is not enough to make an appropriately sized group, that option becomes non-viable and may be withdrawn. If a subject you have chosen becomes unviable, you will be asked at a later stage to re-choose.

How many subjects should I choose?

The majority of students choose three subjects through to completion at the end of Year 13. Some students may choose four subjects.

What do I do if I need help choosing options?

You can seek help from Miss Jackson, the Sixth Form Team, or any of your teachers. All members of Year 11 will have the opportunity of a one-to-one discussion later in the Spring term to discuss plans for the future.

About the course:

Art, Craft and Design gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. You can choose to focus on a specialist area of study from a variety of exciting processes and media to suit your individual interests and abilities. This can result in degree opportunities and careers ranging from painting portraits to producing exotic fashion costumes or designing futuristic architecture. If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.

Where could this take me?

A career in the creative industry sector is one of the most lucrative and competitive employment opportunities you can take. Many of our students move on to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design or go straight on to a degree course at university. The creative opportunities for employment include: animation; architecture; art therapy; exhibition designer; fashion design; furnishings; graphic design; illustration; interior design; landscaping; make-up; packaging design; photographer; set design; teacher; advertising; web-design; sign writing; special effects or in film and television work. Some will go on to work as an artist.

How will I learn?

Year 12 and 13 art students are usually grouped together to create a studio environment. Students are allocated individual pods to work in the sixth form studio. All students can share ideas and support each other throughout the course. This has a truly beneficial effect on stimulating new ideas and approaches. We want you to develop into independent learners who use their creative skills and are willing to take risks with their work.

How will I be assessed?

Year 12 - Portfolio - 100% practical assessment

Year 13 - Made of 2 components:
Personal Investigation 60% - This provides you with the opportunity to explore an independent theme choice, your work becomes personal and further developed. Alongside your sustained practical investigation and responses, you must produce a written, illustrated essay (1000-3000 words). This is a critical and contextual study that will support your practical work.
Externally Set Assignment 40% - exam board will release a number of themes for you to choose from. You will create a portfolio of preparatory work based on 1 theme before sitting a final 15 hour 'exam'

Qualification

AQA Art and Design

About the course:

Biology is an innovative and inspiring subject working from context to content. Whilst challenging, it is thought provoking and it tells us about the world around us and how we fit into it. Have you ever wondered how we replace the 40,000 skin cells we lose every minute? How we discovered the function of each brain region? How can DNA be used in forensic science? These are just a few examples of the kind of questions that as biologists we attempt to answer.

Where could this take me?

Biology is an A level which works well both as a science and a complementary subject to many other disciplines. It can lead to employment or higher education opportunities in biological sciences, biochemistry, pharmacology, genetics, agriculture, dentistry, medicine, research, ecology and the environment, food industries and many more.

How will I learn?

The course is supported with a textbook and a website which has animations, tutorials, interactive

links to useful websites. There is practical work incorporated throughout the course:

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells and Immunity
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
8. The control of gene expression

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1, 2 and 3 are assessed by written examinations of 2hrs. Paper 1 and 2 contribute 35% towards the final mark and Paper 3 contributes 30%. There is also an internally assessed practical endorsement to test the competency of practical skills

Qualification AQA A level
Biology

About the course:

An understanding of Business Studies is becoming increasingly important in a world where advances in technology and communication have taken centre stage. This course is designed to give you the chance to explore real business situations and to be practical in the application of business concepts that affect the world in which we live.

Where could this take me?

Many students go on to take Business related courses at university, or go into careers in Marketing, Human Resources, Finance, Fashion, Sports Marketing, Customer Service, Administration and Law. This course can enhance whatever further study or employment you choose.

How will I learn?

The AQA A-Level Business Studies programme will be assessed externally and focuses on 10 units.

Year 1

Unit 1- What is business?

Unit 2- Managers, leadership and decision making

Unit 3- Decision making to improve marketing performance

Unit 4- Decision making to improve operational performance

Unit 5- Decision making to improve financial performance

Unit 6- Decision making to improve human resource performance

Year 2

Unit 7 – Analysing the strategic position of a business

Unit 8 – Choosing the strategic direction

Unit 9 – Strategic methods

Unit 10 – Managing Strategic change

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: 2 hour exam

Includes 15 Multiple choice questions, short answer questions and two essay questions

Paper 2: 2 hour exam

3 data response questions each consisting of 3 or 4 part questions.

Paper 3: 2 hour exam

One case study followed by approximately 6 long answer questions.

Qualification:

AQA A Level Business Studies

About the course:

Chemistry is the science of the material world. It is concerned with the structure and interactions of all matter in the universe. Chemists use their knowledge and skills to benefit and protect the human race. Our life would be very different without the developments that have been made to fuels, smart materials and medicines!

Where could this take me?

Chemistry is a subject which can be studied further at degree level or as an excellent foundation for a wide variety of higher education courses or careers: Medicine, Pharmacy, Finance, Forensic Science, Law, Physiotherapy, Sports Science and many more. Students often do not realise they need A level Chemistry to study for many Biology related degrees.

How will I learn?

