DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM COURSES

SEPTEMBER 2026

POST 16: THE WAY FORWARD

Your choice of course will depend on your GCSE qualifications and your career ambitions. Please read carefully the information in this booklet before making a decision on what is the right course for you.

When choosing your courses ask yourself:

- What type of qualification does the course offer?
- Will I have the right GCSE grades?
- Do I enjoy the subject?
- Which subjects go well together?
- In which subjects am I more likely to be successful?
- Which subjects will help me to progress to my preferred Post-18 option?

  (The 'Informed Choices' website found here may help you with this)

If you are unsure, ask for advice. There are plenty of people who know you and will be able to offer sound guidance. Talk to your subject teachers, your Form Tutor or our Head of Work-Related Learning (office located in the Support Corridor, accessed via Maths or near the Reading Realm). Ask older siblings or students currently in the Sixth Form. Following your application there will be the opportunity to discuss your choice of courses with a member of the Sixth Form Team.

You should take care in choosing your subjects at A level and BTEC to ensure that the combination suits your career path. For example, to pursue a career in Medicine or Engineering, three Sciences or two Sciences (including Chemistry for Medicine) and Mathematics are advised. If you are interested in Law, English and History are good foundation subjects.

Remember that the Russell Group universities (e.g. Imperial College London) will often require you to have at least two facilitating subjects. The facilitating subjects are: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geography, History, English Literature and Modern Languages.

This booklet contains a summary of the courses intended to be offered for the academic year 2026/2027. Courses are offered subject to numbers opting for them being sufficient. Courses cancelled due to insufficient demand cannot then be reinstated if students change their selection at a later date.

The information published in this booklet is correct at the time of publication.

A LEVEL COURSES

A level courses provide the most common route of entry into university and are highly regarded by employers. Students choose three subjects at Level 3 (A level or BTEC). Most Level 3 courses are allocated five hours of teaching time per week.

Most Level 3 qualifications are two-year courses with all examinations taken at the end of Year 13.

The following A level courses are offered at Darrick Wood:

Art, Craft and Design
Art and Design: Textile Design
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
Dance
Drama and Theatre
DT Product Design
Economics
English Literature
Film Studies
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
German
Government and Politics
History
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Philosophy and Ethics (RS)
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish

Details on each course and entry requirements follow later in the booklet.

OTHER LEVEL 3 COURSES

AAQ BTEC in Early Childhood Development
AAQ BTEC in Health and Social Care
AAQ BTEC in Information Technology
AAQ BTEC in Medical Science
BTEC Business
BTEC Travel and Tourism
Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

These courses offer a qualification equivalent to A level. They have a larger coursework component.

COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the Sixth Form at Darrick Wood School is based on GCSE grades achieved in August 2026; the School will also consider other Level 2 qualifications e.g. vocational qualifications achieved such as CNAT or BTEC.

For admission to the Sixth Form, a student must have achieved at least five Grade 4s across any GCSE subjects. Level 2 vocational qualifications must be achieved at a Pass level or above to be included for admission purposes. Whilst our general admission criteria do not include Grade 4s in English and/or Mathematics, please be aware that some courses will specify these qualifications (or grades in other specific subjects) as part of their entry criteria for that course.

To study one or more A level qualifications, a student must have achieved at least five Grade 5s across any GCSE subjects AND meet the subject specific entry requirements for each separate qualification. Please be aware that although the general entry requirements for A level qualifications do not include achieving Grade 5s in English and/or Mathematics, some subjects require these GCSEs as part of their entry requirements.

For the purpose of entry requirements, "written subjects" are English Language, English Literature, Business, Geography, History, Media Studies, Religious Studies and Sociology.

Subject	**GCSE Grade Entry Requirements**
Art, Craft and Design*	5 in a written subject 5 in Art
Art and Design (Textile Design)*	5 in a written subject 5 in a creative subject e.g., Design and Technology, Art and Design, Textiles, etc.
Biology	6 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject 6,6 Combined Science or 6 in Separate Biology
Business	5 in Mathematics, 5 in two written subjects including Business if taken at GCSE
Chemistry	6 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject 6,6 Combined Science or 6 in Separate Chemistry
Computer Science	6 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject 6 in Computer Science
Dance*	5 in a written subject 5 in Dance if studied at GCSE; If not, students need to be dancing regularly to a high standard
Drama and Theatre*	5 in English 5 in Drama if studied at GCSE
Design and Technology - Product Design*	5 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject 5 in a creative subject, e.g. Design and Technology, Art and Design, Textiles, etc.
Economics	5 in Mathematics, 5 in two written subjects including Business if taken at GCSE
English Literature	A minimum of a 6 and a 5 across English Language and English Literature
Film Studies	5 in two written subjects
French*	5 in English 6 in French
Further Mathematics	7 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject An Average Point Score of 7 (best eight grades)
Geography	5 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject 5 in Geography
German*	5 in English 6 in German

Government and Politics	5 in two written subjects
History	5 in a written subject 5 in History
Mathematics	7 in Mathematics
Media Studies	5 in two written subjects including Media Studies if taken at GCSE
Music*	5 in a written subject 5 in Music *Grade 4-5 on an instrument/voice; to have the capacity to achieve Grade 6 by March of Year 13* *Where you do not have a GCSE Music qualification a good pass in Grade 5 theory will be considered alongside your performance skills.* *All students must continue with individual vocal/instrumental lessons throughout their A level studies.*
Philosophy and Ethics	5 in a written subject 5 in Religious Studies
Physical Education	5 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject 5 in Physical Education **If student has not taken GCSE PE:** 5, 5 in Combined Science or 5 in separate Biology. *Students must participate in one competitive sport on a weekly basis outside of school. If a student did not study GCSE PE, then competitive footage must be provided of chosen sport for Head of PE to review before starting course.*
Physics	6 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject 6,6 Combined Science or 6 in Separate Physics
Psychology	5 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject 5,5 in Combined Science or 5 in Separate Biology
Sociology	5 in two written subjects including Sociology if taken at GCSE
Spanish*	5 in English 6 in Spanish
BTEC Business (Single)	General entry requirements including 4 in Mathematics and 4 in a written subject
AAQ BTEC National in Early Childhood Development	General entry requirements including 4 in a written subject
Food Science and Nutrition	General entry requirements including 4 in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
AAQ BTEC National in Health and Social Care	General entry requirements to include 4 in Science and 4 in a written subject
AAQ BTEC National in Information Technology	General entry requirements including 4 in Mathematics and 4 in a written subject
AAQ BTEC National Medical Science	General entry requirements including 4,4 in Combined Science and 4 in a written subject
BTEC Travel and Tourism	General entry requirements including 4 in a written subject

*Where a student has not achieved the five Grade 5s necessary to access A levels, but has achieved a Grade 7 in one of the following subjects **and met all other general entry criteria**, the School will allow the student to pursue an A level in that subject alongside two further vocational subjects. The subjects are GCSE Art and Design, GCSE Dance, GCSE Design and Technology, GCSE Drama, GCSE French, GCSE German, GCSE Music, GCSE Spanish and GCSE Textiles.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SIXTH FORM ENTRY

Thursday, 6th November 2025	Sixth Form Open Evening for students and parents
Friday, 7th November 2025	Application Form goes live
Friday, 12th December 2025	Deadline for return of application forms
January 2026	Meetings with the Sixth Form Team (for internal students)
March 2026	Governors' Admissions Committee and offer letters sent to students
May/June 2026	GCSE examinations
End of June – dates to be confirmed	Sixth Form Orientation
20th August 2026	GCSE results published and Enrolment

HOW TO APPLY

If you are considering joining Darrick Wood Sixth Form to study Level 3 courses (A levels and two year BTEC courses) in September 2026 then please complete the online application form available on our website.

You are required to choose THREE different subjects for your options – a first, second and third choice. You should also choose a fourth, reserve subject.

Conditional offer letters will be sent out to students by Easter 2026. If a student's projected grades indicate that they are unlikely to achieve the general admissions criteria then we will arrange an individual discussion with the student supported by independent careers advice.

Although you can choose any subject combination at this stage, please be aware that not all subject combinations may be possible to timetable. You will be informed in the spring term if your chosen subject combination is feasible and if not, you will be asked to re-select one or more of your subject choices. Courses will run subject to demand and if a course fails to attract enough students, then we may not be able to offer it and you will be asked to select a different subject.

