

MGGS SIXTH FORM



Sixth Form at MGGS

Shaping Scholars ~ Developing Leaders ~ Securing Futures



Curriculum Information for 2026 Entry

A forward-thinking community with a tradition of excellence

Welcome to the Sixth Form at MGGS

Shaping Scholars ~ Developing Leaders ~ Securing Futures

What Makes MGGS Different?

- Expert teachers, every subject, every lesson
- Enrichment that develops confidence, leadership, and real-world skills
- Tailored support to help you reach top universities and competitive careers.

We are delighted to welcome you to our School. Graded 'Outstanding' in all areas in our most recent Ofsted inspection, we are proud of both the academic success of our students and the strong, supportive Sixth Form community that helps every individual achieve their full potential.

MGGS is a forward-thinking school with a long-standing reputation for excellence. We value academic rigour, and as an Advanced Thinking School we develop the resilient mindset and higher-level thinking needed for Sixth Form study and beyond. **With expert teachers in every subject, every lesson, students are fully supported in the demands of linear A levels.** As a Google 'Leading Light' school, learning is enhanced through effective digital tools used confidently by both staff and students.

Our students frequently speak about the sense of community that defines the Sixth Form, living out our school motto, *non sibi sed omnibus* – 'not for oneself but for all'. Alongside academic study, we offer **enrichment that builds confidence, leadership, and real-world skills** through our Sixth Form Extra programme, student leadership opportunities, work experience, trips and extracurricular activities. Pastoral care is a strength of MGGS, with excellent transition support, tailored mentoring, and guidance that enables students to thrive personally as well as academically.

With tailored support to help you reach top universities and competitive careers, we aim for every student to leave MGGS healthy, happy, and ready for their future.

This booklet outlines the Sixth Form pathways available from September 2026, including additional qualifications such as the Extended Project Qualification, Core Maths and English Speaking Board.

We hope you will choose to join the next generation of MGGS Sixth Form students. We look forward to working with you.



Miss Deborah Stanley
Headteacher

Mr Chris Green
Assistant Headteacher - Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Form Entry Requirements for September 2026

General Sixth Form Entry Requirements:

Admission to the Sixth Form will be as a result of applicants achieving:

- At least a grade 5 in either English Language or English Literature
- At least a grade 5 in Mathematics
- At least 6 GCSE subjects of grades 9-5
- The specific entry requirements for each of their chosen subjects. Please note that we adhere to our subject entry criteria strictly, and therefore, students who meet the minimum entry criteria but are not eligible for their chosen subjects will be offered an alternative programme of study.
- Students wishing to undertake 4 subjects must achieve 8 or more grades 9-7, including the above criteria for general Sixth Form entry requirements.

Subject	Subject Entry Requirements (GCSE full courses)
Art (Art, Craft and Design):	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art or Art Graphics. For students who do not have a GCSE in Art and Design, a Grade 7 in GCSE Design Technology.
Art (Graphic Communication):	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art or Art Graphics. For students who do not have a GCSE in Art and Design, a Grade 7 in GCSE Design Technology.
Biology:	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biology or 6-6 or above in GCSE Combined Science. Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics is also required.
Business:	General Sixth Form entry requirements.
Chemistry:	Grade 7 or above in GCSE Chemistry or 7-7 or above in GCSE Combined Science. Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics is also required.
Computer Science:	Grade 7 or above in GCSE Computer Science or a Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics.
Dance:	General Sixth Form entry requirements. However, students may have some difficulty if they do not have previous dance experience.
Design and Technology Product Design:	General Sixth Form entry requirements. However, students may have difficulty if they did not achieve Grade 6 or above in a GCSE Design and Technology Subject.
Design and Technology Fashion and Textiles:	General Sixth Form entry requirements. However, students may have difficulty if they did not achieve Grade 6 or above in any GCSE Design and Technology/Art and Design Textiles subject.
Drama and Theatre:	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Drama and Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature. If GCSE Drama has not been taken, students must have relevant performance experience (this could include qualifications e.g. BTEC Performing Arts, LAMDA Speech and Drama Awards, regular commitment and participation in school shows etc.) and a passion for live theatre.
Economics:	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

English Language and Literature:	Grade 6 or above in both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.
English Literature:	Grade 6 or above in both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.
Geography:	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography If GCSE Geography has not been taken, a Grade 6 or above in GCSE History or GCSE Religious Studies is required.
History:	Grade 6 or above in GCSE History. If GCSE History has not been taken, a 6 or above in GCSE Classical Civilisation or GCSE Ancient History will be accepted. In addition to the above, a Grade 6 or above in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.
Mathematics and Further Mathematics:	Mathematics: Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics. All students will sit an induction test based on the Induction Booklet available in the summer. The pass mark is 75% and failure to achieve the pass mark will be likely to lead to students being asked to reconsider their A Level option choices. Further Mathematics: Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics.
Media Studies:	General Sixth Form entry requirements. However, students may have some difficulty if they did not achieve Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.
MFL: French , German and Spanish	French: Grade 7 or above in GCSE French. German: Grade 7 or above in GCSE German. Spanish: Grade 7 or above in GCSE Spanish.
Music:	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Music. If GCSE Music has not been taken, a student may be considered if they can present evidence of composition work and recent performances. Students should be performing at Grade 5 level (ABRSM, Trinity or Rock School etc.) and aiming to perform Grade 6 or 7 repertoire by their final recital.
Philosophy:	GCSE Grade 6 or above in GCSE Religious Studies full course and Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or English Literature. If Religious Studies was not studied, a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Geography or GCSE History is required, alongside a Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.
Physical Education:	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Physical Education. If GCSE Physical Education has not been taken a student may be considered with Grade 6 or above in Biology or 6-6 in combined Science. with evidence of competing to county standard in one sport.
Physics:	Grade 7 or above in GCSE Physics or 7-7 or above in GCSE Combined Science. Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics is also required.
Politics:	Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature plus a Grade 6 or above in one of the following: GCSE History, GCSE Classical Civilisation, GCSE Ancient History, GCSE Geography or GCSE Religious Studies.
Psychology:	Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and a Grade 6 in any GCSE single Science (including Psychology) or 6-6 in combined Science.
Sociology:	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.

Why MGGS?

“After going to all of the sixth forms, MGGS was the one that felt right. The atmosphere was friendly and welcoming, and I could really envision myself studying my A Levels at MGGS”. Year 12 student



“I chose to stay at MGGS for Sixth Form because of its unique community spirit and its excellent teachers. House Arts, RAG Week and Sports Day are events that unite all students, and allow us to have fun and support one another. A Levels are a challenge, but the teachers are so supportive and will always give up their time to help us understand something and listen to us if there is a problem. There are many opportunities for student leadership as well which appealed to me, as I wanted to give something back to the school and help organise events that I had always enjoyed in lower years.” Year 13 student

We know that making a decision about Sixth Form is difficult; we are very proud of our school and hope that the following will help you to decide whether MGGS is the right place for you to study at Key Stage 5.