The AQA course has been designed to incorporate modern developments in Chemistry and also the impact of Chemistry on modern society and resources. There is an increased emphasis on understanding and application rather than recall. The course and activities within it have been

designed with an emphasis on developing transferable problem solving and literacy skills. Typical activities include practical work, group work, modelling, presentations and research exercises.

Year 1

Modules include: Inorganic Chemistry (Transition metals, Group 2 metals and Periodicity), Physical Chemistry (Atomic structure Bonding, Acids and Bases) and Practical skills.

Year 2

Modules include: Organic Chemistry (Alcohols, Esters and Alkanes/alkenes), Physical Chemistry (Bonding, Energetics and Kinetics) and Practical skills.

How will I be assessed?

Inorganic and Physical Chemistry: 2x 2 hour written exam with short and long answer questions.
Practical skills in Chemistry: 2 hour written exam with practical based questions, data analysis and multiple choice questions.

Qualification

AQA A Level Chemistry

Computer Science



About the Course:

Computer Science has computational thinking at its core; thinking that provides solutions to problems, designs systems and recognises the nature of human and machine intelligence. Students embarking on this course should have previous programming experience and an interest in how computers actually work and how they are used to solve problems.

Where could this take me?

Whether in employment or university education, the opportunities available to you are vast. Game development, web design, app development, network security and network engineering are just some of the possibilities associated with studying Computer Science.

How will I learn?

A mixture of taught theory lessons, delivered in various formats, including lectures, research tasks, practical experiments and studying existing products.

Component 01 - Computer Systems: the internal workings

of the CPU; data structures used in programming; Boolean algebra and floating point numbers; legal, moral and ethical issues.

Component 02 - Algorithms and Programming:

computational thinking; programming techniques; an introduction to a range of algorithms used by developers, and how to program them.

Component 03 - Programming project:

analyse, design, develop, test and evaluate a program written in an approved language. The actual problem is one that each student will choose, allowing them to focus on an area of interest.

How will I be assessed?

Two written papers: Computer Systems (40%), Algorithms and Programming (40%)
Programming Project - Non Examination Assessment (20%)

Qualification Cambridge OCR A Level Computer Science

About the Course:

Criminology is the study of the law enforcement and criminal justice system. You will learn about the sociological, psychological and biological theories of crime and be able to use these explanations to analyse criminal situations. You will also gain an understanding of the criminal justice system. In addition, you will also examine the reporting of crime in the media to see the impact this has on public perceptions of crime.

Where could this take me?

Criminology leads to the following undergraduate degree programmes: Criminology, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Psychology, Law, Sociology, Politics. Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals service or the National Offender Management service. The diploma will help develop the analytical, evaluative & research skills needed for a range of University subjects.

How will I learn?

You will develop research skills, critical analysis and judgement along with discussion and presentation skills. Due to the vocational nature of this course there will be regular application to the real world through external speakers, educational visits and carrying out practical investigations.

How will I be assessed?

Changing Awareness of Crime: the wide range of different crimes and the reasons people have for not reporting such crimes.

Criminological Theories - external: the different types of crime and the criminological approaches to theory.

Crime Scene to Courtroom: the criminal trial process and the many different people and agencies involved.

Crime and Punishment - external: the criminal justice system in England and Wales and how it operates to achieve social control.

Qualification: Eduqas Applied Diploma in Criminology

About the course:

If you study Economics you will find out how economists view the world. Something as seemingly uninteresting as drinking a cappuccino in a shop would be interesting to an economist. An economist would see players in an intriguing game of signals and negotiations. The game is for high stakes; some of the people who worked to get that coffee in front of you made a lot of money, some made very little. The economist knows the cappuccino is the product of an incredible team effort. While economists are constantly thinking about the things going on around them, they are not limited to discussing local matters.

Where could this take me?

Economics graduates are highly sought after. Economists develop skills of data handling and analysis which are vital in today's workplace.

How will I learn?

In Economics you will learn largely by doing. You will take part in the Bank of England's Target 2.0 competitions and a student investment competition. These

learning experiences help to generate a great deal of economic understanding. In addition you will be encouraged to contribute your views and ideas in class. Most importantly, you will be given the examination practice to ensure top grades. You will study competitive and concentrated markets, you will also look at the market mechanism, market failure and government failure. You will look at the national economy in a global context and you will study the macroeconomic performance indicators of inflation, unemployment, economic growth and the balance of payments. You will also study the labour market and the distribution of income and wealth in the UK and poverty and inequality.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Market and Market failure
- 2 hour paper (33.3%)

Paper 2: National and International Economy - 2 hour paper (33.3%)

Paper 3: Economic Principles - 2 hour paper assessing the whole course (33.3%)

Qualification

AQA A Level Economics

About the course:

The English Language A Level course will allow you to develop and apply your understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of the English language. You will develop your own skills as producers and interpreters of language.

Where could this take me?

English Language A level provides a basis for further specific study in higher education or provides a qualification that can be used to support other qualifications for access to other areas of study. Many of our students use English Language A-Level as a qualification for entry into higher education. Career routes that may follow from the study of English Language include: journalism and the media; childcare and teaching; publishing; advertising; legal work and any job where there is an emphasis on communication.

How will I learn?

A wide range of learning and study methods will be

employed ranging from direct teaching; group work; discussion and independent investigative work.

