Talbot Heath

Independent School for Girls aged 2-18

A LEVEL OPTIONS

From September 2026

Talbot Heath School
Rothesay Road Bournemouth Dorset BH4 9NJ
www.talbotheath.org

September 2025

Sixth Form Curriculum

Talbot Heath Sixth Form offers a wide range of Advanced Level courses and combinations of courses to accommodate, as far as is possible, the varied preferences of our students. Students select three A Levels, with a minority choosing to take up a fourth. Many students also take up either an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or Level 3 Sports Leader Qualification. We strongly advise students to discuss options with parents, staff and our careers advisor to ensure that each their programme of study is suited to their strengths, passions as well as their career aspirations.

Academic Extra

Students can opt to also take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or the Level 3 Sports Leader Qualification. Both qualifications provide UCAS points: the EPQ is worth up to 28 and Sports Leader up to 16.

Enrichment beyond the academic curriculum

Alongside the academic studies required for the A Level subjects, students are offered a comprehensive programme to enrich their time in the Sixth Form.

- **Experience of work:** Through our Community Work Placement (CWP) programme, students gain experience of the world of work while contributing to the local community. Placements are coordinated by the school and built into curriculum time.
- **Team-building activities:** Supporting our close community ethos, building essential teamwork skills. In recent years this has included a visit to Laser Quest and an 'Escape Room' experience.
- **The Bridge Programme:** Connecting the Junior School to the Sixth Form, providing work experience, leadership and tutoring opportunities.
- **Careers guidance:** Including support for applications for Higher Education, apprenticeships and more.
- **Timetabled 'Enrichment' lessons:** Covering topics to help students to flourish both academically and beyond. Lessons have addressed academic skills as well as life-skills. Each year the content is updated, following input from students, to keep it relevant to their needs. Previous lessons have included: self-defense, first aid training, online safety, financial awareness, driver safety and presentations from a range of inspiring speakers.
- **The Duke of Edinburgh Award**
- **Relationships and Sex Education** (RSE)
- **Leadership:** Opportunities to hone skills through roles as Head Students, Prefects, Subject Mentors, Rwanda Committee Leads
- **Rewards Partners:** Partnered with Totum to offer NUS discounts on fashion, food, tech, travel and more.

Core PE

Sixth Formers participates in three PE lessons over a two-week timetable. Activities which students may opt into over the course of the year may include badminton, table tennis, dodgeball, ultimate frisbee, football, lacrosse, volleyball, trampolining, yoga/Pilates, tennis, swimming, fitness suite and a wellbeing walk. Everyone has the opportunity to join extra-curricular clubs and activities. Keen athletes may continue their swimming training before or after-school as part of the swimming academy sessions. Tennis players have the opportunity to partner with West Hants Tennis Club for their Tennis academy programme also. There are also plenty of opportunities for Sixth Formers to help with junior clubs.

Additional Activities

There is a wide range of further activities for Sixth Formers to enjoy. Students with an interest in music can join the orchestra, choral groups, instrumental ensembles and take part in our bi-annual Musical Theatre Productions. Students are also encouraged to take the initiative and lead their own activities, with the support of teachers where necessary. A recent example is the Christian Union, which was re-launched by a team of eager Sixth Formers. Students also have the opportunity to join many trips, including to the theatre, museums, art galleries, fieldwork site and university open days. Recently, students have had access to international trips, including visits to New York, Rome and ski trips to France.

Entrance Criteria

A Sixth Form applicant must have a minimum of 5 subjects at Grade 6 or above at GCSE level or an accepted equivalent. We would expect an applicant to have at least a grade 6 in the subject she wishes to study. Some subjects have specific requirements – this will be detailed in the individual subject sections.

For pupils who have been educated abroad, and whose first language is not English, fluency in written and spoken English is essential, since all teaching is in English. The difficulty of A Level courses demands complete and immediate understanding and the ability to communicate and to question without any barrier.

A Guide to Subject Information

The information for subjects is arranged in alphabetical order. Students are also advised to consult the specifications for each subject (these are available on the exam board websites) and seek the guidance of staff. If you are interested in a subject not included in this booklet please discuss this with relevant staff.

Note: Some subjects will only be offered if there is sufficient demand.

Art and Design

Art is an expanding subject which offers various specialisms with a personalised approach. We have two purpose built and well-equipped studios, a graphics suite, photographic studio and darkroom. Students choose from one of the endorsements to study throughout their A Level: Fine Art, Textiles and Photography. Entry requirements for the A Level Art, Textiles or Photography are a level 6 or above at GCSE. If applying externally, please apply with a portfolio. All students who wish to take an Art based A Level and have not taken GCSE please do contact the school with your interest and provide a Portfolio of at least 20 photographs of work completed that will demonstrate their skill level before joining the course.

All students will follow the AQA examination board specification for their Art and Design courses, completing a specific skills-based unit, extended portfolio, including a personal investigation and an externally set task. For example, the skills section of the Photography course covers digital photography and manipulation skills using Photoshop, alongside use of the darkroom.

The contents of the work created will be determined by the nature of the course they study.

Each student must include in their body of work:

- At least one extended collection of work or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue. This should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation. It should include evidence of their ability to research and develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to relevant critical/contextual materials.
- One externally set assignment, based from a title generated by the examination board. This should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation. It should include evidence of their ability to research and develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to relevant critical/contextual materials.

Work submitted may also include:

- Critical/contextual work, which could include written material such as journals, reviews, reflections and evaluations, annotations and historical background material. Evidence may be included from books, journals, moving images, photographs, digital presentations and the internet, as well as studies made during a residency, site, gallery or museum visit.