Our students enjoy outstanding teaching and achieve outstanding results

Our subject practitioners are highly experienced and happy to invest time and energy in teaching, guiding and supporting students through their Key Stage 5 courses. We ensure that our students with SEND are supported

both inside the classroom and out, in order to fully access and engage with our curriculum, working with external agencies as appropriate.

We are exceptionally proud of the achievements of our Sixth Form students. Our A-Level results in the summer of 2025 were exceptional. A quarter of all grades were A* or A and over half of all grades were at least a B grade. Over 10% of students achieved at least three A and A* grades! The destinations of our 2025 leavers can be found at the back of this booklet.

“MGGS has a great support system for our studies from lunchtime surgeries to having our own workspace. I can always find help and use the many resources we have.” Year 13 student

We offer a broad and bespoke curriculum

We review the subjects offered each year to ensure breadth of choice for our prospective students. We design our option blocks around student preferences allowing an exceptionally wide range of subject combinations. The Sixth Form Extra (6FX) programme enables students to pick up additional qualifications, or use the time for wellbeing and leisure, and this is entirely led by the student.

Our students receive outstanding pastoral care and have abundant opportunities to grow and develop

We rate health and happiness highly in helping you to achieve your potential; as a school our core values state that we nurture Resilient, Inspirational and Supportive students who strive for Excellence (RISE). We are well aware of the challenges and pressures of school and actively promote a healthy lifestyle.



We have a non-teaching Key Stage 5 Learning Mentor, a full time Aspiration & Careers Leader and School Counsellors. Our pastoral care is proactive as well as reactive, with opportunities to learn about key personal, social, health, economic, sex and relationships and citizenship issues through RISE Days, assemblies and 6FX.

Students also complete up to 5 days of work experience, which forms part of their mandatory learning. We offer all students leadership opportunities, trips and visits, including a trip to visit our sister schools in Nepal, and extracurricular activities, including Duke of Edinburgh. We are a community who want to live well and make a positive contribution.

“In Sixth Form there is a lot more independent learning time, which students benefit highly from as it gives the opportunity to focus on what we want to. In Sixth Form there are also many leadership opportunities... these roles are very fun and give you a sense of purpose within the school.” Year 13 student

We have outstanding dedicated Sixth Form facilities

These include the Sixth Form Café, group working and social space (Sixth Form Central) and our silent study room (the Engine Room). We also have a well-resourced library (The Mary Smith Library), which is another firm favourite for independent study.



“The community at this school is very special, teachers and students alike are always welcoming and ready to help.” Year 13 student

Our Sixth Form is a friendly and supportive community

We are a welcoming community, who will encourage and support you as you work for your final school qualifications. We work together for the benefit of everyone. You will contribute to our Sixth Form and help to shape it for the future. There are clear expectations related to attitude and attendance and we build a relationship of mutual respect. We will challenge you to achieve your potential, and support you unreservedly in its pursuit.

“Community is a word that keeps coming up when people think of the MGGS environment - there are always people who want to help you and make sure your experience at the school is the best it can be.” Year 13 student

Our students pursue their individual goals

We want our students to make informed choices about pathways, have high aspirations and a good understanding of the world of work. We have a full-time Aspiration & Careers Leader and each student receives one-to-one advice and we work in close partnership with a range of businesses and higher education providers to offer tailored work experience and interview practice. Our 2025 cohort are represented at highly esteemed universities across the country, with a significant number securing places at leading Russell Group universities. Students are pursuing a range of subjects and disciplines including; medicine, law, economics, archaeology, architecture, nursing, computer science, graphic design, dentistry, civil engineering, aerospace engineering, international relations and psychology. Over the years we have worked successfully with a significant number of students to support them secure degree apprenticeships with prestigious firms including with IBM, Santander, Macintyre Hudson, Jaguar Land Rover and Bentley, or to employment such as Diligent Law Solicitors and other local businesses. We support and celebrate all pathways.

“MGGS is very well organised and we receive lots of support for UCAS and Post-18 plans.” Year 13 student



“Everyone supports one another - even if you've never spoken to someone in sixth form before, they are always friendly and supportive! SFMT are also supportive and provide guidance throughout your time in sixth form.” Year 12 student

MGGS is MEGA



Mindset

The A Level Mindset is well established in the Sixth Form, promoting that students need clear vision, significant effort, effective systems, varied practice and a good attitude in order to achieve their full potential. We firmly believe that these skills, traits and habits can be learned and developed, and have lots of activities designed to assist with this.

Year 12 and 13 receive explicit teaching about each of the elements of VESPA during special year group sessions led by senior staff. This is supported by subject ALM sheets, as well as mentoring, form activities and assemblies.

Sixth Form students also receive training in employing 'assessment as learning' techniques to ensure they make the most of feedback and are empowered, through self-reflection, to enable their own progress.



Google

At MGGS we believe that technology should be embedded within teaching and learning throughout the school and that we should use both existing and emerging technologies as a means of preparing our students for the digital age. Learning to use digital resources appropriately and effectively is an essential part of education.

We teach, collaborate and communicate via Google. External students often comment on how Google has transformed their learning. There are Google Classrooms and Drives for subjects, houses and many other groups, including Student Voice, Careers and the Aspire UCAS Early Entry group.



Enrichment and Extension

As a grammar school Sixth Form, we seek to develop curious learners and promote scholarship. Equally, we want our students to be well rounded and experienced individuals. As a result, we have a diverse and comprehensive Sixth Form Extra (6FX) programme, whereby students can choose whether to pursue activities for wellbeing, develop life skills or as an extension to their learning for one hour a week.

Students studying 4 A Levels or another enrichment course in Year 13 are allowed to opt for supervised study in 6FX time, but many do not, choosing instead to participate in something extra. Students also have the opportunity to undertake additional qualifications, including the highly-regarded Extended Project Qualification, in Year 13.



Advanced Thinking

MGGS has been an Advanced Thinking School since May 2015. Our students are equipped with tools designed to reorganise, frame and extend their thinking, promoting deeper learning.

Students receive a full induction to the Thinking Tools when they join us, and will have an opportunity to develop their use of these invaluable tools in lessons and 6FX.

Advanced thinking is embedded in all we do, and there are opportunities to celebrate this through leading outreach days, participating in competitions and being involved in the MGGS Festival of Thinking.

How do I apply?

We welcome applications to our Sixth Form from both male and female students, whether currently attending our own or any other school. Each year we welcome many new entrants from other schools, including boys. Our Sixth Form Management Team and Student Leaders provide support for transition, and all students very quickly become valued members of our Sixth Form community.

“Teachers are super friendly and caring so, if changing schools, rest assured you will feel comfortable and welcomed.” Year 12 student



“If you want a change post Year 11, you can certainly find that at the MGGS Sixth Form without having to switch schools. It feels very different to lower school but settling in is not a problem.” Year 13 student

The entry requirements for the Sixth Form, and the application process for internal and external students is outlined below. All offers are conditional on GCSE results, and therefore, will not be made firm until results and enrolment day.