- Language Diversity
- Language and the Individual
- Language change over time
- Child language acquisition
- Your own journalistic writing
- A language investigation into a topic of your choice.

How will I be assessed?

The course is 80% exam and 20% coursework.

Qualification

AQA A Level English Language

About the Course:

The study of literature comes back to those crucial questions of what it means to be human and our place in the universe. By studying English Literature at A Level you will gain an awareness of our rich literary and cultural heritage, exploring your own literary tastes through a flexible coursework component. You will have the opportunity to discuss ideas in a sympathetic and supportive environment and you will be encouraged to develop your own writing and interpretation skills.

Where could this take me?

English Literature complements all other A Level subjects and is a highly regarded subject to offer at higher education level. The subject may lead to degree courses in English Literature/Language, Law, Media Communications, Journalism, Creative Writing, Philosophy and Arts subjects in general.

How will I learn?

There will be a variety of teaching methods, including direct teaching, small group work and class discussion. You will often lead part of the lessons. We visit theatre productions and attend external lectures and conferences to support classroom teaching. To support you with your coursework, teachers will

meet with you in tutorial sessions, discussing your individual requirements.

Year 12 Literary Genres - Aspects of Tragedy. Paper 1: Shakespeare's *Othello*; Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and the modern American play, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. You will also begin work on a coursework submission: Independence and Theory (internal assessment)

Year 13 Texts and Genres - Elements of Political Writing.

Paper 2: Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, William Blake's poetry *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, and Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1—Examination: 2½ hours, closed book (40%)

Paper 2—Examination: 3 hours, open book (40%)

Internal assessment, on-going in Year 12 and Year 13 (20%)

Awarding Body AQA A Level English Literature Specification B

About the course:

French at A level is an exciting and versatile course that opens your mind to other countries; their traditions, history and culture. French is spoken by about 300 million people around the world. It equips you with linguistic skills and also transferable skills such as cognitive flexibility, autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity and critical thinking.

Where could this take me?

France is one of the UK's top trading partners. The country also boasts the seventh-largest economy in the world, the third-largest in Europe and ranked fourth in the Fortune Global 500 in 2020, beaten only by the USA, China and Japan. French is the official language of 28 other countries scattered all around the globe as well as international organisations including the UN, FIFA, the European Union, Interpol and the African Union.

How will I learn?

Artistic culture in the French speaking world: heritage, contemporary francophone music, cinema, the seventh art form.

Aspects of French-speaking

society: changing nature of the family - the 'cyber-society' - the place of voluntary work.

Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues

Positive features of a diverse society - life for the marginalised - how criminals are treated.

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world: Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment - demonstrations, strikes, who holds the power? - politics and immigration.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing assessments on the four topics covered, together with translation both into and from the target language (50%)

Paper 2: Writing. Written response to the film and text studied (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking. Discussion based on a stimulus card on one of the themes covered, together with a presentation and discussion of the individual research project (30%)

Qualification AQA A Level French

About the course:

Further Mathematics is a stimulating, challenging extension to the Mathematics course. As such, it is only available to students who have opted to take A level Mathematics. It is strongly advised for students who wish to study Mathematics or Mathematics related subjects beyond the Sixth Form.

If you are a natural mathematician with a desire to be absorbed into the subject, and study Mathematics or a directly Mathematics related degree course at university, then Further Mathematics is for you.

Where could this take me?

In recent years, students followed Further Mathematics at A Level with degree courses in Mathematics at highly prestigious universities. Further Mathematics is particularly useful for anyone intending to go on to study Computing, Physics and Engineering.

How will I learn?

Teacher led tutorials, including presentations, group and paired work and investigations, form the

basis of the methods of study. Individual work, where you take the techniques that you have learned and apply them to a variety of problems, is essential to ensure that you are fully familiar with their applications and uses.

The Further Mathematics course consists of three equally weighted modules; two pure mathematics modules and one applied module.

The pure module covered in year 1 includes the study of complex numbers, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates and hyperbolic functions. This is supplemented in year 2 with proof, matrices, differential equations, trigonometry and coordinate geometry.

The applied module will include the study of two of the following: statistics, mechanics and decision mathematics.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination

There are three exams each lasting 2 hours

Qualification

AQA A Level Further Mathematics

About the course:

If you are interested in social, economic or political events that are currently shaping our world or if you want to know more about the planet we live on and consider how we can carefully manage our use of it then this course is for you. In addition, the course will provide you with valuable skills of data analysis and synthesis which are skills employers highly value.

Where could this take me?

Studying Geography leads to an understanding of people, society and the environment. It allows us to understand the complexities of how human activities and environments impact on each other. Geographers have always been “marketable” because of their research, analysis and synthesis skills. People who study Geography at A level or beyond can be found across all fields of employment and professions. In short, Geography opens doors to many careers and closes very few.

How will I learn?

1 - Physical Geography

You will study:

- Water and Carbon Cycles

- Coastal Systems and Landscapes
- Hazards

2 – Human Geography

You will study:

- Global Systems and Global Governance
- Changing Places
- Population and the Environment

3 – Geographical Investigation

You will be given the opportunity to conduct a minimum of four days of fieldwork which relate to both human and physical elements of the course. This will enable the opportunity to explore a range of data collection techniques as well as analyse and interpret findings before concluding and critically evaluating in relation to a hypothesis/key question.

