

# Sixth Form Courses 2024

A Sixth Form of Character and Excellence



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# FINE ART

## Introduction

A Level Fine Art encourages students to look at the world around them and express their view visually. Through investigation students explore different approaches to artwork, different artist's views and different media including a heavy reliance on photography to inform their own ideas. The transferable analytical skills are useful for further education in general, personal development and a future career in the Arts. Drawing with different media is central to the qualification.

## Course Content

### **Component 1: Personal Investigation.**

Students generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes and refine ideas toward producing personal artwork. Three major elements are included: Supporting Studies – General investigations in artworks. Personal Study – Essay based on research and crucial analysis of Art (12% of total qualification). Practical Work – A body of practical study.

### **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment.**

Very similar to component one without the personal study. A theme is set by the examination board for the component and students must respond to it through their artwork. The component culminates in a 15-hour examination conducted in sittings over a given period of time.

## Method of Assessment

60% of A level is assessed through coursework with a further 40% through the externally set exam.

## Teaching Methods

The majority of learning at A Level comprises of developing practical skills, accompanied by the development of analytical skills which explore typical art themes such as still life and portrait, and the historical background behind artworks. As the course progresses the student leads their own learning, guided by their tutor. All units are based around field trips including visits to major art galleries in London, which students must attend. Student investigations are recorded in a work journal which documents progress.

## Career Opportunities

Progression through the Advanced level will provide suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of Art or creative field. Previous students have gone on to study and pursue careers, in medicine, architecture, business and the RAF as well as Art specific careers.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements at the back of this booklet.



# BIOLOGY

## Introduction

Biology is the study of life and enables you to learn what it is that makes life tick. Some of the things you study will be sub-microscopic, like the tiny protein pumps in the membrane of a living cell, a hundred thousand of which can be fitted into one millimetre. Some of the things you study will be vast, like the global ecosystem, struggling under the impact of human activities. Some topics will seem abstract, like the biochemistry of photosynthesis. Some topics will seem very close to home like why do we sweat? Why do we bleed when cut? In Biology A level, you will get a glimpse of some of the amazing design solutions that animals and plants have come up with in their struggle to survive. Skins that change colour, eyes that can see in infrared. Kidneys so effective that their owners need never drink. You will be learning about living things; things that hunt and mate and replicate, things that can hold their breath for an hour, things that can change their sex. There is nothing as strange or fascinating as the reality of the living world.

## Course Content – Year 1

- ❖ **Unit 1:** Biological Molecules
- ❖ **Unit 2:** Cells
- ❖ **Unit 3:** Organisms and their environment
- ❖ **Unit 4:** Genetics and Relationships

## Course Content – Year 2

- ❖ **Unit 5:** Energy transfer
- ❖ **Unit 6:** Responding to change
- ❖ **Unit 7:** Population genetics, evolution and ecosystems
- ❖ **Unit 8:** Gene expression

## Method of Assessment

**Paper 1:** Units 1 to 4 - Two-hour paper – 35 % of A Level.

**Paper 2:** Units 5 – 8 – Two-hour paper – 35% of A Level.

**Paper 3:** Units 1 – 8 – Two-hour paper – 30% of A Level.

## Career Opportunities

If you want to be a doctor, a dentist, a physiotherapist, or a vet, then you need to study biology A-level. Nurses, opticians and pharmacologists also need to know their human biology. There are all sorts of challenging biology related jobs from genetic engineering to environmental consultancy. Even if you aren't going to do a job related to biology, it is still worth studying. It will give you a better appreciation of the incredible mechanism that is your own body and of the extraordinary diversity of living things. It will allow you to comment, in an informed way, on the crucial issues of your age, from the war against disease to the advance of GM foods to the destruction of the global environment. If you are interested in life, then Biology A level is for you.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements at the back of this booklet.





# BTEC NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS

## Introduction

This qualification helps students develop a critical understanding of business, to include exploring a business, developing a Marketing Campaign and Business Finance. A broad basis of study of the business world. This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes others appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

## Course Content

**Year 1:** Exploring Business, Personal & Business Finance

**Year 2:** Developing a Marketing Campaign, Recruitment and Selection

## Method of Assessment

**Year 1:** Unit 1: Exploring Business (coursework), Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (exam)

**Year 2:** Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (controlled assessment), Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection (coursework)

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons and independent course work lessons, along with group work and presentational development. During the lesson we focus on developing critical thinking skills along with developing extended writing skills to access the higher grade boundaries.

## Career Opportunities

This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC or A Level qualification, as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of business, such as banking, recruitment, marketing and human resources.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet.



# BUSINESS STUDIES

## Introduction

A-level Business Studies helps students develop a critical understanding of business organisations, the markets they serve and the process of adding value to a business. Students will develop their ability to acquire a range of important and transferable skills including data skills, presenting arguments, making judgments and conducting research. This course prepares you for the world of Business and further education. This course has no coursework or controlled assessment.

## Course Content

**Year 1:** What is business? Managers, leadership and decision making. Decision making to improve marketing performance. Decision making to improve operational performance. Decision making to improve financial performance. Decision making to improve human resource performance.

**Year 2:** Analysing the strategic position of a business. Choosing strategic direction. Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies. Managing strategic change

## Method of Assessment

AQA- General Certificate of Business Studies.

