

SIXTH FORM



FORT PITT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM
CURRICULUM
INFORMATION

A **Beyond** ACADEMY
SCHOOLS TRUST

Welcome

Choosing your subjects

Moving from GCSE to A level study will mean a major reduction in the number of subjects you will study. For some students this choice is easy but for others this can be more difficult.

Firstly, you should think about your future career and life aspirations. You may not have a definite plan yet, but you may know the 'field' of work that appeals to you most. This should guide your options in the first instance.

Secondly, you need to consider which subjects you enjoy the most. Research suggests that enjoyment plays a large part in success at A Level. It is better to study subjects that you enjoy which will enable you to be successful.

Thirdly, seek advice from teaching staff, support staff and the Sixth Form Leadership Team. It is also important that you discuss your choices with family and friends, this will ensure you have thought your options through thoroughly!

We are here to help you throughout your decision-making process. If you would like any additional support, please contact hware@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk or awarburton@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk.

Best wishes



Hannah Ware

Co-Heads of KS5



Aimee Warburton

Entry Requirements & Application

Entry Requirements

- Students will need to have achieved at least five 9 – 4 grades at GCSE, which must include at least a 4 in both English and Mathematics. We do not offer resit courses in the Sixth Form.
- You will also need to read the subject specific entry requirements for each course you wish to take at A Level.
- You will need to have shown that you have been committed to your school in relation to attendance and punctuality and evidence of commitment to learning e.g. involvement with school activities.
- If you are offered a place in our Sixth Form, it is an expectation that you will attend and fully participate in our Induction Programme.

Application Process for Internal Students

- Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 12th December 6-8pm.**
- A Level Taster Day takes place on **Friday 13th December**, allowing you to get a chance to experience taster sessions and to get a feel of Sixth form.
- You will then make your application by scanning the QR code or visiting our Sixth Form Open Evening information page on our website and submitting no later than **Friday 31st January 2025.**

Application process for External students

- Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 12th December 6-8pm.** You will have the opportunity to learn about courses with dedicated subject staff and the Sixth Form Team.
- Make your application by scanning the QR code or visiting our Sixth Form Open Evening information page on our website and submitting no later than **Friday 31st January 2025.**
- Once your application has been received, we will contact your school for confirmation of predicted grades and a reference.

Friday 31st January 2025 is the closing date for all applications.

Option Blocks

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Fine Art	Business	Biology	Biology
Chemistry	Drama	Chemistry	Computer Science
Criminology	Physics	Economics	Film
English Lit/Lang	Physical Education	English Lit	French
Graphics	Politics	Further Maths	Maths
History	Psychology	Geography	Philosophy, Religion & Ethics
Maths	Sociology	Music	Psychology
		Sociology	Spanish
		Textiles	

Subject List

Subject	Examination Board	Key Contact
Biology	OCR	Mrs Kayes
Business Studies	Edexcel	Mr Bloxham
Chemistry	OCR	Dr Vesey
Computer Science	OCR	Mr Pitman
Criminology	WJEC	Ms Hillman
Drama	Eduqas	Mrs Reeves
Economics	Edexcel	Mr Bloxham
English Language & Literature	Edexcel	Mrs Page
English Literature	Edexcel	Mrs Page
Extended Project Qualification	AQA	Mrs Doran
Film	Eduqas	Mrs Hayward
Fine Art	Edexcel	Mrs Bambling
French	AQA	Mr Dubois
Geography	Edexcel	Mrs Dimmick
Graphics	Edexcel	Mrs Bambling
History	AQA	Mr Morgan
Mathematics	Edexcel	Mr Woods
Further Mathematics	Edexcel	Mr Woods
Philosophy, Religion & Ethics	Edexcel	Ms Harvey
PE	AQA	Mrs Reeves
Physics	OCR	Miss Petch
Politics	Edexcel	Mr Morgan
Psychology	AQA	Ms Hillman
Sociology	AQA	Mrs Doran
Spanish	AQA	Mr Dubois
Textiles	Edexcel	Mrs Bambling

Biology

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have achieved a grade 7 in Separate Biology at GCSE, or a grade 7:7 in Combined Science (including a grade 7 for both Biology papers). Additionally, students will need a grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE. It is vital that the mathematics grade is achieved due to the extensive calculations and analysis that is required.

Why should I study Biology?

Biology involves the study of a wide range of exciting topics, ranging from Molecular Biology to the study of ecosystems and from microorganisms to Mammoths. Biology is never far from the headlines either. The human genome has been sequenced and we know the complete arrangement of the three thousand million bases that make up human DNA. In Kenya 350 people die every day from AIDS and in South East Asia the skies are dark with smoke as the last Bornean rainforests are burned to grow oil palms. Biologists are concerned with all these issues. They work in the fields of cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology... and the work they do is vital to us all. If you have an interest in the Biological world around you, and enjoyment of Biology at GCSE, then A Level Biology could be the choice for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A Level in Biology involves three examinations at the end of Year 13. Two papers are 2 hour and 15 minutes long and one paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. These cover the overarching themes of:

- Biological Processes
- Biological Diversity
- Unified Biology

There is no coursework element to the linear A Level. However, students will be required to complete 12 core practical's throughout the course that cover specific skills and techniques. These are given a pass/fail grade alongside the A Level grade achieved at the end of the course and often form part of a university offer to study biological degrees as an undergraduate. It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Biology at the end of Year 12.

How might this course complement others?

A Level Biology works well in combination with Chemistry, Maths and Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions, such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Optometry, Nursing, Zoology, Marine Biology or Forensic Science. Many students who study Biology at A level enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. Others go on to careers in Law, Computing, Accounting or Teaching.

Business Studies

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE.

Why should I study Business?

Business is a dynamic subject. You will learn about the diverse nature of business enterprise and the interdependence of the various parts of the business world. You will explore business success and business failure, investigate local, national and global business markets, and understand how businesses need to adapt and respond strategically to the changing environment in which they operate to survive and grow. This constant evolutionary process makes business a fascinating subject.