Course breakdown:

Year 12 will be guided by tutorials to develop both their abilities and knowledge. They will build upon their skills portfolio for the first half of the year. Students will begin to develop a body of work for a personal investigation, accounting for 60% of their final grade.

Year 13 students will continue to develop a body of work for their personal investigation, accounting for 60% of their final grade. This will also include an essay of 1000-3000 words, directly linking to their personal investigation. Students will submit this at the end of January. The Externally Set Task will account for the remaining 40% of the marks, be given to the students at the start of February and be completed in a 15 hour examination in April. There is no written examination.

Transferable skills and links with other A Level Subjects:

Art and Design combines well with most other subjects; it encourages independent thinking, contextual understanding, being able to think outside the box, perseverance, creativity and direction. Increasingly, universities are welcoming students that have a diversity of subjects that demonstrate personal interest, thinking skills, resourcefulness and skill.

Higher education and career opportunities:
Art students have the opportunity to undertake a funded year-long Foundation course to enhance decisions making before undertaking a specialist degree, although there is an option to go directly onto a degree course depending on the specialism and level of expertise. Talbot Heath has very strong links with the Arts University Bournemouth which offers an excellent Foundation course and Degree courses. Many of the degree courses are tailored towards specific careers and employment after graduation. Talbot Heath students have progressed into many different professions, including Photographers, Architects, Book Illustrators, Model Makers, Animation Artists, Product and Fashion Designers, Gaming designers, University Lecturers and Teachers.

Biology

Biology is a rapidly expanding subject with wide applications in areas such as Medicine, Biotechnology and Environmental Science. This course builds on the skills and knowledge gained at GCSE level, expanding on topics covered such as cells, as well as introducing new and more difficult concepts.

The A Level course is designed to:

- develop essential knowledge and understanding of many different aspects of the subject
- develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of scientific methods
- develop competence and confidence in a variety of practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills
- allow students to understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues

Course content
Content is split into six teaching modules.

Module 1: Development of practical skills in Biology
Module 2: Foundations in Biology, including topics such as cells, molecules and membranes
Module 3: Exchange and Transport; including topics such as the heart, lungs and plant transport
Module 4: Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease
Module 5: Communication, Homeostasis and Energy; including nerves, excretion, respiration and photosynthesis
Module 6: Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

Assessment
Paper 1: Biological Processes (2 hours 15 minutes) covers modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 (37% of total)
Paper 2: Biological Diversity (2 hours 15 minutes) covers modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 (37% of total)
Paper 3: Unified Biology (1 hour 30 minutes) covers content from all modules (26% of total)

Examinations will take place at the end of the 2 year course; all assessment is through terminal written examination.

A Level Practical Endorsement: Throughout the course, candidates will complete a wide range of practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. This is reported separately, alongside the A Level grade.

Entry Requirements
At least a grade 6 in Biology or Combined Science. At least a grade 6 in Mathematics.

Links with other A Level Subjects
Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Geography are all particularly useful subjects to complement Biology. A Level Chemistry is required for many branches of Biological Science at degree level. Students should consult with subject staff and careers teachers.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
Biology A Level can provide the basis for a wide range of degree courses in pure and applied Biology. Examples include Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Microbiology and various aspects of Environmental Science.

Business

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Business is structured into four themes and consists of three externally examined papers.

Students are introduced to business in Themes 1 and 2 through building knowledge of core business concepts and applying them to business contexts to develop a broad understanding of how businesses work. Breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, with applications to a wider range of contexts and more complex business information, are developed in Themes 3 and 4, requiring students to take a more strategic view of business opportunities and issues.

Students are encouraged to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives and to challenge assumptions.

Theme 1: Marketing and people
Students will develop an understanding of:

- meeting customer needs
- the market
- marketing mix and strategy
- managing people
- entrepreneurs and leaders

Theme 2: Managing business activities
Students will develop and understanding of:

- raising finance
- financial planning
- managing finance
- resource management

external influences

Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy
This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 2. Students will develop an understanding of:

- business objectives and strategy
- business growth
- decision-making techniques
- influences on business decisions
- assessing competitiveness
- managing change

Theme 4: Global business

This theme develops the concepts introduced in Theme 1. Students will develop an understanding of:

- globalisation
- global markets and business expansion
- global marketing
- global industries and companies (multinational corporations)

Entry Requirements

There is no requirement to have taken Business Studies at GCSE. Mathematics at 4/5 and English at grade 6.

Links with other A Level Subjects

English, Geography, Mathematics, Computing, Art and Design, ICT, Psychology
Higher Education and Career Opportunities

Business and any combination of business courses at higher education, personal, accounting, finance, management, marketing, international business

Chemistry

Chemistry is a popular choice at A Level. The OCR Chemistry course links scientific theory to the world around us and develops skills such as independent thinking, problem solving and written and verbal communication. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics throughout the course.

Outline of Course

Chemistry is split into six modules, which, combined with the Practical Endorsement, constitute the full A Level.

Module 1: Development of practical skills.
Module 2: Foundations in chemistry. This includes atoms, compounds, molecules, equations, amount of substance and structure and bonding.
Module 3: Periodic table and energy. This includes trends in the periodic table, qualitative analysis, enthalpy and reaction rates.
Module 4: Core organic chemistry. This includes hydrocarbons, alcohols and haloalkanes, organic synthesis and analytical techniques.
Module 5: Physical chemistry and transition elements. This includes reaction rates, equilibrium, pH, enthalpy, free energy, redox, electrode potentials and transition elements.
Module 6: Organic chemistry and analysis. This includes aromatic compounds, nitrogen compounds, polymers, organic synthesis, chromatography and NMR spectroscopy.

