William Hulme's Sixth Form
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Prospectus

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Welcome to William Hulme's Sixth Form

Thank you for your interest in William Hulme's Grammar School (WHGS) Sixth Form. At WHGS, we are committed to giving each and every student an incredible experience which fully prepares them for life beyond school. We are highly ambitious for our Sixth Form students and believe every single one has the potential to be exceptional. We are committed to ensuring all our students achieve their goals – whatever they may be.

We also make a commitment to deliver an Education with Character. This means that beyond the classroom we seek to help students develop their character and become confident, ambitious and articulate individuals ready to lead successful and rewarding adult lives.

WHGS Sixth Form is much more than a place to gain qualifications; it is a fun, challenging and exciting place which seeks to broaden students' horizons and give them the confidence to believe anything is possible.

We are a high-achieving and inclusive Sixth Form and all applicants are welcome. Our enthusiastic and dedicated staff take the time to get to know each student and support them throughout their time here enabling them to achieve superb outcomes. We hope that you will want to be part of our fantastic school and I look forward to welcoming you in September 2027.

Thom Copestake, Head of School (Secondary & Sixth Form)

"Pupils thrive in this diverse and welcoming school. Pupils feel a true sense of belonging to this special community. Individuals are valued and nurtured. Differences are celebrated."

Ofsted Report, 2025

A Warm Welcome
From The Head of Sixth Form

Welcome to WHGS Sixth Form, and thank you for considering continuing your education with us. Our mission is to provide an inspiring and supportive environment where every student can reach their full potential, both academically and personally. At WHGS, we blend traditional academic excellence with modern facilities and diverse opportunities that foster growth, independence, and leadership.

Ambition is at the heart of our values. We support students with a wide range of academic goals through a high-quality, flexible curriculum. While academic success is a priority, we also offer a rich enrichment programme that develops skills essential for future careers. Opportunities include the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Model United Nations, Bar Mock Trial, and student-led societies - ensuring there is something for everyone.

With over 200 students, our Sixth Form is large enough to provide a dynamic environment with a wide range of experiences, yet small enough to offer personalised academic and pastoral support. Our inclusive, close-knit community welcomes all students, helping them settle in quickly and build lasting friendships.
We also recognise that transitioning to Sixth Form can be challenging, so we work closely with students and their families to ensure a smooth, well-supported experience from application to the end of Year 13.

We are proud of our students' achievements and excited to be part of their journey toward fulfilling lives. We look forward to welcoming you to WHGS Sixth Form and supporting you in realising your ambitions, whether that be A Levels or vocational courses, over the next two years.

Ella Kaufman, Head of Sixth Form

"The school has high expectations for all. There is no limit put on what pupils can achieve. The meticulously constructed personal development programme helps pupils to flourish."

Ofsted Report, 2025

William Hulme's
Sixth Form Centre

Following a huge expansion programme, our Sixth Form Centre building opened in September 2017.

This development has allowed us to establish a dedicated Sixth Form area, with the majority of lessons now taught in one building and ample private study areas for all our students. Among the excellent features are a bistro-style café, where students can buy refreshments, and a soft seating area for students to work in groups and relax between lessons.

The Centre offers our Sixth Form students a comfortable and productive area of their own in which to study and socialise. Students can work independently or in groups and there is IT equipment for all students to use, or students can bring in their own devices. Importantly, this means they can enjoy all the privileges we know young adults deserve while benefitting from an environment that emphasises hard work, enterprise and academic achievement.

Why should you choose WHGS Sixth Form for your Post-16 studies?

1 University Success

Our ambitious students have an outstanding record of getting to their university of choice – including many applications to Oxford and Cambridge!

2 Small Class Sizes

Students in our Sixth Form benefit from small class sizes and a personalised approach to high quality teaching!

3 A Diverse Community

Students value our diverse, inclusive and respectful environment, contributing to our Culture Days, enrichment and Friday Prayers!

Why should you choose WHGS Sixth Form for your Post-16 studies?

4

We Care About You

Our Sixth Form students benefit from strong and compassionate pastoral support to allow everyone to grow, flourish and learn!

An All-Round Education

Students have access to a wide range of leadership and enrichment opportunities to allow them to make a meaningful contribution to the school and wider community!

5

Curriculum & Pathways

The curriculum in our Sixth Form is designed to allow you to choose from a wide range of subjects and qualifications. This can promote diversity in terms of your subject selections or allow you to specialise. Flexibility is the great strength of our post-16 provision.

We expect the majority of our Sixth Form Students to follow a programme starting with three subjects in Year 12 and continuing with these subjects in Year 13. Sixth Form students will also have the opportunity to broaden their learning through the Extended Project Qualification.

A Level Route

A Levels are level 3 qualifications which prepare you for further academic study. We offer A levels in a range of subjects, many of which will allow you to study specialist subjects at University. You will typically choose 3 A Levels across Year 12 and year 13.

Applied (BTECs) Route

BTEC Diploma and Extended Certificate qualifications are also Level 3 courses and consist of a mixture of examinations, coursework and controlled assessments. On an Applied Pathway you will choose two or three subjects, each one equivalent to an A Level, or if you choose Applied Science, the equivalent to two A Levels.

Blended (A Level and BTEC) Route

Our Blended Route offers students the opportunity to study a combination of A level and advanced applied (BTEC) courses. This pathway offers a wider range of courses and options for students, providing you with a mix of traditional academic learning and vocational courses. There are various combinations of A Level and Applied options that can be chosen.

"Teachers have strong subject expertise. They know the key knowledge that pupils need to learn. Tasks are designed to help pupils deepen their understanding."

Ofsted Report, 2025

Making the Right Choices

To help us plan for the next academic year we ask all applicants to make provisional subject choices on their application forms, which should be submitted by the closing date in January. Our entry requirements are detailed later in our prospectus.

Which Route Should I Follow?

Choose your route according to the subjects you wish to pursue and your predicted GCSE grades. If you are choosing the A Level route, you will need to have strong predicted GCSE grades as we will expect you to show a high level of academic rigour. If you know that you prefer to complete coursework and controlled assessment elements, the Applied Route might be a better option for you. Many students choose to take a Blended Route as this opens up the widest range of course options and provides a range of learning and study styles.

Which Subjects Should I Choose?

In selecting your subjects please remember that you should choose subjects which:

- You are good at
- You enjoy
- You might need for a certain career or university course

Subject enjoyment, interest, involvement, and examination success go hand in hand. It is difficult to motivate yourself to do well if you do not enjoy the subjects you are studying.

"The Sixth Form has amazing support from the teachers so I always feel confident that I can ask for help in my subjects."

A Y12 WHGS Student

Wellbeing & Pastoral

We regard ensuring our students' happiness and well-being as our most important responsibility. The role of the Sixth Form tutor is absolutely essential in this. Students will see their tutor at least once a fortnight and will have the opportunity for individual interviews on a regular basis. Ms Kaufman (Head of Sixth Form) works closely with Tutors and Heads of Year, to ensure that students maximise the opportunities available to make the most of their talents and realise their ambitions.