The deadline for completed applications is **Friday, 12th December 2025.**

DWS^2: DEVELOPMENT, WELLBEING AND SKILLS AT DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

Optional courses are supplemented by the core DWS^2 curriculum, which provides additional experiences and activities to broaden Sixth Form study and support students to hone their personal development, wellbeing and transferable skills. Many of the activities and opportunities that form part of this provision are things that universities and employers will expect to see evidence of in your applications; other schools expect you to make time for all of these in your own time, but we recognise that having protected time given over to these in your timetable will help you succeed.

The DWS^2 curriculum is compulsory and is listed below. Students will undertake different activities within different branches of the curriculum.

Development	**Wellbeing**	**Skills**
Independent Study CEIAG, including WEX CAS	Wellbeing Hour and sports	Directed Study Form Time, including PPS

Directed Study: All students have one hour per week of directed study time with a member of the Sixth Form team. This focuses on explicit teaching of essential study skills, academic tutoring conversations. In Year 12, this focusses on helping students identify, understand and implement the key study skills necessary to support Independent Study and success in Sixth Form and beyond. Key topics explored early in Year 12 include:

- Thinking, reading and writing critically
- Spaced practice and interleaving
- Metacognition and self-regulation

In Year 13 the focus shifts to advising and guiding you through the process of applying to university and apprenticeships, including providing feedback on personal and supporting statements.

Independent Study: You may have periods when you do not have a lesson, and you will be allocated Independent Study periods. On these occasions, you will be expected to work silently under supervision in the Study Hall. It is important that you take responsibility for your learning and manage your workload successfully by using this time to complete homework or coursework, consolidate your learning, undertake wider reading or work on your applications to university or apprenticeships.

Form Time and the Personal and Professional Syllabus (PPS): All students attend Form Time which starts at 8.35am. The Form Time programme is designed to support students in developing a range of skills through various activities such as problem solving, leadership, communication, team work etc. to prepare students for life outside a school environment. This includes the Personal and Professional Syllabus (PPS), a programme designed to support academic study and help achieve personal goals/aims. The PPS programme includes topics such as:

- Identity and Values
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Healthy Habits and Safety
- Personal Finance

Wellbeing Hour and Sports: We recognise that life in Sixth Form is about more than just your studies, and that it is equally important to look after your physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. For that reason, we provide a protected hour within students' timetables for you to pursue an interest, hobby, or wellbeing activity. These can include extracurricular activities, clubs and societies.

Students will be encouraged to participate and achieve in sporting activities. Facilities include a fitness room, sports hall, netball/tennis courts, artificial pitch, outside pitches and a gym. Students are invited to take part in a number of supervised activities which are recreational. If you are more competitively

orientated, you can represent the School in netball, rugby and football fixtures against other schools and colleges.

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS): This is your opportunity to give something back to the School or the local community, by engaging in acts of service to support them. These must be unpaid and voluntary, and run across both Year 12 and Year 13. In School, these might include duties undertaken as a Prefect, Mentor, Subject Ambassador or other leadership position, whilst outside school you might wish to volunteer with a local charity or engage in one of our partnerships with local primary schools.

There are rewards available for completing differing hours of service, and these can also contribute towards your Duke of Edinburgh Award if you choose to undertake this. Projects undertaken through the Mark Evison Foundation also qualify.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), including Work Experience (WEX): Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is delivered in a variety of ways in Sixth Form through various platforms, such as the PPS programme, Directed Study sessions, careers appointments, visits by external organisations and employers, higher education encounters, taster days and various pathway events.

The CEIAG Programme is designed to enable students to:

- Review their progress in Sixth Form, identify their interests, strengths and weaknesses, to set targets for improvement and to plan ahead for post-18 pathways.
- Research their career interests using a variety of careers literature, web-based tools and software to explore future education, training and employment opportunities.
- Develop effective career management skills including self-assessment using information and guidance to devise realistic action plans to shape their future studies at Sixth Form and beyond.

The focus in Sixth Form is for students to learn how to access and use a variety of higher education, careers and employability sources and advice so as to be able to:

- Research their career interests and further explore their options for post-18 pathways.
- Evaluate their strengths, weaknesses, skills and areas of personal development to determine how these will affect their pathway choices.
- Make timely applications to higher and further education providers as well as for employment. Students will be advised on relevant procedures and individual help and guidance is given.

The School works closely with specialist providers including Independent Careers Advisors who provide impartial advice and attend various events run by the School. Students are encouraged to contact the Careers and Work Experience Team (Room HI2 in the Support Corridor between the Mathematics Department and Main Reception) when making post-18 decisions. Here they can access information about career choices, further and higher education, work experience, apprenticeships, internships, gap years, and other work-related areas such as CV writing and application processes. Students in Sixth Form also have the opportunity to meet with an Independent Careers Advisor to explore post-18 pathways and identify action plans.

Parents and carers play an important role in helping pupils to understand future career choices and pathways. The School provides up-to-date information on the choices available at key transition stages so they can support their children in deciding on their post-18 pathways.

Year 12 students are required to participate in a work placement during Year 12 to develop an insight into the demands of the workplace and to support post-18 career ambitions. Traditionally, the School's Work Experience Programme takes place in the summer term. Students will be advised about work experience programme arrangements during the first half of Year 12.

Throughout Sixth Form, students are encouraged to participate in virtual work experience and industry insight opportunities outside of their lesson timetable. These opportunities generally provide students with insights into various careers and organisations, supporting their post-18 pathway choices.
If parents or carers would like to request any additional careers guidance for their child, they should email Mrs L Collier, Head of Work-Related Learning (l.collier@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk) for further information.

Form Tutors and Achievement Coordinators will also be happy to support decision making and discuss future plans.

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM

A LEVEL COURSES

Art, Craft and Design
A level (Eduqas)

Course Content

Students work with a variety of media including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and photography to create their own artwork on different themes. Analysis of artists' work and annotation is included. Observational drawing is an important part of the course. Students will exhibit their work at the end of the course.

Course Structure

Component 1: Personal Investigation with written component
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment, 15-hour examination.

Assessment

4 assessment objectives for each unit and examination
Component 1 60%
Component 2 40%

Career Opportunities

Artist, Curator, Illustrator, Fashion Designer, Jewellery Designer, Photographer, Teacher, Interior Designer, Web Designer, Animator, CAD Designer, Cinematographer, Milliner, Photojournalist, Product Designer, Architect, Set Designer, Sculptor, Art Valuer and Auctioneer.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in a written subject
5 in Art

Art and Design (Textile Design)
A level (Eduqas)

Course Content

Textile Design encompasses the use of a very broad range of materials, techniques, and processes, including a growing number of interdisciplinary approaches. The textiles produced are combinations of woven, embroidered, knitted, printed, painted, dyed, manipulated, embellished and constructional methods which are utilised to produce a great variety of textile outcomes that include costume and fashion design, accessories, and body adornment.

Course Structure

Component 1 - Personal investigation
1. A major in-depth critical, practical, and theoretical investigative project/portfolio and outcome(s) based on themes and subject matter that have personal significance
2. An extended written element of 1000 words minimum, which may contain images and texts and must clearly relate to practical and theoretical work using an appropriate working vocabulary and specialist terminology
Component 2 - Externally set assignment.
Part 1: Preparatory study period
Part 2: 15-hour period of sustained, focussed work.

Assessment

Component 1 = 60% (120 marks)
Component 2 = 40% (80 marks)

Career Opportunities

Fashion designer, textile designer, fashion illustrator, accessories designer to include shoes, handbags, and millinery. Print design, surface designer for fashion or interiors, and textile artist. Pattern cutter, garment construction.
Fashion merchandising and window dresser, retail, new technologies in textiles, buying, colour forecasting. Craft design and making, embroidered and knitted textiles, theatre/costume design and sets.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in a written subject
5 in a creative subject e.g., Design and Technology, Art and Design, Textiles, etc.

Biology
A level (OCR)

Course Content

The structure and function of animal and plant cells are studied at an advanced level. We also consider the way in which materials are exchanged and transported in plants and animals. Biological molecules, enzymes, evolution, and classification are covered along with immunity and disease control.
Other topics include the biochemistry of respiration and photosynthesis, along with the detailed study of genetics and inheritance, homeostasis, biotechnology, ecosystems, and the nervous system.