Entry Requirements:

Students must be 16 years of age by 31st August of the year of entry into Year 12. Admission to the Sixth Form will be as a result of applicants achieving:

- At least a grade 5 in either English Language or English Literature
- At least a grade 5 in Mathematics
- At least 6 GCSE subjects of grades 9-5

- The specific entry requirements for each of their chosen subjects. Please note that we adhere to our subject entry criteria strictly, and therefore, students who meet the minimum entry criteria but are not eligible for their chosen subjects will be offered an alternative programme of study.
- Students will be expected to enrol on a two year, full time, planned programme of study (3 A Level subjects).
- Our standard offer is for 3 subjects. Students wishing to undertake 4 subjects must achieve 8 or more grades 9-7, including the above criteria for general Sixth Form entry requirements.

Internal Applicants:

- Internal students have a range of opportunities during the Autumn terms to find out more about the subjects we offer to inform your option choices. The Key Stage 4 and 5 Leadership Teams will communicate with students and parents directly about these opportunities.
- Year 11 students at MGGS will be invited to submit their option choices in December. This initial information is to enable us to arrange subject option blocks so that as many first choices as possible are met. Therefore, although you will have the opportunity to amend your choices after this time, including at enrollment, it is important to consider these initial decisions carefully. We also ask our internal students to apply to our Sixth Form using the Kent Choices platform. Full information on this process is communicated with both students and parents.
- All Year 11 students will have a guidance meeting with a senior member of staff and a one-to-one meeting with our Aspiration & Careers Leader to discuss their ambitions.

External Applicants:

- External applicants can apply to join our Sixth Form via the Kent Choices online platform, from November in the year prior to admission.
- Applications should be completed by midnight on 6th February in the year of admission.
- The School will contact applicants after 1st March to make conditional offers in the year of admission.
- If the School is oversubscribed, the oversubscription criteria will be applied in accordance with our Admissions Policy for the intake year, which is available to view on our website <https://www.mggs.org/key-information/policies-public-notice/>

If you are offered a place to join the Sixth Form, it is very important that you participate in our **Induction Day on Wednesday, 8th July 2026** and you will therefore be expected to attend this event. Enrolment to the Sixth Form will take place on **GCSE results day, Thursday, 20th August 2026**. Internal applicants will be invited to enrol in the morning and external applicants will be invited to enrol in the afternoon between 12pm and 2pm. All plans are subject to change in line with government guidance and legislation should there be changes to the national situation, and any changes will be communicated with offer holders via email.

If you fail to meet the entry requirements, you will first be advised to consider whether it is appropriate to seek a remark of your GCSE. If you do not meet the minimum entry requirements you will be offered the opportunity to appeal for a place at the School. Details of this are available on the school website. Please note that we adhere to our subject entry criteria strictly, and therefore, students who meet the minimum entry criteria but are not eligible for their chosen subjects will be offered an alternative programme of study.

External applicants will need to provide on enrolment day:

- Proof of ID such as a valid passport or birth certificate*
- Documentation to confirm GCSE results

*Please note that if ID documents are non UK, external students will need to provide additional information:

- Evidence of Leave to Remain/Visa/Share Codes

If you would like to discuss your application at any stage please contact sixthformadmissions@mggs.org or call on 01622 752103.

Sixth Form Curriculum

The vast majority of students at MGGS pursue three subjects (those who wish to undertake four A Levels will need to achieve 8 or more GCSEs at grade 9-7) and therefore, prospective students will be asked to select three subjects and one reserve (or four subjects and one reserve). You are advised to consider first what you will enjoy studying, as personal motivation is very important for happiness and success in higher level study and independent learning. Next consider what you are good at and what you might need for your chosen career. If you would like support in making these decisions, please do contact us as we are happy to help.

The subjects expected to be available in September 2026 are listed below. The following pages offer details regarding these courses to aid your decision making.

A Levels

[Art \(Art, Craft and Design\)](#)

[Mathematics and Further Mathematics](#)

[Art \(Graphic Communication\)](#)

[Media Studies](#)

[Biology](#)

Modern Foreign Languages:

[Business](#)

[French](#)

[Chemistry](#)

[German](#)

[Computer Science](#)

[Spanish](#)

[Dance](#)

[Music](#)

[Design and Technology Product Design](#)

[Philosophy](#)

[Design and Technology Fashion and Textiles](#)

[Physical Education](#)

[Drama and Theatre](#)

[Physics](#)

[Economics](#)

[Politics](#)

[English Language and Literature](#)

[Psychology](#)

[English Literature](#)

[Sociology](#)

[Geography](#)

[History](#)

Please Note: The running of a specific subject is contingent on sufficient student demand and staffing.

Art (Art, Craft and Design)

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Art (Art, Craft and Design) at A Level?

Art, Craft and Design covers a vast variety of media and techniques from the more conventional forms of fine art, such as drawing and painting to more specialist areas such as ceramics and printmaking. The Art, Craft and Design course at MGGS will introduce you to a vast variety of these specialist areas while further enhancing your skills within the more traditional art forms.

The course aims to enthuse and to build on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired at GCSE level through the exploration of your talents, interests and strengths. You are encouraged to think independently throughout the creative process, including the exploration of ideas, skills and media to generate personal and innovative responses.

What will I study?

At the beginning of the course you will undertake a series of techniques workshops which will provide a strong foundation of technical knowledge and understanding. This work will feed into your portfolio, in addition to informing ideas which can develop into your personal investigation.

You will then produce a personal investigation including work in two or more areas, including drawing, painting, textiles, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking, moving image and photography. This will be followed by the externally set assignment, in the form of a second extended project.

How is this course assessed?

The final mark and grade is dependent entirely on the following components:

- Component One: Personal Investigation - 60% (NEA)
- Component Two: Externally Set Assignment - 40% (NEA)

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Art (Graphic Communication)

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Art (Graphic Communication) at A Level?

Graphic Communication is an industry which is consistently growing with the advances of technology across the globe. Graphic design is important as it enhances how you communicate your ideas in an effective and beautiful way. Good quality graphic design can determine the success of a new company or product by attracting the attention of the desired audience. The visual element of a design is the most important as it informs the first impression of the audience which determines whether or not their attention will be held long enough to be effective.

While this course is specialist, it is still diverse in its attention to a vast array of areas within the sector, including advertising, packaging design, design for print, illustration, communication graphics, branding and design for film and television.

What will I study?

At the beginning of the course you will undertake a series of technique workshops which will provide a strong foundation of technical knowledge and understanding. This work will feed into your portfolio, in addition to informing ideas which can develop into your personal investigation.

You will then produce an extended body of work called a Personal Investigation, in which you will develop graphic design work in your choice of specialism, based on your choice of business.

This will be followed by the externally set assignment, in the form of a second extended project.

How is this course assessed?

The final mark and grade is dependent entirely on the following components:

- Component One: Personal Investigation - 60% (NEA)
- Component Two: Externally Set Assignment - 40% (NEA)

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Biology

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Biology at A Level?

Biology is the study of living organisms and the processes that make life possible. Biology provides an excellent foundation for careers in a variety of occupations in the areas of molecular and cellular biology, physiology, industrial microbiology and biotechnology, human genetics, forensic science, health education, plant pathology, oceanography, herpetology, animal behaviour, ecology, environmental studies, entomology, parasitology, botany, mammalogy and postgraduate education.