A Levels and BTECs are qualifications that require a rigorous approach no matter where they are taken. At WHGS, you will be expected to commit to your studies both in and out of the classroom.

Each subject in the Sixth Form is allocated 10 hours of teaching time over a two week period. In addition to contact time, you will be expected to work during private study periods in the Sixth Form Centre, the Learning Resource Centre or other free classrooms.

Independent learning is a key ingredient to success at Sixth Form, and you will be set challenging homework tasks designed to supplement and extend the learning that takes place in the classroom. If you want to be a successful Sixth Form student, you should expect to complete one hour of private study for every hour spent in the classroom for each subject.

"The school has the highest expectations of pupils' behaviour. In classrooms, learning takes place undisrupted. Pupils benefit from highly personalised pastoral care, which helps add to their sense of belonging."

Ofsted Report, 2025

Academic Support

We provide a wide range of academic support to ensure that students are making the most of their time in the Sixth Form. At WHGS you can expect to be in classes that are smaller than Sixth Form colleges, thus receiving personalised and adaptive teaching from subject teachers. In addition to this, most subjects provide after school support sessions to enhance learning.

Alongside support from teaching staff, we run an Academic Mentoring scheme that allows students to work with fellow Sixth Form students in a less formal setting.

We take our responsibility of providing the best educational experience for our Sixth Form students very seriously, and part of that is monitoring the academic performance of individual students. This is done regularly and involves collaboration with teaching staff and, where necessary, parents or carers.

As well as Form Tutors, there are two Heads of Year with specific responsibility for providing academic and pastoral support for students. This is available in an encouraging and supportive atmosphere that is designed to get the best out of our students.

As we are a 3 – 18 school, we are very lucky to have a Primary Phase on site that enables Sixth Form students to further develop their skills by offering in-class support to primary teachers. Furthermore, we also run a reading support scheme, whereby Sixth Form students help develop the literacy skills of Year 7 transition students.

"The quality of teaching is high and the class sizes are small, which allows teachers to work closely with each student."

A Y13 WHGS Student

Early Applicants

Support & Guidance

A number of our Year 12 students decide that they would like to make an application in Year 13 through UCAS to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science. Some students who expect to achieve high A Level grades also aspire to make an application to the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge. As these applications are made before the usual UCAS closure dates, these students are known as Early Applicants.

At WHGS, we have a robust programme of support in place for these students who will require specialist knowledge and advice in order to make a competitive application. Leading the programme, we have a dedicated member of staff who can provide individual support for each student. This is a huge advantage, because this person will get to know you well over time and tailor the support you receive to your own personal requirements.

We are also part of the Cambridge HE+ Outreach Programme and can offer residential Oxbridge visits and academic connections. In addition, we have excellent connections with Nuffield Research Placements, Sutton Trust, Social Mobility Foundation, Manchester Medical School and with several other very useful organisations who offer fantastic development opportunities for our students to enable them to make the best possible application they can in a very competitive environment.

"The school's approach to preparing pupils for their future is exceptional. Opportunities to engage with different careers are threaded through the curriculum. Pupils are furnished with the knowledge they need to make informed choices about their next steps."

Ofsted Report, 2025

Education With Character

Sixth Form students are role models for the rest of the school. Our focus is on developing well-rounded individuals as well as achieving academic results, so we encourage all our students to take part in a range of activities which help them grow into confident, independent young adults. We have an extensive volunteering programme that allows all our students to develop the skills required to meet their career needs.

As well as studying your core subjects, Sixth Form students can opt for the Extended Project Qualification. This is a guided learning qualification that is highly regarded by universities. Students complete a 5000 word project on a topic of their own choice.

All Sixth Form students are invited to apply for the positions of Heads of School and Prefects. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop leadership and other essential skills. Heads of School and Prefects are given significant responsibility within the school.

Sixth Form students have the chance to develop and demonstrate so-called soft skills, such as empathy and patience through our peer mentoring programme. This enables them to give something back to the school and have a real impact on the lives of our younger students.

WHGS has played an important role in Manchester life for over 100 years and we are proud to continue this tradition through fundraising, work experience and welcoming community groups to the academy. Throughout the year, our students raise thousands of pounds for local charities.

Every year, Sixth Form students from WHGS take part in the Bar Mock Trial. This is a competition held at the Crown Court in central Manchester. During the competition, students take on a variety of roles in a mock trial performed in front of a real judge. In the weeks prior to the competition, practising barristers support Sixth Form students and offer advice to participants.

There are many sporting opportunities in the Sixth Form. Alongside House competitions in games, there are numerous sports teams that compete against other schools and colleges.

Destinations

The vast majority of our students progress to Higher Education and many are successful at achieving places at Oxford and Cambridge as well as Russell Group universities such as Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield.

Although some of our students choose to study at the exceptional establishments in Manchester including The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and The Royal Northern College of Music, many of our students choose to go further afield.

In the past few years students have been successful at gaining places at London School of Economics (LSE), The University of Birmingham, Arts University Bournemouth and The University of York.

We are privileged to offer a range of options that allow our students to go on to study career-defining courses at university. Students in the past few years have pursued Law, Medicine, Accountancy, Dentistry, Management, Engineering, Pharmacy, Optometry and Economics.

Alumni

The Old Hulmeians' Association (OHA) is a committee of volunteers which helps all former pupils and staff of William Hulme's Grammar School reconnect. They meet regularly to organise annual events including an Annual Dinner every June at the school.

The current annual fee is £15 and offers the following benefits:

- An annual, high quality, printed newsletter
- Sports sections such as golf and cross-country running (lacrosse is available at Brooklands Sports Club, Sale)
- Use of the OH Memorial Ground playing fields in Whalley Range and the Whalley Range Cricket Club facilities
- A lifelong connection with the school

94% of our students report that their experience of WHGS has been overwhelmingly positive!

91% of our students state that they always feel supported and guided by their teachers!

89% of our students report that they feel confident about their career prospects as a result of attending WHGS!

92% of our students would absolutely recommend WHGS Sixth Form to others!

Entry Requirements

A Level Route

Five GCSE Grades at 9-5 including English and Mathematics, and meeting subject specific requirements for chosen A Level courses.

Applied (BTEC) Route

Five GCSE Grades at 9-4, including English and Mathematics.

Blended (A Level and BTEC) Route

Five GCSE Grades at 9-4, including English and Mathematics but also meeting subject specific requirements for chosen A Level courses.

Please refer to the list later in the prospectus, which shows details of individual subject requirements for A Level courses.

All students, both internal and external, are required to complete an online application, available via our website.

Internal Candidates

Students who are already on roll at WHGS are entitled to transfer into the Sixth Form provided that they meet the minimum standards for entry. All students will be offered a course discussion to help them to make informed choices.

Applications are made on line via the school website and must be completed by **8 January 2027** in order to help us determine the number of places available for external candidates. Online applications received after this date will still be accepted, but subject choices may be more limited because some courses may already be full. Offers of places will be conditional upon minimum entry requirements being achieved.