Course Structure

Module 1: Development of practical skills
Module 2: Foundations in Biology
Module 3: Exchange and transport
Module 4: Biodiversity, evolution, and disease
Module 5: Communication, homeostasis, and energy
Module 6: Genetics, evolution, and ecosystems

Assessment

There are three written examination papers at the end of the A level course. Paper 1 (2 hr 15 minutes) is worth 37%, Paper 2 (2 hr 15 minutes) is worth 37% and Paper 3 (1 hr 30 minutes) is worth 26%. All three papers cover material from Modules 1-6. Practical skills are assessed as 'Pass/Fail' and are reported separately; there is no examination.

Career Opportunities

Advanced level Biology opens many doors. For the real enthusiast there are careers in medicine, biochemistry, biotechnology, genetics, and many other pure science opportunities. For those more interested in Applied Biology, areas such as environmental science, public health, conservation, and forensic science offer many career paths. Biology will also allow you to follow non-scientific careers in law, management, and other business ventures.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

6 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject
6,6 Combined Science or 6 in Separate Biology

Business
A level (AQA)

Course Content

The course aims to provide a general introduction to Business, drawing on study of the main functional areas of Business - Marketing, Finance and Accounting, Managing People and Operations Management in the first year of the course before expanding perspective to consider more strategic issues in the second year. The course's underlying theme is the consideration of business decision making in businesses of all sizes, from the smallest local retailer to the world's largest multinational organisations. You should develop problem solving skills and equip students with effective decision-making skills. Your examinations, and indeed classwork, will detail a business scenario situation and ask you to solve the problems with which you are presented.

Course Structure

3.1 Focus: What is business, managing marketing and finance

- 3.1.1 Business and objectives
- 3.1.2 Forms of business and stakeholders
- 3.1.3 Marketing management
- 3.1.4 Financial management

3.2 Focus: Managing operations and people

- 3.2.1 Operations management
- 3.2.2 People management
- 3.2.3 Managing business culture

3.3 Focus: Business and society, business and the external environment, and business strategy

- 3.3.1 Business and society
- 3.3.2 Business and the external environment
- 3.3.3 Strategy
- 3.3.4 Change

Assessment

There are three written examinations at the end of the A level course. Each examination is two hours long and is worth 33.3% of the A level. Paper 1 tests Focus 3.1, Paper 2 tests Focus 3.2 and Paper 3 tests Focus 3.3. The examinations case study-based questions ranging from 6 to 15 marks.

Career Opportunities

The content of the course will be relevant in your future career. If you end up working as a film director, knowledge of motivation theory will help you get the most out of your actors, whilst those of you thinking of starting your own business will value the knowledge of marketing and finance that will be gained. The course trains you to be a decision maker and offers insights into the role of a manager. The skills picked up through this course will give you the ability to take an analytical approach to problem solving – a useful skill in any career. A large proportion of our 'graduates' go to university to study a wide range of subjects, including but not limited to, Business. Many others successfully enter corporate school leaver programmes at an Apprenticeship degree level.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in Mathematics, 5 in two written subjects including Business if taken at GCSE

Chemistry
A level (OCR)

Course Content

Atomic structure and chemical reactions, bonding, structure, basic concepts in organic chemistry, hydrocarbons, alcohols, halogenoalkanes, organic analysis, energy transfer in chemical reactions, environmental chemistry, organic acids and amines, polymers and synthesis, rates of reaction, chemical equilibrium, pH, group chemistry, the transition elements and the mole concept all taught with an emphasis on practical work.
Chemical concepts are taught through applications that are relevant to the world of today and tomorrow.

Course Structure

Year 12 Units

Physical Chemistry: Atomic structure, kinetics, energetics, equilibria, and moles
Inorganic Chemistry: Group chemistry, periodicity, and the Periodic Table
Organic Chemistry: Alkanes, alkenes, alcohols, halogenoalkanes, organic analysis

Year 13 Units

Physical Chemistry: Thermodynamics, acid/base equilibria, electrochemistry
Inorganic Chemistry: Transition metals, aqueous ions, Period 3 chemistry
Organic Chemistry: Aromatic compounds, carbonyl compounds, synthesis, and NMR

Assessment

In A level there are three papers, two are 2 hours 15 minutes long, the third is 1 hour 30 minutes. Papers 1 and 2 cover the content of physical, inorganic, and organic chemistry. Paper 3 is synoptic and covers all aspects of the A level course. Questions on the relevant practical skills will appear in all three papers. There is also a practical endorsement which is awarded separately.

Career Opportunities

Chemistry is such a versatile subject that it is difficult to think of a career in which Chemistry or the skills it teaches are not in demand. Chemistry and materials science will play an increasingly important role in our lives. From nanoparticles to saving the planet, from curing cancer to putting people on Mars, Chemistry will be part of the solution. If it is your intention to study for a science-based degree like medicine, dentistry, veterinary sciences, biochemistry, forensics, pharmacology, and some engineering degrees then Chemistry is really a compulsory A level. Other careers in which a qualification in Chemistry might be very useful include environmental health, nursing, conservation, teaching, and many, many more. You are very employable with a Chemistry qualification. So, remember, not all Chemists wear white coats!

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

6 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject
6,6 Combined Science or 6 in Separate Chemistry

Computer Science
A level (OCR)

Course Content

The A level course has been designed in consultation with the British Computer Society, Computing at School (CAS) and top universities. The key features of the courses include:

- Focus on programming and computational thinking as a discipline.
- Emphasis on the mathematical skills used to express computational laws and processes, e.g. Boolean algebra/logic and algorithm comparison. Strong GCSE mathematical skills are a pre-requisite.
- Skills development in the solving of problems, designing systems and understanding of human and machine intelligence.
- Application of academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems.

Course Structure

A level Units

01 Computer Systems: Computer components, how they work and their uses; Software and methodologies used to develop software; Data types, data structures, Boolean algebra, and algorithms; Legal, moral, ethical, and cultural issues.

02 Algorithms and Programming: Elements of computational thinking; Problem solving and programming; Use and design of algorithms to describe problems; Standard algorithms.

03 Programming Project: Analysis of a set problem; Design of the solution; Development of the solution and evaluation.

Mathematical skills are embedded throughout the content of this course and assessed in the written papers where appropriate.

Assessment

Students will take two written examinations and one NEA (programming project). Three units in total and all assessed.

Career Opportunities

The course gives students a wide choice of progression routes into further study, training, or relevant employment in Information Technology.
Students may move on to degrees or employment in areas such as computer science, software engineering, systems analysis, software development, engineering and scientific research and development.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

6 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject
6 in Computer Science

Dance
A level (AQA)

Course Content

The A level Dance specification reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it more relevant and inspires a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance. Students develop their knowledge of dance history which allows a breadth of understanding of the development of dance within specific areas of study; *Rambert Dance Company* and *American Jazz 1940-75*. The lessons include both theoretical and practical activities and cover a range of dance techniques from a variety of different practitioners in which students will perform a solo in the style of one of the practitioners. Students are required to compose dances, which will require them to apply their knowledge of choreographic devices.

Course Structure

A level Units

Component 1:	A) Solo performance linked to a specific practitioner within an area of study B) Performance in a quartet C) Group choreography
Component 2:	Knowledge, understanding and critical appreciation of one compulsory set work and one optional set work and its location within a corresponding area of study

Assessment

Practical examination of Component 1	50% of A level
Written examination of Component 2	50% of A level

Career Opportunities

The A level Dance course is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional, and intellectual capacity in addition to transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. It therefore prepares students with the skills and experience to prepare them for the demands of higher education or the workplace. Careers opportunities can include, but are not limited to: a Dancer, Teacher, Choreographer, Technician, Managers, Promoters, Producers, Publicists, Physiotherapists, Writers, Critics.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in a written subject
5 in Dance if studied at GCSE; If not, students need to be dancing regularly to a high standard

Design and Technology - Product Design
A level (AQA)

Course Content

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous, and practical subject. Specifications in design and technology encourage students to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes/products that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

Course Structure

At A level, students will undertake a substantial design, make and evaluate project that enables students to draw, as appropriate, on the knowledge and understanding of Year 12. The project will be of sufficient complexity and offer an appropriate degree of uncertainty of outcome to enable students to demonstrate their ability to initiate, sustain and manage the iterative processes of designing, making, testing, refining, improving, and evaluating, in response to a context of their choice and the needs and wants of a user or market.
Mathematical skills are embedded throughout the content of this course and assessed in the written papers where appropriate.