What will I study?

The course builds on the GCSE Biology course and develops both breadth and depth of understanding of a range of biological concepts. Practical skills will be developed throughout.

- **Biological molecules** - All life on Earth shares a common chemistry.
- **Cells** - All life on Earth exists as cells.
- **Organisms exchange substances with their environment** - The internal environment of a cell or organism is different from its external environment.
- **Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms** - Biological diversity – biodiversity – is reflected in the vast number of species of organisms, in the variation of individual characteristics within a single species and in the variation of cell types within a single multicellular organism.
- **Energy transfers in and between organisms** - Life depends on continuous transfers of energy.
- **Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environment** - A stimulus is a change in the internal or external environment.
- **Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems** - The theory of evolution underpins modern Biology.
- **The control of gene expression** - Cells are able to control their metabolic activities by regulating the transcription and translation of their genome

How is this course assessed?

There are three examinations and a practical endorsement (pass or fail) element. This will be reported separately to the final grade and will be based on performance in practical assessments throughout the two years.

- Paper 1 - written examination, 2 hours, 35%, short and long answer questions and extended response questions.
- Paper 2 - written examination, 2 hours, 35%, short and long answer questions and a comprehension question.
- Paper 3 - synoptic written examination, 2 hours, 30%, structured questions, including practical techniques, critical analysis of given experimental data and one essay.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Business

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Business at A Level?

Do you harbour ambitions of being a successful business person? Have you got great ideas for a new product or service? Do you want to work for a large company in a specific area, such as finance or marketing? No matter your vision, the Business A Level course gives you an incredibly powerful start to your career. All the key topics of running a business are covered; whether you are working for a global corporation or selling lemonade from your home, this course will prepare you. You will develop the skills that universities, apprenticeship schemes and employers are looking for. Business goes really well with any of our other subjects.

What will I study?

You will start by analysing key business areas: marketing, operations, finance and human resource management, with a special focus on decision making - particularly how decisions made in one area can affect the rest of the business - and end with an investigation of the strategic decisions that all businesses have to make.

How is this course assessed?

A Level assessment consists of three two hour written examinations taken at the end of the two year course. Each examination will be worth a third of the A Level. All three papers will draw on material from the whole course, and will feature a range of question styles including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, essay questions, data response questions and case studies.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Chemistry

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Chemistry at A Level?

A Level Chemistry attempts to answer the big question ‘what is the world made of?’ from investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another, to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that Chemistry provides are endless.

Studying an A Level Chemistry can lead to exciting career options, including Chemical Engineer, Clinical Biochemist, Pharmacologist, Doctor, Environmental Consultant or Patent Attorney.

What will I study?

The Big Ideas of Chemistry include: The Periodic Table, The structure of the atom, Amounts of substance, Quantum chemistry, Organic mechanisms, Reaction kinetics, Thermodynamics, Structure and bonding, radiation and matter, and redox.

Throughout the course you will carry out practical activities including measuring energy changes in chemical reactions, tests for identifying different types of compound, studying electrochemical cells, and an advanced form of chromatography for more accurate results.

How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed through three theory papers. In addition, you will receive a pass or fail in practical competence assessed through five Common Practical Assessment Criteria.

- Paper 1 (2 hour written examination, 35%, short and long answer questions)
- Paper 2 (2 hour written examination, 35%, short and long answer questions)
- Paper 3 (2 hour written examination, 30%, questions on practical techniques and data analysis, questions testing across the specification and multiple choice questions)

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Computer Science

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Computer Science at A Level?

Learn the language of the future! Studying Computer Science accelerates your journey within one of the most disruptive and innovative industries. Technology continues to dramatically change our world, impacting all areas of our lives. Computer Science helps you think about how technology is created. It allows you to understand how people work together with computers to develop world changing programmes like Facebook, Spotify and e-business. You will also develop the skills that universities, apprenticeship schemes and employers are looking for and they will prove valuable for the rest of your life. Computer Science goes really well with lots of other subjects, especially the Sciences, Mathematics, Business and Art.

What will I study?

You will gain the skills to enable you to understand how to design and build applications (using the Python programming language), investigate the performance of an algorithm and how it enables the efficiency of your solution and the importance of cyber security and the ethical impacts of digital technology. You will strengthen your knowledge on how technology is created and the appreciation you have for solving problems, developing programs and building software.

How is this course assessed?

The course comprises of two papers and a non-examined assessment (NEA)

- **Paper 1** : This paper tests a student's ability to program, as well as their theoretical knowledge of computer science from subject content such as data structures, fundamentals of programming and theory of computation. This is an on-screen exam for 2 hours 30 minutes and is weighted at 40% of the A-level score.
- **Paper 2** : This paper assesses the student's knowledge on computer theory such as data representation, computer systems, networks etc. This is a written exam for 2 hours 30 minutes and is weighted at 40% of the A-level score.
- **NEA programming project** : Students will design and develop a solution to a real-world problem / simulation of their choice. This is weighted at 20% of the A-level score.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Dance

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Dance at A Level?

A Level Dance encourages creativity, imagination and performance from a range of genres, styles and cultures. Originality is celebrated on the course and we recognise the individual dancer - students are encouraged to explore their individual skills and personal interest in their preferred style of dance.

We aim to develop your skills as a thinking dancer, performer and choreographer, enhancing your knowledge and understanding of professional dance. The course also builds transferable skills relevant to any industry or environment. A Level Dance allows you to articulate your thoughts and ideas, work closely with other dancers to build your communication skills, perform and present work as well as manage and organise rehearsal schedules. Due to the physical and analytical nature of A Level Dance, it compliments many other subjects.

You will also have frequent exposure to live dance performances and opportunities to participate in workshops with choreographers and dance artists over the course.

What will I study?

You will develop your dance technique over both years of the course, enabling you to perform effectively as a soloist and when dancing with others as part of a quartet. You will learn the choreographic skills necessary to create both solo and group pieces based on a variety of subject matter. Theoretically, you will develop a broad understanding of dance through the study of a number of professional dance performances, allowing you to appreciate the social and cultural significance of dance and performance in the United Kingdom.

How is this course assessed?

The course comprises of one written exam and NEA (Non-Examined Assessment)

Component 1 - Practical NEA is a live performance to an examiner in Year 13. Students must perform a solo in the style of a practitioner, a performance in a quartet and present their own choreography in response to a stimulus. (50%).

Component 2 - Written Exam is split into two sections. Section A examines the key work 'Rooster' by Christopher Bruce, and the growth of Rambert Dance Company between 1966 and 2002. Section B examines the key work 'Sutra' by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and the development of the independent contemporary dance scene in Britain from 2000 until the present day. (50%).

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Design and Technology Product Design

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Design and Technology Product Design at A Level?

You cannot escape design. No matter how hard you try, design is everywhere. Without it, the world would be a very different place. This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives you the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially but not limited to those in the creative or engineering industries. You will gain a real-life understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside developing the knowledge and transferable skills highly sought after by higher education establishments and employers.

Design and Technology Product Design encompasses a broad range of traditional skills and materials alongside emerging technologies. These include augmented reality, smart and modern materials, computer aided design and computer aided manufacture such as laser cutting and 3D printing.