External Candidates

Students who do not yet attend WHGS should complete an online application as soon as possible. The closing date for receipt of these is **8 January 2027.** Late applications will be considered if places are still available, although subject choices may be limited because some courses may already be full.

Those candidates whose predicted GCSE grades meet the minimum level required will be made a provisional offer. Offers of places will be conditional upon minimum entry requirements being achieved. In the event that a particular course is oversubscribed, places will be allocated according to our published admissions policy.

Late Applications

A limited number of places may become available in late August 2027. Please contact the Sixth Form Administrator then if you are still looking for a place in the Sixth Form after **19 August 2027.**

Scan here to take you to our application portal!

Important Dates

Internal Students Taster Day – December 2026

Closing Date for Applications – Friday 8 January 2027

Course Discussions – March 2027

Conditional Offer Letters – Spring Term 2027

GCSE Results Day & Enrolment – Thursday 19 August 2027

Safa Qaiser

I chose to come to this school for sixth form because I really like the way the school feels. One of the main things I like is the smaller class sizes. I think being in a smaller class makes it easier to ask questions and get help from teachers when you need it, and it also makes lessons feel more comfortable.

I also really like the teachers here, as I've found them to be friendly and supportive. I think that's important, especially in sixth form, when the work gets harder and you need to feel comfortable asking for help.

I also like how familiar the school feels to me. Since I already knew the school and some of the teachers, I felt more comfortable and confident about starting sixth form here. I think this has made the change from GCSEs to sixth form feel a lot easier, as I already knew the environment and what to expect.

Chethan Chikkanna-Gowda

William Hulme's wide range of subjects made it easy for me to decide what I wanted to pursue for my further education, while the dedication of my teachers ensured I had all the guidance I needed to turn those ambitions into reality.

From the small class sizes, which allowed for more one-to-one time with teachers, to the wide diversity of students, William Hulme's Sixth Form made me feel welcome. It helped me build valuable connections with people in the community, build my confidence and become more proactive in class.

With a student-run leadership team, it feels like no one's voice falls on deaf ears. From planning events like Sixth Form socials to the Year 13 Prom, the Student Leadership Team will do everything they can to ensure everyone has fun.

Daniel Eme

When picking which sixth form to go to, my first choice was William Hulme's Grammar School. The diverse range of subjects made me feel like I wasn't restricted in what I wanted to do. Academically, the expectations I had when coming into this sixth form were already surpassed from day one. The teachers in this school are very supportive of your choices across all subjects and are willing to give up their time to make sure you achieve your best.

My time here has really given me a lot to take from this school, such as the many activities and opportunities that they offer, which put you one step ahead of other students.

The general environment is very welcoming and family-like, and it allows you to share information that you normally wouldn't share because of the immense feeling of trust and safety that the teachers and environment provide.

Course Choices

A Levels

Art
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
Design Technology
Economics
English Language & Literature (Combined)
English Literature
French
Geography
German
History
Law
Mathematics
Mathematics (Further)
Photography
Physics
Politics
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
Spanish

Applied (BTECs)

Applied Science
Business
Criminology
Health & Social Care
Music Performance
Sport

A Level Subject Requirements

Art & Design	Grade 6 in GCSE Art, or Grade 6 in Design Technology and English.
Biology	GCSE Grades 6 - 6 required in Combined Science or GCSE Grades 6 and 6 in Biology and at least one other science. To do more than one science, a GCSE Grade 7 is required in at least one science. A GCSE Grade 6 in Maths is required.
Business	Grade 6 in GCSE Business, an English or Mathematics.
Chemistry	GCSE Grades 6 - 6 required in Combined Science or GCSE Grades 6 and 6 in Chemistry and at least one other science. To do more than one science, a GCSE Grade 7 is required in at least one science. A GCSE Grade 6 in Maths is required.
Computer Science	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science or Mathematics
Design Technology	GCSE Grade 5 in one of the Design Technology subject areas.
Economics	GCSE Grade 6 in Mathematics and Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature.
English Literature or English Language and Literature	GCSE Grade 6 in an English.
Further Maths	GCSE Grade 8 required in Mathematics.

Geography	GCSE Grade 6 in Geography, an English or a Humanity subject.
History	GCSE Grade 6 in History, an English or a Humanity subject.
Law	GCSE Grade 5 in English or History.
Mathematics	GCSE Grade 7 required in Maths.
MFL	GCSE Grade 6 in the chosen MFL.
Music	GCSE Grade 6 in Music or BTEC Music Technology. Grade 4 or above on your principal instrument/voice.
Photography	GCSE Grade 6 or above in Art, Photography or Design Technology.
Physics	GCSE Grades 6 - 6 required in Combined Science or GCSE Grades 6 and 6 in Physics and at least one other science. To do more than one science, a GCSE Grade 7 is required in at least one science. A GCSE Grade 6 in Maths is required.
Politics	GCSE Grade 5 required in English
Psychology	GCSE Grade 5 in a science or 5-5 in combined science and Grade 5 in English
Religious Studies	GCSE Grade 6 in History, an English or a Humanity subject.
Sociology	GCSE Grade 5 in English

Applied Science

Which qualification?
BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Science.

How is this course structured?
The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Science is a two-year vocational qualification, equivalent to two A Levels. The course blends theoretical learning with practical assignments and externally assessed units. You will complete a mix of written exams, laboratory-based investigations, and coursework projects, developing both academic and technical skills.

What will I study?
Learners study core scientific disciplines—biology, chemistry, and physics—through units such as "Principles and Applications of Science," "Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques," and "Science Investigation Skills." Optional units may include topics like human physiology, genetics, environmental science, and forensic techniques. The course emphasises hands-on lab work, data analysis, and scientific reporting, preparing students for real-world scientific environments.

Who takes this course?
This course is ideal for post-16 students who are passionate about science and prefer applied, practical learning over traditional A Levels. It suits those aiming for careers in healthcare, biomedical science, environmental studies, or forensic science.

Where will success take me?
You can progress to university degrees in biomedical science, chemistry, nursing, or environmental science. Alternatively, you might enter higher apprenticeships or employment in roles such as lab technician, research assistant, or healthcare support worker. The qualification is widely recognised by universities and employers for its strong practical and academic foundation.

NB Students choosing Applied Science will only have one further option, as this course leads to the equivalent of 2 A Levels.

Art

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

What will I study?
The main purpose of any course in art, craft and design is to develop your ability to appreciate the visual world, respond in a personal and creative way and perhaps even contribute for the benefit of everyone.

The skills you develop will be varied. Among them, you will develop a working knowledge of materials, practices and technology within art. You will develop the skills to interpret and convey your ideas and feelings using art, craft and design. You will develop your imaginative and creative powers and your experimental, analytical and documenting skills. You will also develop a specialist vocabulary and the knowledge and understanding of the place of art, craft and design in history and in contemporary society.

A broad-based course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media, including photography. There are two components including Component One 60%: Personal Investigation and Component Two 40%: 15 hour externally set practical exam. Students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. In the 15 hour exam students must produce a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes, informed by their preparatory work.