Assessment

Paper 1

- Written examination: 2 hours
- 100 marks
- 25% of A level

Paper 2

- Written examination: 2 hours
- 25% of A level

Non-examination assessment

- Substantial design and make task.
- 45 hours
- 100 marks
- 50% of A level

Career Opportunities

Theatre, interior design, graphics, product design, furniture design, architecture, engineering, art history, illustration, etc. Normally taken before continuing further education at Art College (for foundation courses) or going on to a degree at university.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject
5 in a creative subject, e.g. Design and Technology, Art and Design, Textiles, etc.

Drama and Theatre
A level (Edexcel)

Course Content

This course encompasses both theoretical and practical aspects of Drama and gives students a good balance between physical performance and academic written work. This course is firmly rooted in creativity, sensitivity, and the development of critical and communication skills. It is designed for students who want a deeper understanding of drama and are interested in studying plays, looking at the work of influential theatre practitioners, design, and technical elements, analysing live theatre performance and creating performance work of their own.

Course Structure

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre.
- Study of two set plays
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers
- Process of creating devised drama using one key extract and a practitioner as a stimulus
- Performance of devised drama using one key extract and a practitioner as a stimulus
- Practical exploration and interpretation of two extracts
- Performance of two extracts

Assessment

Component 1**:** DEVISING (40%)
Creation and performance or design realisation of an original piece of theatre, working as a member of a group. Submission of written coursework about the devising and performance/realisation of your production in the form of a portfolio.

Component 2**:** TEXT IN PERFORMANCE (20%)
Performance/design realisation of a monologue or duologue and a group performance/design realisation of an extract from a play you have studied on the course.

Component 3**:** THEATRE MAKERS IN PRACTICE (40%)
You will also be assessed on your understanding of drama and theatre in a written examination which is made up of three sections:
Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation
Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text
Section C: Interpreting a Performance Text

Career Opportunities

A level Drama and Theatre is a highly respected qualification which prepares you for direct entry to the industry and/or to follow further and higher education courses at Drama School or university.
Presentational skills and group work skills learnt are invaluable in most areas of employment.
Drama and Theatre offers subject content, which is distinct from that of the others, serving as complimentary to study in other arts subjects or as a contrasting discipline with study in other areas.
If you are willing to work hard, have fun and gain excellent results, then this is the course for you.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in English
5 in Drama if studied at GCSE

Economics
A level (AQA)

Course Content

This course focuses on the ever-changing world around us, exploring ideas from how items are priced to what has an impact on the exchange rate. Economics is a theoretical examination of topical issues, and students will be given the tools to analyse real world problems, such as the causes of the 'Credit crunch', as well as evaluating decision making strategies for rival businesses through the application of game theory.

Course Structure

Year 12 Units

The Operation of Markets and Market Failure
The National Economy in a Global Context

Year 13 Units

Individuals, Firms, Markets and Market Failure (includes work on the operation of markets and market failure)
The National and International Economy (includes work on The National Economy in a Global Context)

Assessment

Paper 1 – Markets and Market Failure - 2 hour written examination, 80 marks, testing 'Individuals, Firms, Markets and Market Failure'.
Paper 2 – National and International Economy - 2 hour written examination, 80 marks, testing 'The National and International Economy'.
Paper 3 – Economic Principles and Issues - 2 hour written examination, 80 marks, testing the whole content of the specification.

Each Paper is worth 33.3% of the A level.

Career Opportunities

Economics is a very highly regarded A level by universities because of its academic rigour and the development of skills involving the analysis and evaluation of current affairs. As a subject that lies in both the humanities and sciences, it is extremely flexible with its potential future applications. An Economics A level is very useful for careers in banking, finance, trading, government, and similar fields.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in Mathematics, 5 in two written subjects including Business if taken at GCSE

English Literature
A level (Edexcel)

Course Content

This syllabus covers four units. The first of these is Poetry, the modern component of which is studied in Year 12, with the pre-1914 element studied in Year 13. The texts are currently *Poems of the Decade*, a gripping and often grisly collection of modern verse, and a poetry movement (currently *The Romantics*) or a collection of poems by a pre-1914 poet (for some of next year's Year 13, John Donne). The second unit covers Prose, which explores different themes, such as **The Supernatural** or **Science and Society,** where science fiction masterpieces such as Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* are featured. This unit is mainly taught in Year 12 and revisited in Year 13. The third unit considers Drama, with Tennessee Williams' A *Streetcar Named Desire* currently being studied in Year 12, followed by a Shakespearean tragedy, such as *Othello* or *Antony and Cleopatra* in Year 13. Coursework at A level (Unit 4) compares two texts connected by author, theme, or period, and students can also have an input into a selection of books for this option. The syllabus is exciting and refreshing and should present an absorbing challenge to students embarking on it. The issues dealt with are powerful and shocking – prepare to be both horrified and moved by timeless tales of passionate love. All human life is here!

Course Structure

A level Units

Unit 1 - Drama [30% of A level]
Unit 2 - Prose Study [20% of A level]
Unit 3 - Poetry [30% of A level]
Unit 4 - Coursework [20% of A level]

Assessment

Unit 1 – 30% of A level marks, one written examination lasting 2 hours 15 minutes.
Unit 2 – 20% of A level marks, one written examination lasting 1 hour.
Unit 3 – 30% of A level marks, one written examination lasting 2 hours 15 minutes.
Unit 4 – 20% of A level marks, one essay of 2500 to 3000 words.

Career Opportunities

English Literature A level is a prestigious qualification to acquire and is regarded very favourably by Russell Group universities in comparison to English Language or English Language and Literature. Its acquisition reveals an ability to think deeply and critically and argue a good case. It is a springboard for many careers, such as law, journalism, politics, teaching, and the Civil Service. To study English opens many doors and closes very few.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

A minimum of a 6 and a 5 across English Language and English Literature

Film Studies
A level (Eduqas)

Course Content

Film is a powerful and culturally important medium that can take a number of different forms. Film Studies is aimed at developing students' understanding of how film works both as a medium of representation and as an art form. Students will be introduced to a broad variety of films from the past and the present, including British and American cinema, European and global cinema, short films, experimental films, silent cinema, and documentary. Students will study the different technical elements of film, the messages and values films can communicate, the contextual importance of cinema and the ideas surrounding different spectator responses. In this way, the course aims to both broaden and deepen students' appreciation of film and, in turn, of the world around them. Creative production work is also an important part of the qualification, where students produce their own screenplays, storyboards, or short films.

Course Structure

Component 1:
Varieties of Film and Filmmaking: written examination – 2 hours 30 minutes (35% of qualification)
This unit assesses knowledge and understanding of six feature length films from the history of Hollywood, British and American cinema.

Component 2:
Global Filmmaking Perspectives: written examination – 2 hours 30 minutes (35% of qualification)
This unit assesses knowledge and understanding of five feature length films (or their equivalent in short films). This includes documentaries, Global, Experimental, and silent era films.

Component 3:
Creative Production: non-examination assessment (30% of qualification)
This coursework unit assesses a creative production, either in the form of a short film (4-5 minutes) or a short screenplay (1600-1800 words) with a photographic storyboard. Alongside this is a written evaluation of the production (1600-1800 words).

Assessment

There are three assessment objectives, each weighted differently. Units of study have different requirements for assessment; these include the application of knowledge and understanding, close analysis, comparison, evaluation, and creative production. Each component has a different focus for example Film Form, Auteur Theory, Ideology and Spectatorship.