How will I be assessed?

Two exams on the Human and Physical elements lasting 2 hours 30 mins each with each exam worth 40%. The Geographical Investigation of 3000-4000 words will be internally assessed and contributes to 20%

Qualification AQA A Level Geography

About the course:

Most people will gain employment where they are working with people. Over 40% of the working population are employed by caring organisations either in the statutory sector i.e. The NHS and Social Services including schools or the independent sector through private and voluntary organisations. BTEC Level 3 National Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in Health & Social Care will provide you with some of the skills you will need for a career in the caring professions

Where could this take me?

The course will provide a good foundation for students who are considering a career in the Health Service, Social Services, the Police Service, Teaching or any career in which there is an element of working with people from different walks of life.

How will I learn?

Year 12: Unit 1 - Human Lifespan

Development: You will develop your knowledge and understanding of patterns of human growth and development across different life stages and the concept of holistic development. You will study factors which may influence human growth, development and health: some of these are innate; some are impacted by lifestyle, environmental, socio-economic factors and many are a combination of all factors. You will study the impact of health inequalities and how these affect the health of individuals. This unit also explores the promotion, prevention and treatment provided by health and social care professionals and their roles and responsibilities when providing care.

Unit 3 - Principles of Health and Social Care Practice:

You will learn about the values, skills and principles of meeting care and support needs and how they should be applied in practice and how legislation, governance and regulation affect provision of care. You will also examine different societal factors affecting health outcomes and strategies to overcome these.

Year 13: Unit 2 - Human Biology and Health

You will learn how the body is organised and how healthy bodily function is achieved. Explore respiration and homeostatic mechanisms and build on this knowledge. Consider how normal physiological functioning is interrupted by common disorders.

Unit 5 - Promoting Health Education

You will learn about the purpose of health education, legislations and organisations that ensure the nation's health is priority. You will plan a small scale health event developing awareness of the processes of planning and effectiveness of models and approaches to health education.

How will I be assessed?

One examination in each year and two coursework units.

Year 12

Unit 1 – Human Lifespan Development - Examined

Unit 3 - Health and Social Care Practice

Year 13

Unit 2 Human Biology and Health – Examined

Unit 5 - Promoting Health Education

Qualification Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification in Health and Social Care

About the course:

The United States has been one of the dominant forces of the twentieth century, we take an in depth look at challenges faced by the USA at home in the 20th Century. We explore concepts such as American identity, anti-communism, social equality, ethnic identities as well as ideas around democracy, political protest in the Civil Rights movement and the media. Our students are well prepared for this aspect as it follows on from their GCSE study of the Making of America.

Meanwhile, closer to home, the Tudor dynasty forged in the Wars of the Roses established one of the most powerful royal families in British history. Our breadth study tracks changes and continuities in the development of the English government and monarchy as well as seismic changes in religion and society. Powerful women such as Elizabeth and Mary Tudor as well as foreign policy, and social and cultural changes are covered too. The Historical Investigation NEA allows students to pursue a line of inquiry they are interested in with support from us to produce a piece of coursework. Together, our A-level offer will help you understand key events that have had a huge influence on the local and global contexts in which you live.

Where could this take me?

As a traditional academic subject, History opens doors into a wide range of career sectors, including Law, Politics, the Civil Service, Education, Journalism, Social work, Accounting and Finance. It

is a highly respected subject in its own right, but also, as a third subject, complements students aiming for a STEM-based degree such as Medicine, Pharmacy or Engineering as it will develop skills in extended writing and reading of extended texts and construction of arguments that are still valuable for these STEM courses.

How will I learn?

The course consists of two exams and one piece of coursework. Two teachers will teach Component 1 and Component 2 concurrently through Year 12 and Year 13 and both teachers will teach and support writing of the coursework (end of Year 12 and Year 13).

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: 2h30min exam 80 marks
40% of A Level

Section A - compulsory interpretation question (30marks)

Section B - two essays chosen from three question (2x25marks)

Component 2: - 2h30min exam 80 marks
40% of A Level

Section A - compulsory sources question (30marks)

Section B - two essays chosen from three question (2x25marks)

NEA: Historical Investigation Coursework
3500-4500 words (40 marks) 20%

100 year question - change question usually. Must analyse 3 sources and 2 interpretations.

Cannot overlap with taught papers.

Qualification - AQA A Level History

About the course:

The Extended Certificate in IT: Data Analytics will equip students with the confidence to use knowledge and skills relevant for progression to undergraduate study in IT or data-related fields. It covers the fundamentals of data analytics, Big Data, data modelling with spreadsheets and databases, the Internet of Everything and digital marketing.

Where could this take me?

This pathway is ideal for those interested in careers in data analysis, digital marketing or information technology or those who want to progress onto other related study, such as higher education courses in Business Analytics, Information Technology or Digital Marketing. It is also a qualification that will lead on to an appropriate IT related apprenticeship or university courses.

How will I learn?