**Paper 1** – 33.3% and the A Level exam is 2 hours.

**Paper 2** – 33.3% and the A Level exam is 2 hours.

**Paper 3** – 33.3% and the A Level exam is 2 hours.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons, along with group work and presentational development. During the lesson we focus on developing critical thinking skills along with developing extended writing skills to access the higher grade boundaries.

## Career Opportunities

Progression through the A-Level will provide suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of business.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet.



# CHEMISTRY

## Introduction

Chemistry underpins our modern society. From plastics and man-made materials like nylon and polyester, to washing your hair with shampoo or taking antibiotics, you rely on discoveries that Chemists have made every day of your life. Chemistry is the science that makes a difference to us all. It is a science that provides solutions. Becoming a Chemist gives you the opportunity to work in fields that: develop new, 'designer' materials; research and develop new medicines; investigate crimes with forensic techniques; and make new developments in food science.

## Course Content

Over the course of 2 years, you will study 6 modules: 1,2,3, and 4 in year 1; and 1,5, and 6 in year 2.

1. Practical skills – planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.
2. Physical chemistry - 3.1.1 Atomic structure, 3.1.2 Amount of substance, 3.1.3 Bonding, 3.1.4 Energetics, 3.1.5 Kinetics, 3.1.6 Chemical equilibria, Le Chatelier's principle and  $K_c$ , 3.1.7 Oxidation, reduction and redox equations, 3.1.8 Thermodynamics (A-level only), 3.1.9 Rate equations (A-level only), 3.1.10 Equilibrium constant  $K_p$  for homogeneous systems (A-level only), 3.1.11 Electrode potentials and electrochemical cells (A-level only), 3.1.12 Acids and bases (A-level only)
3. Inorganic chemistry - 3.2.1 Periodicity, 3.2.2 Group 2, the alkaline earth metals, 3.2.3 Group, 7(17), the halogens, 3.2.4 Properties of Period 3 elements and their oxides (A-level only), 3.2.5 Transition metals (A-level only), 3.2.6 Reactions of ions in aqueous solution (A-level only)
4. Organic chemistry - 3.3.1 Introduction to organic chemistry, 3.3.2 Alkanes, 3.3.3 Halogenoalkanes, 3.3.4 Alkenes, 3.3.5 Alcohols, 3.3.6 Organic analysis, 3.3.7 Optical isomerism (A-level only), 3.3.8 Aldehydes and ketones (A-level only), 3.3.9 Carboxylic acids and derivatives (A-level only), 3.3.10 Aromatic chemistry (A-level only), 3.3.11 Amines (A-level only), 3.3.12 Polymers (A-level only), 3.3.13 Amino acids, proteins and DNA (A-level only), 3.3.14 Organic synthesis (A-level only), 3.3.15 Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (A-level only), 3.3.16 Chromatography (A-level only)

## Method of Assessment

### A Level: 3 terminal exams

**Paper 1:** Relevant physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.1 to 3.1.4, 3.1.6 to 3.1.8 and 3.1.10 to 3.1.12), Inorganic chemistry (section 3.2), Relevant practical skills (35%)

**Paper 2:** Relevant physical chemistry topics (sections 3.1.2 to 3.1.6 and 3.1.9), Organic chemistry (section 3.3), Relevant practical skills (35%)

**Paper 3:** Any content, any practical skills (30%)

**Practical Endorsement:** Reported separately.

## Career Opportunities

Marie Curie the Nobel Prize Winning Chemist said: "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood." Studying Chemistry offers you the chance to understand. Chemistry could be the vital element for your future especially if you want to be a doctor, a dentist, a physiotherapist, or a vet. It is highly regarded and a facilitating subject.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## Introduction

Computer Science encourages students to be problem solvers. The course is academic in nature and covers some theory elements in depth, while also placing an equal emphasis on programming and developing solutions to problems.

## Course Content – Year 1

The course is organised into a series of subject content modules which are then assessed across two exams and a practical project.

**Paper 1** will test a student's ability to program along with their knowledge of the fundamentals of programming, data structures and algorithms, theory of computation and systematic approach to problem solving.

**Paper 2** will be theory based, covering fundamentals of data representation, computer systems, computer organisation and architecture, communication and networking, databases and functional programming, and consequences of using computers.

The Computing Practical Project is internally assessed through coursework. Students will be expected to solve or investigate a practical problem, following a systematic approach to problem solving. This specification encourages candidates to gain an understanding of systematic methods – such as the use of algorithms and test strategies, the maintenance of computer systems, and the skills associated with documenting solutions – and encourages candidates to further develop skills associated with applying this knowledge and understanding to producing computer-based solutions to real problems.

## Method of Assessment

Examination board: AQA Advanced Level GCE in Computer Science. Three units, one internally assessed, the other two being externally assessed.