Career Opportunities

Film Studies offers a solid foundation for the technical and creative skills necessary to work successfully in the film industry and the wider media. Possible career paths include: Filmmaker, Screenwriter, Director, Producer, Cinematographer, Film/Video Editor, Animator, Photographer/Artist, Teacher, Journalist, Artistic Director, Media Reviewer/Critic, Media Professional.
Where required, students are given assistance in applying for courses, workshops, placements, and other networking opportunities. More broadly, the course nurtures knowledge and skills that are hugely valuable in higher education and the working world.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in two written subjects

French
A level (Edexcel)

Course Content

During this two-year course, you will study two authentic French language resources (a text and a film) and will study aspects of the contemporary societies, cultural backgrounds, and heritages of French speaking countries. You will also have opportunities to develop your understanding and awareness of spiritual, moral, ethical, environmental, health and political issues.
You will extend and develop your knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary of the French language and you will use this in the four skills of speaking, writing, reading, and listening.
In addition, you will also be able to equip yourself with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural, and cognitive flexibility that will enable you to proceed to further education or to employment.

Course Structure

A level Themes

Theme 1 – Social issues and trends: Evolving society in France

- Changing family structures
- Education
- The world of work

Theme 2 – Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture Francophone countries

- Music
- Media
- Festivals and traditions

Theme 3 – Social issues and trends: Immigration and the French multicultural society

- Integration and multiculturalism
- Rise of the far right

Theme 4 – Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture: The Occupation and Resistance

- Occupation
- The Resistance

Assessment

Unit 1 - Listening, reading and translation.
(40% of A level)
Unit 2 - Writing and translation.
(30% of A level)
Unit 3 – Speaking.
(30% of A level)

Career Opportunities

As it is spoken as a first language by many people across Europe and across the world, being able to communicate in French can enhance any career. Speaking French is also of great social value in business and tourism as well as being a requirement for many jobs in export/import, financial services, secretarial work, tourism and teaching. At university French can be taken as a joint- honours degree with many other subjects e.g. Law or History. In addition, there is a need for specialist interpreters and translators.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in English
6 in French

Further Mathematics
A level (AQA)

Course Content

Further Mathematics is offered to our most able Mathematicians. The course allows students to study in greater depth many of the areas covered by the A level Mathematics syllabus and is tailored to their requirements. There will be a wide combination of topic modules available to accommodate students' strengths in Pure Mathematics, Mechanics, Statistics and Discrete Mathematics.
This course can only be taken as a fourth subject, in addition to three main course choices including Mathematics. Students taking Further Mathematics must therefore have shown excellent commitment to their studies, as evidenced by their portfolio of GCSE results.

Course Structure

The linear course will allow students to study in greater depth a wider range of Pure Mathematics. They will also be able to choose two elements from Discrete Mathematics, Mechanics, or Statistics to pursue further. The Pure Mathematics topics will include; Proof, Complex Numbers, Matrices, Polar Coordinates, Further Calculus, Vectors and Hyperbolic Functions. There will be a wide array of topics to study in the Applied elements of the course.

Assessment

At the end of Year 13 there will be three two-hour papers for the students to complete. Papers 1 and 2 will cover the compulsory Pure elements of the syllabus. Paper 3 will assess the optional elements of Discrete, Statistics or Mechanics which the students will have studied over the two years.

Career Opportunities

This course is recommended for students who are considering studying Mathematics at university. Mathematics, Scientists, Medical, Engineering, Architecture, Sports Science, Computing – Animation and Game Designing.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

7 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject
An Average Point Score of 7 (best eight grades)

Geography
A level (Edexcel)

Course Content

This engaging and contemporary course offers an issues-based approach to studying Geography. Students explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues, such as the consequences of globalisation, responses to hazards, water insecurity and climate change.
Other topics include: coastal landscapes and change, energy security, regenerating places, superpowers and migration.
The content gives students the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of Physical and Human Geography, the complexity of people and environment, helping students become critical, reflective learners. The course also encourages students to make links between different geographical themes, ideas and concepts through synoptic themes which include; players, attitudes and actions, futures and uncertainties. Fieldwork is an important component of the course and students are guided to develop the skills needed to work independently on a geographical investigation.

Course Structure

There are 4 units that will be assessed:
Unit 1 – A Physical Geography unit.
Unit 2 – A Human Geography unit.
Unit 3 – A synoptic investigation based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes and content covered in unit 1 and 2.
Unit 4 – This unit is based around a geographical investigation that the students complete. They will carry out fieldwork as part of this process.

Assessment

Unit 1 - 30% of the A level
Unit 2 - 30% of the A level
Unit 3 - 20% of the A level
(Units 1, 2 and 3 include resource-linked questions, short response questions and extended writing questions.)
Unit 4 - Internally assessed and accounts for approximately 20% of the A level.

Career Opportunities

Almost too many to mention: Economist, travel industry, environment agency, hydrology, meteorology, development agency, oceanography, retail planning, town planning, business, cartography, and teaching to name but a few.
However, it is important to note that many universities and careers consider a Geographer's wide area of knowledge, huge variety of skills and ability to make logical decisions as invaluable.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject
5 in Geography

German
A level (Edexcel)

Course Content

During this two-year course, you will study two authentic German language resources (a text and a film) and will study aspects of the contemporary societies, cultural backgrounds, and heritages of German speaking countries. You will also have opportunities to develop your understanding and awareness of spiritual, moral, ethical, environmental, health and political issues.
You will extend and develop your knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary of German and will use this to speak, write, read, and listen to the language.
In addition, you will also be able to equip yourself with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural, and cognitive flexibility that will enable you to proceed to further education or to employment.

Course Structure

A level Themes

Theme 1 – Social issues and trends: Evolving society in Germany

- Natural living
- Education
- The world of work

Theme 2 – Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture in the German-speaking world

- Music
- Media
- Festivals and traditions

Theme 3 – Social issues and trends: Immigration and the German multicultural society

- Integration and multiculturalism
- Economic and social impact of migration

Theme 4 – Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture: German reunification

- Society in the GDR before reunification
- Germany since reunification

Assessment

Unit 1 - Listening, reading and translation.
(40% of A level)
Unit 2 - Writing and translation.
(30% of A level)
Unit 3 - Speaking
(30% of A level)

Career Opportunities

As it is spoken as a first language by more people than any other language across Europe, being able to communicate in German can enhance any career. Speaking German is also of great social value in business and tourism as well as being a requirement for many jobs in export/import, financial services, secretarial work, tourism, and teaching. In addition, there is a need for specialist interpreters and translators. German is also a key language for those interested in careers in science and engineering, so it complements STEM subjects well.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in English
6 in German

Government and Politics
A level (Edexcel)

Course Content

Students who choose to study Government and Politics A level will study aspects of British and Global Politics.
Politics exists because people disagree. They disagree about how they should live, about who should get what and who should make decisions. Politics is the process through which people with different ideas, values, opinions, and interests attempt to find a way of living together within the same society. This is what makes the subject so varied, stimulating, and fascinating.
This is the subject for you if you are interested in current affairs, love discussion and debate, and want to know who really runs our lives and how they do it. It is a lively and up-to-date subject which is great for developing a wide range of intellectual skills.

Course Structure

Component 1: UK Politics
Political participation (includes democracy, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media)
Core political ideas (conservatism, socialism, liberalism)

Component 2: UK Government
The constitution, Parliament, the Prime Minister, and the executive
Other political ideas: Ecologism

Component 3: Global Politics
The state of globalisation, Global Governance: political and economic, Global Governance: human rights and environmental, Power and Developments, Regionalism and the European Union, Comparative Theories

Most of components 1 and 2 will be covered in Year 12

Assessment

Each component is marked by a separate 2-hour examination paper.

Career Opportunities

Government and Politics is a useful subject for a wide range of careers including: the Civil Service, local and central government, journalism and the media, charities and lobby groups, the police, finance, and teaching, as well as many more. The wide range of knowledge and skills equips you well for the modern world and a whole range of university courses.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in two written subjects

History
A level (Edexcel)

Course Content

Students opting for A level History will need to complete four units over two years. Units 1 and 2 focus on Communism in the Twentieth Century. Unit 1 is a breadth paper which explores Communist Russia between 1917 and 1991 and Unit 2 is a depth study looking at China between 1949 and 1976.

Unit 3 is a breadth paper with some aspects in depth which looks at Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors (1485-1603). In Unit 4, students will complete an independently researched enquiry on historical interpretations. They will write a 3000 to 4000-word essay as part of this enquiry which is worth 20 per cent of the overall A level.

At the end of Year 13, students will complete three examinations.