What will the course involve?

In Theme 1 and Theme 2 you will learn about how businesses work. You will be introduced to the marketing and people functions before investigating entrepreneurs and business start-ups. You will also explore how business finance and operations work and understand the impact of external influences.

Theme 3 and Theme 4 move from functions to strategy. You will explore influences on business strategy and decision-making and understand how businesses mitigate risk and uncertainty. You will also explore global business and the opportunities and issues facing businesses in today's global world

Assessment is through 3 x 2-hour examinations.

How might this course complement others?

A Level Business is complemented by studying English, Economics, Mathematics, Sociology, Politics, Philosophy or Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Through studying business, you will develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. You will become skilled in making decisions, solving problems, applying numerical skills (including understanding finance and working with data) and understanding the business environment. You will also develop commercial awareness.

Suitable higher education courses include business management, accountancy and finance, marketing, tourism management and international business. Business students can also progress to a wide range of careers, such as banking, sales, product management and general management, to working in public sector organisations or charities.

Chemistry

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have achieved a grade 7 in Separate Chemistry at GCSE OR grade 7:7 in Combined Science (with grade 7 in the Chemistry papers). Additionally, a grade 6 in Mathematics GCSE will be expected. It is vital that the mathematics grade is achieved due to the extensive calculations and analysis that is required.

Why should I study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of materials, what they are made of, how they interact and what role they play in living things. From the moment you are born and throughout your whole life you are surrounded by chemistry; in the air you breathe, the food you eat and the clothes you wear. From space research to the depths of the oceans, chemists are involved in collecting valuable information that helps us to have a better understanding of the world we live in. Chemists are working to solve the problems we face every day.

If you have an interest in and enjoyment of Chemistry, are up for a real challenge, and enjoy serious problem solving involving a subject at the fore front of modern technological advances, then A Level Chemistry could be the choice for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Chemistry involves three examinations at the end of Year 13. Two papers are 2 hours and 15 minutes long and one paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. These cover overarching themes of:

- Periodic table, elements and physical Chemistry
- Synthesis and analytical techniques
- Unified Chemistry

There is no coursework in the linear A level. However, practical competency is assessed through a number of core practical's which are then used to report overall proficiency of practical skills at the end of the course. The theory behind the practical techniques will be assessed in the written examination papers. It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Chemistry at the end of Year 12.

How might this course complement others?

A level Chemistry works well in combination with Biology and Physics as well as Maths, Further Maths and Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Chemistry is a preferred subject for the degree level study of more courses than any other subject. Chemistry is essential or highly recommended for the following careers: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Food science, Forensics and Biochemistry. In fact, there are chemists working in every field imaginable – from military logistics to accountancy in the city.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science and/or at least a grade 6 in GCSE Maths. A Grade 6 in either English Language or Literature will also be considered.

Why should I study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical subject where you can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems. It is an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, that can look at the natural world through a digital prism. OCR's Computer Science will value computational thinking, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence.

What will the course involve?

The aims of this course are to enable you to develop:

- an understanding of, and ability to apply, the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation.
- the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so.
- the capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- the capacity to see relationships between different aspects of computer science mathematical skills.
- the ability to articulate the individual (moral), social (ethical), legal and cultural opportunities and risks of digital technology.
- Opportunities to hear from external speakers from the CS industry, ex-students studying a degree course in Computer Science and trips primarily Disneyland Paris in term 3 of Year 12.

Assessment is through external examination (80%) and internal assessment (20%).

How might this course complement others?

Computer Science goes extremely well with Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Sociology, Psychology and many others.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

A Level Computer Science provides a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or employment.

Criminology

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have at least a grade 5 in GCSE English and a grade 5 in a GCSE humanities subject.

Why should I study Criminology?

This qualification looks at the types of crime that take place within our society. How do we decide which behaviour is criminal? How do we explain why some people commit crime and how can we use different theories of criminality to explain this behaviour? Criminology is an Applied General qualification primarily designed to support learners progressing to university; however, much of the course is vocationally relevant, offering opportunities to learn from practical activities and the expertise of professionals currently working in criminology. If you are fascinated by the workings of crime and punishment, this course could be for you!

What will the course involve?

During the first year you will study two Certificate units. Within these units you will look at different types of crime and public perceptions of crime, gaining an understanding of why some crimes go unreported to the police and media. The second Certificate unit, through its focus on a series of criminological theories, also allows learners to gain an understanding of why people commit crimes. During the second year of the course, the Diploma units will foster a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system and you will develop the skills needed to examine criminal cases and review verdicts. In the final unit, you will apply your knowledge of criminological theories to understand how and why we use punishment within the criminal justice system in order to achieve social control. There are 4 units, and each is worth 25% of the certificate.

How might this course complement others?

The study of Criminology will equip you with a wide range of transferable skills:

- the ability to complete project-based research, and to present it the ability to collect, analyse and interpret data effectively.
- the ability to construct well-informed and reasoned arguments substantiated by relevant evidence the ability to learn independently the ability to work alongside other colleagues in a professional environment.
- the ability to apply your learning in vocational contexts.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Criminology can open the door to an array of career paths that require understanding of the criminal justice sector. These may include careers in the police force or in police support roles, the field of forensic psychology, social and probation work or the prison service

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a minimum of a grade 6 in English Language or English Literature at GCSE, as well as a Grade 6 or above in Drama GCSE (if taken).

Why should I study Drama?

This is a very practical and creative course. You will take part in live performances, as well as studying through practical workshops a range of plays and theatre practitioners. You will have the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills in acting and devising, as well as the visual and technical side of theatre, and will experience live theatre performances from the perspective of both audience and performer.

What will the course involve?

The linear A-Level in Drama is made up of 3 components:

- **Component 1 – Theatre Workshop** - re-interpretation of a play extract (Performance and Creative Log)
- **Component 2 – Text in Action** – devised and scripted performances based on a stimulus (Performance and Process & Evaluation Report)
- **Component 3 – Text in Performance** – Study of 2 set texts, plus an extract from a third (Written Exam)

Assessment is by performance of both devised and scripted work, as well as supporting documentation and a written examination.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Drama. This is worth 40% of the A Level.