## Teaching Methods

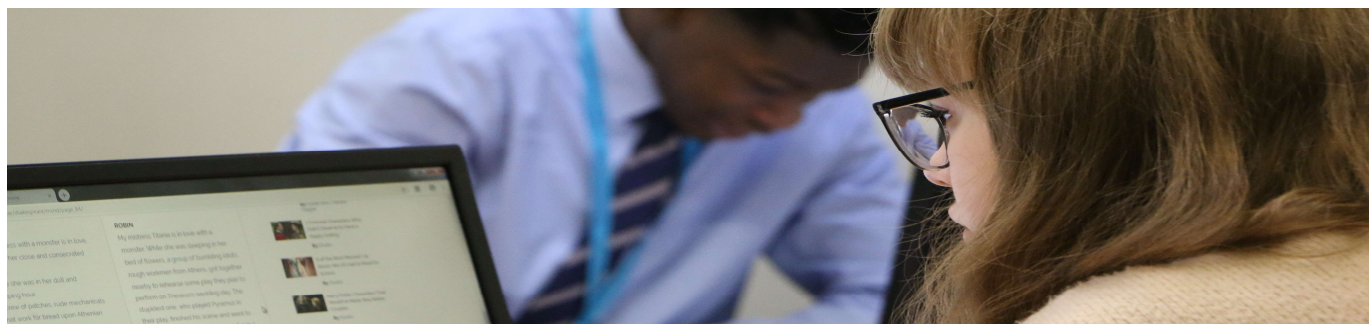
Computing is a practical subject, but does encompass a rigorous theoretical base. Both theory and practical lessons take place in the ICT suites. A high level of programming skill is taught and developed through the use of software which student can download for free at home. Coursework is individually produced and supported by experienced staff.

## Career Opportunities

Computing students develop technical skills and knowledge as well as the ability to communicate clearly, plan and manage a project and solve complex problems. A qualification in Computing opens up an incredible world of opportunities for work, not only in the technology industry but also in supporting roles within other industries – from designing and building software for phones and gadgets to designing systems used by major corporations.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet.





# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY : TEXTILES

## Introduction

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing products of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

## Examination Board - AQA

## Course Content

A-level Fashion and Textiles requires students to engage in both practical and theoretical study. This specification requires students to cover design and technology skills and knowledge as set out below. These have been separated into:

- Technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Students must also demonstrate mathematics and science skills.

## Method of Assessment

**Paper 1:** Technical principles and core designing and making principles.

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes - 120 marks - 30% of A-level - Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response.

**Paper 2:** Designing and making principles. • Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes - 80 marks - 20% of A-level Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.

**Section A:** Product Analysis. – 30 marks Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).

**Section B:** Commercial manufacture. – 50 marks - Mixture of short and extended response questions.

## Teaching Methods

Lessons are well supported through structured lesson topics. Design work is taught in school and the expectation is that students will continue to develop this outside of class. Product manufacture is completed in school time and some after school support sessions where it is needed. Each student is encouraged to take ownership of the project as the project evolves. Some topics such as materials and components are taught as dedicated lessons.

**Equipment Required** – A Range of graphical equipment, including pencils, fine liners, rule, and pencil crayons to allow design ideas to be communicated. A calculator.

## Career Opportunities

A Design and technology: Fashion and textiles course will give you numerous opportunities for career progression from fashion design & styling, textile design for fashion & interiors, interior design, fashion merchandising & buying, illustration & graphic design, industrial design, textile engineering, production management, architectural design and product design to name a few. The above course develops skills that support university and career progression and also allows the student to develop portfolio material. This Fashion and Textiles course will give you thinking, planning and practical design and manufacturing skills that allow you to become an independent thinker in our technological world.

## Entry Criteria

Please see attached course requirements at the back of this booklet.

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## Introduction

The study of English Literature encourages the students to develop as an informed independent reader and critic of literary texts. In a seminar setting, students have the opportunity to discuss and debate texts, reflecting on themes and aspects of narrative.

## Course Content

### Paper 1 – Literary Genres: Aspects of Tragedy (Closed book exam = 40%)

Students will study the tragedy genre, specifically focusing on Shakespeare's 'Othello', Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' and a collection of Keats' poetry.

### Paper 2 – Texts and Genres: Elements of Crime Writing (Open book exam = 40%)

Students will study the crime writing genre, specifically focusing on Atkinson's 'When Will There Be Good News?', Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' and Agatha Christie's 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd'.

### Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) – Theory and Independence (Two essays of 1250-1500 words each = 20%)

Each piece of coursework needs to respond to a different text (which the student can choose – one prose author, and one poet) and link to a different section from the Critical Anthology such as Marxism, Feminism, Eco-critical or Colonization.

## Method of Assessment

80% Exam (two separate papers – detailed above) & 20% Coursework (two separate essays – detailed above).

## Teaching Methods

Lessons will be formally taught with a focus on student participation in discussion and presentation of issues, ideas and philosophies explored in texts. Students will continue to develop their skills in the close analysis of texts and to refine their writing skills with an emphasis on expressing their opinions through a well-supported argument. They will also be expected to undertake independent research and wider reading on a weekly basis, in order to further their understanding of the texts set for study.

## Career Opportunities

The study of English Literature will provide a strong basis for professions which rely on the ability for clear and effective expression, to argue a point, to inform and to persuade. It lends itself to occupations in areas such as Law, Teaching, Media, Marketing, Journalism and Politics. It is also a very useful qualification for those who wish to gain managerial positions.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet.



# GEOGRAPHY

## Introduction

As the world and human society truly begins to feel the pressures of resource depletion, over population and climate change the importance of understanding these extraordinary challenges is becoming increasingly apparent. The issues of environmental damage and energy management already permeate almost every industry and are foremost in current and future government policy making due to their connections to economic security. The topics studied in A level geography will shape the future of our planet and every species that depends on it.