The Design and Technology Product Design course at MGGS will allow you to build on the knowledge and understanding acquired at GCSE level and introduce you to a vast array of skills, processes and techniques that will help underpin your fundamental values as a designer. You are encouraged to think independently throughout the design and make process, including the exploration of ideas, skills and materials in order to generate a range of personal, creative and innovative responses.

What will I study?

You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on Design and Technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put your learning into practice by producing prototypes of your choice. You will develop a deeper understanding of the design process from the initial identification of a design related problem, through to the final manufactured outcome. You will be engaged in a mixture of theory based lessons, practical experiments, focused practical tasks and project work for the duration of the course. There is something for everyone and we can tailor the course to suit your particular strengths and interests.

How is this course assessed?

- 50% examination across two papers
 - Paper 1: Technical Principles (2 hours 30 minutes, 30%)
 - Paper 2: Design and Making Principles (1 hour 30 minutes, 20%)
- 50% Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Design and Technology Fashion and Textiles

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Design and Technology Fashion and Textiles at A Level?

Imagine a world without Fashion and Textiles. No clothes, no soft furnishings, no home decor, limited security or comfort. Design and Technology Fashion and Textiles is a creative and thought-provoking qualification which gives you the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. You will gain a real-life understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside developing the knowledge and transferable skills highly sought after by higher education establishments and employers.

Design and Technology Fashion and Textiles encompasses a broad range of skills and materials alongside emerging technologies. These include smart and modern materials for example thermochromic/photochromic pigments and electro-conductive fabrics/threads, computer aided design and computer aided manufacture such as laser cutting, sublimation printing and Illustrator.

The Design and Technology Fashion and Textiles course at MGGS will allow you to build on the knowledge and understanding acquired at GCSE level and introduce you to a vast array of skills, processes and techniques that will help underpin your fundamental values as a fashion designer. You are encouraged to think independently throughout the design and make process, including the exploration of ideas, skills and materials in order to generate a range of personal, creative and innovative responses.

What will I study?

You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on Design and Technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put your learning into practice by producing prototypes of your choice. You will develop a deeper understanding of the design process from the initial identification of a design related problem, through to the final manufactured outcome. You will be engaged in a mixture of theory based lessons, practical experiments, focused practical tasks and project work for the duration of the course. There is something for everyone and we can tailor the course to suit your particular strengths and interests.

How is this course assessed?

- 50% examination across two papers.
 - Paper 1: Technical Principles (2 hour 30 minutes, 30%)
 - Paper 2: Design and Making Principles (1 hour 30 minutes, 20%)
- 50% Non-Examination Assessment (NEA).

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Drama and Theatre

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Drama and Theatre at A Level?

“How many times in a day are your opinions and life experiences reflected or challenged? When was the last time you were encouraged to form and convey your own unique perspective to others without simply stating the ‘right answer’? Drama and Theatre is not just about self-expression.” Frankie Richards, University of Cambridge

No two drama lessons are ever the same. In one lesson you might be looking at and researching the background to one of your set texts, in the next lesson you could be working practically on a script or preparing for a theatre visit. However, there is one feature common to all: you, your fellow students and your teacher will be working together as a disciplined team to understand drama and to create theatre. Not only does the course develop your performance skills and foster a love of theatre, it also focuses on developing analytical and evaluative writing skills which are key to being successful in the written examination. The subject complements English, Social Sciences, History and other arts subjects. The course can lead to a vocational degree at drama school or university courses in Drama, English, Law, Teaching and many more.

What will I study?

Over the course of the two years you will study two set texts from three perspectives; director, performer and designer. You will also analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers as part of the written examination. Practically we will look at three extracts taken from contrasting plays and take influence from the work of prescribed practitioners in order to explore the potential for each extract in performance. This will culminate in a final examined performance. You will also work as a group to devise and perform your own piece of theatre to an invited audience under examination conditions.

How is this course assessed?

Component 1 - Drama and theatre is a 3 hour written examination (40%).

Component 2 - Creating original drama looks at creating and performance of devised drama, students may contribute as performer or director; working notebook analysing and evaluating the process of creating and performance (30%).

Component 3 - Making theatre involves practical exploration/interpretation of three extracts. Extract 3 is performed as a final assessed piece; reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts (30%).

“I hate the idea of theatre just being an evening pastime. It should be emotionally and intellectually demanding.” Sarah Kane

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Economics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Why study Economics at A Level?

Economics shapes the world around us and governs both our day-to-day decisions as well as the big life changing ones we all make. Studying economics allows you to explore the individual's decisions as well as how economic policy makers can affect change on a national and global stage. Economics is a great starting point for those looking for a career in finance, business or politics, however, it is also useful for a range of careers including marketing, law, journalism or teaching. The analytical and evaluation skills that you will develop will be useful whatever path you choose in the future. The creative problem solving and decision making elements of the course will support you in a range of subjects from History, Politics and English, right through to Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

What will I study?

You will investigate microeconomic topics such as how individual decisions impact economic outcomes, the importance of competition, how markets operate and why they fail, and how the distribution of income and wealth is affected. At the same time you will learn about macroeconomics, looking at the 'big picture' of how our national economy fits into the global context, the global impact of financial markets and monetary policy and the operation of the international economy.

How is this course assessed?

At the end of the two year course, you will sit three two hour written examinations - each examination will be worth one third of the A Level. Paper One will cover markets and market failure, Paper Two will cover the national and international economy and Paper Three will draw on material from the whole course. The examinations will feature a range of question styles including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, essay questions, data response questions and case studies.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

English Language and Literature

Examination Board: AQA

Why study English Language and Literature at A Level?

English Language and Literature is the study of how language *works* both linguistically and conceptually; it is concerned with the fundamental aspects of how we communicate in both writing and speech and for what purpose, and how language and ideas are crafted. Choosing to study English Language and Literature will enable you to further develop your ability to use linguistic and literary critical concepts to comment on spoken and written texts, and to ask questions such as ‘What is a text?’, ‘What does it mean to call something ‘literary’?’, ‘What theoretical ideas underpin language construction and expression?’, ‘How does language work?’, and ‘What socio-historical, cultural and political ideas influence language and literary ideas?’

The course will allow you to stretch and hone your creative writing skills as you produce texts for different audiences and purposes and critically reflect on this process of production. This course will make you a sophisticated and coherent writer *and* analyst - skills highly valued by universities and employers. The skills you have acquired for GCSE will be extended as you analyse more demanding material in a more detailed way. However, be aware that English Language at Key Stage 4 is not representative of this course.

What will I study?

You will study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, exploring differences and similarities between different kinds of literary texts, analysing speech and patterns of discourse, and developing the skills to write creatively.

- ‘The Lovely Bones’ by Alice Sebold
- ‘The Kite Runner’ by Khaled Hosseini
- ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’ by Tennessee Williams
- A selection of poems by Carol Ann Duffy
- ‘Paris’ Anthology of non-fiction texts

How is this course assessed?