How might this course complement others?

Drama will be complemented by the study of any other creative subject, for example Art & Design, Music and Film Studies as well as English Literature, Sociology and Psychology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

This qualification supports progression into further education, either for specific vocational training in the Performing Arts, or through a more academic approach via a university degree in Drama and Theatre Arts. The self-confidence built through the course is invaluable when embarking on your selected career path, performing arts related or otherwise.

Economics

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in Mathematics and English Language GCSE.

Why should I study Economics?

Are you a curious person who wishes to learn more about issues like immigration, poverty and government failure? Are you open-minded and prepared to go beyond press headlines to learn the real story? Would you like to experience a whole new way of looking at the world and learn a new vocabulary to go alongside that evolving understanding? Then Economics could be the right choice for you.

You will learn how to use economic models to help you make sense of the very complicated world in which you live. You will study the government's involvement in the economy (Politics) and the way the economy has evolved over time (History). We also study human behaviour (Psychology and Sociology), spend time analysing data (Mathematics and Statistics), and take a global perspective on important issues such as poverty (Geography, GPR, Ethics and International Relations). Economics is complementary to many other courses and you will be actively encouraged to bring your own knowledge and experience to the lessons.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Economics involves the study of

- Markets and Business Behavior
- The National and Global economy
- Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

Assessment comprises of three, 2-hour long examinations.

How might this course complement others?

Economics is complemented by studying History, Geography, Sociology, Business, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology or Mathematics.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Most Economics student use this valuable A Level to access degree courses at Russell group universities or to secure competitive degree level apprenticeships in industry. Economics qualifications are highly sought after in the financial sector: - Stockbroking, Banking, Insurance, Accounting and Finance or other senior positions in the public sector such as civil service, education or the NH.

English Literature & Language

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature GCSE.

Exam Board

Students follow the course accredited by Edexcel.

Why should I study English Language and Literature?

The combined Language and Literature course is an exciting opportunity if you enjoy both analysing literary texts and are interested in producing your own examples of fiction and non-fiction writing. You will work collaboratively with others, having opportunities to be an independent, active learner, yet at the same time knowing that you are supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement.

You will take from this course the highly developed ability to express ideas fluently, appreciating your own and others' use of language.

What will the course involve?

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes. Open Book. 40% of the total qualification

Section A One comparative essay on an unseen text and one text from a pre-studied anthology

Section B Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire – one essay question based on an extract

Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes. Open Book. 40% of the total qualification

Section A: One essay question based on a chosen theme

Section B: A comparative essay on two texts

Possible themes are: Society and the Individual, Love and Loss, Encounters and Crossing Boundaries

Possible texts studied are: Great Expectations (Dickens), The Great Gatsby (Fitzgerald), The Bone People (Hulme), Othello (Shakespeare), Enduring Love (McEwan), Betrayal (Pinter), The Bloody Chamber (Carter), Wuthering Heights (Bronte), Dracula (Stoker), North (Heaney)

NEA (Coursework). 20% of the total of the qualification

Assignment 1: two pieces of original writing – one piece of fiction writing and one non-fiction

Assignment 2: one analytical commentary reflecting on the pieces of writing produced

Word count: 2500 – 3250 (to include both assignments)

Students will study existing literary texts before constructing their own – for example the theme of 'places' might involve students exploring texts such as 'Rebecca' by Daphne du Maurier and the travel writing of Bill Bryson.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Head of Department: Mrs A Page

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English Literature

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in English Literature at GCSE.

Exam Board

Students follow the course accredited by Edexcel.

Why should I study English Literature?

As someone who enjoys thinking, talking and writing about an exciting range of literary texts, drawn from different genres and literary traditions, this is the ideal course for you. You will work collaboratively with others, having the opportunity to be an independent, active learner, yet at the same time knowing that you are supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement. You will take from this course the highly developed ability to express ideas fluently, appreciating your own and others' use of language.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 Drama. Shakespeare plus 1 other text – exploring Comedy and Tragedy.

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes. Open Book. 30% of the total qualification.

Section A Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew incorporating ideas from wider critical reading.

Section B Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire.

Component 2 Prose. Two prose texts from a chosen theme.

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes. Open Book. 20% of the total qualification.

One comparative essay question on two texts.

Possible themes are Childhood, Science and Society, The Supernatural, Women and Society.

Possible texts studied are: Hard Times (Dickens), Atonement (McEwan), The Colour Purple (Walker), Frankenstein (Shelley), Never Let Me Go (Ishiguro), The Handmaid's Tale (Atwood), The Picture of Dorian Gray (Wilde), Dracula (Stoker), Wuthering Heights (Bronte), The Little Stranger (Waters).

Component 3 Poetry. Students will study a literary period or a named poet within a period.

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes. Open Book. 30% of the total of the qualification .

For Example: Medieval poetry or Chaucer, The Metaphysical poets or John Donne, The Romantics or Keats, The Victorians or Rossetti.

NEA (Coursework). 20% of the total of the qualification.

May be selected from poetry, drama, prose or literary non-fiction.

Word count 2500-3000.

There is a lot of choice here, so students are able to write about a text that they have chosen on a task that they want to write about. This gives students a chance to explore texts that they are passionate about.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Head of Department: Mrs A Page

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Extended Project Qualification - EPQ

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have at least five 9 – 5 grades at GCSE, including grade 5 in English and Maths

Why should I complete an Extended Project Qualification?

The Extended Project Qualification allows you to expand your learning beyond the boundaries of your curriculum study by completing a research project on a topic of your choosing. You might decide to research something you've always been interested in; create something you've always wanted to attempt or conduct your own investigation into something you're curious about. Through the EPQ taught element you will develop useful transferable skills that will make you a highly suitable candidate for Higher Education. The fact that it is student led means that the scope of your project is only limited by your own imagination and hard work.