Course Structure

Paper 1 - Option 1E: Russia, 1917–91: from Lenin to Yeltsin
Paper 2 - Option 2E.1: Mao's China, 1949–76
Paper 3 - Option 31: Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603
Paper 4 - An independently researched enquiry on historical interpretations

Assessment

Unit 1 - One 2 hour 15 minutes written paper
Unit 2 - One 1 hour 30 minutes written paper
Unit 3 - One 2 hour 15 minutes written paper
Unit 4 - Coursework 3000 to 4000-word assignment internally assessed, externally moderated.

Career Opportunities

History is a useful and often a necessary subject for a lot of careers including journalism, politics, law, accountancy, TV research, the police, conservation or environmental work, town planning, building restoration and tourism to name but a few.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in a written subject
5 in History

Mathematics
A level (AQA)

Course Content

The course covers a wide area of Pure Mathematics including Calculus, Trigonometry and Algebra and looks at applying these skills in Statistics and Mechanics. Pure Mathematics is assessed in the Core elements of the course and will be studied alongside the Applied units of Statistics and Mechanics. Students need to enjoy problem solving and must be prepared to work with thoroughness to arrive at solutions. A sound understanding of Algebra is essential.

Course Structure

The linear course will cover a wide range of Pure Mathematics topics. These will include proof, Algebra and functions, Coordinate geometry, Sequences and series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and logarithms, Differentiation, Integration and Numerical methods. The Applied modules will cover areas of Mechanics and Statistics. Topics will include Vectors, Kinematics, Newton's Laws of Motion, Probability, Statistical Distributions and Hypothesis Testing.

Assessment

At the end of Year 13 there will be three two-hour papers for the students to complete. Paper 1 will cover the Pure elements of the syllabus and Papers 2 and 3 will be a mix of Pure and Applied Mathematics.

Career Opportunities

A level Mathematics is always seen as a strong qualification and desirable for a career in most science and business areas. Accountancy, banking, engineering, medicine, and teaching are examples of the careers being pursued by some of our former students.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

7 in Mathematics

Media Studies
A level (Eduqas)

Course Content

Students explore the workings of the modern-day mass media and the theories and debates surrounding it. A large emphasis is placed on the analysis of media texts across the broadcast, print and online platforms. Students learn how to read the language of the media and apply the key ideas to specific media texts including radio and television programmes, magazines, newspapers, adverts, and online content. They will have the opportunity to use new media technologies to create a media production of their own, such as a music video, radio programme or specialist magazine.

Course Structure

In Year 12 students are introduced to the theoretical framework and study a series of set products to prepare them for the two examination papers sat at the end of Year 13. Coursework begins in the spring term after the examination board releases the Non-examination Assessment briefs. In Year 13 this work continues, developing the student's knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and exploring further set texts. The course encourages students to be critically autonomous and engage with the issues and debates related to the contemporary media landscape.

Assessment

The non-examination assessment (formerly known as coursework) represents 30% of the total qualification. These change yearly and are set by the examination board.
The written papers (70% of the total mark) mix short answer and long answer questions to test students' knowledge of media language, media representations, media audiences and media industries as well as their ability to analyse a series of set products. The course encourages students to be critically autonomous and engage with the issues and debates related to the contemporary media landscape.

Career Opportunities

An A level in Media Studies provides students with the academic and technical ability to work in a variety of media sectors or organisations that require media skills. This A level would benefit anyone planning a career in any aspect of film/TV/radio production; journalism; advertising and marketing; web design; market research; PR; as well as emerging opportunities in new digital media. Many students take up further studies in media related courses at colleges and universities. As these are popular and competitive career choices, we encourage students to develop their own CV and portfolio whilst in the Sixth Form in order to enhance their career prospects.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in two written subjects including Media Studies if taken at GCSE

Music
A level (Eduqas)

Course Content

The course extends the key skills in performing, composing, and appraising skills developed throughout Key Stage 3 and at GCSE level.

Course Structure

Performing (25% minimum - 35% maximum depending on your strengths as a musician)
Composing (25% minimum – 35% maximum depending on your strengths as a musician)
Listening and appraising 40%

You either major in performance or composition.

Assessment

Perform a selection of pieces as a recital, lasting between 10 – 12 minutes. ***Compose*** two pieces, (or three if you major in composition) one is in response to a brief and one is a free composition. The combined duration should be six minutes. ***Listen*** to extracts of the studied set works and respond to a set of structured questions in a final examination.
Areas of study include:

- Western Classical Tradition (compulsory)
- 20th Century music or 21st Century music (compulsory)
- One of the following styles - Rock/Pop, Music Theatre or Jazz

Career Opportunities

Music A level is practical, creative, and academic. As such, it is ideal for those who are practical and want to play and sing, creative for those who enjoy writing music or academic and wish to pursue careers as diverse as Law, Medicine, and linguistics. Equally, it is an essential preparation for young musicians who wish to pursue a career in performance or those who wish to seek a career in the Music business. It is accepted by all institutions - whether you wish to study Music Production at LiPA or PPE at Oxford. Speak to a member of the Department for more information.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in a written subject
5 in Music
Grade 4-5 on an instrument/voice; to have the capacity to achieve Grade 6 by March of Year 13
Where you do not have a GCSE Music qualification a good pass in Grade 5 theory will be considered alongside your performance skills.
All students must continue with individual vocal/instrumental lessons throughout their A level studies.

Philosophy and Ethics
A level (OCR)

Course Content

The Religious Studies Department provides an invaluable contribution to the study of Philosophy and Ethics. You will find a philosophical training extremely useful. It will help you become sharper, more articulate and more confident in your ability to reason. Students study three units over two years. This course is divided equally between Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Religious Thought. This final unit compliments those students studying Sociology or Psychology.

Course Structure

A level Units

At A level, the course is divided between the three units with a written assessment for each. In Ethics, students' study: euthanasia, the right to life, the right to a child, embryo research, business ethics, sex and relationships and justice, from the perspective of the ethical theories. Various ethical theories are studied including Utilitarianism and Kant. In Philosophy, students study the questions that are at the very heart of Philosophy, and we find out about the people who spent their lives trying to discover the answers. From the ancient Greek philosophers to modern philosophers of the 21st Century. Areas of study include religious experience e.g. do I know that the world around me is real or is it some sort of elaborate illusion, as in the film The Matrix. The Development of Religious Thought studies the challenges that Psychology, Sociology and Psychoanalysis may bring to religion. Building on the origins of 'thought' in the Philosophical and Ethical sections, this section looks at topics such as Secularism and Inclusivism within the themes of 'Insight', 'Foundations' and 'Living'.

Assessment

This course is examined by a written paper for each unit. Each examination will be 2 hours (worth 80 marks each).

Career Opportunities

Religious Studies A level is viewed with the same high academic standing as other A levels by universities and employers. Past students have used their qualification to go on to study Philosophy, Ethics, Law, Theology, Psychology, Sociology or History as a main degree or a joint honours degree. Previous students have gone on to careers in: Journalism, Teaching, Social Work, Law, Nursing, the Media, Banking, the Police, apprenticeships at the Home Office and other governmental departments and many more.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in a written subject
5 in Religious Studies

Physical Education (Sports)
A level (AQA)

Course Content

Applied anatomy and physiology, Skill acquisition, Sport and society, Exercise physiology, Biomechanical movement, Sport psychology, Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport. To facilitate the best possible practical grade students will be expected to be participating regularly in a sport activity which is listed in AQA's approved activity list for A level Physical Education. Students will also need to provide video evidence of their practical performance in a full context version of that activity. Expectations are that everyone works to their maximum capabilities both in a practical and theoretical capacity.

Course Structure

Paper 1-Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport
Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology
Section B: Skill acquisition
Section C: Sport and society
Paper 2- Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport
Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
Section B: Sports psychology
Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport
Non-Examination Assessment
Practical performance in one activity
Analysis and evaluation (coursework)

Assessment

Written Examinations
Paper 1: Written examination 2 hours, 105 marks is 35%
Paper 2: Written examination 2 hours, 105 marks is 35%

Non-examination assessment
Practical Performance in physical activity and sport, 45 marks (15%)
Coursework (Analysis and evaluation), 45 marks (15%)

Career Opportunities

A good grade in this subject will help you compete for any job or university place.
Specialist areas of work could include; teaching, coaching, physiotherapy, sports psychology, strength and conditioning, a variety of jobs in the leisure and recreation industry, sports journalism, occupational therapy and outdoor activities.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject
5 in Physical Education
If student has not taken GCSE PE: 5, 5 in Combined Science or 5 in separate Biology.
Students must participate in one competitive sport on a weekly basis outside of school. If a student did not study GCSE PE, then competitive footage must be provided of chosen sport for Head of PE to review before starting course.