## Course Content

### Component 1: Physical Geography

Section A: Water and carbon cycles

Section B: Coastal systems and landscapes

Section C: Hazards

### Component 2: Human Geography

Section A: Global systems and global governance

Section B: Changing places

Section C: Contemporary Urban Environments

### Component 3: Non-Examination Assessment

## Method of Assessment

### Component 1: Physical Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes – 96 marks - 40% of A-level - Section A: answer all questions (27 marks) - Section B: answer question 4 (27 marks) - Section C: answer either question 6 (42 marks)

### Component 2: Human Geography

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes - 96 marks - 40% of A-level - Section A: answer all questions (27 marks) - Section B: answer all questions (27 marks) - Section C: answer question 6 (42 marks)

### Component 3: Non-Examination Assessment

Students complete an individual investigation which must include data collected in the field. The individual investigation must be based on a question or issue defined and developed by the student relating to any part of the specification content. 3,000–4,000 words - 35 marks - 20% of A-level

## Career Opportunities

With a qualification in Geography you can go on to Higher Education to study: Oceanography; Cartography; Nature conservation; Waste Management; Land Surveying; Town Planning; Meteorology; Geology; Landscape Architecture; Traffic Planning; Geomorphology; Hydrography; Travel Consultancy.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet.

# HISTORY

## Introduction

History is not just the study of the past. When we study our ancestors and why they did what they did. We are investigating human behaviour and gaining an insight into the lessons we may learn for the present day, as well as gaining a range of analytical and evaluative skills that are highly valued by employers and universities alike.

## Course Content

Using the AQA exam board:

Breadth Study (40%) - Tsarist and Communist Russia

Depth Study (40%) - The English Revolution

Coursework/NEA (20%) - USA black Civil Rights Movement.

## Method of Assessment

Both units are examined at the end of Year 13 apart from the coursework which is due in by the end of Year 12.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons. The study of A level History requires much out of lesson learning so students of the subject must be prepared to complete this.

## Career Opportunities

With a qualification in History you could go on to Higher Education, not just to study History, but any one of the many Arts and Social Science courses available. History is viewed as a great facilitation subject by many universities. This means a good a-level grade in history makes you suitable to a wide range of university courses at many top universities. With or without a degree, you can use a History qualification to work in a great variety of jobs in business and administration, the police service, the law, journalism and the media (as well as the more obvious careers, like teaching or working in museums and libraries). The skills you gain from studying History mean that you have the ability to weigh up both sides of an argument, make sense of and synthesise different forms of evidence, and become an analytical academic.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet





# MATHEMATICS

## Introduction

Mathematics is an important and interesting subject on its own. It is also extremely useful with other A Levels such as, Sciences Geography and Business Studies. University courses in Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics, Robotics, Computer Science, Biology, and Chemistry along with many more. In the local area there are many opportunities in the automotive or aeronautical engineering sector – opportunities include anything from working for a Formula 1 team in one of the many technology centres near Silverstone, to designing aircraft at Sywell Aerodrome.

## Course Content

For the award of an AS Mathematics qualification a student must complete 2 units at the end of Year 13:

**Pure Mathematics 1 (66.6% of the mark)** – Includes proof, algebra, coordinate geometry, sequences, trigonometry, logarithms, differentiation, integration and vectors.

**Statistics and Mechanics (33.3% of the mark)** – Statistics includes statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions and hypothesis testing. Mechanics involves kinematics, forces and studying Newton's laws.

For the A Level qualification students take 3 units:

**Pure Mathematics 1 (33.3% of the mark)** – AS content assessed at A Level standard.

**Pure Mathematics 2 (33.3% of the mark)** – Remaining Pure content which builds on and incorporates AS content.

**Statistics and Mechanics (33.3% of the mark)** – As above, but also including 'Moments'.

## Method of Assessment

Examination board: Edexcel. The A Level unit each have an examination at the end of year 13. AS can be taken at the end of year 12 or 13.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons. Pupils are expected to keep up with regular homework and review their own learning. Students will be expected to provide their own scientific calculators are essential (specifically the Casio fx-991ES plus – note, this is an upgrade on the model currently used at GCSE) and graphical calculators/computers are also used. The mathematical skills you learn in A Level Mathematics are of great benefit in other A Level subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, computing, geography, psychology, economics and business studies.

## Career Opportunities

University courses in Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics, Robotics, Computer Science, Biology, and Chemistry along with many more. In the local area there are many opportunities in the automotive or aeronautical engineering sector – opportunities include anything from working for a Formula 1 team in one of the many technology centres near Silverstone, to designing aircraft at Sywell Aerodrome.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet.



# FURTHER MATHEMATICS

## Introduction

You can choose to take Further Maths in addition to A-level Mathematics. Students who opt for Further Maths will study for 2 A-levels: one in Mathematics and one in Further Maths. In the first year you study the entire A-level Maths specification and sit external examinations in June of year 12. (See below for more details). In the second year you study the entire A-level Further Maths specification and sit external examinations in June of year 13.

## Course Content

In year 12 you study A-level Mathematics: See the A-level Mathematics leaflet for more details on course content.

In year 13 you study two core pure modules:

**Core Pure Mathematics 1** – Proof, complex numbers, matrices, as well as further algebra, calculus and vectors.

And one of the following options:

**Core Pure Mathematics 2** – Complex numbers, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations and further algebra and calculus.

As well as 2 options from:

**Further Statistics** – Linear regression, discrete and continuous statistical distributions, hypothesis testing and Chi-squared tests.

**Further Mechanics** – Momentum and impulse, collisions, centres of mass, work and energy, elastic strings and springs.

**Decision Maths** – Algorithms and graph theory, critical path analysis and linear programming.

## Method of Assessment

**Examination board: Edexcel.**

A-level in Mathematics is assessed by **3 papers** each of **100 marks** lasting **2 hours** taken at the end of **year 12**.