What will the course involve?

There are 30 taught hours through which you will learn.

- Academic writing skills
- Project Management
- Time Management
- Analyzing Resources
- Note Taking
- Presentation Skills

And any other skills relevant to the project you choose to complete.

You will be assessed on either a 5000-word written essay/ report, or an artefact accompanied by a 1000-word written report.

This will be completed over the course of two years with the guidance of supervised tutorial sessions. You will also need to make a presentation of your project and submit a production log with it.

How might this course complement others?

The EPQ taught element will help you to develop transferable skills that will be required in many of your other subjects, in particular the time management skills should help you to cope with the pressures of Sixth Form.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities do not only acknowledge the EPQ, but many also actively encourage applicants to complete one, provide resources to help students complete it, and you may even get a more favourable university offer because of your EPQ. The EPQ allows you to gain a maximum of 28 UCAS points and you will learn important skills to help you through Sixth Form, Higher Education, and the rest of your working life. You will also gain specialist subject knowledge in the research area of your project that may even help you to decide on your future path.

Film Studies

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 5 in English Language or English Literature at GCSE.

Why should I study Film Studies?

Many consider film to be the main cultural innovation of the 20th century. You will study a range of influential mainstream and independent American and British films from the past and the present, as well as more recent global films, both non-English language and English language. A sense of the development of film from its early years to its still emerging digital future will also be gained, through the study of silent film and significant film movements, such as European avant-garde and new wave cinemas in Europe and Asia. Documentary, experimental and short films will also provide breadth to your learning experience. Furthermore, production work is a significant part of this course; you will have the opportunity to create high quality film and screenplay work.

This course will provide you with exciting opportunities to broaden your knowledge and understanding of film alongside your own passion and enthusiasm. You will work collaboratively and independently, whilst being fully supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement.

What will the course involve?

Component 1: American and British film (written examination) 35% of qualification

Three sections:

- **Hollywood 1930-1990** (comparative study) e.g. *Casablanca* and *Bonnie and Clyde*
- **American Film since 2005** (two-film study) e.g. *Captain Fantastic* and *Joker*
- **British film** (two-film study) e.g. *Trainspotting* and *Shaun of the Dead*

A total of six feature length films

Component 2: Global Film-Making Perspectives (written examination) 35% of qualification

Four sections:

- **Film movements – Silent Cinema:** Buster Keaton films
- **Documentary** e.g. *Amy*
- **Global film** (two-film study) e.g. *Pan's Labyrinth* & *City of God*
- **Film Movements – Experimental Film:** e.g. *Memento*

Component 3: NEA (non-exam assessment) 30% of qualification

One production and its evaluative analysis. You will produce:

- A short film (4-5 minutes)
- An evaluative analysis (1600-1800 words)

How might this course complement others?

This subject complements other essay-based subjects, such as English Literature and History, and creative subjects such as Art and Drama, and it is fully respected and valued by universities.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Studying Film at A Level will provide invaluable knowledge and experience prior to undertaking Film Studies at degree level. The ability to discuss, analyse and to present your interpretation in written and creative form is a useful life skill and complements many career paths.

Exam Board: Eduqas

Head of Department: Mrs R Hayward

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Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 in Art and Design at GCSE.

Why should I study Fine Art?

At Fort Pitt our Fine Art course provides a broad base of creative study which is planned carefully to embed understanding of the formal elements whilst developing skills in a wide range of materials and techniques. These include the obvious essential components of drawing and painting, as well as sculpture; photography; print making; mixed media and experimental work with combinations of these.

At all stages of the course there will be opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). An extensive range of extra-curricular activities will be arranged to enrich the classroom experience such as artists coming into school, trips to galleries and exhibitions and visual research expeditions.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final marks

During the first year, students will be set a series of projects, which consolidate their skills and knowledge. At the end of this year each individual identifies a focal area (in conjunction with their teacher) for an in-depth Personal Investigation for completion by the end of January in Y13. This project brings together previous learning and also provides a vehicle for students to really develop their interests in one specialist area.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment 40% of final marks

Students will be issued with a theme, with several suggested starting points set by Edexcel in February of their second year, from which they will be required to develop a portfolio of preparatory studies culminating in a timed test of 15 hours when they will be required to produce a final outcome under examination conditions.

How might this course complement others?

Fine Art students find their course can be partnered with a wide range of other subjects. It has problem solving elements in common with areas such as Mathematics; expressive and creative components which are also essential to the study of Media, Drama, Music and English, as well as cultural foundations which related to History and Religious Studies.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Those who chose to study any of the Art and Design subjects may seek a career in the creative and design industries, in areas as diverse as Architecture, Advertising, Medical Illustration, Restoration, Textiles and Fashion, Illustration and Graphic or Product Design. However, Art and Design as a vocation is not the only reason for its value. It is a student-centred subject which encourages breadth of thought, independence of approach and a critical mind-set. Those who are trained to be curious and to 'think outside of the box' are in great demand by employers in an increasingly competitive world.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in French at GCSE.

Why should I study French?

An A Level qualification in French will enable you to develop a wide range of skills to a high level and also increase your cultural awareness of the target language country. This subject will help you to stand out when applying for University courses and will give you a qualification which is not only highly regarded by employers but will also give you a skill for life. A Level language study is a varied discipline and whilst challenging at times is highly rewarding. If you have enjoyed the subject at GCSE then A Level French is an ideal course for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in French will involve:

The study of social issues and trends and political and artistic culture in France and other French speaking countries.

Development of four main language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing).

Translation – both from and into French.

Study of at least one film and at least one novel / play in French from the specification list of set films and set texts.

French A level is assessed through three examinations including a Speaking Test; Listening Reading and Writing paper and a Critical and Analytical Response in Writing paper.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in French.

How might this course complement others?