Physics
A level (OCR)

Course Content

The course builds on the knowledge gained from GCSE. Topics such as electricity, forces, electromagnetic waves, space, and nuclear physics will all be familiar to the students. Topics are studied to a greater depth and there is a clear emphasis on skills, understanding and application of knowledge as opposed to simple recall. Students are challenged to look critically at possible models to explain observations. With an emphasis on practical work and problem solving, the course is modern and enjoyable with direct relevance to the world today. The study of Physics in medicine is always a popular part of the course.

Course Structure

A level Units

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

Assessment

There are three written papers (total 6 hours)
Paper 1 will assess modules 1, 2, 3 and 5.
Paper 2 will assess modules 1, 2, 4 and 6.
Paper 3 will assess all modules 1 - 6.
In addition, there is a non-examination assessment of practical skills, which though not counting towards the A level grade, will be reported separately.

Career Opportunities

The A level Physics course will prepare students to progress into further education, to follow courses in physics, engineering, one of the other sciences or related subjects, or to enter employment where a knowledge of physics would be useful.
It links particularly well with the other sciences, Mathematics, Geography, and foreign languages. Most doors can be opened with a Physics key!

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

6 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject
6,6 Combined Science or 6 in Separate Physics

Psychology
A level (AQA)

Course Content

Psychology is both an applied and academic field that scientifically studies the human mind and behaviour. Research in Psychology seeks to understand and explain thought, emotion, attitudes, and a wide variety of behaviours.

Students will follow the AQA Specification which has been designed to develop breath of knowledge, critical thinking skills and an appreciation of the relationship between the different aspects of Psychology. You will be expected to design, carry out and critically analyse your own research using experimental and non-experimental methods. This two-year course will challenge you to understand human behaviour from several different perspective and will help you to develop the critical analytical skills you will need for university and the world of work. It is a most enjoyable but challenging subject.

Course Structure

A level Units

Paper 1: **Introductory Topics in Psychology -** Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology

Paper 2: **Psychology in Context** – Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods

Paper 3: **Issues and Options in Psychological –** Issues and Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia and Addiction

Contextualised Research methods including practical research skills and mathematical skills will be assessed throughout all papers.

Assessment

Paper 1 Examination 2 hours
Paper 2 Examination 2 hours
Paper 3 Examination 2 hours

Career Opportunities

Include: research, education, Criminal Justice System, marketing, human resources, advertising, the media, law, health Care, social work, sports training/coaching, psychotherapy, counselling, childcare, the treatment of mental health disorders, performance enhancement, psychiatry, life coaching, ergonomics and many other areas affecting health and daily life.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in Mathematics, 5 in a written subject
5,5 in Combined Science or 5 in Separate Biology

Sociology
A level (OCR)

Course Content

Sociology is the study of how and why people behave as they do and the social influences that mould their actions and views. Whilst studying the course you will have an opportunity to investigate key issues such as: cultures and identities, the family, globalisation and crime and deviance. The subject is taught using a variety of methods that will encourage you to assess and challenge opinions and events. In all A level units, students are encouraged to show their understanding of the links between the nature of sociological thought, the methods of sociological enquiry and the core themes of power, social inequality, socialisation, culture and identity. Candidates are encouraged to think holistically, developing their thinking, academic and personal skills in a new and proactive way. Students are expected to develop skills of independent learning. Crucially, to be successful students need to have a very good standard of written English and be prepared to write essays and longer answer responses fluently. They will also need a real determination to succeed and be prepared to put in a considerable amount of effort!

Course Structure

A level Components

Components 01 and 02 are taught during Year 12.

- **Component 01 - Socialisation, culture, and identity.**
  - Introductory section of Identity.
  - Youth Culture.
- **Component 02 - Researching and understanding social inequalities.**
  - Social inequalities.
  - Research methods.

Debates are taught during Year 13 and explored through a detailed study of **crime and deviance**.

- **Component 03 – Debates in contemporary society, focusing on globalisation and the digital world.**

Assessment

Students will sit three examinations; each one is 2 hours in length. They have equal weighting at 33.3%.

Career Opportunities

Sociology develops your ability to understand the people and the world around you and will be useful to any occupation where an understanding of social issues and groups would be useful. The subject is very useful for those wishing to go into areas of law, social work, police, teacher, human resources or nursing to name just a few.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in two written subjects including Sociology if taken at GCSE

Spanish
A level (Edexcel)

Course Content

During this course, you will study one authentic Spanish language novel and one Spanish language film, alongside aspects of the contemporary societies, cultural backgrounds, and heritages of Spanish speaking countries. You will also have opportunities to develop your understanding and awareness of spiritual, moral, ethical, environmental, health and political issues.
You will extend and develop your knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary of Spanish and will use this to speak, write, read, and listen to the language.
In addition, you will also be able to equip yourself with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural, and cognitive flexibility that will enable you to proceed to further education or to employment.

Course Structure

A level Themes

- The evolution of Spanish society
- Political and artistic culture in Spain and Latin America
- Immigration and multicultural Spanish society
- Dictatorship of Franco and the Spanish transition to democracy

Assessment

Unit 1 - Listening, reading and translation.
(40% of A level)
Unit 2 - Writing and translation.
(30% of A level)
Unit 3 - Speaking
(30% of A level)

Career Opportunities

Spanish is the fourth most spoken language in the world with approximately 500 million speakers around the globe. Therefore, studying Spanish will not only broaden your communication skills and give you the opportunity to work in many different countries, but could also enhance a career in a wide range of professions including export/import, financial services, secretarial, tourism and teaching as well as translating and interpreting. Employers are often impressed by the academic achievement that an A level in Spanish represents, even if Spanish is not a prerequisite for the employment opportunity on offer.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

5 in English
6 in Spanish

DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM

VOCATIONAL LEVEL 3 COURSES

BTEC Business
Level 3 Extended Certificate (Pearson)

Course Content

This course is designed to examine in some detail the main functional areas within a business, providing you with knowledge and skills that will be applicable in most working contexts. Its examination and coursework-based method of assessment offers you the chance to control your own workload and learn timekeeping as well as prioritisation and workload management skills.

Course Structure

You will study four units of work, two in Year 12 and two in Year 13. These will cover a range of different areas of study within business. The units you take will be:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance
- Recruitment and Selection Process

Assessment

Exploring Business and Recruitment and Selection are internally assessed coursework.
Developing a Marketing Campaign is a piece of externally assessed controlled assessment.
Personal and Business Finance is an external examination.
Overall, 58% of the course is externally assessed with examinations, 42% is internally assessed using coursework.

Career Opportunities

This course sets you up nicely to progress directly into employment within a wide range of business roles, from marketing to administration, or from accounting to customer services. Alternatively, BTEC qualifications carry UCAS points equivalent to A levels and therefore you can use your BTEC to gain entry to a degree course of your choice. It is worth pointing out that the 'project' nature of the course may well be an even better preparation for the style of assessment at university than end of year examinations.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

General entry requirements including 4 in Mathematics and 4 in a written subject

AAQ BTEC National in Early Childhood Development
Level 3 Extended Certificate (Pearson)

Course Content

This is an Alternative Academic Qualification designed for students with an interest in Education and Early Years. It spans a variety of subject areas such as Psychology, Sociology, Biology and English. The course will develop a knowledge and understanding of children's development, the importance of play and learning in development, and health and safeguarding practices. It will also develop knowledge and understanding of how research findings influence legislation, policy and provisions for children. Finally, the course will allow for the development of critical thinking, secondary research and reflective practice skills.

Course Structure

Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A level)
Year 1
Unit 1 – Children's Development (exam)
Unit 3 – Play and Learning (coursework)
Year 2
Unit 2 – Keeping Children Safe (exam)
Unit 4 – Research and reflective practice in an Early Childhood Setting (coursework)

Optional practical experience working with children in an early years setting will also form part of this course.