Assessment

A Level Chemistry will be assessed by three papers:

Paper 1: Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry, 2 hours 15 mins. Weighting 37%.
Paper 2: Synthesis and analytical techniques, 2 hours 15 mins. Weighting 37%.
Paper 3: Unified chemistry, 1 hr 30 mins. Weighting 26%.

A Level Practical Endorsement: Throughout the course candidates will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence. This is reported separately, alongside the A- level grade.

Entry Requirements

At least a grade 6 in Chemistry or Combined Science. At least a grade 6 in Mathematics.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
Chemistry is an essential requirement of many higher education courses, and can lead into a variety of scientific careers including medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, chemical engineering, veterinary science, geological sciences, forensic science and chemical research. It should also be considered by those aiming to study physical, material and food sciences, engineering and archaeology. In addition, non-scientific disciplines such as law, economics and politics welcome a chemistry qualification as it shows a logical and analytical mind. Chemistry is both challenging and enjoyable and the qualities it engenders are valuable in all spheres of life.

Classical Civilisation

The OCR Classical Civilisation course (H408) enables students to study Greek and Roman society and culture from Archaic Greece to Imperial Rome. The material studied will encompass aspects of literature, visual/material culture and classical thought in their respective social, historical and cultural contexts. Students will study a range of evidence, and use this to form substantiated judgements and responses.

Assessment
A Level Classical Civilisation:

Paper 1: The World of the Hero (H408/11): 2 hour 30 minute paper (40% of A Level). Assessment will focus on sections of Homer's Iliad and Virgil's Aeneid studied in class through both structured questions and essays.
Paper 2: Component 2 Greek theatre (H408/21); 1 ¾ hours paper (30% of A Level). Assessment will focus on material studied in class on both material culture and literary evidence through both structured questions and essays.
Paper 3: Component 3 Classical beliefs and ideas. Students will be examined on Greek religion (H408/31); 1 ¾ hours paper (30% of A Level). Assessment will focus on material studied in class on both material culture, ancient belief and literary evidence through both structured questions and essays.

What kind of student is this course for?
Those students who:

- are interested in the Classical world
- enjoy a subject which is relevant to their own lives
- want to discover more about the society which shaped modern western culture
- want to develop their analytical skills in preparation for university study and work

Entry Requirements
There is no need to have studied either Classical Civilisation or Latin at GCSE. It is important that a student wishing to take A Level Classical Civilisation has an interest in literature and enjoys reading. Students wishing to take this course should have obtained at least a grade 6 in English literature; those who have taken GCSE Classical Civilisation should have attained at least a grade 6.

Links with other A Level Subjects
There are particularly strong links with Latin, English Literature, Modern History, Art and Modern Languages, but other combinations may suit particular students. For instance, an interest in archaeological restoration might well lead to a combination of the subject with Chemistry and Geography.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
Classical Civilisation is a fast-growing university discipline, and there are a considerable number of different types of course available, such as Classical Civilisation with Egyptology, Archaeology, Philosophy and English, to name but a few. As with most arts degree courses, the analytical and presentational skills acquired by students prepare them for employment in a wide variety of fields including, but not limited to, Journalism, Law, Banking and Commerce, Teaching, Politics and the Civil Service.

Computer Science

Course Overview

The A Level Computer Science qualification helps students understand the core academic principles of Computer Science. Classroom learning is transferred into creating real-world systems through the creation of an independent programming project. The A Level course will develop the student's technical understanding and their ability to analyse and solve problems using computational thinking. It's a technical and creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism.

The aims of this qualification are to enable students to develop:

- An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems including writing programs to do so
- The ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology

Mathematical skills content:

Component 1: Computer systems

- Students are introduced to the internal workings of the (CPU), data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues. The resulting knowledge and understanding will underpin their work in component 03. It covers:
- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Types of software and the different methodologies used to develop software
- Data exchange between different systems
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues.

Component 2: Algorithms and programming

This builds on component 01 to include computational thinking and problem-solving. It covers:

- What is meant by computational thinking (thinking abstractly, thinking ahead, thinking procedurally etc.)
- Problem solving and programming - how computers and programs can be used to solve problems
- Algorithms and how they can be used to describe and solve problems

Component 3: Programming project

Students are expected to apply the principles of computational thinking to a practical coding programming project. They will analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language. The project is designed to be independently chosen by the student and provides them with the flexibility to investigate projects within the diverse field of computer science. We support a wide and diverse range of languages.

Assessment
Component 1: 140 marks, written exam 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A Level
Component 2: 140 marks, written exam 2 hours 30 minutes, 40% of A Level
Component 3: 70 marks, NEA, 20% of A Level

Entry Requirements
Students wishing to follow this course should have gained a minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science. A minimum Grade 6 in Maths is also desirable due to the level of mathematical content in the specification.

Links with other A Level subjects
Computer Science links well with other STEAM subjects.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
There are many opportunities post A Level Computer Science. These include degree courses in Computer Science, Cybersecurity and Software Engineering. Schemes such as the CyberFirst Bursary support undergraduates with financial assistance and paid cyber security training to help kick start their career.

Computer Science graduates can expect to have a whole range of career pathways open to them including: software engineering or specialist, web designer or developer, IT consultant, computer analyst, application analyst or developer, IT trainer, web content manager, games designer or developer and app designer or developer.

Drama and Theatre Studies

One of the many appeals of the Drama and Theatre Studies course is that learning takes place through the shared experience of watching and analysing, creating and performing theatre.

All students are encouraged to develop powers of critical thinking through discussing and writing about a wide range of plays. They learn how to analyse both a text and a live performance and to refine skills to offer an informed and justified opinion of a selected play.