2 written examinations taken at the end of the course

- Paper 1: Telling stories (40%)
- Paper 2: Exploring Conflict (40%)
- 1 NEA coursework piece: (2500-3000 words) produced by students independently and marked by teachers (20%)

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

English Literature

Examination Board: AQA

Why study English Literature at A Level?

English Literature is a study of the human condition: we read and interpret works of literature in order to understand, empathise with and challenge our perspectives of other human beings, and to scrutinise their loves, lives, tragedies and absurdities so that we may better understand our own.

You will not only be exploring philosophical and existential concepts that make up part of our human condition, such as: 'What is Beauty?', 'What is Truth?', 'What does it mean to say that a text is 'reliable'?', 'What is tragedy?', 'How does literature reflect both the self and society?', and 'How do we communicate what is incommunicable?', but also investigating different literary forms and exploring how the very fabric of language and the literary ideas expressed within it, change through time. This is a course for those who are voracious and inquisitive readers; it provides an ideal space for literary discussion about a text's conceptual and contextual ideas, about its characters and style, and it facilitates vital cultural and social understanding, whilst forming your own and listening to others' critical interpretations - skills required not only at university level, but essential to how we communicate with one another in our modern context.

What will I study?

You will study a wide range of contemporary and traditional texts. The course is historicist, meaning that you will study texts *through time* until the present day. In the first year, you will be exploring how the universal concept of love is presented through time (*Love through the Ages*) by studying a variety of poems across time and in different literary traditions. You will be looking at this collection alongside F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. In the same year you will be exploring the Shakespeare play *Othello* and unseen poetry.

In the second year, you will be independently researching and writing your coursework essay on two texts (one pre-and one post-1900). The last module of your course explores *Texts in time*. You will be studying the texts: *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, *Feminine Gospels* by Carol Ann Duffy and the prescient, popular dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, investigating how these texts reflect, challenge or criticise their socio-political and socio-historical contexts.

How is this course assessed?

2 units assessed by public examination at the end of the course:

- Love through the Ages (40%)
- Texts in shared contexts (40%)
- 1 NEA coursework unit: (2,500 words) completed by students independently and marked by teacher (20%)

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Geography

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Why study Geography at A Level?

Do you have an interest in the world around you and wonder how and why change is taking place? Geography seeks to understand societies, places and environments and many geographical issues are relevant to current issues. Universities recognise and value students who have studied Geography as they develop a range of valuable and transferable skills which make them employable and adaptive learners.

What will I study?

You will explore and evaluate contemporary geographical questions and issues. You will also have the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of physical and human geography and become critical, reflective learners. You will enhance your communication, ICT and GIS skills throughout the two years. You will cover different topics which range from dynamic landscapes (tectonic hazards and coastal processes), dynamic places (globalisation and regeneration), sustainability (water and energy security) and geopolitics (superpowers and health, human rights and intervention).

There will also be various opportunities for field work. In Year 12 there are two days of fieldwork and in Year 13 a four day residential fieldwork trip. Fieldwork must be undertaken in relation to physical and human geography.

How is this course assessed?

The A Level course is assessed by three examinations at the end of Year 13:

- Paper 1 30%
- Paper 2 30%
- Paper 3 20%

All students will complete one Independent Investigation, which will be a non-examined assessment and must draw on fieldwork - this is 20% of the A Level.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

History

Examination Board: OCR

Why study History at A Level?

Studying History is valuable in many ways. The study of History creates an understanding and context of the world in which we live through exploration of the histories of the different cultures and groups that inhabit it. History also enables us to predict the impact of future events using the context of the past. The study of History develops critical thinking and communication skills, invaluable in your studies and future career.

What will I study?

Unit 1: The Early Tudors (1485-1558): Explore the Tudor Dynasty. How did they come to the throne? How did they stay on the throne? How did they deal with internal and external threats? Why did Henry VIII execute so many people? Why did Mary I have people burnt alive at the stake? Was there a mid Tudor Crisis?

Unit 2: American: Civil War and Westward Expansion (1803-1890): Why did the US expand its borders? How did the US create its character? What impact did this have on the Native Americans? How do you define race and citizenship? What does the subjugation of other cultures tell us about the value of human life?

Unit 3: Popular Culture and the Witchcraze of the 16th and 17th Centuries: Why did witchcraft rise and decline during the 16th and 17th centuries? How far did it emerge out of the popular culture of the time? Why was there an increase and subsequent decline in persecutions? What methods of interrogation were used by the authorities and what impact did this have on society? Within this topic you will explore the case studies of Southern Germany, England and the Witchfinder General (Matthew Hopkins) and the Salem Witch trials.

Unit 4: Coursework: You will be given a degree of free choice to choose a topic to write about. Our recommended topics include: The Tudors, the American West; The Korean War; the Vietnam War and Women's Rights in the early 20th century.

How is this course assessed?

- Unit 1, The Early Tudors, 1 hour 30 minute examination (2 questions), 25%
- Unit 2, The USA, 1 hour examination (2 questions), 15%
- Unit 3, Witchcraft, 2 hour 30 minute examination (3 questions), 40%
- Unit 4, Coursework, 3000-4000 word essay, 20%

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Why study Mathematics or Further Mathematics at A Level?

There are aspects of mathematics in everything that we do. The car company Bentley discovered that all the departments within the company contained at least one mathematician which gives some idea of the extent to which mathematics is used. Medical experts researching the spread of disease, engineers building bridges, scientists in many different areas, economists and many others all require skill in mathematics. You will develop the skills that universities, apprenticeship schemes and employers are looking for including the ability to create logical solutions with clear, structured stages. Mathematics will support your study in many areas.

What will I study?

You will study Pure Mathematics topics such as trigonometry, algebra, coordinate geometry and calculus. Statistics will include probability and hypothesis testing while Mechanics uses theoretical methods to model real-life situations involving forces and motion.

Further Mathematics covers the same three areas in greater depth and includes complex numbers, matrices and differential equations; Chi-squared testing & the Poisson distribution; energy & collisions.

How is this course assessed?

At the end of the course there are three papers of two hours each: two papers of Pure Mathematics and a paper examining Statistics & Mechanics. Questions may be theoretical or require you to apply your knowledge to solving a problem.

For Further Mathematics there are four papers of 1 and a half hours each: Core Pure 1, Core Pure 2, Further Statistics 1 & Further Mechanics 1.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Media Studies

Examination Board: Eduqas

Why study Media Studies at A Level?

People today learn more from the media than any other single source of information. If we want to understand what is going on in our society in the 21st century, we have to understand media. Media Studies helps you to critique the media that you consume, to identify and explore how the media is shaped and manipulated by powerful media moguls. The subject will change the way you watch and read media - you will become a more active and critical participant in a world where media saturates our lives. Media Studies will develop your skills of analysis as well as enabling you to become an effective and creative producer of media products.

What will I study?

You will study a range of rich and stimulating media products such as advertisements, music videos, newspapers, radio, video games, television, online media and magazines offering opportunities for detailed analysis of how media communicate meanings in a variety of forms. Through this course, you will gain a developed understanding of key theoretical approaches, theories, issues and debates within the subject. You will engage with products from different historical periods and global settings, those produced outside the commercial mainstream and those aimed at or produced by minority groups.