F200 Fundamentals of data analytics - Exam assessed unit looking at what data is, the different data types and how data can be managed. The unit also explores job roles, skills and attributes in data analytics and Legal considerations when working with data.

F201 Big data and machine learning - Exam assessed unit looking at the idea of "Big Data" and infrastructures in place to handle large amounts of data in today's world. This unit also explores artificial

intelligence and ethical and environmental issues when managing data.

F202 Spreadsheet data modelling - Coursework assessed unit where students look at the principles of spreadsheet modelling. They will also demonstrate planning, designing and creating a spreadsheet model to deliver outcomes.

F204 Data and the internet of Everything - Coursework assessed unit where students look at how the internet has moved beyond connecting computers to networks. Students study how the IoE is used to transmit data and the development of Human Computer Interfaces (HCIs). Students will also explore the securing methods within the internet of everything.

F206 Data and digital marketing - Coursework assessed unit where students investigate how digital marketing data is used to drive digital marketing campaigns. As part of the unit, the students are expected to design and create content for a digital marketing campaign, plan methods of communication with stakeholders and reflect on working processes.

How will I be assessed?

Units F200 and F201 - exam (40%)

Units F202, F204 and F206 Coursework (60%)

Qualification

OCR	Level 3	Alternative	Academic
Qualification		Cambridge	Advanced
		National	

About the course:

You may wish to be a successful lawyer in order to enter into politics, business, international finance and banking or simply practice law in your home town or city. Studying law can often be considered a smart career move as it commands status, prestige, employment, and promotion prospects. The course is aimed at helping you to develop an understanding of legal methods and reasoning. To develop the techniques of logical thinking and the skills necessary to analyse and solve problems, by applying legal rule. You will also develop the ability to communicate legal arguments and conclusions, with reference to appropriate legal authority. Finally it is aimed at creating a critical awareness of the changing nature of Law in society.

Where could this take me?

A large proportion of students continue on to study Law. The study of Law also opens opportunities to work in the police service, courts or any job requiring logical and reasoning skills.

How will I learn?

You are encouraged to be independent and are taught how to be effective learners.

Year 12:

- The Nature of Law and the English Legal System
- Criminal Law
- Tort Law

Year 13 builds on all three topics studied in Year 12 and includes; law and morality, murder and manslaughter, economic loss and psychiatric injury together with a module on the law of contract.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: English Legal System, Nature of Law and Criminal Law - 2 hours (33.3%)

Paper 2: English Legal System, Nature of Law and Tort Law - 2 hours (33.3%)

Paper 3: English Legal System, Nature of Law and Contract Law - 2 hours (33.3%).

Qualification

AQA A Level Law

Mathematics



About the course

A level Mathematics builds on and extends the skills and knowledge that you have developed during the study of GCSE Mathematics. As such, some of the topics for example trigonometry and algebra will already be familiar to you, whilst others, such as calculus, will present you with a fresh perspective on mathematics.

By studying mathematics, you will not only learn about mathematical concepts and techniques, but will develop your problem solving and logical thinking skills. As such, mathematics is an A-level highly prized by universities and employers.

Where could this take me?

A level Mathematics is helpful for many careers and university courses, particularly those relating to science and engineering as well as financial services including banking and accounting. Possible future routes following A level mathematics include Medicine, Accountancy, Computer Science, Economics and Business Studies, Psychology, Sports Science, Geography and, of course, further Mathematical study.

How will I learn?

Teacher led tutorials, including presentations, group and paired work and investigations, form the basis of the methods of study. Individual work where you take the techniques that you have learned and apply them to a variety of problems is essential to ensure that you are fully familiar with their applications and uses.

A level Mathematics combines the study of Pure Mathematics with its applications in both Statistics and Mechanics. Pure Mathematics includes proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration and vectors. In A level you then learn how to apply this to both Statistics and Mechanics.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination: three exams each lasting 2 hours. One exam is solely on Pure Mathematics. Another combines Pure Mathematics with Statistics. The final combines Pure Mathematics with Mechanics.

Qualification

AQA A Level Mathematics

Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)



About the course:

This Level 3 Certificate Mathematical Studies qualification will consolidate students' mathematical understanding, build their confidence and competence in applying mathematical techniques to solve a range of problems and introduce them to new techniques and concepts that will prepare them for further study and future employment within a broad range of academic, professional and technical fields. Mathematical Studies aims to prepare students for the mathematical demands of higher education and work where there is a distinct mathematical or statistical element, but where the mathematical demands do not stretch to a requirement for A-level mathematics.

Where could this take me?

Continue your studies and experience of mathematics beyond GCSE:

- Explore real world applications of maths, including financial calculations such as income tax, inflation, mortgages and loans
- Develop the increasingly important skill of critical analysis of data
- Recognised and highly regarded by universities
- Gain a qualification equivalent to an AS level in UCAS tariff points
- Fits in well with subjects such as Accounting, Biology, Geography, Psychology, Business Studies and Economics, or as a standalone qualification to broaden and enrich your Level 3 studies

How will I learn?

Teacher led tutorials, including presentations, group and paired work and investigations, form the basis of the methods of study.

Individual work where you take the techniques that you have learned and apply them to a variety of problems is essential to ensure that you are fully familiar with their applications and uses.