Languages combine well with a wide range of subjects and will equip you with skills for life. In addition to being an asset which could be useful in a range of work situations languages are always useful when travelling for pleasure.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities and employers value students with language qualifications. An A Level in a modern foreign language could give you a significant advantage when applying to University or in your chosen career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography. They will also need a level 6 in the sciences (6:6 accepted on combined science).

Why should I study Geography?

Geography can provide insights into understanding the world around us and of the issues it tackles. Statistics show that compared with other students, Geographers are the most employable. Geographers are taught a wide range of skills drawing in ideas from many sources. This ability to view issues from a wider perspective is appropriate for working in many different areas. The nature of peoples' working lives is changing. It is less likely that someone will spend all their life in one company or organisation. If your career path is to be varied, you will need to develop transferable skills and you will need to be flexible. Geography fosters these qualities and provides a firm base for life-long learning.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Geography involves the study of:

- Tectonic processes and Hazards
- Landscape systems, processes and change
- Globalisation
- Diverse places
- Superpowers
- Global development and connections- Migration, identity and sovereignty

Assessment is by three written examinations and an independent investigation.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Geography however it would require more independent study and is a standalone qualification (it does not count towards A-Level Geography)

How might this course complement others?

Geography goes well with Business Studies, Economics, Maths, Philosophy and Ethics, History and Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Almost any issue can be looked at from a geographic perspective: Marketing, Crime, Health, Conservation, Education, Politics, Tourism, Retail, Transport and Social Services. That is why a geography background can be relevant to employment. Spatial data systems, for example, have become a basic necessity for many organisations.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE Art and Design.

Why should I study Graphics?

At Fort Pitt our Graphics course provides a broad base of creative study which encompasses IT skills such as Photoshop and animation, as well as giving students the opportunity to develop their skills by working with a wide range of materials and techniques. These include the essential components of drawing and painting, as well as model making; photography; print making; mixed media and experimental work with combinations of these. All projects have a potential commercial application and students learn how to combine imagery with type which could be utilized in the world of business.

At all stages of the course there will be opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s). An extensive range of extra-curricular activities will be arranged to enrich the classroom experience such as artists coming into school, trips to galleries and exhibitions and visual research expeditions.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final marks

During the first year, students will be set a series of projects, which consolidate their skills and knowledge. At the end of this year, each individual identifies a focal area (in conjunction with their teacher) for an in-depth Personal Investigation for completion by the end of January in Y13. This project brings together previous learning and also provides a vehicle for students' to really develop their interests in one specialist area.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment 40% of final marks

Students will be issued with a theme, with several suggested starting points set by Edexcel in February of their second year, from which they will be required to develop a portfolio of preparatory studies culminating in a timed test of 15 hours when they will be required to produce a final outcome under examination conditions.

How might this course complement others?

Graphics students find their course can be partnered with a wide range of other subjects. It has problem solving elements in common with areas such as Mathematics, expressive and creative components which are also essential to the study of Media, Drama, Music and English, as well as cultural foundations which relate to History and Religious studies.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Those who chose to study any of the Art and Design subjects may seek a career in the creative and design industries, in areas as diverse as Architecture, Advertising, Medical Illustration, Restoration, Textiles and Fashion, Illustration and Graphic or Product design. However, Art and Design as a vocation is not the only reason for its value. It is a student-centred subject which encourages breadth of thought, independence of approach and a critical mind-set. Those who are trained to be curious and to 'think outside of the box' are in great demand by employers in an increasingly competitive world.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in History and English at GCSE.

Why should I study History?

History is a valuable subject in its own right. It encourages students to think critically, to read widely, to synthesise information and to question. In today's changing world, the way we look and analyse the past is more important than ever. History allows you to have a say in how events in the past should be interpreted and allows for that critical analysis which is so vital for understanding the modern world.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in History involves the study of two modules (depth and breadth) and a personal investigation. The two modules are externally assessed through examinations and involve the study of:

- The Tudors: England, 1495-1603 (Breadth study)

This involves the entire Tudor period, analysing huge changes in England in religion, foreign policy, government and the economy.

- Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918-1945 (Depth study)

The depth study involves a significant enquiry into why and how the Nazis rose to power after WW1. It looks into important policies and events during the Nazi reign and the ultimate fall and decline of fascism in Germany.

The coursework component (NEA) is assessed internally and moderated by the exam board. Students will be able to research Civil Rights Movement in America c.1865-1968 and create their own question as long as it does not cover an area already represented in the other two modules.

How might this course complement others?

History goes well with English Literature, Business Studies, Government and Politics, Economics, Philosophy and Ethics, Geography, Psychology and Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

A degree in history is useful in many careers as the skills it teaches are very desirable. It can lead to a career in the legal sector as a Solicitor or Barrister, Analytics, Politics, Publishing, Public Service, Journalism, the Media, Education, Tourism, and Management. It is regarded as one of the most versatile degrees and is a very highly regarded A level by Russell Group universities.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 7 in Mathematics at GCSE.

We strongly encourage students to utilise a graphical calculator or one that can access statistical tables and perform iterative processes as part of this course, which can be purchased at a discounted price via the school during term 2 of Year 12.

Why should I study Mathematics?

An A level in Mathematics opens the door to many higher education courses and careers, and students with a higher qualification in Mathematics can expect to earn more than students with a similar qualification in any other subject. However, the most important reason to study Mathematics is because you enjoy it – you love the challenges it provides and are willing to take risks even if it means you get the wrong answers!

The specification at A-Level relies heavily on you being able to think through problems and model situations with the key Mathematical concepts you learn. The Key to success is 'Practice, Practice, and even more Practice', so you should be keen to do lots of extra Maths outside of the classroom and be someone who is proactive in asking for help when you need it.

What will the course involve?

The A level will consist of 3 examinations, all 2 hours in length with 100 marks each.

Papers 1 + 2: Pure Mathematics – This accounts for 66% of the course and will include many higher GCSE topics but mainly building on the algebra content of GCSE.

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics – This accounts for the remaining 34% of the course. Section A Statistics (50 marks), Section B Mechanics (50 marks). These are the applied sections of Mathematics that are focused on. Statistics particularly links well to finance based courses. Mechanics will link with the Physics element of A-Level and beyond.