How is this course assessed?

Assessment consists of two written examinations and a non-examined assessment (NEA). Component one assesses understanding of media language, representations, industries and audiences. Component two consists of three sections: Television in the Global Age; Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media; and Media in the Online Age. For the NEA, students are required to use their knowledge and understanding of media production techniques and the digitally convergent nature of the media in an individual production for an intended audience. Students are required to produce two linked productions based on a brief set by the examination board. Options available for the briefs will always include: television, music marketing, film marketing and magazines.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Modern Foreign Languages - French

Examination Board: AQA

Why study French at A Level?

Studying French opens up the world to you. It is one of the most widely spoken languages, with 29 countries using French as their official language. You will develop an in-depth knowledge of French and Francophone culture, history and politics. You will also be able to critically analyse and share your views on film and literature in French, which will prove challenging but ultimately rewarding. Essentially, by learning French you will not only develop a depth of understanding but broaden your worldview.

The aim of the course is to enable you to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively through both the spoken and written word. You will find that the topics studied are varied and relevant to your personal interests, as well as the next stage of your education and your career; the study of Modern Foreign Languages is highly valued by both universities and employers.

What will I study?

The course provides a variety of topics to be studied and is divided into three categories:

1. 4 themes are divided over the two years of study: Aspects of French-speaking society with current trends and Artistic culture in the French-speaking world in year 12; Aspects of French-speaking society with current issues and Political life in French-speaking countries in year 13. Grammar is consolidated from GCSE and more complex grammar structures are studied throughout the topics and over the two years.
2. Two works: the study of the film *La Haine* by Matthieu Kassovitz and the study of the novel *No et Moi* by Delphine de Vigan
3. Individual Research Project: this is a topic of your choice which you wish to research and present orally. This aspect of the course is completely independent.

How is this course assessed?

Three examinations at the end of Year 13 - Listening, Reading and Writing (Paper 1 - 50%), Writing (Paper 2 - 20%) and Speaking (Paper 3 - 30%).

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Modern Foreign Languages - German

Examination Board: AQA

Why study German at A Level?

Out of all the European languages offered, German linguists are the most highly sought-after by UK employers, especially in STEM careers. However, German will appeal to many more students than our future scientists and financiers. If you would like to study film, literature, culture, politics, history and the news topics of today, then studying German will enable you to do all these things, and in a foreign language, a skill highly regarded by both universities and employers.

What will I study?

The course provides a variety of 12 topics to be studied and is divided into three categories:

1. 4 themes are divided over the two years of study: Aspects of German-speaking society with current trends and Artistic culture in the German-speaking world in year 12; Multiculturalism in German-speaking society and Aspects of Political life in the German-speaking world in year 13. Grammar is consolidated from GCSE and more complex grammar structures are studied throughout the topics.
2. Two works: the study of the film *Good bye, Lenin!* by Wolfgang Becker and the study of the novel *Der Vorleser* written by Bernhard Schlink.
3. Individual Research Project: this is a topic of your choice which you wish to research and present orally. This aspect of the course is completely independent.

How is this course assessed?

Three examinations at the end of Year 13 - Listening, Reading and Writing (Paper 1 - 50%), Writing (Paper 2 - 20%) and Speaking (Paper 3 - 30%).

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Modern Foreign Languages - Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Spanish at A Level?

Spanish offers you a world of possibilities, as the official language of 21 countries and with over 500 million speakers. Therefore, if you are interested in travelling, it is a very useful language to have at your disposal. By studying Spanish, you will develop a depth and breadth of understanding of Spanish and Latin American culture as well as the language. You will develop other skills such as the ability to analyse literature and film, evaluate trends and infer meaning. These are skills that will be easily transferable at university. As a Spanish speaker you will possess skills sought by a range of employers in business, tourism, education and government agencies to name but a few. Spanish works well with a variety of subjects, as you can see from the topics listed below.

What will I study?

1. The course is divided into four themes over two years: Aspects of Hispanic Society and Artistic Culture in the Hispanic world; Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society and Aspects of Political life in the Hispanic world.
2. Two works: the study of the film *Volver* and the study of the play *Las bicicletas son para el verano*
3. Individual Research Project: this is a topic of your choice which you wish to research and present orally. This aspect of the course is completely independent.

How is this course assessed?

Three examinations at the end of Year 13 - Listening, Reading and Writing (Paper 1 - 50%), Writing (Paper 2 - 20%) and Speaking (Paper 3 - 30%).

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Philosophy

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Philosophy at A Level?

Philosophy, as the original academic subject, provides students with an exciting chance to learn about some of the most important thinkers who ever lived. It offers an opportunity for informed discussion on some of the deepest and most important questions that human beings have always asked about life such as, ‘What can we know through our senses?’ ‘Does God exist?’ ‘How do we know right from wrong?’ ‘Does the physical nature of our mind mean that we have no free will?’

What will I study?

You will study four core areas of philosophy: philosophy of mind, moral philosophy, philosophy of religion and epistemology (philosophy of knowledge, truth and experience). You will learn about the great thinkers who shaped these ideas, the historical context that informed them and the implications for our wider understanding of the world.

How is this course assessed?

At the end of the 2 year course you will be assessed for each area of study. You will complete one 3 hour examination on epistemology and moral philosophy and a second 3 hour examination on philosophy of religion and philosophy of mind. The examinations consist of shorter subject knowledge questions and longer evaluative essays.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Music

Examination Board: Eduqas

Why study Music at A Level?

A-level music is a varied, enriching and rigorous academic subject which will set you up well for university study. It will help you develop analytical, practical, and interpersonal skills as well as independent learning and good time-management. Moreover, through performance and composition projects you will have the chance to develop your creativity and self-expression.

"The varied nature of the course enables students to develop highly desirable skills in areas such as self-management, creativity, data analysis, performance, teamwork, problem-solving, and communication, all of which makes them an attractive prospect for potential employers... popular destinations for Music graduates... include broadcasting, publishing, law, politics and the Civil Service. Rather than limiting your career prospects, a music degree opens doors to a wide range of careers." University of Oxford

What will I study?

There are three main areas of study: Listening and Appraising, Performance, and Composition. You will learn about the Western Classical Tradition and have options to specialise in genres such as Rock & Pop, Musical Theatre, Jazz, as well as vocal, instrumental, fusion and art music from the Twentieth or Twenty-first centuries.

How is this course assessed? (**There are two assessment pathways: either 35% performance and 25% composition, or 25% performance and 35% composition depending on your strengths and interests.*)

Component 1 - Performing (either 35% or 25%)*

You will give a recital performance of solo or ensemble pieces (6 -12 mins) (Year 13 Term 4)

Component 2 - Composition (either 35% or 25%)*

You will create two or three* compositions (4 - 10 minutes). The first should be written in the style of the Western Classical Tradition, the second based on one of the Areas of Study, and the third in your own chosen style.

Component 3 - Listening and appraising (40%)

In this written exam (2 hours 15 minutes) you will be asked to listen to, and answer

- a detailed analysis question on the main set work,
- answer a question on an unprepared extract of a symphony with a skeleton score (including musical dictation, questions on keys, chords, cadences and spotting errors.)
- an essay based question based on the development of the symphony in relation to both set works and the wider social, cultural and historical context of the era.