Additional information
This course is suitable for students who wish to undertake further studies in art, craft and design, usually at art college or further education. Students who are looking to take up careers for which an art background is relevant. These might include advertising, publishing, architecture, museums, theatre or art gallery work. Students who have an interest in and aptitude for the subject, but who do not intend to take the subject beyond A Level..

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Biology

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

Course Structure:
A Level Biology is a two-year linear qualification, with all exams taken at the end of Year 13. The course covers eight key topics—four per year—and includes 12 Core Practical Assessments spread across the two years. It emphasises essential scientific skills such as experimental design, data analysis, mathematical and statistical techniques, essay writing, and reading academic texts.

What Will I Study?
The course explores a wide range of biological concepts including biological molecules, cells, genetics, bioenergetics, and ecology. Both theoretical and practical content aim to inspire and prepare students for biology-related degrees and careers. Practical work is integral, and skills are embedded to ensure students can apply their knowledge effectively in exams and beyond.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:
Students can engage in mentoring (Year 13 supporting Year 12), act as practical assistants in KS3 and KS4 classes, participate in the CREST award, attend external talks, and go on university visits. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is also available, with many Biology students choosing to complete it.

Future Pathways:
A Level Biology provides a foundation for university courses in medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, pharmacology, life and environmental sciences. Career options include research scientist, doctor, dentist, conservation officer, pharmacologist, lecturer, teacher, plant biologist, and more.

Business

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

How is the course structured?
The A Level course is a linear qualification. This means you will sit all 3 exams at the end of your A Level course (2 years).

What will I study?
In A Level Business Studies, students build on the foundational knowledge gained at GCSE by exploring business concepts in greater depth and complexity. The course covers key areas such as marketing, finance, operations, human resources, and strategic decision-making. Students develop both qualitative and quantitative skills, learning to analyse data, interpret financial information, and evaluate business performance.

Who takes this course?
A Level Business Studies attracts ambitious and entrepreneurial students who are keen to understand how organisations operate and succeed. It appeals to those who enjoy problem-solving, thinking strategically, and analysing real-world business situations. Students interested in current affairs, and who enjoy working with both numbers and ideas, will find the course especially engaging. It helps develop practical, transferable skills that are valuable in both higher education and the workplace. Whether aiming to run their own business, study a business-related degree, or pursue a career in management or finance, these students are typically proactive, forward-thinking, and driven to make a difference.

Where will success take me?
Success in A Level Business Studies opens pathways to university courses like Business, Marketing, and Finance, and careers in fields such as management, banking, and entrepreneurship. It equips you with valuable skills in strategy, analysis, and communication, and can be the first step toward a rewarding future in the business world.

Business

Which qualification?
BTEC National Extended Certificate

Course Overview
This exciting two-year vocational qualification is designed for students with a passion for business, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Available as a National Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A Level), the course blends academic study with real-world business practice.

What Will I Study?
You'll explore the dynamic world of enterprise through units such as:

- Business environments
- Finance
- Marketing
- Recruitment and selection processes

You'll learn how businesses are created, financed, and grown, while developing key skills in planning, communication, and strategic thinking. The course includes practical projects, case studies, and opportunities to pitch ideas—bringing business theory to life.

Who Is This Course For?
This course is ideal for students who enjoy applied learning and want to develop entrepreneurial skills. Whether you dream of launching your own business or working in a fast-paced corporate environment, this qualification provides a strong foundation.

Where Can It Take Me?
Successful students progress to university degrees in business, marketing, finance, or entrepreneurship. Others choose higher apprenticeships or enter employment in roles such as business development, sales, or project management. The BTEC is highly valued by universities and employers for its practical and academic rigour.

Chemistry

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

How is the course structured?
The A Level course is a linear qualification. This means you will sit all the exams at the end of your A Level course (2 years).

What will I study?
In both years of study the subject content will be split into the traditional branches of physical, organic and inorganic chemistry and will expand on many topics you have covered at GCSE and then cover more complex chemistry which will prepare you for further study at university.

Who takes this course?
Students with a wide range of interests enjoy the chemistry course and it is seen by universities as a facilitating subject for many degree courses. Whether you want a job in chemistry itself, dentistry, medicine, the pharmaceutical industry or finance, chemistry is the solid platform upon which careers are built.

Where will success take me?
Over the past few years our chemistry students have gone on to study a variety of degrees at university such as pharmacy, dentistry, environmental health, biomedical science, veterinary medicine, chemical engineering and aerospace engineering.

Computer Science

Which qualification?
OCR (www.ocr.org.uk), A Level

How is the course structured?
The A Level course is a linear qualification. This means you will sit all the exams at the end of your A Level course (2years). We also offer the CyberEPQ from the Chartered Institute of Information Security, an extended project qualification equivalent to half an A Level.

What will I study?
The first component, Computer Systems, focuses on the theory behind how computers work, including topics like hardware, software, networks, databases, and the ethical and legal impacts of technology. The second component, Algorithms and Programming, explores problem-solving techniques, data structures, and algorithm design, and includes an on-screen exam where students write and analyse code. The third component is a Programming Project, where students choose a real-world problem to solve by designing, coding, and evaluating their own software solution.

Who takes this course?
Students who have a strong interest in technology, problem-solving, and logical thinking. It appeals to those who enjoy understanding how computers work, learning to code, and creating their own software or digital solutions. Many students who take this subject also study Maths, Physics, or other STEM subjects, as these complement the analytical skills required in Computer Science. It is a popular choice for those planning to pursue careers in software development, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, or other technology-related fields.

Where will success take me?
It provides a strong foundation for studying computer science or related subjects at university, such as software engineering, data science, artificial intelligence, or cybersecurity. Even if you choose not to go to university, your skills in programming, problem-solving, and computational thinking can lead to apprenticeships or direct entry into tech roles like web development or IT support.

Criminology

Which qualification?
WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma

Course Overview
Criminology is the study of crime, criminal behaviour, and the justice system. This two-year applied qualification is ideal for students who are curious about the causes of crime, how society responds to it, and the workings of the criminal justice system. Offered as a Level 3 Applied Diploma, it is equivalent to one full A Level and combines academic theory with real-world case studies and practical investigation.

What Will I Study?
You'll explore fascinating topics such as:

- Changing Awareness of Crime – understanding different types of crime and public perceptions
- Criminological Theories – examining why people commit crimes
- Crime Scene to Courtroom – analysing the criminal process from investigation to trial
- Crime and Punishment – evaluating how society punishes offenders

Assessment is split evenly between coursework and external exams, allowing you to apply your learning in practical contexts.

Who Is This Course For?
This course is perfect for students who enjoy subjects like Law, Psychology, or Sociology and prefer applied learning. It suits those aiming for careers in policing, law, forensic science, or social justice.

Where Can It Take Me?
Criminology opens doors to university degrees in criminology, law, psychology, and sociology. It also supports progression into careers within the criminal justice system, including probation, policing, youth work, and legal services.