It is possible to take an AS in Mathematics. There are 2 papers. Paper 1, worth 100 marks is 2 hours and is the pure content for A level paper 1, but assessed at AS standard and Paper 2, worth 50 marks is 1 hour and has 2 sections, one on Statistics and one on Mechanics and these are equally weighted.

How might this course complement others?

Mathematics complements many other subjects. For example, the Statistics components supports Geography, Psychology, Business and Economics, and the Mechanics component complements Physics. In addition, Pure Mathematics ideas permeate all the Sciences.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Mathematics is one of the most respected and valued subjects by universities, as it opens a pathway to numerous courses. With Law, for example, it demonstrates an ability to problem solve, think logically, present argument coherently and have a good eye for detail and accuracy. Mathematics can also chart a route into careers such as Accounting, Business, Psychiatry, Engineering and Medicine.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 8 or above in Mathematics at GCSE. An additional GCSE qualification such as GCSE Further Mathematics or FSMQ is desirable but not essential. Due to the level of challenge in this subject you must pick both Mathematics, Further Mathematics as well as two other subjects which ensures a breadth of subjects being studied.

We strongly encourage students to utilise a graphical calculator or one that can access statistical tables and perform iterative processes as part of this course, which can be purchased at a discounted price via the school during term 2 of Year 12.

Why should I study Mathematics?

Further Mathematics offers students with an aptitude in Mathematics the chance to study for a second A level in the subject. This is a challenging and fascinating course which gives the students the opportunity to take a thorough and in-depth look at mathematical modelling and problem solving.

You will need a real passion for the subject and be prepared to broaden your experience by researching various laws and techniques that you come across in the classroom.

You will need to be an outstanding Mathematician in order to fully access this course.

What will the course involve?

The A level will consist of 4 examinations, all 1.5 hours in length with 75 marks each. There is a 50:50 split in compulsory and optional elements.

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 – Based on AS fixed core content assessed at A level standard.

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 – remaining fixed core content.

Paper 3: Option 1 - Decision Maths, including Algorithms, Graph Theory and Linear Programming.

Paper 4: Option 2 - Mechanics - this will deepen the content of Mechanics in the A level Mathematics course.

Papers 3 and 4 are subject to change, but these are the current modules offered.

It is possible to take an AS in Further Mathematics. There are 2 papers, both 1½ hours long and with 75 marks each. Paper 1 is AS fixed core content, assessed at AS standard and paper 2 is Mechanics and Decision Maths.

How might this course complement others?

This subject complements Psychology, Geography, Business Studies, Economics and the Sciences.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Further Mathematics is a suitable course for a student considering studying Mathematics at University, in particular for those thinking of Oxbridge entrance or Russell Group Universities. Support will also be available for those students taking STEP and MAT papers for entry to some of the most prestigious Universities.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 7 or above in Music at GCSE.

You should be of Grade 5 standard or higher on an instrument or voice and be a confident performer. You also need to be musically literate; it is essential that students are fluent in treble and bass clef notation and have a good knowledge of music theory. You may be asked to audition for a place on the course.

Why should I study Music?

If you have a passion for Music, then why not study it at A level?

Studying Music can give you a great mix of social, technical and business skills. Music students often have the edge over others on teamwork, good communication and self-management. Music can be thought of as part Art and part Science, which means it will help you build your problem solving, research, planning, analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as develop your creativity, not to mention discipline, composure under pressure, time management and independent working ability.

What will the course involve?

The linear course develops and assesses skills of performing, composing, listening and score analysis.

You will give a performance to a visiting examiner, playing for 10-12 minutes.

You will compose two or three compositions: one (or two) to a brief set by the exam board and one free composition.

You can choose to weight performance or composition more highly to suit your own skill set.

The Appraising unit involves listening and analysing the development of the Symphony from 1750-1900, key classical works of the Twentieth Century and Musical Theatre Songs. The examination paper requires you to write short prose and longer essays on the music you have studied, in addition to completing aural analysis.

How might this course complement others?

Music goes well with Languages, Sciences, English, Drama and Theatre Studies, and Mathematics.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

A level Music can lead to further study at university or a conservatoire, to careers in performance and areas connected with live and recorded performance, Arts Administration, Teaching, Journalism and Music Therapy. The discipline and commitment that musicians show are traits highly valued by employers, even if your career is not based in Music.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in Religious Studies. If they have not taken Religious Studies previously, they will need a grade 6 or above in at least one of English Literature or History. It is also vital to have a keen interest in the subject as a whole.

Why should I study Philosophy, Religion and Ethics?

Studying Philosophy, Religion and Ethics provides an exciting opportunity to consider the big questions in life such as why we are here, matters of right and wrong and issues surrounding belief. Philosophy, Religion and Ethics teaches students how to think critically, challenge assumptions and construct arguments. It also helps them to develop a broad understanding of the beliefs that influence societies and individuals.

What will the course involve?

This subject provides you with the opportunity to ask questions such as:

- “Do you need to be religious to be good?”
- “Does God exist?”
- “What influences our attitudes to gender and sex?”
- “Do religious views have continuing relevance for medical ethics?”
- Can war ever be right?

You will learn from a combination of whole class discussion and individual study where you can reflect upon your own opinions and those of others. This A Level involves three examinations at the end of Year 13 which are 2 hours long and on the following themes: (1) Philosophy of Religion; (2) Ethics; and (3) the Study of Religion. There is no coursework element, and no AS course is offered.

How might this course complement others?

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics complements most subjects but goes particularly well with Psychology, Sociology, English and History. It is also a good subject to study if your other choices have a more mathematical or scientific focus (both Maths and Science were considered forms of Philosophy until relatively recent history and the medical ethics aspects of the course are considered particularly complementary for those studying medicine).