"Creativity now is as important in education as literacy... creativity is, and will continue to be, a core driver of our economy. It is the factor that will allow us to differentiate ourselves in the jobs market." Sir Ken Robinson

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Physical Education

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Physical Education at A Level?

Do you have a passion for sport? Do you regularly watch and participate in sport? If yes then continue to read and welcome to A Level Physical Education! This amazing qualification will help you further your career in the sporting world. There are an array of university courses that may interest you from Sports and Exercise Science, Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Sports Management, Sports Journalism, Sports Development, PE teaching, Sports Coaching plus many more.

What will I study?

In year one the following topics will be studied:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Skill acquisition
- Sport and society

In year two the following topics will be studied:

- Exercise physiology
- Biomechanical movement
- Sport psychology
- Sport and society and the role of technology

How is this course assessed?

- Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport, 2 hour written examination (105 marks), 35%
- Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport, 2 hour written examination (105 marks), 35%

This will include multiple choice, short answer and extended writing

NEA: Practical performance in physical activity and sport, 90 marks, 30%

You will be assessed as a performer or coach in a full sized version of one activity plus a written analysis of performance.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Physics

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Physics at A Level?

Physics is a rigorous and well respected qualification, highly valued by universities. Many students go on to study Science, Medicine, Engineering or Mathematics at university, but others choose Physics as an interesting and challenging complement to their other subjects. A qualification in Physics is essential for many branches of engineering and recommended for courses in Pure Science, Electronics, Veterinary Science and Medicine. It is also an excellent preparation for many careers.

To succeed in Physics, you should be interested in understanding and explaining physical phenomena and enjoy experimental work. A Level Physics requires a good level of competency in Mathematics, and while it is not necessary to take Mathematics A Level, you will find Physics easier if you do.

You will already have come across some of the concepts of Physics at GCSE: forces, energy, waves, radioactivity, electricity and magnetism. At A Level you will start to see how these ideas work together, and begin to grasp the universal principles that apply to everything from the smallest atoms to the largest galaxies.

Whatever you do in the future, the knowledge and skills you gain by studying Physics will be useful. Physics is more than a subject - it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

Physics is fundamentally an experimental subject. This specification provides numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality, and will equip students with the essential practical skills they need.

What will I study?

Particle Physics, Waves, Mechanics, Electrical circuits, Gravitational and Electric fields, Radioactivity and Nuclear Physics, Capacitors, Magnetic fields and Astrophysics.

How is this course assessed?

Three examinations of 2 hours each in length. The first two examinations cover standard course content and include a range of questions styles including structured questions and multiple choice. The third paper examines practical skills and Astrophysics.

We will also assess your practical skills during lessons which leads to the award of a separate certificate in practical competency.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Politics

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Why study Politics at A Level?

Politics is the study of democracy, power and ideas. You will gain an understanding of how democratic the UK really is, what the Prime Minister can and cannot do, and how similar and different the political parties really are. People study politics because they want to be an active citizen in society, or to improve their critical thinking skills and ability to construct arguments. Politics students tend to go on to study History, Politics, Journalism or Law at university.

What will I study?

- **UK Politics:** What is democracy? What is the role of elections and do the media make a difference? How do pressure groups succeed and fail at influencing the government?
- **UK Government:** Examine who holds power in the UK: the Prime Minister, Cabinet, Parliament or the Judiciary? What is the constitution and is it fit for purpose? What impact does the Supreme Court and European Union have on decision-making in the UK?
- **Core Political Ideas:** What are the main ideas of Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Feminism, and in what ways is there conflict within them?
- **US Politics:** Learn about the US system and comparative theories we can use to explore similarities and differences with the UK. How powerful or weak is the President? Why does the US have a two party system? Who holds more power: The President, Congress or the Supreme Court?

How is this course assessed?

You will sit three examinations, one on each unit. Each examination has a mixture of source, short and long questions.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Psychology

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Psychology at A Level?

Psychology is a relatively new and growing scientific field which investigates human behaviour and the factors that influence it, and will be of interest to anyone who wants a better understanding of their own behaviour and that of others. It is a fascinating subject in its own right (and many of our students will take it to degree level) but it also gives useful insights into a wide range of other subjects, from Art and English, to Politics and the Humanities, through to the Natural Sciences. Similarly a Psychology A Level can inform many future careers, from Medicine to Business and any occupation that involves engagement with people. Studying Psychology helps to develop higher level skills of analysis and evaluation, as well as encouraging a focus on bigger questions such as whether we really have any control over our behaviour from an evidence-based perspective.

What will I study?

You will look at a range of topics including attachment, social influence, schizophrenia, memory, forensic psychology and biopsychology. Within each topic you will learn key research and theories which often offer competing explanations (for example, considering genetic versus environmental theories). You will also discuss a number of key issues and debates which run throughout the subject such as determinism, reductionism, gender and cultural bias. You will study the range of research methods psychologists use and evaluate them in terms of whether they constitute good science or not. You will be encouraged to demonstrate your understanding of research methodology by conducting your own independent research studies.

How is this course assessed?

There are three equally weighted examination papers (Introductory Topics; Psychology in Context; Issues and Options in Psychology) each of two hours duration. The questions in each paper range from multiple choice through short answers up to full essays. Knowledge and understanding of research methods and scientific procedures can be tested in any paper, and up to 10% of marks may be linked to questions involving numeracy.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Sociology

Examination Board: AQA

Why study Sociology at A Level?

This subject will raise your awareness about how society functions and your place within it. It will expose you to lots of new perspectives used to analyse and evaluate society and its constituent institutions. It helps you develop a critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power based on a range of evidence, and develops higher order evaluative skills. It may well also help develop your understanding of your own personal and political ideologies and value system. Sociology is a good choice of subject for people who want a career in social work, nursing or medicine, but the subject is also useful in a number of other careers, like marketing, advertising, PR, journalism, law, teaching, the civil service and public sector more generally. Degree courses in Sociology and related fields such as Criminology are popular options

What will I study?

The course will look in depth at the role in society of the family, education, beliefs and crime and deviance. Within each topic you will consider arguments from a number of different perspectives, including functionalist consensus theories; conflict theories such as Marxism and feminism; and postmodernism. You will also consider these theoretical viewpoints in their own right, and will gain an understanding of the range of techniques used in Sociological research. Certain core themes will be highlighted, including power and inequality, and globalisation. Sociology is a dynamic subject so you will need to keep abreast of the news and relate your knowledge to current events.

How is this course assessed?

There are three equally weighted written examinations: Education with Theory and Methods; Topics in Sociology (Families and Households and Beliefs in Society); and Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods. Each paper is two hours long and involves a mixture of shorter answers and full length essays.

The specific entry requirements for this subject can be found [here](#).

Destinations 2025	% of Year Group
University	70% <i>(of which 2% were Oxbridge & 32% Russell Group & 67% at pre 1992 universities)</i>
Apprenticeship/employment	20%
Gap Year	10%



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