**Paper 1 & 2 (66.7%)** – assess the A-level Maths pure content

**Paper 3 (33.3%)** – assess the Statistics and Mechanics content in two sections each worth 50 marks.

There is also an option to retake these papers at the end of year 13 to improve the grade achieved at the end of year 12 this is common nationally as you would expect a student to get better at A-level Maths having now studied A-level Further Maths too. Further Maths students have higher outcomes in Maths both nationally and in Northampton Academy as you may well expect for students who have studied more maths.

A-level in Further Maths is assessed by **4 papers** each of **75 marks** lasting **90 minutes** taken at the end of **year 13**.

**Papers 1 & 2 (50%)** – assesses core pure maths taught in Further Maths.

**Paper 3 & 4 (50%)** – assess the options you have chosen one paper on each option.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons. Pupils are expected to keep up with regular homework and review their own learning. Students will be expected to provide their own scientific calculators which are essential (specifically the Casio fx-991ES plus – note, this is an upgrade on the model currently used at GCSE) and graphical calculators/computers are also used. The mathematical skills you learn in A Level Mathematics are of great benefit in other A Level subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, computing, geography, psychology, economics and business studies.

## Career Opportunities

University courses in Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics, Robotics, Computer Science, Biology, and Chemistry along with many more will highly desire the additional knowledge and skills developed by taking Further Maths in addition to the single A-level in Maths. In the local area there are many opportunities in the automotive or aeronautical engineering sector – opportunities include anything from working for a Formula 1 team in one of the many technology centres near Silverstone, to designing aircraft at Sywell aerodrome.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet.

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES : FRENCH / SPANISH

## Introduction

A Modern Foreign Language A Level offers students the opportunity to study a range of literature which gives an insight into the cultural, social, commercial and political background of the country of study. The language of study will also be developed to a high level of fluency both written and spoken offering enjoyment and intellectual stimulation. In addition to the focus on speaking the language confidently and coherently, learners will increase their knowledge of the countries and communities where the language is spoken by their study of language in its cultural, literary and social context as well as through film and literature.

## Course Content

Our AQA A Level in Spanish and French encourages the development of valuable transferable skills, such as reading, listening, speaking and translation. In addition, learners develop the ability to write critically and analytically about a film and a literary text in the target language. As part of the speaking test learners are required to conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest, relating to the country or countries where the language is spoken which will enable them to develop valuable research skills in the language of study. The areas of study reflect learner's interest as well as deepen their knowledge of issues which are relevant to the target language countries and communities:

- ❖ Stereotypes
- ❖ Social Movements (Labour rights)
- ❖ Equality and gender
- ❖ Modern world issues
- ❖ Modern History
- ❖ Aspects of artistic culture
- ❖ Aspects of political culture

Students will also study grammar in depth.

## Method of Assessment

Learners take components 01, 02 and 03 to be awarded the Edexcel A Level in Spanish.

Component 01: Comprehension / Written paper / Total marks: 100 - 2 hours 30 mins

- ❖ Listening, Reading: Writing and into English: (50%)

Component 02: Writing about film / written paper / total marks: 80 - 2 hours

- ❖ Writing in Italian, Translation into Italian (20%)

Component 03: Speaking / Total marks: 60 - 21-23 minutes + 5 min preparation time

- ❖ Discussion of stimulus card: 25 marks, Research project: 35 marks (30%)

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons together. The language will be developed to a high level of fluency and will be used to analyse, hypothesise, evaluate and develop arguments and viewpoints in speech and writing.

## Career Opportunities

The obvious careers for languages students and graduates are as interpreters and translators. Careers in the diplomatic service and telecommunications also often require an aptitude for languages. Language students' interest in their degree subject often goes beyond a simple desire to understand the language and includes a passion for foreign cultures as well. This could be a great advantage in the business world. Many blue-chip multinational recruiters want employees who have a global outlook and are sensitive to cultural differences. With additional training you could also consider a career in one of these areas: teaching, tourism, business, politics, public relations, human resources, distribution or logistics management, marketing, publishing, journalism, accounting, law.

## Entry Criteria

Please see attached course requirements at the back of this booklet.

# PHYSICS

## Introduction

'A Physicists journey starts with putting two numbers together and ends with taking the universe apart'. If you have an enquiring mind, enjoy a challenge and like solving problems, give yourself the best chance by studying Physics. From the smallest particles inside the atom to the great clusters of galaxies Physics helps us to understand how our world works. The applications, like the career opportunities are immense. Employers and further education centers today actively seek out people who can prove their ability to think logically, understand complex ideas and can apply them to the real world.

## Course Content

Over the two year course you will study 6 modules:

- ❖ Practical Skills in Physics – skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.
- ❖ Measurements and their errors – what is required for effective measurement and handling of uncertainty.
- ❖ Particles and radiation – Fundamental structure of matter, the interaction of matter and quantum phenomena
- ❖ Waves – properties of waves, effects of waves and optics.
- ❖ Mechanics and materials – The study of Newton's laws, momenta, energy, power, and material structure
- ❖ Electricity – electrical components, circuits and their properties.
- ❖ Further mechanics and thermal physics – circular and simple harmonic motion, gas laws and kinetic theory
- ❖ Fields and their consequences – electric, gravitational and magnetic fields and capacitance along with AC electricity.
- ❖ Astrophysics – Origins of the Universe, observing the Universe and Cosmology.