Students also learn how to present convincing and imaginative characterisations in performance; offering a range of vocal and physical expression with a high level of confidence, so that work is totally engaging for an audience.

Theatre visits and workshops are an exciting and integral part of the course.

Assessment
The course is assessed by means of written papers and practical assessments. There is one written paper at the end of the course examining knowledge and understanding of the chosen set plays and appreciation of a live theatre production. There is a requirement to answer on both technical, direction and performance elements.

There are two practical examinations during the course: one scripted piece and one devised. In these, your skills as a Performer, Director or Designer will be assessed, together with your knowledge and understanding of a chosen theatre practitioner.

Entry Requirements
Students wishing to follow this course should have obtained at least a grade 6 in both English and English Literature.

Links with other A Level Subjects
Theatre Studies combines well with all subjects, although it has closer links with English, History, Latin, Classical Civilisation, Music and Modern Languages.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
Past TH students have gone on to top universities to read a diverse range of degrees, including Drama, English Literature, Law, History, Classics, Engineering, Nursing, Social Anthropology, Forensic Science and Education. Career opportunities are also many and varied, as candidates are confident, articulate and effective communicators.

Theatre Studies also provides an excellent foundation for the most gifted students to apply for a place to further their professional training at one of a range of accredited Drama schools, such as RADA, Guildhall, LAMDA, and Central School of Speech and Drama.

All universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, recognise Theatre Studies as an academic subject which prepares students for further study.

English Literature

OCR (H472)
The A Level English course aims to foster students' enjoyment of literature for its own sake and to develop their powers of appreciation through discussion of and writing about a wide range of literary texts. Students also learn how to present arguments in a critical and disciplined manner.

Students will have the opportunity to see plays and attend other cultural events which will enrich and support their study.

The course will appeal to students who:

- have an interest in reading a wide variety of literature from the past and present;
- enjoy expressing their opinion and justifying their comments on texts;
- enjoy studying a subject which is relevant to their own lives and experiences;
- want to keep their options open for further study - English Literature is a popular qualification for entry to a wide range of courses in higher education or future careers.

Assessment
Assessment consists of a coursework element as well as written examination papers.

Entry Requirements
Students wishing to follow the course should have obtained at least a grade 6 in both English and English Literature, preferably a grade 7 in Literature.

Links with other A Level Subjects
English combines well with most other subjects, sharing a particularly close affiliation with Theatre Studies, Classical Civilisation, History, Religious Studies and Languages.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
Students with Advanced GCE English Literature have a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. They will learn to use many transferable skills during the course, including: writing for a variety of purposes; responding to literary texts; expressing informed and independent opinions and identifying and developing links between different parts of the subject. These skills are in demand from employers, universities and colleges and are also valuable in their own right.

English literature can be studied as a single subject in higher education or can be combined with a wide variety of other subjects. It is a *facilitator subject*, forming a good foundation for the study of any arts-based subject, for example: History, Media Studies, Philosophy, Law, Politics or Languages.

Some students will also use their qualification to go straight into employment rather than higher education. A wide range of opportunities is open to students with AS or Advanced GCE in English Literature. The qualification can lead to further training in areas such as Journalism, the Media or Law.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

This qualification is equivalent to half an A Level. It is graded, and carries UCAS points and an A* grade is available.

The background

The Government, as part of its education reform programme, wishes A Level courses to provide "stretch and challenge". EPQ will offer you an opportunity to produce an extended piece of work, either in an area that you are studying or in which you have a particular interest.

Why choose the Extended Project?

- The Extended Project offers you a unique opportunity to develop essential skills for higher education and the workplace, in a subject area of your own choice.
- It gives you more control over your study than ever before. You have a free choice of project topic, so you can choose to explore a further aspect of a subject you are studying, or another subject, or choose a topic in which you have a personal interest.

This level of choice and flexibility means you gain valuable research and project management skills along the way.

How is it taught?

This is an independent piece of research. You will meet regularly with a member of staff, who will be your supervisor, to discuss your progress and to guide you and help you develop the necessary skills to complete a successful project.

Students who have completed an Extended Project have been able to include details about their project on their UCAS applications and discuss it during their university interviews.

What is expected of you?

Students have to:

- Choose a topic to study
- Complete a production log to document the project process
- Plan, research and carry out their project
- Prepare and deliver a presentation on the outcome

How is it assessed?

The assessment covers both the process and your essay. The final project, plus the production log, will be assessed as a whole. We'll be looking at how well you identify and use resources, carry out research, develop your ideas to realise an outcome and then reflect on the outcome and the process.

Below is a range of topics that students choose:

- Global Warming - Is the threat real?
- How has American film changed since the 1980s to the present day?
- All in the mind? - an exploration of the perceptions of mental health & learning disability disorders.

- Is the media to blame for negative body image?
- Is the death penalty an effective deterrent in the USA?
- The ethical dilemmas posed by treatment decisions in the NHS.

Geography

The Edexcel Geography course provides an engaging and contemporary issues-based approach. Students are able to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues such as the consequences of globalisation and responses to natural hazards. This course will continue to provide students with far more than just geographical knowledge: they will gain confidence in geographical skills and undertake assessments which build on knowledge gained at GCSE and help them to succeed.

Course outline and Assessment

- Paper 1 (9GEO/01): 2 hours 15 minutes (30% of A Level) Tectonic Processes and hazards, Landscape systems, processes and change (Coastal Landscapes option), Water cycle and water insecurity, carbon cycle and energy insecurity, climate change futures.
- Paper 2 (9GEO/02): 2 hours 15 minutes (30% of A Level) Globalisation, Shaping places (Diverse places option), Superpowers and Global development and connections (Health, human rights and intervention option).
- Paper 3 (9GEO/03): 2 hours 15 minutes (20% of A Level). Three synoptic themes within the compulsory content areas explored. The synoptic investigation will be based on a geographical issue and rooted in two or more content areas.