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics is highly regarded by universities and employers and equips students well for a broad range of careers including in Law, Government, Civil Service, Social Work, the Police, Teaching, Medicine and Broadcasting. Students often subsequently go on to study ‘Religious Studies’, ‘Philosophy’, ‘Religion and Ethics’ or ‘Liberal Arts’ at university. Philosophy is also a popular choice as part of a joint honours degree, for example, ‘Philosophy, Politics and Economics’ (‘PPE’) or ‘Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics’ (‘PPL’).

Entry Requirements

Students will need a grade 6 or above in PE and are required to have studied PE at GCSE level.

Why should I study Physical Education?

A Level Physical Education allows those with a keen interest and flair for sport to develop their theoretical understanding of the world of sport and physical activity.

What will the course involve?

The course is multidisciplinary and includes:

- Scientific components (Anatomy and Physiology, Biomechanics and Exercise Physiology)
- Psychological components (Skill Acquisition and Sport Psychology)
- Sociological components (Sport and society and any comparative issues in sport)
- The student's practical ability is assessed in one area of physical activity and coursework takes the form of a formal observation on the Evaluation and Appreciation of a practical performance.

The A Level is assessed through two examinations, one written/verbal analysis of performance and a practical performance.

Paper 1 - Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35 % of A-level)

- 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 (Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks, 35 % of A-level)

- Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics
- Section B: Sport psychology
- Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

Non-Examined Assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport: (Internal assessment, external moderation, 90 marks, 30 % of A-level.)

- Students assessed as a performer in the full sided version of one activity.
- Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance.

How might this course complement others?

A Level PE works well in conjunction with Biology, Psychology, and Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

The Leisure and Sport industry is still one of the fastest growing industries. There are a wide variety of related university courses and careers, for example: Sport Psychology, Physiotherapy, Sports Therapy, Sports Journalism, Sports Marketing, Sports Medicine, Sports Management, Sports Science, Coaching and Teaching to name a few.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have achieved a grade 7 in Separate Physics at GCSE OR a grade 7:7 in Combined Science (including a grade 7 for both Physics papers). Additionally, students will be required to have achieved a grade 6 for Maths GCSE. It is vital that the mathematics grade is achieved due to the extensive calculations and mathematical analysis that is required.

Why should I study Physics?

Physics underpins how everything in the universe works – from the smallest subatomic particles to the stars and galaxies in space, Physics can open the door to understanding almost everything. In Year 12 we revisit topics such as forces, motion, energy, electric circuits and waves and take them further, exploring the relationships from the equations you've encountered before to explain why things work the way they do and to explain the historic scientific discoveries behind them. In Year 13 we then build on this even further, looking back to Newtonian and classical Physics to discover the worlds of thermal Physics, circular motion and oscillations, as well as electric, magnetic and gravitational fields. We then look at more recent significant discoveries, and current key fields of work, including astronomy and cosmology, as well as quantum physics, particle and nuclear physics and their applications in medical physics.

Physics is for those with an inquisitive mind – those students who want to know why. If you're a curious person who likes a challenge and wants to develop your problem-solving skills, Physics is for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A Level in Physics involves three examinations at the end of Year 13. Two papers are 2 hours and 15 minutes long and one paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. These cover overarching themes of:

- Modelling Physics including Forces and Motion and Newtonian World and Astrophysics
- Exploring Physics including Electrons, Waves and Photons and Particle and Medical Physics
- Unified Physics assess content from all models

There is no coursework element to the linear A level however students will be required to complete a number of practical's throughout the course which Physics specific skills and techniques.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Physics at the end of Year 12.

How might this course complement others?

A level Physics works well in combination with Biology and Chemistry as well as Maths and Further Maths.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Physics teaches you many transferrable skills that can be taken into future studies and the workplace. The OCR A level Physics emphasis throughout the course is on developing knowledge, competence and confidence in practical skills and problem solving. This is essential for any STEM degree or career

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE English Literature or Language.

Why should I study Government and Politics?

Politics has a significant impact on our everyday lives. There has never been a better time to further your understanding of the subject because of events happening in the country and world now. From the war in Ukraine, Brexit or the political infighting in the UK, all major events are analysed and debated in full allowing you to form an opinion and critically analyse current events as they happen.

You will take from this course the ability to consider a variety of complex arguments, and an in-depth knowledge of the UK and Global political systems.

What will the course involve?

Component 1: UK Politics

Political Participation: This covers democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media

Core Political Ideas: This covers Conservatism, Liberalism and Socialism

Written Paper: 2 hours – three essays to be written

Component 2: UK Government

UK Government: This covers the Constitution, Prime Minister and Executive, Parliament, relationships internal and external.

Political ideas: Nationalism

Written Paper: 2 hours - three essays to be written

Component 3: Comparative Politics

Global Politics

The State and Globalisation, Political and economic institutions, Human rights and environmental institutions, Power and development, Regionalism and the EU and comparative theories of Realism and Liberalism.

Written Paper: 2 hours - two short answer questions and two essays to be written

How might this course complement others?

Government and Politics would be an ideal accompaniment to a study of History, English, Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Economics and Business Studies courses.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Students can go on to study the subject at most leading universities or take up employment. Politics can be a useful choice for a wide range of careers as students develop a variety of transferable skills as they study the different political ideas and systems. The subject develops proficiency in written communication, analysis and evaluation; these skills are in great demand, and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as being of great value.

Entry Requirements

Students will need a grade 6 or above in GCSE English, GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Science.

Why should I study Psychology?

Simply put, Psychology is the study of people, behaviour and the mind. It has recently been reclassified as a Science subject, and this is reflected in the A level curriculum.

It is a broad subject, with many different areas and a number of different approaches towards explaining behaviour. Not all psychologists agree with one another!

Psychologists observe human behaviour, create theories to explain the behaviour, and then carry out research to test these theories.

Psychology is a challenging subject, requiring commitment and hard work. Ultimately though, the hard work is rewarded with a deeper understanding of people and society, and perhaps even yourself!

What will the course involve?