## Method of Assessment

### A-Level: 3 terminal exams

Paper 1: Periodic motion and particles and radiation through to electricity (34%)

Paper 2: Thermal physics, nuclear physics and fields (34%)

Paper 3: Section A: Practical skills, section B: Astrophysics (32%)

## Teaching Methods

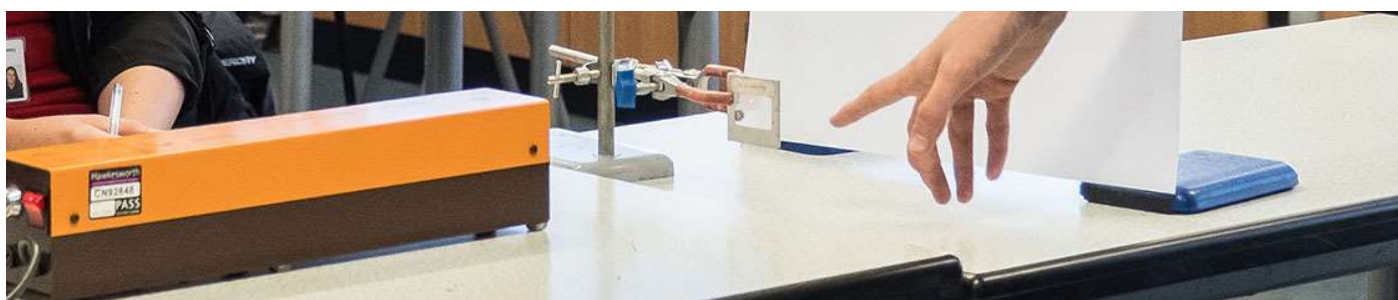
The course is based around worked done is lesson – practical work, theory, practice and research. Students are expected to carry out much work outside the lesson to consolidate their knowledge and practice concepts. Each week you will be given an assignment / hand out to complete which is then assessed by a weekly test.

## Career Opportunities

Your Physics qualification will be welcomed in an amazing variety of careers and further education courses including Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Accounting and Product Design. The subject is highly regarded in the Engineering and Finance sectors.

## Entry Criteria

Please see attached course requirements at the back of this booklet.





# POLITICS

## Introduction

Politics at A Level represents the demands of a truly modern and evolving political environment in the UK and around the world. Students will study UK politics and UK government, which provides a set of core knowledge and understanding. Students will also study three core political ideas and feminism. They will then study the government and politics of the USA providing the breadth and depth to study Politics at university and to be able to confidently participate in Politics in the UK.

## Course Content

### Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

There are four content areas:

1. Democracy and participation
2. Political parties
3. Electoral systems
4. Voting behaviour and the media

There are three content areas in Core Political Ideas:

1. Liberalism
2. Conservatism
3. Socialism

### Component 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

1. The constitution
2. Parliament
3. Prime Minister and executive
4. Relations between the branches.
5. Feminism

### Component 3: USA

1. The constitution
2. Congress
3. President
4. Judiciary
5. Democracy and Participation

## Method of Assessment

### Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

Written exam: 2 hours 84 marks - 33% of A-level - Section A: Answer one question from a choice of 2 (source 30 marks) one question from a choice of 2 non-source (30 marks) - Section B: answer one question from a choice of 2 (24 marks).

### Component 2: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

Written exam: 2 hours - 84 marks - 33% of A-level - Section A: One question from a choice of 2 (source 30 marks) one question from a choice of 2 non-source (30 marks) - Section B: answer one question from a choice of 2 (24 marks).

### Component 3: USA – Comparative Politics

Written exam: 2 hours - 84 marks - 33% of A-level - Section A: One question from a choice of 2 (12 marks) – Section B: answer one question from a choice of 2 (12 marks) - Section C: answer two questions from a choice of 3 (30 marks).

## Career Opportunities

With a qualification in Politics you can go on to Higher Education to study a wide variety of degrees leading to a range of careers including: International relations, **marketing, business, research and administrative professions, HR, PR, finance, analytics, roles in political parties, government, local councils and as civil servants.**

Politics is assessed through extended writing and requires students to be able to retain and understand key concepts and ideas. The themes form the basis for students to develop opinions, evaluate and include relevant and current examples. An active interest in the news and current affairs is essential, students need to watch/listen to/read the news and have opinions on it!

### Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet.



# PHOTOGRAPHY

## Introduction

A Level Photography encourages students to look at the world around them and express their view visually. Through investigation students explore different approaches to photography and art, different practitioners', including the investigation of other creative media as well as photography to inform their own ideas. The transferable analytical skills are useful for further education in general, personal development and a future career in Art and Design. Drawing with different media is central to the qualification.

## Course Content

### **Component 1: Personal Investigation.**

Students generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes and refine ideas toward producing personal artwork. Three major elements are included: Supporting Studies – General investigations in artworks. Personal Study – Essay based on research and crucial analysis of photography and art (12% of total qualification). Practical Work – A body of practical study.

### **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment.**

Very similar to component one without the personal study. A theme is set by the examination board for the component and students must respond to it through their photographic work. The component culminates in a 15 hour examination conducted in sittings over a given period of time.

## Method of Assessment

60% of A level is assessed through coursework with a further 40% through the externally set exam.