You will learn to accurately recall facts, terminology and definitions and accurately carry out set tasks in contexts requiring single- and multi-step solutions. You will select appropriate techniques to solve problems in a mathematical or non-mathematical context and analyse data and represent situations mathematically. You will devise strategies to solve problems where the method is not obvious and communicate processes and results.

How will I be assessed?

Two exams, 1 hour 30 minutes each
Both exams allow use of a calculator

Paper 1 covers topics on personal finance, analysis of data and estimation techniques

Paper 2 offers three different options; choose from:

Option A: Statistical techniques

Option B: Critical path and risk analysis

Option C: Graphical techniques

Qualification

AQA Certificate Level 3 in Mathematical Studies

Media Studies



About the course:

A large proportion of the information we receive comes from the mass media: television, radio, the internet, the press and many other forms, many of which have developed rapidly over the last few years due to the boom in digital technology. The Media Studies course does help to develop creative and practical skills; students produce media texts using video, photography and desktop publishing technology. However, it is mainly an academic subject with written analytical essay answers and independently researched theory and debates. It is a theoretical and analytical subject covering political, social and current affairs so this will aid a range of other subjects and careers where insight, critical analysis and hypothesising, as well as reading and extended written communication are involved.

Where could this take me?

As well as providing a grounding for students who wish to enter a career in media areas, Media Studies is excellent for developing critical, analytical and creative skills. It is therefore a good choice for students who wish to study Drama, Art or

linked to the media such as journalism or film studies.

How will I learn?

A range of study methods are used from independent research and presentations, to discussion, group work and written responses. Practical skills are built by presenting learning in practical ways as well as traditional essays.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Exam based unit on an unseen media text - compare this with a range of media texts covering advertising, film, videogame, music video, radio and newspapers

Component 2: Exam based unit in which you study several texts in more depth in relation to various theoretical frameworks, studying institutions, audiences, media language and representations within the text as well as theoretical views such as feminism, postmodernism and Marxism.

NEA 30%: Practical coursework unit in which you have to produce media products.

Qualification

Eduqas A Level Media Studies

Performing Arts – Acting / Musical Theatre



About the course:

The BTEC Performing Arts course is a vocational, hands-on course designed to mirror the professional entertainment industry. It is a highly practical qualification that emphasises creativity, performance skills, and a deeper understanding of how the industry works. You will learn by doing - exploring scripts, music, and choreography, and seeing live theatre to inspire your own creations.

Where could this take me?

This course provides a brilliant balance to traditional academic A-Levels. It builds the confidence, public speaking skills, and creative problem-solving that universities and employers love.

The Creative Route: It provides the foundation and UCAS points needed to progress to university degrees in Drama, Musical Theatre, Dance, or Performing Arts.

Professional Fields: The "soft skills" built in this course such as collaboration, communication, and emotional intelligence, make it a highly valued qualification for careers in Law, Teaching, Public Relations, Marketing, Journalism, and Management.

You can choose to focus your practical work toward one of two pathways:

1. The Acting Focus: Tailored for students wanting to develop characterisation, script analysis, and physical/vocal storytelling.

2. The Musical Theatre Focus: Tailored for students wanting to combine acting, singing, and movement to become a versatile performer.

How will I learn?

Practical Skills Workshops: Developing your vocal, physical, or dance technique in the studio.

Collaborative Rehearsals: Working as a theatre company to devise original pieces or interpret existing scripts and musical numbers.

Independent Preparation: Researching practitioners, tracking your personal progress, and learning lines or choreography outside of class.

How will I be assessed?

Core Units - Investigating Practitioners' Work & Developing Skills for Live Performance

You will study the ground-breaking work of famous performance styles and spend time coaching your own mind and body to performance standard.

External Task - A set research and response project.

Internal Portfolio - Video evidence of your skills progressing over time.

Pathway Units - Group Performance Workshop & Specialist Pathway Unit

You will work as an ensemble to create a performance from a stimulus, and focus into your chosen specialist pathway.

External Performance - A group performance sent to examiners.

Internal Showcase - A live performance marked by your teachers.

Qualification

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate (Equivalent to **1 A-Level** over 2 years)

About the course:

Photography is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating ideas. It inspires creative thinkers. Photography means 'drawing with light' and that is what photographers do when they take a picture. Many photographers have explored various techniques to create images that make a personal statement about things that have interested or concerned them. The most exciting aspect of photography is that you are capturing the world as you see it.

Where could this take me?

Many of our students move on to photography degrees at university, or to study a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. Photography students can consider a career in any of the following areas: fashion, graphic design, architectural, illustration, forensic, journalism, studio based photography, wedding photographer, teacher, advertising, web design, Photoshop specialist in special effects or in film and television work. Many photographers become self-employed and establish their own business.

How will I learn and be assessed?

This is a two year linear course examined at the end of Year 13.