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Design Technology

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

What will I study?
In Year 12 all lessons will be linked to exam theory with many practical mini projects done to top up practical skills. 3D software is taught and students get to use the laser cutter and 3D printer. The Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) will be introduced around Easter time and you will develop a specific brief that meets the needs of a user, client or market. The brief must be of an appropriate level of complexity and contain a degree of uncertainty of the outcome so that you can engage in an iterative process of designing, making, testing and evaluating.

You will produce a final prototype based on the design brief you have developed, along with a digital design portfolio, which needs to be; an individual project with genuine real life opportunities for a chosen client.

In Year 13 work will continue on the NEA portfolio including research, design, modelling, prototyping, testing and evaluating. Exam theory will still continue throughout the year.

Additional information
The A Level Design and Technology: Product Design specification has been designed to encourage you to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop your capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

In order to succeed in Design and Technology, students must be independent learners and be able to work on projects inside and outside of the classroom.

Economics

Which qualification?
AQA Economics, A Level

How is the course structured?
The A-level course is a linear qualification. This means you will sit all your exams at the end of your A-level course (2 years).

What will I study?
Economics is the science of how wealth is created and distributed. Over the course of two years, we study topics in both microeconomics (how markets work) and macroeconomics (how the economy as a whole works). These include market structures and market failures, behavioural economics, inflation and the business cycle in Year 12. We expand on these in Year 13 to more complex areas, such as financial economics, to help prepare you for university-level study.

Who takes this course?
Students from many backgrounds and a wide variety of interests enjoy studying Economics at A-level. Alongside Economics, current students study subjects as diverse as Psychology, Sociology, English Literature, Chemistry, Computer Science, Politics, Business Studies, and Mathematics. There are many careers – such as banking, accountancy, and journalism – where a knowledge of Economics is very useful.

Where will success take me?
Economics is a great subject to study at university and many Economics graduates enter a wide range of careers, including banking and finance, accountancy, the civil service, journalism, NGOs, as well as professional economists in industry. Economics degree courses are highly regarded by employers and consistently have among the highest employment and starting salary levels.

English Language & Literature (Combined)

Which qualification?
AQA English Language and Literature, A Level

How is the course structured?
The A Level course is assessed through two exam papers and one coursework essay submission. Both exams are taken, and coursework is submitted, at the end of the 2-year course.

What will I study?
Designed with a focus on the integration of language and literature, this specification enables students to see how linguistic and literary methods are related and to explore these links in their work.
Offering clear skills progression from GCSE, this course allows students to build on the skills and knowledge already gained and prepare for their next steps. The variety of assessment styles used, such as re-creative writing, commentary writing, discursive essays and research-based investigative writing, allows students to develop a wide range of skills. These include the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research, which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

Who takes this course?
Students who enjoy exploring both fiction and non-fiction texts, and who want to develop their ability to analyse language and communicate effectively, choose to study English Language and Literature. This combined course equips students with essential skills in communication, analysis, and critical thinking, preparing them for a wide range of university courses such as Law, Journalism, English, Media, History, and Linguistics.

Where will success take me?
In recent years, our English Language and Literature students have progressed to a wide range of university courses, including Law, English, Journalism, Media, History, and Linguistics. A qualification in English Language and Literature provides a strong foundation for any career that values communication, analysis, and critical thinking. Universities and employers regard it as a respected and rigorous academic subject that develops confident, articulate leaders and effective communicators.

English Literature

Which qualification?
AQA Specification B (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

How is the course structured?
The A Level course is assessed through two exam papers and two coursework essay submissions. Both exams are taken, and coursework is submitted, at the end of the 2-year course.

What will I study?
Developing on a GCSE study of literature, this course invites students to explore different ways of reading and understand the connections that arise between texts, both in contexts and style of expression. Students will study two groups of texts to prepare for two separate exams: Paper 1 on Tragedy and Paper 2 on Social and Political Protest Writing. Students will be taught by expert teachers to articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.

Who takes this course?
Students who find pleasure and interest in reading fiction, and who wish to learn to communicate persuasively, choose to study English Literature. The course equips students with essential communication and critical thinking skills for university courses such as Law, Medicine, English, Journalism, History and Languages.

Where will success take me?
Over the past few years our English Literature students have gone on to study diverse subjects at a higher level, including Law, Medicine, English, Journalism, History and Languages. A qualification English also prepares you for any career as a leader and communicator: universities and organisations respect English Literature as an esteemed traditional academic qualification.

French

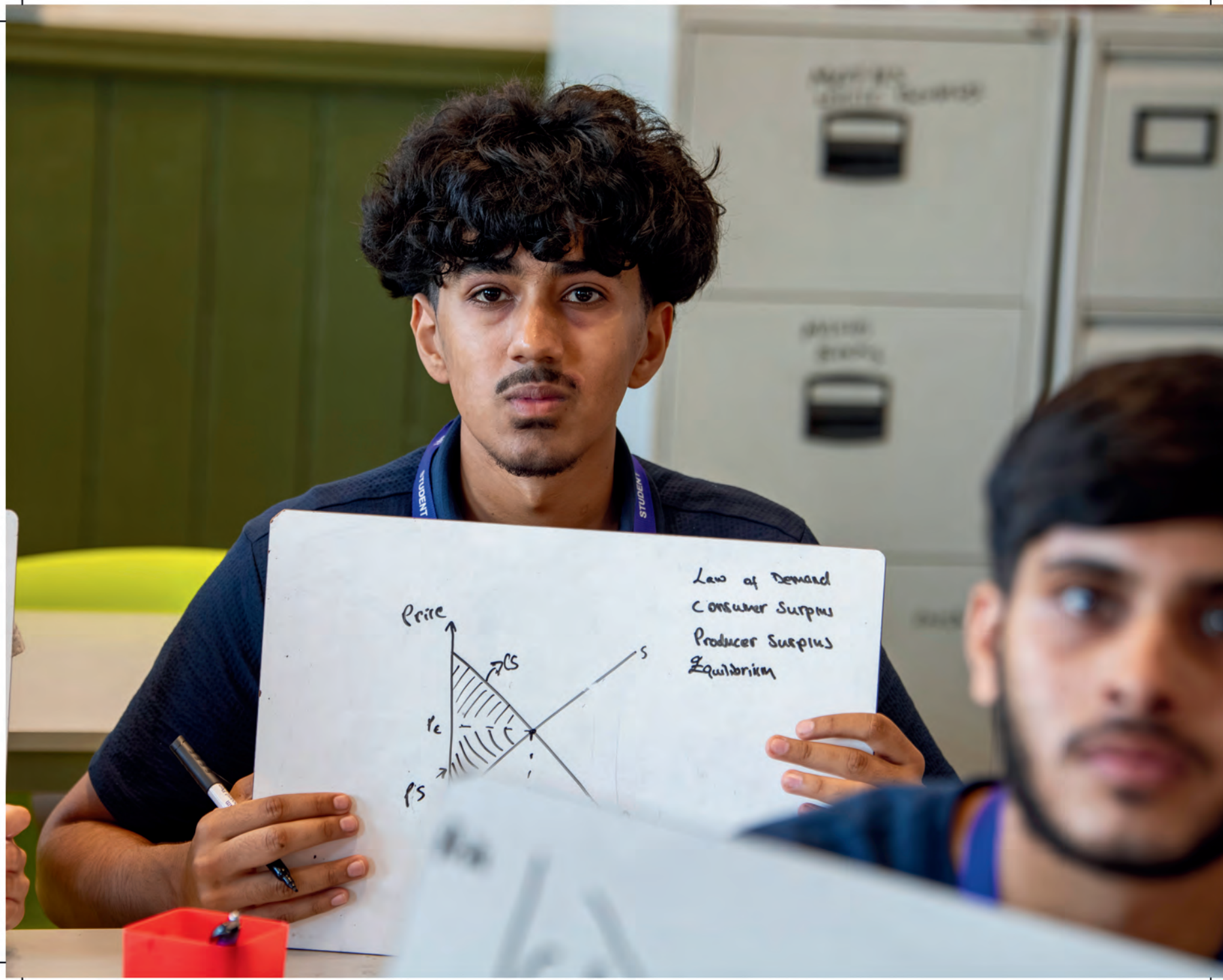
Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