Assessment

Two units will be completed in each year. Unit 1 is an external unit assessed by examination. Unit 3 is a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions. The internal units are assessed by a series of assignments that are set and marked by your teachers. The examination will require the recall of knowledge and application to the subject area. The coursework will require students to carry out independent study and research. Students will be expected to make reasoned judgments and present conclusions.

Career Opportunities

Paediatric Nurse, Teacher, Early Years Practitioner, Midwife, Children's Social Worker, Nursery Nurse, Child Minder, Child Psychologist, Educational Psychologist, Teaching Assistant.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

General entry requirements including 4 in a written subject

Food Science and Nutrition
Level 3 Diploma (Eduqas)

Course Content

The course consists of 3 units:

Unit 1 Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups (Mandatory). This includes detailed work on nutrients, their chemical structure, and functions in the body. It also requires complex practical skills to produce meals for specific target groups.

Unit 2 Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat (Mandatory). This involves the study of food safety, HACCP, and risk assessment. A training resource for specific contexts must be produced.

Unit 3 Experimenting to solve food production problems (Optional). This unit investigates food production and associated problems. It involves scientific experimental work and data assessment.

Unit 4 Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition (Optional). This unit investigates current issues affecting consumer food choices. A study on a chosen topic must be submitted.

Course Structure

Unit 1 and 2 (both Mandatory) are studied in Year 12. Unit 1 is tested by an examination in June of Year 12 and a practical examination based on a specific scenario e.g. a restaurant in a university town.
Unit 2 requires a portfolio of a staff food safety handbook for a food specific company, with risk assessment and HACCP checks for menu.
Unit 3 or 4 will be studied in Year 13.
Unit 3 requires experimental work, lab reports and solutions to a food production problem. Students are given 8 hours to complete this assessment.
In Unit 4, students have 14 hours to investigate a current food and nutrition issue of interest e.g. Is it easy to follow a vegetarian diet? Is it possible to have a balanced diet on a low budget? Does breakfast club in school help concentration levels?

Assessment

Unit 1 Examination of 90 minutes plus 15 minutes reading time in June of Year 12, along with a practical examination in December of Year 12.

Unit 2 An external assessment of the food safety topic to be completed by May 5th of Year 13.

Unit 3/4 An internally assessed project which must be submitted in March of Year 13.

Career Opportunities

Teaching, food technologist, food buyer, customer care/customer relations, food and beverage service/management, dietician, food science jobs, food product development, market research.

Entry Requirements

General entry requirements including 4 in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

AAQ BTEC National in Health and Social Care Level 3 Extended Certificate (Pearson)

Course Content

This course is designed for those who are interested in developing their knowledge of both human health development and the health and social care sector. The course spans a variety of subject areas such as Biology, Psychology, Sociology, all within a health, social care and early years context.
This course supports progression to Higher Education, further training or employment within the Health and Social Care sector. The qualification develops skills, knowledge and understanding within contexts that are directly relevant to health and social care settings.

Course Structure

Extended Certificate (equivalent to 1 A level)
Year 1
Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development (exam)
Unit 7 – Health Promotion (coursework)
Year 2
Unit 2 – Human Biology and Health (exam)
Unit 3 – Principles of Health and Social Care Practice (coursework)
This is a sample structure, and units may be swapped if necessary

Assessment

Two external units and two internal units will be completed over two years. The external units are assessed by examination. The internal units are assessed by a series of assignments that are set and marked by teachers. Examinations will require the recall of knowledge and application to the subject area. The coursework will require students to carry out independent study and research. Students will be expected to make reasoned judgments and present conclusions.

Career Opportunities

Nurse, Teacher, Midwife, Paramedic, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Dental Nurse, Psychologist, Social Worker, Nursery Nurse.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

General entry requirements including 4 in Science and 4 in a written subject

AAQ BTEC National in Information Technology Level 3 Extended Certificate (Pearson)

Course Content

The course is designed for students who are interested in the creation of IT systems to manage and share information with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. Students develop a core of IT knowledge and study areas such as the relationship between hardware and software that form an IT system, website design and development is undertaken in Year 12. In Year 13 the students learn about cybersecurity and handling incidents as well as learning how to create a database.
This content has been developed to give students the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Course Structure

This is a two-year course during which time students develop their knowledge and skills in IT systems; a systems management; social media in business and development of websites.
A typical structure may look like this:

Year 12 – Certificate
Unit 1 Information Technology Systems
Unit 3 Website Development

Year 13 – Extended Certificate
Unit 2 Cyber Security and Incident Management
Unit 4 Relational Database Development

Assessment

Assessment is a combination of assignments, controlled assessment, and external examinations.
4 units of which 4 are mandatory and 2 are external. Mandatory content (100%). External assessment (66.6%).

Career Opportunities

The course gives students a wide choice of progression routes into further study, training, or relevant employment in Information Technology. Students may move on to degrees, apprenticeships, or employment in areas such as Business Information Technology, Website Creation, Software Development, Systems Support, Cyber Security, Systems/Business Analysis.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

General entry requirements including 4 in Mathematics and 4 in a written subject

AAQ BTEC National in Medical Science Level 3 Extended Certificate (Pearson)

Course Content

The course enables students to study the principles and applications of medical science including human anatomy, physiology, infectious disease and reporting of health issues. The course will teach theory and provide practical experience throughout the two years. Skills such as critical thinking and independent learning help students to be better prepared for the self-directed learning approach used in higher education and become more open minded to learning. Research skills, in combination with the other transferable skills, create a strong foundation for academic success

Course Structure

The course consists of three mandatory units:

Unit 1 - Human Physiology, Anatomy and Pathology (90 GLH)

Unit 2 - Health Issues and Scientific Reporting (120 GLH)

Unit 3 - Practical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (90 GLH)

One further optional unit:

Chosen by Teachers TBA (60 GLH)

Assessment

Unit 1 – External examination (Year 12)

Unit 2 – External examination (Year 13)

Unit 3 – Internal Assessment (4 coursework Tasks in Year 12

Optional unit – Internal Assessment (Coursework Tasks in Year 13)

Career Opportunities

An AAQ in Medical Science provides students with a strong foundation for a variety of higher education and career pathways. It supports progression to university courses in medical science, biomedical science, nursing, physiotherapy, and other healthcare-related degrees. It also prepares students for apprenticeships or entry-level roles in laboratories, healthcare settings, and research institutions. The qualification develops practical, analytical, and scientific skills that are highly valued in both academic and professional medical environments

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

General entry requirements including 4,4 in Combined Science and 4 in a written subject

BTEC Travel and Tourism
Level 3 Extended Certificate (Pearson)

Course Content

Everyone taking this qualification will study three mandatory units, covering the following content areas:

- the travel and tourism industry – developing the skills needed to examine, interpret, and analyse a variety of statistics that measure the importance of tourism to the UK and global economy.
- investigate and analyse information regarding the features and appeal of global destinations, travel planning and the factors and trends affecting the changing popularity of global destinations.
- investigate the use of marketing in travel and tourism organisations and how to meet. customer expectations to inform a promotional campaign of their own design.

Course Structure

Year 12
Unit 1 - The World of Travel and Tourism
Unit 3 - Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism
Year 13
Unit 2 - Global Destinations
Unit 9 - Visitor Events or Unit 11 – Events, Conferences and Exhibitions

Assessment

One external examination and piece of coursework taken in Year 12. In Year 13 you will be set a controlled assessment and complete another piece of coursework. The examination will require the recall of application and knowledge of the subject area. The coursework will require students to carry out an investigation which will be analysed and evaluated. Students will have to make reasoned judgements and present conclusions.

Career Opportunities

In addition to the travel and tourism sector specific content, the requirements of the qualification will mean students develop transferable and higher order skills, which are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers. For example, when studying the World of Travel and Tourism unit, students will analyse information and data from the travel and tourism industry, identifying trends and the potential impact of different factors on the industry and its customers, which supports some of the skills students need to progress into Higher Education, employment, self-employment, or training.
It can give context to subjects that would benefit from some sector background and be taken as part of a diverse programme, leaving progression options fully open.

GCSE Grade Entry Requirements

General entry requirements including 4 in a written subject