An A Level in Psychology will involve:

- The study of topics such as attachment, memory, psychopathology and social influence.
- Exploring psychology in context such as different approaches, Biopsychology and research methods
- Investigating issues and options such as cognitive development, schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology

Assessment is through three examinations

How might this course complement others?

A Level Psychology goes well with Maths, Sciences (especially Biology), Sociology and English Literature.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Psychology is a well-respected subject at A Level and many courses at universities will view your A level very positively. Discussion, negotiation, evaluation, creativity, understanding, tolerance and information technology are all essential skills involved in ANY career you choose in the future.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language.

Why should I study Sociology?

Sociology is a brilliant subject to study. It is exciting, challenging and enjoyable. If you are interested in people, or working with people later on, then you *must* consider studying sociology. Studying sociology requires you to see people in an entirely different way. Through studying sociology many of your preconceptions about the people around you will be turned upside down. Sociologists take a critical view of the world in which we live and often come up with ways of doing things better. They analyse human behaviour and look at the forces and influences that shape our lives. As sociologists we will study Crime and Deviance, the Media, Social Class, Gender, Ethnicity, Youth Subcultures and Education. We will also study research methods and put some of these into practice. By the end of the course, you will understand the society in which we live, and the reasons why people behave the way in which they do, much better. Sociology offers exciting teaching, plenty of opportunities for discussion and lots of challenging ideas. We have a history of good examination results, and we are ambitious for our students. You will be pushed to reach your full potential.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Sociology involves the sociological study of

- Education and Methods in Context
- Culture and Identity
- Crime and Deviance
- Mass Media
- Theory and Methods

Assessment is by examination

- Paper 1 – Education with Theory and Methods
- Paper 2 – Culture and Identity and The Media
- Paper 3 – Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods

How might this course complement others?

Sociology goes extremely well with English, History, Geography, Economics, Business Studies, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology and many others. It also goes well with the Sciences, particularly Biology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Sociology is welcomed by all good universities for a fantastic range of courses, from Medicine and Law to Personnel Management, Journalism and Anthropology. In recent years our A level Sociologists have gone on to study at most leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Many leading professions such as Law require a grounding in Sociology.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish.

Why should I study Spanish?

An A Level qualification in Spanish will enable you to develop a wide range of skills and increase your cultural awareness of the target language country as well as developing your language skills to a high level. It will help you to stand out when applying for University courses and will give you an A Level which is not only highly regarded by employers but will also give you a skill for life. A Level language study is a varied discipline and whilst challenging at times, is highly rewarding. If you have enjoyed the subject at GCSE then A Level Spanish is an ideal course for you.

What will the course involve?

An A Level qualification in Spanish will enable you to develop a wide range of skills to a high level and also increase your cultural awareness of the target language country. This subject will help you to stand out when applying for University courses and will give you a qualification which is not only highly regarded by employers but will also give you a skill for life. A Level language study is a varied discipline and whilst challenging at times is highly rewarding. If you have enjoyed the subject at GCSE then A Level Spanish is an ideal course for you.

What will the course involve?

The linear A level in Spanish will involve:

- The study of social issues and trends and political and artistic culture in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries.
- Development of four main language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing).
- Translation – both from and into Spanish.
- Study of at least one film and at least one novel / play in French from the specification list of set films and set texts.
- Spanish A level is assessed through three examinations including a Speaking Test; Listening Reading and Writing paper and a Critical and Analytical Response in Writing paper.

It is possible to take an AS Level examination in Spanish.

How might this course complement others?

Languages combine well with a wide range of subjects and although a challenge will equip you with skills for life. In addition to being an asset which could be useful in a range of work situations languages are always useful when travelling for pleasure.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

Universities and employers value students with language qualifications. An A Level in a modern foreign language could give you a significant advantage when applying to University or in your chosen career.

Entry Requirements

Students will need to have a grade 6 or above in an Art and Design at GCSE.

Why should I study Textiles?

Studying Textiles gives students the opportunity to develop a basis of core textiles techniques through the exploration of hand and machine sewing, embroidery, embellishment and garment design. They are encouraged to develop proficiency with specialist processes like knitting, printing, weaving and the dyeing of fabrics, and to experiment with different types of fabric technologies to resolve creative problems. Students develop their own ideas through research of Fashion Designers and textiles artists to produce outcomes that range from finished garments to 3D textile installations. They learn about fashion design by studying and deconstructing every-day garments to produce original pieces. Although drawing is an essential part of any art-based course, textiles students also rely on photography to record their ideas and produce their own fashion photo-shoots to exhibit their work. The department has excellent links with the University of the Creative Arts which provides a range of opportunities to expose students to the wider industry. An extensive range of extra-curricular activities will be arranged to enrich the classroom experience, such as the Knit and Stitch Show.

What will the course involve?

Component 1 - Personal Investigation 60% of final marks

During the first year, students will be set a series of projects which will enable them to develop their skills and knowledge in their chosen specialist area. At the end of this year each individual identifies a focal area (in conjunction with their teacher) for an in-depth Personal Investigation for completion by the end of January in their second year. This project brings together previous learning, provides a vehicle for students to really develop their interests in one specialist area and also includes a written component of up to 3,000 words of critical analysis. Students will also complete a 12-hour examination at the end of their first year which is set and assessed internally.

Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment 40% of final marks

Students will be issued an examination paper by the examining board, Edexcel, in February of their second year. This will contain a theme and suggested starting points that form the basis of a body of work which culminates in a 12-hour examination, completed over two days at the end of the second year.

How might this course complement others?

Textiles A Level brings together creative and conceptual skills that work well with other subjects such as Drama, Film Studies, Media Studies or English Literature. Students are encouraged to explore advanced concepts with their practical work and their analyses of the work of others, which can complement subjects like History, Politics, Philosophy or Sociology.

How will this subject be useful in the future?

The creative industries are some of the most successful in the British economy, contributing over £84 billion each year and employing over 2 million people. Our department boasts excellent links with higher and further education institutions, providing an excellent platform for students to access a range of different careers.