## Teaching Methods

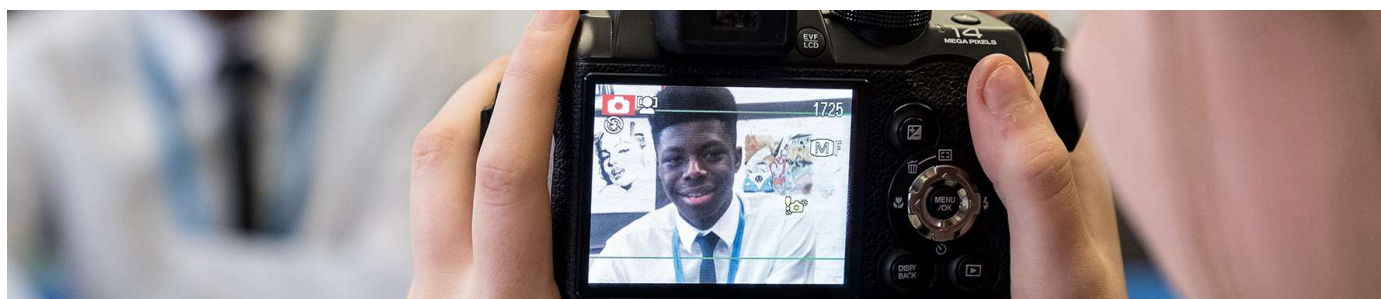
The majority of learning at A level comprises of developing practical skills, accompanied by the development of analytical skills which explore typical photographic and art themes such as still life and portrait, and the historical background behind them. As the course progresses the student leads their own learning, guided by their tutor. All units are based around field trips including visits to major art galleries in London, which students must attend. Student investigations are recorded in a work journal which documents progress.

## Career Opportunities

Progression through the Advanced level will provide suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in any area of Art and Design or creative field. Previous students have gone onto study and pursue careers, in medicine, architecture, business and the RAF as well as creative specific careers.

## Entry Criteria

Please see attached course requirements at the back of this booklet.



# PSYCHOLOGY

## Introduction

Psychology is the scientific study of the brain, the mind and mental processes. The psychologist is interested in all aspects of the human behaviour, both normal and abnormal.

## Course Content

### **Paper 1: Introductory Topics of Psychology**

- Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology

### **Paper 2: Psychology in Context**

- Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods

### **Paper 3: Issues & Options in Psychology**

- Relationships, Schizophrenia, Forensic Psychology, Issues and Debates

## Method of Assessment

All Papers – Two hour written exam, 96 Marks, 33.3% of A-Level.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons with a major emphasis on interpersonal and collaborative group learning, discussion and independent learning.

## Career Opportunities

Psychology is an excellent choice studied in combination with Sociology, Biology and other Science subjects. It offers insight into the human mind and all aspects of human behaviour. Progression through the advance level will provide suitable basis for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in areas where Psychology may be used. Understanding 'What makes people tick' and how their mind works are indeed crucial for any aspect of human existence.

## Entry Criteria

Please see attached course requirements at the back of this booklet.





# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## Introduction

Religious Studies is one of the most challenging A Levels you can study and is highly regarded by both universities and employers. Religion is central to the history of the world, society and our own lived experience, and the A Level requires a commitment to academic rigour as well as a desire to better understand the world around us. Students are given the opportunity to explore the fundamental questions of the world around us, such as: Is there a God? If so, what is he like? What happens after we die? These are the basis of the topics we will consider in depth that will prepare students for independent study at university.

## Course Content:

### Component 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

**Philosophy of Religion** – Within Philosophy, we consider how reasonable it is to believe in religion; does it make sense to have faith without evidence? This has been a question pondered by the world's greatest mind for millennia. Topics studied include arguments for the existence of God; evil and suffering; religious experience; religious language; miracles, and self and life after death.

**Ethics** – Ethics allows us to question right from wrong, and how we know this is the case. Topics studied include Natural Moral Law; Situation Ethics; Aristotle's Virtue Ethics; Application of Ethical Theories to issues of Human Life and Death; Application of Ethical Theories to issues of Animal Life and Death; Meta-ethics; Conscience; Bentham + Kant.

### Course Content: Paper 2

**Unit 1 – Christianity** – Sources of Wisdom and Authority; God; Self, Death and the Afterlife; Good conduct and key moral principles; Expression of Religious Identity; Religion, Gender and Sexuality; Religion and Science; Religion and Secularisation; Religion and Religious Pluralism.

**Unit 2 – Dialogues** – this involves the Dialogue between Philosophy and Christianity, and Christianity and Ethics. These are longer 25 mark questions that ask you to apply your knowledge to a broader topic. These questions will be taught from the end of year 12.

### Method of Assessment & Examination Board

We use the AQA exam board. All assessment is exam based, with papers sat in summer of year 13.

Each exam is 3 hours, with paper 1 on Philosophy of Religion + Ethics: and Paper 2 on Christianity and Dialogues. Both exams will feature extended written essays. This means we will practice extended writing frequently within lessons, and students can expect regular feedback on their writing.

### Career Opportunities

With a qualification in Religious Studies you can go on to Higher Education to study or gain careers in: Business, Computing; Education; Engineering; Finance; Government Studies/Politics, Insurance; Journalism; Law, Marketing; Publishing; Real Estate, Religious Ministry; Research; Sales; Writing.

### Entry Criteria

Please see attached course requirements at the back of this booklet.