Coursework: Independent Investigation (20% of A Level). This will be internally assessed and is where the student can investigate an issue or investigation.

Fieldwork:

- It is a requirement of the course that students complete a minimum of four days of fieldwork during A Level.

What kind of student is this course for?

Those students who:

- are interested by current geographical events
- enjoy a subject that is relevant to their own lives and experiences
- want the opportunity to carry out practical work outdoors as well as in the classroom
- want to link both the 'sciences' with the 'arts'
- want to develop their skill base in preparation for university study and work

Entry Requirements

A good grade (minimum 6) at GCSE Geography will provide students with a valuable foundation for further studies, as well as many useful skills. However, student suitability will be considered on an individual basis, with a good work ethic and a willingness to tackle fieldwork being essential requirements.

Links with other A Level Subjects

Geography combines with most subjects, but overlaps directly with Economics, Psychology, Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
After A Level, the opportunities are wide, whether you continue with Geography at university or just need a good A Level grade to help you onto your degree course. Students find the breadth of knowledge and the analytical and presentation skills they have acquired, useful in most careers.

History

Content and Assessment
By following these units of study, we examine some of the most famous (and infamous) events in English and European History on a common theme of 'Authority, Rebellion and Repression'. There is the option to conduct an individual investigation for coursework, which will allow you to really grapple with an historical investigation of your choice (with the agreement of your teacher).

A Level History: 'Authority, Rebellion and Repression' Exam Board: OCR History A (H505)	
Unit 1 Y107 (25%)	The Later Tudors, 1547-1603
Unit 2 Y219 (15%)	Russia: 1894-1941
Unit 3 Y313 (40%)	The Ascendency of France 1610-1715
Unit 4 Y100 (20%)	An individual investigation (coursework essay, 3,000-4,000 words)

Entry Requirements
The most important attribute for a student of History is a genuine interest in, and enthusiasm for, the subject. A typical student will have an enquiring mind and enjoy discussing her opinions and analysing the arguments of others. It is essential to be willing to read widely and to be able to write clear and well-supported arguments. However, all of the skills necessary for success are taught during lessons, so it is not essential to have studied History at GCSE in order to achieve your potential.

Links with other A Level Subjects
History can be combined very successfully with a wide range of subjects. Traditional combinations include English Literature, Politics, Geography, Religious Studies, French and Classical Civilisations. However, the skills of analysis and evaluation which the History Department helps to develop are useful in, and transferable to, most subject areas.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
History students frequently go on to take degree courses in a wide variety of subjects apart from History (although a good many do choose this option). Law is particularly popular but there is also PPE, Economics, Politics, amongst many others. From this diverse base, students go on to careers in almost every sphere, e.g. law, politics, finance, journalism and the media, the heritage industry to name but a few. However, the main career benefit of studying History is that your choice of career is almost unlimited: History students can offer well-developed skills of analysis and critical evaluation, as well as the ability to write coherent and well-supported arguments: qualities upon which many employers place great emphasis.

Latin

The OCR A Level Latin course (H443) includes elements of language and literature. Literature is central to the course, since the classical world is of continuing interest to the modern student because of the quality of its literature and the lasting influence of the ideas contained in the literature. Hence, a variety of both verse and prose is studied in Latin. To develop fluency and knowledge of the subtleties of the language, without which no literature can be fully appreciated, practice in translation into English continues throughout the A Level course.

Assessment

- Paper 1: Language (H443/01): 1¾ hours (33%). Two unseen passages for translation, one prose from Livy and one verse from Ovid with two lines to scan.
- Paper 2: Language (H443/02): 1¼ hours (17%). Students will have the choice, either to translate a passage from English into Latin or answer comprehension, translation and syntax questions on a piece of unseen Latin prose.
- Paper 3: Prose Literature (H443/03): 2 hours (25%). Sections of the prose set texts for which students are expected to analyse style and content of a passage from the set text and the context of the material immediately before and after the passage in Latin. Students are also expected to respond to material studied in translation.
- Paper 4: Verse Literature (H443/04): 2 hours (25%). Sections of the verse set texts for which students are expected to analyse style and content of a passage from the set text and the context of the material immediately before and after the passage in Latin. Students are also expected to respond to material studied in translation.

What kind of student is this course for?

Those students who:

- are interested in the Classical world
- enjoy a subject which is relevant to their own lives
- want to discover more about the society which shaped modern western culture
- want to develop their analytical skills in preparation for university study and work.

Entry Requirements

At least a grade 7 in GCSE Latin is highly desirable.

Links with other A Level Subjects

Latin combines with most subjects: the closest links are with English Literature, Modern History, Classical Civilisation and Modern Languages. Other combinations may be possible, however, and the mixture of Classics with Mathematics or Science has appealed to many in the past, particularly to those wishing to study medicine.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities

Latin develops powers of analysis and logical thought and is particularly valuable for those planning to read Archaeology, English, Modern History, Law or Modern Languages at university. Latin, as a single subject, is also a most useful third subject at A Level. A Classics graduate may choose a career in many fields such as Banking and Commerce, Business, Law, Librarianship, Journalism, the Civil Service, Teaching, Publishing and Information Technology

Mathematics

Mathematics is a popular choice for both Arts and Science students. It is split into three main topics:

- PURE MATHEMATICS, which develops GCSE work in algebra, trigonometry and geometry, and introduces new topics including calculus;
- MECHANICS, which overlaps with work done in Physics, but is entirely theoretical and considers how, why and when things move;
- STATISTICS, which extends previous knowledge of data handling and probability.