Year 12 - The Portfolio - explore capabilities of your camera, including developing your knowledge of manual settings, aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. Experiment with lighting and

composition, a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. Projects are thematic and include a variety of topics including a sustained project on 'Formal Elements'. This provides the opportunity for students to capture the world around them, from new, unusual and exciting perspectives. There are opportunities to shoot a variety of subjects including landscapes and portraits, both on location and in our photographic studio. You will research and study the work of different photographers to inspire and influence your studies. Photoshop skills will also be developed and experimentation encouraged

Year 13 – Work produced to be submitted towards A level qualification made of 2 components:

Component 1 (60%) - Personal investigation:

This unit provides you with the opportunity to explore an independent theme of your choice, your work becomes personal and further developed. Alongside your sustained practical investigation and responses, you must produce a written, illustrated essay (1000-3000 words). This is a critical and contextual study that will support your practical work.

Externally set Assignment (40%)-

The exam board will release a number of themes for you to choose from. You will create a sketchbook of preparatory work based on 1 theme before sitting a final 12 hour 'exam'.

Qualification AQA A level Photography

About the course:

This A-Level is a challenging and rewarding course. Students will look at a range of issues from movement and motion to psychology, sociology and physiology. It gives a fantastic insight into depth and breadth of the world of sports science, demonstrating just how much detail athletes at the top level go into in order to be the best.

You must be committed to playing competitive sport through to Year 13 due to the practical assessment requirements.

Where could this take me?

This course will allow you to study at university. If you are interested in physiotherapy, sports massage, coaching, teaching, sports development, being a physical training instructor or working in sport then this course is the right one for you.

How will I learn?

There are three main areas of study; anatomy and physiology, sports psychology and sociology of sport. You will have different teachers specialising in different topics. One half of the course being 70% of the theory content including psychology, anatomy and physiology, as well as coursework. The other half of the course contains the remaining 30% of the theory element focusing on the sociology of sport.

The practical work will be done outside of school and you will be required to video a number of your performances and then submit them to school along

with a written commentary of what you did during the performances and why. The coursework element requires you to use all of the theory work you have covered, to analyse and evaluate performance.

How will I be assessed?

The exams for both sections are two hours long and will include multiple choice, short answer and extended writing tasks for all the different topics covered in the course.

The assessment takes place as follows:

Two written exams:

- 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35 % each paper - 70% total

Non-exam assessment (NEA):

- Internal assessment, external moderation. Pupils can be assessed as a performer or coach in a full sided version of one sporting activity. For this reason pupils choosing this course must be fully committed to playing or coaching competitive sport out of school throughout year 12 and year 13 or they will not be able to be assessed on the NEA aspect of the course

- 90 marks
- 30% of A-level

Qualification

AQA A Level Physical Education

About the course:

Physics is everywhere in our modern world. From improving our performance in sporting events and enhancing our experience of music, to developing food production and refining our health care. Life would be very different without our understanding of Physics!

Where could this take me?

Physics qualifications develop many sought after skills which are transferable in the workplace. These include problem - solving, numeracy and the ability to analyse and evaluate information. Physics is a highly regarded qualification for other degree courses and also in the jobs market. This course will help you to access Physics at degree level along with many other Science and Engineering courses. There are a massive range of career opportunities which can be accessed through Physics including Medicine, Engineering, Architecture, Forensics, Computing, Meteorology, Law, Finance and Journalism.

How will I learn?

Physics is taught through a concept-led approach. This begins with a study of the laws, theories and models of physics and finishes with an exploration of their practical applications.

The modules included are:

- Working as a Physicist
- Mechanics
- Electric Circuits
- Further Mechanics
- Electric and Magnetic Fields
- Nuclear and Particle Physics
- Materials
- Waves and Particle Nature of Light
- Thermodynamics
- Space
- Nuclear Radiation
- Gravitational Fields
- Oscillations

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 examination papers which will include a variety of question styles from: extended response; calculation based; multiple- choice and problem-solving. As well as formal exams students will be assessed for their Science Practical Endorsement. Practical work is assessed by teachers, using common practical assessment criteria (CPAC). Students who demonstrate the required standard across all the requirements of the CPAC will receive a 'pass' grade.

Qualification

Edexcel A-level Physics

Product Design



About the course:

If you have enjoyed the challenge and innovation of GCSE Design Technology and would like to develop and sustain these skills, then this is the course for you. Product Design is a subject that provides the opportunity to study, propose and bring to life prototype solutions closely linked to the real world of product manufacture in a range of material areas. Some students lean towards particular areas such as resistant materials, textiles, graphics, or a combination of materials.

Where could this take me?

There are many different routes available after studying A Level Product Design. Product design could take you into a variety of exciting career paths. Students have the opportunity to go onto studying degree courses in a wide range of design areas. The course will also provide students with valuable skills for practical apprenticeships.

How will I learn?

This course will encourage you to initiate design solutions and to develop, test and trial working models and prototypes. Using your

imagination, innovation and flair, you will work with concepts and materials, developing an understanding of contemporary design and technological practices and consider the uses and effects of new technologies and modern materials.

How will I be assessed?

Written Paper 1: Technical Principles 30% 2 h 30: 120 marks, mixture of short and extended response, Maths questions in a D&T context.

Written Paper 2: Designing and Making Principles 20% 1h 30: 80 marks, mixture of short and extended response, product analysis questions, commercial manufacture questions.