# SOCIOLOGY

## Introduction

Sociology is very successful and popular subject at Northampton Academy. This is what the OFSTED inspectors said: 'Teaching is good in the Sixth Form. The subject is managed well with through planning. Response in lessons is good. Pupils are interested in the subject and co-operate well with each other'. Sociology is the study of human social behaviour. The subject investigates patterns of learned behaviour and how these are shaped and influenced by our parents, friends, schools, work and other institutions.

## Course Content

### **Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods**

- Socialisation, culture, identity; and social differentiation, power and stratification
- The role and functions of the education system, including its relationship to the economy and to class structure
- The significance of educational policies, including policies of selection, marketisation and privatisation and policies to achieve greater equality of opportunity or outcome
- The nature of science and the extent to which Sociology can be regarded as scientific.
- Qualitative and quantitative methods of research; research design

### **Paper 2: Topics in Sociology- Families and Households and Beliefs in Society**

- The relationship of the family to the social structure and social change
- Changing patterns of marriage, cohabitation, divorce, childbearing and the life course
- Demographic trends in the United Kingdom since 1900: birth rates, family size, ageing population
- Gender roles, domestic labour and power relationships within the family in contemporary society

### **Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods**

- Globalisation and crime in contemporary society; the media and crime; green crime; human rights and state crimes
- Crime control, surveillance, prevention and punishment, victims and the role of the criminal justice system and other agencies
- The relationship between theory and methods
- The theoretical, practical and ethical considerations influencing choice of topic, choice of method(s) and the conduct of research

## Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods- 2 hours written exam, 80 marks, 33.3%

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology- 2 hours written exam, 80 marks, 33.3%

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods, 2 hours written exam, 80 marks, 33.3%

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons with a major emphasis on interpersonal and collaborative group learning, discussion and independent learning.

## Career Opportunities

What can you do with Sociology? Sociology students from Northampton Academy have moved into quite a wide range of jobs and occupation, such as, Nursing, Nursery Nursing, Childcare, Teaching, Retail Management, Legal Professions and many others. Sociology is a stimulation and interesting subject, it will make you a more knowledgeable and informed student.

## Entry Criteria

Please see attached course requirements at the back of this booklet.



# BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE SPORT

## Introduction

The BTEC Sport qualification encourages students to explore and experience the world of sport. Students are encouraged to investigate, analyse and evaluate concepts, theories in a work-related environment where all assignments are based upon situations and demands that exist in the workplace.

## Course Content

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport. (2 yr. course & equivalent to 1 A Level)

## Additionalities

- SL3 – The Sports Leaders UK Level 3 award in Higher Sports Leadership is designed to develop the leadership skills of students. As a practical based course, students will build on their experiences from their Community Sports Leadership Award, and use skills within the wider/local community. This qualification also carries UCAS points.
- Personalised PE student kit to wear for 6<sup>th</sup> form.
- Practical trips away.
- Guest speakers looking at possible opportunities in Sport, beyond 6<sup>th</sup> form.

## Method of Assessment

Coursework based with two external examinations.

## Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through formally taught lessons together with the use of IT to complete coursework. Students are encouraged to develop their independent learning and are given opportunities to gain further qualifications during the course, e.g. SL3 award.

## Career Opportunities

Progression through these BTEC courses will provide suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as a valuable preparation for careers in many areas of the sports industry. The BTEC coupled with other subjects also provides suitable bases for further study in related subjects in Higher Education as well as preparation for careers.

## Entry Criteria

Please see course requirements sheet at the back of this booklet



## Entry Requirements – September 2024

### A Levels General Requirements:

In order to study A levels, you will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or equivalent including English Language AND Maths. In addition, some subjects require specific grades as provided below:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Minimum Entry Requirement</i>
Art	6 in Art, demonstrable ability will be considered
Biology	6 in Biology (or 6-6 in Combined Science) & 6 in Maths
Business Studies	Distinction/Distinction* in BTEC Business and a 6 in English and Maths/Statistics
Chemistry	6 in Chemistry (or 6-6 in Combined Science) & 7 in Maths
Computer Science	6 in Maths & 6 in Computer Science
English Literature	6 in English Language and/or Literature
French / Spanish	6 in French / 6 in Spanish
Further Maths	8 in Maths
Geography	6 in Geography and 5 in English Language and 5 in Maths/Statistics
History	6 in History and 5 in English Language/Literature
Maths	7 in Maths
Photography	6 / Distinction in Art / DT / Photography / Graphics or demonstrable ability will be considered
Physics	7 in Physics (or 7-7 in Combined Science) & 7 in Maths
Politics	5 or above in English Language or Literature and a 5 in a Humanities subject
Psychology	6 in English Language, 6 in Maths/Statistics and 6 in Science
Religious Studies	6 in Humanities and 6 in English Language/Literature
Sociology	5 in English Language and 5 in Humanities subject
Textiles	5 in Maths and 6 in either Art or Design & Technology

### Level 3 Vocational General Requirements:

In order to study a Vocational level 3, you will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or equivalent including English Language AND Maths. In addition, some subjects require specific grades as provided below:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entry requirement</i>
BTEC Extended Certificate Business	A 5 in English Language and Maths. 5 in GCSE Business or BTEC Business taken than a Merit. Demonstrable ability will be considered.
BTEC Sport Extended Certificate	5 GCSEs at grade 5 or equivalent including English Language, Maths and Science plus a Merit in BTEC First Sport or equivalent PE GCSE.

For course information please go to :- <https://www.northampton-academy.org/Information/Sixth-Form>