Assessment

The students will study all three elements of the course, sitting three papers in June of the Upper 6, each being worth 1/3 of the final A Level mark:

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (2 hours)
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics and Statistics (2 hours)
Paper 3: Pure Mathematics and Mechanics (2 hours)

Mathematics and Further Mathematics:

For those students studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics, they will complete the A Level Mathematics course as above, and in addition they will be studying all three disciplines, sitting four papers in June of the Upper 6, each is worth 25% of the final A Level Further Mathematics mark:

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (90 minutes)
Paper 2: Pure Mathematics (90 minutes)
Paper 3: Statistics (90 minutes)
Paper 4: Mechanics (90 minutes)

Entry Requirements

Students who enjoy studying Mathematics at A Level are those who have found GCSE higher level fairly easy (preferably gaining a grade 7 or higher).

Links with other A Level Subjects

Mathematics is an excellent choice as it supports many other subjects. It is an important back-up for sciences and an essential for engineering. Many other subjects, e.g. Geography, Psychology, Economics and Biology, have a growing mathematical bias. If you enjoy Maths and have so far been successful, it can be sensibly combined with any subjects.

'Double Maths' is strongly recommended for anyone considering Mathematics at university, or Physics or Engineering at Oxbridge. It will appeal to those with a particular talent for the subject.

Higher Education and Careers

A Level Mathematics opens the door to many careers and is particularly useful for anyone wishing to study Economics, Business Studies, Geography, any Science, Engineering, Accounting, Architecture or Medicine at university.

Modern Languages: French, Spanish

The study of a language and culture of a country is an important asset in today's working environment. It is interesting to note that the DTI recommends that for top industrial jobs, all candidates should have a good knowledge of at least 3 modern languages including their mother tongue.

In the first year of this A Level course, we concentrate on refining knowledge of language and awareness of different styles and registers. Students will be required to understand and discuss current affairs, aspects of life and issues of general interest. In addition, they will need to consolidate grammar. Some literature will be studied as well as a film. The A Level course extends the range of language and studies the culture and topics in greater depth with an independent research project. All language students attend one-to-one conversation lessons once per week. Pupils are encouraged to take every opportunity to further their knowledge of the language and its culture. When possible, visits to the theatre, cinema and lectures are organised. It is important for pupils to arrange a stay in the appropriate country during the holidays. This may take the form of an exchange visit, a stay as a paying guest, an au pair job or other work experience.

Other extra-curricular activities are offered to the pupils including taking part in the Languages Day, performing in various language events, helping younger girls with their lines, participating in the Linguists' dinner and going on a French trip

Assessment

The A Level papers extend the range of the language skills. Paper 1 includes listening, reading and translation from French/Spanish into English. Paper 2 includes the written response to works (a book and a film) and translation into French/Spanish; Paper 3 is speaking and includes the individual research project (IRP).

The additional topics for A Level French are 'Immigration and the multicultural society', as well as, 'France during WW2' and 'contemporary social issues'.

The additional topics for Spanish are 'Immigration and the multicultural society', as well as, 'the Spanish dictatorship' and 'the transition to democracy'.

Entry Requirements

Pupils wishing to follow this course should have attained at least Grade 6 at GCSE and should have achieved an excellent standard in speaking and writing skills. Above all, they should show enthusiasm for all aspects of the subject and be prepared to listen and read extensively in the language.

Links with other subjects

Languages combine well with most Arts subjects which require the student to write logical argumentative essays. The study of literature in English helps in this part of the course. Other knowledge obtained in subjects such as Geography, History or Economics can aid in the development of language essays. Scientists also find that a language complements their studies and provides a refreshing change of learning style and a useful tool for the future.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities

Post-A Level opportunities are wide; students may continue their study of the subject at university or may combine the language with another subject. Courses are varied and may include Language, Culture, Literature, Interpreting and more practical language skills. Languages can be combined with Business Studies, Law, Engineering or Science subjects (including Medicine, Pharmacy and Nursing) as well as traditional Arts subjects. Careers that Language students follow include Banking, Law, Business, Insurance, Journalism, Teaching, and specialised work in Translation and Interpreting.

Native Speakers

Overseas students may have the opportunity to take their native language at GCSE or A Level.

Supplementary Languages
From time to time there have been requests to run classes in other languages. We will always consider people's requests and endeavour to provide some tuition. Occasionally this may lead to a GCSE or A Level in the subject.

Conversation
There may be an opportunity to continue conversation classes in a language you have already studied.

Music

Music is an ideal choice for all enthusiastic and able musicians. Whilst a necessary choice for those intending to go on to study Music at university or at one of the Conservatoires, it is also a subject which covers a wide range of study and technical skills, is seen as an excellent supplementary subject for those following other career paths.

Assessment
We follow the Eduqas course which is divided into three components: Performance; Composition; Listening and Appraising. Candidates complete coursework or exams in all three units but are able to choose which of the two practical options (Performance and Composition) they elect to have the higher weighting overall.

In the Listening and Appraising component, candidates study The Western Classical Tradition, looking specifically at the development of the Symphony. Learners explore Symphony no. 101 by Haydn and Symphony no. 4 by Mendelssohn. Our second Area of Study is Musical Theatre, exploring a range of composers and genres. Alongside these two Areas of Study, we also explore the Music of the 20th Century. This final Area of Study comprises additional Set Works and specific analysis.

Learners develop skills in analysing and evaluating both familiar and unfamiliar music; this is achieved through a study of prescribed works. Candidates are assessed via a final written paper taken at the end of the second year.