What will I study?
The A Level French course provides a rich and varied study of the language and the societies of French-speaking countries. Students explore a range of social issues and trends, focusing on both current trends and key challenges facing French-speaking societies today. Topics include family structures, education, the world of work, and questions around diversity and integration.

The course also covers political and artistic culture, offering insights into the creative contributions of the French-speaking world through film, music, and literature, as well as the political systems and contemporary movements that shape society. Students will study a selection of literary texts and films in French, developing analytical and interpretive skills through close engagement with authentic material.

An important part of the course is the individual research project, in which each student investigates a topic of personal interest related to the French-speaking world. Throughout the programme, students also strengthen their understanding of French grammar to support confident, accurate communication in both spoken and written language.

Additional information
In Year 12 students are guided carefully through the transition from GCSE to A Level and they are encouraged to adopt a much more independent approach towards their studies. In Year 13 students develop critical insights into the contemporary society and culture of countries where French is spoken. The development of these skills, together with their knowledge and understanding of the structure of the language, lay foundations for the future study of French or of other languages at University.


Price
CS
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Law of Demand
Consumer Surplus
Producer Surplus
Equilibrium

Geography

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

What will I study?
The core Physical Geography is built around two main topics, Physical Landscape Systems and the Water and Carbon cycles. Carbon and water cycles focus on the inter-relationships between the land, oceans and atmosphere.

Students also explore one chosen landscape from three options: coastal landscapes, glaciated landscapes and hot desert landscapes - most likely to be glaciers - in a systems framework. The choice of a physical option lies between the study of hazards and ecosystems.

In Human Geography, compulsory core units on Global systems and Global Governance, and Changing Places are undertaken. The Human Options are urban environments, population and the environment and resource security. In each of the options we consider human-physical interactions.

The Non Examined Assessment (NEA) of our studies refers to the completion of a 3000-4000 word long Fieldwork Enquiry in Y13. There must be an element of individuality within the work -all students will be involved in setting the plan for their work and own title. The work will be marked by teachers and moderated by exam boards, similar to the arrangements which existed for GCSE Controlled Assessment

In year 12 two topics from each paper will be studied, and the remaining topic and NEA will be completed through Year 13.

German

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

What will I study?
The A Level German course explores a wide range of topics designed to deepen students' understanding of both the language and the culture of German-speaking countries. Students will study social issues and trends, including aspects of German-speaking society such as family life, the world of work, and multiculturalism. The course also examines political and artistic culture, with a focus on the creative arts, cultural heritage, and the political systems that shape German-speaking countries today.

In addition, students will engage with German literature and cinema, studying selected texts and films in detail to develop analytical and interpretive skills. A key part of the course is the individual research project, where each student selects a topic of personal interest related to the German-speaking world. This project promotes independent study and cultural exploration. Grammar is taught throughout the course to support the development of fluency and accuracy in both spoken and written German.

Additional information
In Year 12 students are guided carefully through the transition from GCSE to A Level and they are encouraged to adopt a much more independent approach towards their studies. In Year 13 students develop critical insights into the contemporary society and culture of countries where German is spoken. The development of these skills, together with their knowledge and understanding of the structure of the language, lay foundations for future study of German or of other languages at University.

Health & Social Care

Which qualification?
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Course Overview
The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care is a two-year, full-time vocational qualification equivalent to one A Level. Designed for students who want a practical, career-focused route into healthcare or social services.

What Will I Study?
You'll explore a wide range of topics essential for working in health and social care, including:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Psychological and Sociological Perspectives
- Public Health
- Principles of Safe Practice
- Enquiries into Current Research

Assessment is through coursework, practical tasks, and external exams, allowing you to demonstrate your strengths across different formats.

Who Is This Course For?
This course is ideal for students aged 16+ who are interested in careers such as nursing, social work, midwifery, or occupational therapy. It suits learners who prefer applied learning and a blend of assessment approaches.

Where Can It Take Me?
Students progress to university degrees in nursing, social work, psychology, or public health. Others move directly into employment or apprenticeships in roles such as healthcare assistant, support worker, or nursery nurse. The qualification is widely recognised by universities and employers across the UK.

History

Which qualification?
Edexcel (www.edexcel.com), A Level

What will I study?
Year 12 – In the first year of A Level you will study two broad topics that are linked by a period or a theme. You will look at broad developments and changes in the periods studied through a range of perspectives such as social, political and cultural.

The topic that we study is Route H: Democracies in Change: Britain and the USA in the Twentieth Century.

- Paper 1H: Britain Transformed 1918–97
- Paper 2H.2: The USA 1955–92: Conformity and Challenge

Year 13 – During the second year of your A Level, you will carry out a depth study of an extended period of history, and will gain a firm understanding of the key issues, problems and debates associated with it.

There will also be a requirement to carry out an in-depth historical enquiry, where you examine the significance of a chosen factor, taking into account and analysing and evaluating historical interpretations associated with your chosen enquiry.

- Paper 3 34.2: Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, 1780–1939.
- Paper 4: The Historical Enquiry

Additional information
An A Level in History will give you a number of different skills relevant to many types of employment, such as the ability to seek information and to analyse it in order to identify facts and motives, and to present information clearly for others to understand.

The skills you will obtain through studying History will be useful in a number of careers, either directly related to history (e.g. working in museums, galleries, heritage sites, records offices, archives, teaching) or in areas such as journalism, libraries, national and local government, law and the civil service.

Law

Which qualification?
OCR (www.ocr.org.uk), A Level

What will I study?
A Level Law offers an engaging introduction to the legal system in England and Wales, focusing on how laws are made, interpreted, and applied.

The course begins with an overview of the legal system, including the structure of civil and criminal courts, the roles of legal professionals such as judges, solicitors, and barristers, and the function of lay people, including juries and magistrates. Students will also consider access to justice and legal funding. In criminal law, key topics include the general principles of criminal liability, offences against the person (fatal and non-fatal), offences against property, legal defences such as self-defence and intoxication, and preliminary offences like attempts.
Law-making is another central focus. Students explore how laws are created by Parliament, delegated bodies, and through judicial precedent. They also study statutory interpretation and how law evolves through reform.
In tort law, students examine negligence, occupiers' liability, vicarious liability, and torts relating to land, along with related defences and remedies.
The course also introduces wider legal themes, including the relationship between law and morality, justice, and society. Human rights law is explored in depth, with a focus on Articles 5, 8,10,11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Human Rights Act 1998, and enforcement.