Non Examination Assessment (NEA) 50%: Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles - 100 marks, single substantial design and make task. Written or electronic portfolio. Must include photographic evidence of practical outcome.

Qualification: AQA A Level Design and Technology: Product Design

About the course:

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour. It encompasses a variety of approaches to try to fully explain the causes of human (and animal) behaviour. Topics can range from the social causes of aggression to the biochemical basis of depression. Psychology involves finding out what psychologists have discovered about behaviour. It is therefore necessary to support any theory with evidence and the examination will require you to quote named studies to support your answers. There is rarely a single view in Psychology, so as well as a sound knowledge base, you will need the ability to formulate a rational argument and use critical thinking to justify a point of view

Where could this take me?

Leading to specific careers such as a Clinical or Forensic Psychologist and supporting many other career routes through Medicine, Nursing, Business, Industry and Public Services, Psychology is rarely an essential A Level for University entrance but is always an excellent subject to have in your portfolio. Psychology is classified as a Science A Level for most degree courses. The A Level will tell you what to expect in a Psychology degree and

help develop analytical and evaluative skills needed for a range of University subjects.

How will I learn?

You will develop a number of skills over the course including analysis, evaluation and application. You will also be expected to use research findings to good effect in constructing and developing coherent arguments.

- Social Psychology and Cognitive Psychology
- Biological Psychology and Learning Theories
- Clinical Psychology and Criminal Psychology
- Psychological Skills

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Foundations of Psychology
Social, Cognitive, Biological and Learning Theories 2 Hours (35%)

Paper 2: Application of Psychology
Clinical and Criminal Psychology - 2 Hours (35%)

Paper 3: Psychological Skills
Methodology and review of studies- 2 Hours (30%)

Qualification

Edexcel A Level Psychology

About the course:

Why should you study Sociology? Sociology is the study of human societies in all sorts of contexts. You will investigate and discuss political, economic and social dimensions of society, and will regularly consider the way in which contemporary governments respond to the demands of things like the provision of education to the population and problems created by crime. Sociology will help to stimulate your interest in a broad range of issues which affect our lives, and in so doing will provide a link between theoretical perspectives and practical responses to current social problems.

Where could this take me?

The study of Sociology requires you to think objectively about a broad range of issues and problems highly relevant to our lives today. Such a contemporary awareness will be seen as important in many types of occupations and careers, ranging from employment in local government and the civil service, to work in finance or the social services sector. Universities highly value students with a mature awareness of contemporary issues, and who can offer considered viewpoints on

subject matter such as education and welfare spending, or responses to problems created by poverty.

How will I learn?

Study approaches are varied and will often depend upon the nature of the topics being covered. A general theme which will run throughout the course is the encouragement of classroom discussion, and objective decision making processes, with the aim of helping you to formulate judgements which can be supported by empirical evidence and sound theoretical arguments. On a general level, the objective of reading more widely will be promoted, as will the need to be aware of current news items, particularly those linked to domestic United Kingdom based issues.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: 2 hours Education/Theory and Methods (33%)

Paper 2: 2 hours Families and Households/The Media (33%)

Paper 3: 2 hours Crime and Deviance/Theory and Methods (33%)

Qualification

AQA A Level Sociology

About the course:

A Level Spanish course is designed to enhance students' linguistic skills while deepening their understanding of Hispanic society and culture. Students explore social issues, political and artistic culture, and regional identity, alongside technological and societal changes in the Hispanic world. We also study literature and film and allows for independent research on topics of personal interest.

Where could this take me?

Spanish is the native language of over 21 countries and is spoken by almost 500 million people worldwide.

Language students tend to be quick learners and good problem solvers with excellent listening and communication skills.

Employers say that language qualifications can give candidates the edge over other applicants in a varied range of professional contexts.

"Studying languages not only unlocks global cultures but also transforms you into a versatile communicator, making you a

valuable asset to many industries." (UCAS)

How will I learn?

Unit 1 – Listening, reading, translation into English and into Spanish.

Unit 2 – Written paper; one question on the film and one question on the book.

Unit 3 – Speaking test.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 – Examination 50% (2hrs 30)

Unit 2 – Examination 20% (2 hours)

Unit 3 – Speaking test 30% (21-23 mins)

Qualification

AQA A Level Spanish.

Extended Project Qualification



About the course:

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is popular with students and teachers alike. It provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond their sixth form course of study, stand out and prepare for university or their future career.

Where could this take me?

An EPQ will help you develop a useful range of extra study skills, helping you prepare for the demands of university work. It is valued by higher education institutions as it demonstrates your dedication to independent learning and is often included in offers made by institutions to applicants. An EPQ is worth half an A Level; it's graded A* to E and can be worth anywhere up to 28 UCAS points, which can help students to secure the university place they want. An EPQ also provides you with employability skills that are really valued by employers: independence, creativity, initiative, enterprise and problem solving skills.

How will I learn?

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non specialist audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

One of the many benefits to the EPQ is that you pursue an area of interest independently. You will spend approximately 120 hours in guided study in order to complete your project.

How will I be assessed?

An EPQ is 100% coursework. You will be assessed on your presentation and the evidence you provide for all stages of the design, development and production of your project.

Qualification

AQA Extended Project Qualification