Assessment Weighting
1. Performing - a recital which is performed live to a visiting examiner (25% or 35%)
2. Composing - a set of compositions, with one piece in response to a set brief (35% or 25%)
3. Listening and Appraising - a 2 hour written paper based on work studied (40%)

Entry Requirements
A grade 7 in the GCSE examination is desirable. Ideally, candidates should be at least Grade 5 in their chosen instrumental/vocal study at the start of the course with the ability to read traditional notation.

Links with other A Level Subjects
As Music requires such a diverse range of skills, it is a subject which links very well with a number of other subjects at Advanced Level. These subject combinations can often now be continued into Further Education as many universities and colleges offer combined subject degrees.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
At both post-A Level and post-graduate level, Music offers a wide selection of career opportunities, for which proper training and qualification is provided by a large number of universities, music colleges and conservatoires and colleges of further education. Those endowed with an extremely high level of performance skills may seek a career as a concert artist or as a member of one of the professional orchestras. For those more creatively inclined, opportunities exist in the fields of composition, orchestration and arranging. Others may seek a worthwhile career in the teaching profession - there is currently a national shortage of good, qualified music teachers at both Primary and Secondary levels. Further career opportunities exist in such fields

as Music Therapy; the Music-technology Industry; Arts Administration; Radio, TV and Theatre; Music Publishing; Music Librarianship, and the manufacture, repair, restoration and tuning of Musical Instruments.

Music in the Sixth Form

Opportunities exist in the school for Sixth Form students to pursue their musical interest in a non-examination capacity. We have a large, dedicated and highly skilled team of peripatetic music staff who offer comprehensive tuition on all popular and orchestral instruments, including vocal tuition. We also offer Music Theory tuition.

We have a wide range of ensembles which are all open to sixth form students. These include our Orchestra, Harmony and Chamber Choirs, Percussion Ensemble, String Group, Rock 'n' Pop Band, and Woodwind Group. School concerts are given regularly throughout the year alongside a bi-annual Musical Production in conjunction with the Drama Department.

Physical Education

The A Level Physical Education course, which follows the AQA specification, covers the following aspects:

1. Applied Physiology and Anatomy
2. Exercise Physiology
3. Applied movement analysis
4. Skill acquisition
5. Sports Psychology
6. Sport and society

Entry Requirements

Students wishing to follow the course should have obtained at least a grade 7 in GCSE PE and due to the scientific nature of the subject at least a grade 6 in Combined Science/Biology. Students would need to be competing in a sport to at least County Standard outside of school.

Components	Content	Assessment
Scientific principles of PE	Applied Anatomy and Physiology Exercise Physiology Applied movement analysis	Written exam 2½ hours 140 marks 40%
Psychological and social principles of PE	Skill Acquisition Sports Psychology Sport and society	Written exam 2 hours 100 marks 30%
Practical performance	Skills performed as a player/performer or coach	Internal assessment, external moderation 40 marks 15%
Performance analysis and personal development programme	Performance Analysis (written/verbal) Personal Development Programme (PDP)	Internal assessment, external moderation 40 marks 15%

Links with other A Level Subjects

Physical Education combines well with Science, particularly Biology (Human) and Physics (Biomechanics), and Psychology A Levels**.**

Higher Education and Career Opportunities

There are many fantastic Sports Science degrees around the country with future careers in PE teaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Nutrition and Sports Psychology as possibilities.

Physics

This is a modern and topical course and is ideal for those who intend to study Physics or Engineering at university, as well as those aiming for a non-related career. The course builds on many topics followed at GCSE and introduces new topics such as quantum physics, astrophysics, cosmology and medical imaging. It is a course which enables the student to develop a wide range of skills; theoretical, mathematical, practical, analytical, problem solving, communication, ICT and more.

Assessment

The practical skills will be developed by performing experiments as we work our way through the course. Students will keep a portfolio of their practical work. These skills are then assessed in the component examinations and we follow the OCR Physics (H556) specification.

The content is split into six teaching modules, examined in three components:

- Module 1: Development of practical skills in physics
- Module 2: Foundations of physics
- Module 3: Forces and motion
- Module 4: Electrons, waves & amp; photons
- Module 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Module 6: Particles and medical physics

Entry Requirements

At least a grade 6 in Physics or Combined Science plus a grade 6 in Mathematics.

Links with other A Level Subjects

Maths A Level is a useful accompaniment although not a requirement unless you wish to take Physics or Engineering at degree level. If a career in architecture beckons, then Physics and Art would be an appropriate combination. It also pairs particularly well with Chemistry or Further Mathematics although complements most other A Levels on offer.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities

Employment opportunities for Physics and Engineering graduates have been traditionally good and it may be possible for undergraduates to obtain funding through industrial sponsorship. A physics or engineering qualification is a good starting point for many careers in commerce and industry where the main requirements are for a person to be able to think clearly, see to the heart of a problem, be numerate and work as part of a team. Thus, physicists can become bankers, brokers or bishops as well as good recording engineers, electronics designers, materials scientists or astrophysicists. Along with Mathematics, Physics is regularly reported as the A Level most likely to boost your starting salary.

Psychology

The course provides a broad introduction to the scope and nature of the science of Psychology. Students will learn about the classic studies and theories that have shaped our understanding of behaviour and cognition, and will also be introduced to contemporary research and recent developments in neuroscience. There is an emphasis on applying understanding to the world in which we live. Students have the opportunity to learn how to analyse arguments and evidence, test hypotheses and make informed judgements about psychological research. They will be encouraged to design and carry out their own investigations, and analyse and interpret the data that they collect.

Assessment
We follow the AQA specification (7182). There is no coursework; all assessment is exam based.

There are three 2 hour papers, covering the following topics:

- Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Clinical Psychology and Mental Health.
- Paper 2: Psychology in context: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods.
- Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology: Issues and Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology (option topics are subject to change).