Who takes this course?
A Level Law attracts students considering careers as solicitors, barristers, legal executives, or paralegals, as well as those intending to study Law or Criminology at university. It suits individuals with a strong sense of justice and those who enjoy structured argument, critical thinking, and applying legal principles to real-world scenarios.

Where will success take me?
This qualification supports progression to degrees and careers in Law, Criminology, Politics, Public Administration, Business, Finance, or Journalism.

Mathematics

Which qualification?
Edexcel (www.edexcel.com), A Level

What will I study?
You will be challenged to gain a comprehensive understanding, allowing you to solve complex problems and to independently develop and put forward your own mathematical arguments.

By studying A Level maths, you will develop a superior understanding of key methodologies. You will be introduced to advanced principles and will significantly build on previous knowledge gained at GCSE level.
Throughout the course, you will be tasked with constructing and presenting mathematical arguments. You will do so by using diagrams, graphs, logical deduction and precise statements effectively to communicate your point.

You will learn algebra, exponentials and logarithms, geometry, sequences and series, among many other intricate topics. In recognising underlying mathematical structures, you will be able to simplify and abstract data. From this, you will be able to build detailed arguments that allow you to solve problems in a variety of contexts.

You will undertake three paper examinations in May/June. Each assessing various subject areas from the course. All three will be written two-hour exams, with the option to gain 100 marks, and each will account for 33.3% of your final A Level grade. They will all contain a mixture of short, single-mark questions and multi-step problems.
Your successful completion of the course materials and exams will demonstrate your ability to think analytically, rationally and with reason. Recognising problems, their causes and identifying numerous conceivable solutions, these are all skills universities are looking for.

For students who achieve a Grade 8 or 9 at GCSE and are expecting an A* in A Level and want to follow specific career paths, they should also consider further maths.

F10X

Mathematics (Further)

Which qualification?
MEI (www.mei.org.uk for Further Maths), A Level

Further maths is for those who really enjoy mathematics.

If you are planning to take a degree such as engineering, sciences, computing, finance/economics, etc., or perhaps mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking further maths.
Further mathematics introduces new topics, such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many STEM degrees. Students who have studied further mathematics find the transition to such degrees far more straightforward.

Further mathematics qualifications are highly regarded and are warmly welcomed by universities. Students who take further mathematics are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning mathematics that is very useful for any mathematically rich degree. Some prestigious university courses require you to have a further mathematics qualification and others may adjust their grade requirements more favourably to students with further mathematics.
If you are not planning to study for mathematically rich degrees but are keen on mathematics, you will find further mathematics a very enjoyable course and having a further mathematics qualification identifies you as having excellent analytical skills, whatever area you are considering for a career.

We teach further mathematicians separately on a much-accelerated learning path and usually in a group of 5-10 students.

In Year 1 you will cover the whole of A Level maths, plus about half the AS Level further maths. The end of Year 12 exam will be three actual A Level comparable papers and two further maths AS Level papers. This gives you the opportunity to concentrate on excelling in further maths in Year 13.

Music Performance

Which qualification?
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

How is this course structured?
This course is made up of one internally assessed unit and one externally assessed unit in year 12 and year 13, studying 4 units in total. The internally assessed units are coursework based and the external units are part exam part coursework.

What will I study?
Music at WHGS involves developing your knowledge and understanding of the music industry and, what it is to be a popular musician within the creative arts. While performance, composition and appraising and listening skills are at the heart of this course, you will also study professional practice, modern-day scenarios working in the music industry.

Who takes this course?
Students with a wide range of interests enjoy the music performance course. Whether you want a job in musical performance itself or in the recording, broadcasting, production, publishing, event management or explore the teaching and therapy routes. This option compliments other courses as you need to build key skills learning and practicing an instrument to a high level, articulating, and presenting performance work to an audience and on camera.

Where will success take me?
Over the past few years, music students have gone on to study a variety of degrees at university and attend musical conservatoires. Popular Music, Therapy, Sound Production, Engineering and Composition routes have been explored and have seen some students perform and manage sound at some of the biggest venues in the UK.

Photography

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

What will I study?
Students will explore a variety of photographic media, techniques, and processes through practical and critical activities. Their work will be supported by sketchbooks, workbooks, or journals where appropriate. Both traditional and digital methods may be used to produce images, and students must develop an understanding of AQA's four assessment objectives.

Students can work in one or more areas, combining approaches flexibly. These areas include portraiture, landscape photography—covering urban, rural, and coastal scenes—still life focusing on objects or the natural world, documentary and photojournalism, fashion photography, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation, and moving images such as video, film, and animation.

Skills and Techniques
Throughout the course, students develop skills in exploring visual elements like line, form, colour, pattern, and texture. They learn to understand audience and purpose, responding to themes, concepts, or briefs. Technical skills include using viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed, and movement. Students become proficient in operating cameras, lenses, filters, lighting, and film, as well as producing and presenting photographic images effectively.

Who is this course for?
This course is ideal for students interested in pursuing Photography at a higher education level or aiming for careers in related fields such as advertising, film and video editing, graphic design, magazine editing, medical illustration, photography—including press and fashion—and TV camera operation. It also suits those with a strong passion for the subject, even if they do not continue beyond A Level.

Physics

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

How is the course structured?
The A Level course is a linear structure. This means you will sit all the exams at the end of the A Level course (2 years). At least 15% of the marks for A Level Physics are based on what you learn in practicals.

What will I study?
First Year will see you studying Particle physics, Waves, Mechanics, and Electricity. In the second year of study you will look into thermal physics, gravitational, electric and magnetic Fields, and Nuclear physics. Our chosen optional content topic at WHGS is Astrophysics in the second year of study. Physics, like all sciences, is a practical subject and you will carry out practical activities such as the safe use of ionising radiation.

Who takes this course?
Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know of. They probe the furthest reaches of the earth to study the smallest pieces of matter. Join them to enter a world deep beneath the surface of normal human experience.

You will use higher tier GCSE maths skills, and A Level mathematics skills throughout the course. We strongly advise taking A Level maths alongside physics, for the best chance at success.

Where will success take me?
Students with a wide range of interests enjoy A Level physics and it seen by universities as a subject that facilitates many degree courses. It offers an infinite number of amazing career opportunities, including any area of engineering (mechanical, aerospace, chemical, electrical and more). As well as architecture, software design, medical physics/ radiology, scientific research, and is a highly respected qualification in areas such as design, law, and banking. Physics truly keeps your options open.

Politics

Which qualification?
Pearson Edexcel (qualifications.pearson.com), A Level

How is the Course Structured?
A Level Politics is assessed through three written examinations at the end of Year 13. The course is designed to foster a deep and critical understanding of political systems, ideologies, and institutions, with a focus on both the UK and the USA.