Assessment for each paper includes multiple choice, short answer questions and extended writing questions.

Entry Requirements
At least a GCSE grade 5 in Mathematics, English and Biology/Combined Science.

Links with other A Level Subjects:
Psychology is an inter-disciplinary subject and complements a wide range of other subjects, including Biology, Mathematics, Religious Studies, Sociology and Physical Education.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities
An A Level in Psychology can provide the basis for many degree courses, including Experimental Psychology, Neuroscience, Philosophy, Sports Science, Medicine, and Business Management. There are a variety of career options available to Psychology graduates, including Forensic Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Educational Psychology, Sports Psychology, Social Work, Counselling and Human Resources.

Religious Studies

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

We will conduct an in-depth study of one main religion and its impact on the world, with topics of study including the religion's teachings and interpretations of wisdom and authority, the self, death and the afterlife, gender and sexuality and expressions of religious identity.

Within Ethics we will pursue a study of morality, the origin of our concept of Good and apply this to various situation including conduct of good business and Euthanasia. Students will also study what is meant by conscience, and an in-depth analysis of the ethics of sex and sexuality.

Philosophy is concerned with the deep meaning behind concepts and will study the use of language, the existence of God and where we acquire knowledge from, either experience or reason.

What sort of work is involved?
A level Religious Studies is a highly engaging subject, and you can expect classes to involve a considerable amount of discussion and debate. To get the most out of the subject, you must be willing to participate in these discussions, both sharing your own ideas and listening and respecting the views of others. You will develop skills of critical evaluation and analysis, which you will practice within these discussions and in essay-writing.

What background do I need?
Whilst a GCSE in the subject is desirable, it isn't essential. Religious Studies is very accessible at A Level, provided you understand the basics of major world religions and strong writing skills. In this light, a strong grade in an essay-based GCSE, for example English, is a big plus. Alongside these skills, you need to have a keen interest in the subject, including a desire to broaden your knowledge and understanding of religion, philosophy and ethics, and to develop your skills in critical thinking and analysis.

If this sounds like you, A Level Religious Studies could prove to be a subject you will enjoy and do well in. It is a strong subject to have alongside Maths and Science subjects to demonstrate that you are a well-rounded person with an informed world view.

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

Religious Studies or a related subject at degree level can lead to a range of challenging and rewarding jobs, using either direct knowledge gained from the subject or from the skills gained. Possible jobs from a Religious Studies degree include: Lecturing, teaching, advice worker, archivist, work within 'third sector' organisations, counselling, community development worker, and police officer or youth worker, law and medicine.

Sociology

Why choose A Level Sociology?
These are some of the questions that you will look at in A Level Sociology:

- Are all 'hoodies' hooligans?
- Why are young black people eight times more likely to be stopped and searched than white people?
- Why do girls do better at school than boys?
- What is a cult and how is it different to a religion?
- What does it mean to be poor in Britain today?

Sociology will help you to understand how individuals fit into a wider social network and encourage you to question beliefs about society which you may have previously taken for granted. Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way that it does and the extent to which our behaviour and opportunities can be shaped by our social class, age, gender and race.

Sociology is about your life and the world around you. It is a subject that you will have experience of and one that will help you understand many aspects of your future. You can bring your own life events and ideas into the classroom in a way you might not be able to with other subjects. It helps you understand that the society we are presented with is not always the true picture and who is trying to manipulate your ideas and why. If you know this, you can make more informed choices about your life and your future.

What Makes A Good Sociology Student?
You need to be open-minded. Some things that you 'know' are not always accurate. You will need to be able to analyse the information given to you and make decisions about its accuracy and representativeness. You will need to be able to view society from many different perspectives - and accept that different people see the same concept in different ways. You will also listen to and accept the views of others – even if you do not agree with them.

Higher Education and Career Opportunities

A qualification in sociology will provide you with many key skills, including logical thinking, planning, research and negotiation - all of which can be used in a variety of careers. Many sociologists go into social work, community projects, charity work, civil service, prison officers, journalists, welfare advisors and other areas of social services.

What modules will I be studying?

- What is Sociology?
- Education
- Families and household
- Crime & deviance
- Beliefs in society
- Research methods

You will be studying AQA A Level Sociology. There is no coursework for sociology.

Sports Leadership

Level 3 Qualification in Sports Leadership

Offered as an alternative to EPQ

- Nationally recognised qualification
- Worth 16 UCAS points
- Great for personal statement and UCAS application
- Limits numbers for course
- Must have interest/passion and enjoy sport, leading and coaching
- Develops communication, teamwork and leadership skills
- Involves planning, leading and evaluating

Practical and theory-based course, 6 units to complete (tasks to complete in LER and 30 hours of leadership)

What will you gain from completing this course?

- Ability to communicate with others
- Self-esteem and confidence in your own ability
- Ability to work with others as part of a team
- Skills needed to manage your own work and personal development
- Ability to identify problems and what to do to solve them
- Ability to adapt your skills to meet the needs of the environment

About the course:

Unit 1-4: taught both practical and theory based
Unit 5: plan, lead and evaluate a 2 hours event
Unit 6: leading sessions to a range groups over 12 hours leadership

- Assessed via practical observation, written tasks in LER (learner evidence record)
- The course gives you the opportunity to learn the skills needed to plan and deliver sessions to community groups and schools
- You will develop your knowledge on coaching and leading different groups
- Helps develop knowledge, confidence and ability to communicate effectively with people and peers
- Builds self-motivated and productive people
- Learn the skills needed to plan and deliver coaching sessions
- Valuable for those who wish to further develop coaching skills or progress to leadership