What Will I Study?
Students will explore key aspects of UK politics, including the nature of democracy, political participation, electoral systems, political parties, and the influence of the media on voting behaviour. Students will examine the role of UK government, evaluating the constitution, the role and structure of Parliament, the powers of the Prime Minister and the Executive, and how different branches of government interact.

Alongside this, students study the core political ideologies of conservatism, liberalism, and socialism, gaining an insight into how these ideas shape political thought and policy. In year 13 students move on to study the politics of the United States, investigating the US Constitution and federalism, the functions of Congress and the Presidency, and the role of the Supreme Court in safeguarding civil rights. This section also introduces comparative theories to help students determine similarities and differences between the UK and US systems.

Who Takes This Course?
Politics is ideal for students interested in current affairs and how political systems work in the UK and beyond. It suits those who enjoy debate, exploring different viewpoints, and building strong, evidence-based arguments. The course particularly appeals to students considering careers in law, journalism, international relations, the civil service, or public policy.

Psychology

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

What will I study?
In the first year you will gain a broad understanding of introductory topics in psychology including:

- Approaches in psychology (psychodynamic, humanistic behaviourism, biopsychology, cognitive)
- Social influence (conformity, obedience and minority influence)
- Memory (short & long term memory, forgetting, eyewitness testimony)
- Psychopathology – phobias, depression, OCD
- Attachment (caregiver-infant interactions, types of attachment, orphan studies)
- Research methods (how psychologists conduct experiments, observations etc)

In the second year you will develop your understanding of biopsychology, including the nervous system and functions of the brain. You will then advance to the study of several important areas within psychology such as Aggression, Schizophrenia and Gender.

Additional information
Studying an A Level in Psychology is highly useful for a wide range of university courses and careers. It will help you understand why individuals in society behave as they do whilst enabling you to develop a broad skill set, including independent enquiry, evaluation, conducting research and analysing data. It is looked upon favourably by admissions tutors and employers.

Religious Studies

Which qualification?
Eduqas (www.eduqas.co.uk), A Level

How is the course structured?
The A Level Religious Studies course covers three distinct areas, each examined separately, offering a broad exploration of religion, philosophy, and ethics. In Philosophy of Religion, students tackle fundamental questions about existence and the nature of God, examining classical and modern arguments, the relationship between science and religion, and responses to the problem of evil and suffering. They also consider whether evil is a real force, possibly personified as Satan.

Religious Ethics involves critical engagement with key ethical theories applied to modern moral issues. Topics include the ethics of animal experimentation, nuclear deterrence, abortion, voluntary euthanasia, and questions about relationships.

The Faith Study focuses on Islam, exploring its core beliefs and practices alongside social and cultural issues. Students evaluate how Islamic beliefs influence moral choices, whether the Day of Judgement inspires fear or faith, and how Islam is portrayed in the media and understood in Britain today.

Who takes this course?
This course welcomes students of all backgrounds and beliefs, requiring no prior Religious Studies experience. Success does not depend on personal faith, and students are encouraged to engage with diverse perspectives. At WHGS, nearly 300 students have completed A Level Religious Studies, with about half holding strong religious beliefs. The course suits those interested in deep thinking, ethical debate, and understanding religion's role in human life.

Where will success take me?
The course prepares students well for further study in Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Ethics. Many graduates also pursue Law or Medicine. Students typically achieve excellent results, often earning their highest grades in Religious Studies. The course is both rewarding and popular, with a 100% pass rate reflecting student commitment.

Sociology

Which qualification?
AQA Sociology (www.aqa.org.uk)

What will I study?
This interactive course will provide you with an engaging and effective introduction to Sociology. You will explore a range of key themes, including; socialisation, culture and identity, social differentiation and power and stratification, through studying many aspects of social life. You will develop skills valued by higher education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

In year 1 there is a compulsory element of study which includes 'Education with Theory and Methods', requiring you to study the impact of subcultures on educational attainment. Additionally, you will develop an understanding of how research is conducted by sociologists. Also, in year 1 you will study 'Culture and Identity'; including sub and mass cultures, identity such as ethnicity, gender, and sexuality.

The second year will include the study of 'Crime and Deviance'; this will examine the role of the Criminal Justice System and its surveillance, prevention and punishment of criminals in contemporary society. Additionally, the course will include the study of 'the Mass Media', including the role of the media in modern society.

Additional information
Sociology is the study of trends of behaviour in society. Sociology is relevant to everyday life, this allows students to relate to and engage with the subject immediately with no requirement to have studied it before. Throughout the course you will be given the opportunity to carry out your own small scale research studies. This will encourage the development of critical and reflective skills and foster a respect of social diversity, which are valuable attributes to take to higher education and future employment.

Spanish

Which qualification?
AQA (www.aqa.org.uk), A Level

What will I study?
The A Level Spanish course offers a broad and engaging exploration of the language, society, and culture of the Hispanic world. Students will examine key social issues and trends, including aspects of Hispanic society such as the role of the family, changing social values, and multiculturalism across Spanish-speaking countries. The course also focuses on political and artistic culture, exploring topics such as music, film, and heritage, as well as political life and movements within the Hispanic world.

In addition to these cultural and societal themes, students will study a selection of literary texts and films in Spanish, developing their ability to analyse and interpret authentic materials. A central component of the course is the individual research project, where each student chooses a topic of personal interest related to a Spanish-speaking country or culture. Grammar is taught throughout the course to build a strong foundation in written and spoken Spanish, ensuring students gain both fluency and accuracy in the language.

Additional information
In Year 12 students are guided carefully through the transition from GCSE to A Level and they are encouraged to adopt a much more independent approach towards their studies. In Year 13 students develop critical insights into the contemporary society and culture of countries where Spanish is spoken. The development of these skills, together with their knowledge and understanding of the structure of the language, lay foundations for future study of Spanish or of other languages at University.

Sport

Which qualification?
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Course Overview
The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport is a dynamic, two-year vocational course designed for students passionate about sport, fitness, and physical education. Equivalent to one A Level, it blends academic study with practical experience, preparing learners for careers in the sports industry or progression to university.

What Will I Study?
Students explore a wide range of topics including:

- Anatomy and Physiology – understanding how the body responds to exercise
- Fitness Training and Programming – designing and evaluating fitness plans
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry – preparing for careers in sport
- Sports Psychology – exploring mental factors that influence performance
- Sports Leadership – planning and delivering coaching sessions

Assessment is through a mix of written exams, coursework, practical tasks, and case studies, offering a well-rounded approach to learning.

Who Is This Course For?
This course suits students aged 16+ who enjoy sport and want a hands-on, applied learning experience. It's ideal for those considering careers in coaching, personal training, physiotherapy, teaching, or sports science.

Where Can It Take Me?
Students progress to university degrees in sports science, coaching, physiotherapy, or leisure management. Others move into employment or apprenticeships in roles such as fitness instructor, sports coach, or therapy assistant. The qualification is recognised by universities and employers across the UK.

William Hulme's Grammar School

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

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