GB6TH

GREAT BARR SIXTH

PROSPECTUS

2027 ENTRY

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WELCOME TO GB6TH

I am proud to welcome you to GB6th, an inclusive and ambitious community where every student is valued and supported to succeed. We recognise that success looks different for everyone. Whether your next step after A-levels is university, a higher or degree apprenticeship, or employment, your ambitions matter here. If you are still exploring your options, we will help you discover your strengths and make informed, confident decisions about your future.

Choosing where to study at sixth form is an important decision. For students who stay with us, GB6th offers the opportunity to build on trusted relationships with teachers who understand them as individuals and believe in their potential. Staying is not simply continuing at a school: it is choosing a new stage of learning, with high expectations, tailored support and a strong sense of belonging.

That same combination of ambition and personal support is helping GB6th become the local sixth form of choice for students joining from other schools. You do not need to have studied here before to belong here. Whether you are a familiar face or joining us for the first time, you will be welcomed as an equally valued member of our community, bringing your own experiences, ideas and aspirations.

Mrs H. Perry
Senior Leader of Sixth Form

We are rightly proud of our sixth form provision. Our combination of academic and vocational courses, excellent pastoral care, and enrichment opportunities help you develop both your qualifications and the confidence, resilience and independence to use them. Through our tutor programme, university and careers guidance, and opportunities to engage with employers and apprenticeship providers, we support different ambitions with equal commitment. We want every learner to feel challenged, encouraged and equipped for the path that is right for them.

I warmly invite you to visit, meet our students and staff, and discover what your future could look like at GB6th. Whatever your starting point and wherever you hope to go next, we look forward to helping you take that next step.

Mr P Crawford
Head of Sixth Form

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

GB6th provides me with an exceptional quality of education and life skills and the ability to reach my full potential and realise my aspirations. GB6th has equipped me with skills such as confidence and the ability to lead groups of students, which are vital skills for later life.

Senior Prefect

Sixth form here at Q3 Academy Great Barr was a great choice to continue my A Level education. Since starting in September I have felt accepted and welcomed by all students and staff. I really enjoy studying the options I have chosen and feel that I can always speak to staff if I need support and guidance.

Year 12 Student

I am grateful for all of the support the staff at GB6th have provided me with over the last 2 years. They have made my learning accessible and exciting! I am thankful to the Sixth Form staff for having faith in my ability to succeed.

Year 13 Student

I leave every lesson feeling like I have learned something new and with a piece of information of how I can improve in my subjects. I look forward to taking everything I have learned from my subject teachers and the Sixth Form staff through to the next stage in my education. GB6th has shaped me into the confident and resilient student I am today.

Sixth Form Student

I chose GB6th for the outstanding care and dedication of the teaching staff, the high pass rate at A Level, and the endless possibilities awaiting us.

Prefect



LIFE AT GB6TH

Your subject choices are not the limit of how you spend your time with us, we offer many non-academic activities designed to enhance your experience and prepare you for life beyond education.

Subject options

The core of your 2 year programme of study, **most students choose three subjects**, with a fourth choice of further maths for students who meet the entry criteria.

Enrichment activities

Each week you will complete one lesson each of:

Wellbeing Inspire
Our holistic personal development sessions designed to support the needs of A-level students, delivered alongside our tutor team who coach students through their 2 years using the VESPA model from the A-Level Mindset.

ASPIRE
A curated programme of guest speakers engage with our Sixth Form to broaden the awareness of the wider world and prepare students for their progression to university or the workplace. Speakers include university admission teams, charities, employers, and apprenticeship providers.

Wellbeing Active
Healthy body, healthy minds; this easy-going fitness lesson gives students the opportunity to let off some steam with the whole Year Group through a wide variety of physical activities led by the PE department.

Extra-curricular opportunities

Want to give that little bit extra? We are delighted to offer opportunities, such as:

- Senior Prefect/Prefect
- Sports coaches
- Tutoring opportunities
- Cadets
- Young Enterprise







APPLY TO GB6TH

We are delighted that you are considering Great Barr Sixth for your post-16 study. To help you understand the process of securing a place, we have outlined the key information below.

Minimum Entry Requirements

To be admitted to Great Barr Sixth, **students must achieve a Grade 4 in both English Language and Mathematics**. Additionally, each subject we offer have their own specific entry requirements. Please note that we do not have the capacity to facilitate re-sits in September 2027.

Application Process

Our application form is now live on our website. Please complete all relevant sections and ensure that you select your first-choice options as well as reserve choices. This helps to avoid disappointment if your chosen course cannot run. Be aware that options are subject to change and may be withdrawn pending government review and student demand. We will contact you promptly following results day to confirm your option choices.

Important Dates

The deadline for applications is 31st March 2027. While we will accept applications after this date, we encourage you to apply by the deadline to avoid disappointment, as some courses may become oversubscribed.

Admissions Policy

All student applications will be treated fairly, according to our admissions policy.

Conditional Offers

Successful applicants will receive a conditional offer in writing. On results day, if your child meets our minimum entry requirements, they will need to enrol on our website. We will then contact you via email to confirm their place.

If you have any questions during the application process, please contact us by emailing 6thform@gbr.merciantrust.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you at GB6th and supporting your journey towards a successful future.



POST-16 PATHWAYS 2026

When choosing subjects to study, it can be important to consider your plans for the future. If you already have a definite career or university course in mind, ensure that you are choosing the right post-16 courses.

Please note that courses will only run subject to sufficient numbers of students taking the courses. In the unlikely circumstances that one of your preferred options does not run, we will support you with advice and guidance to choose the best alternative.

All students are required to achieve a minimum of grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Mathematics, along with specific subject requirements.





A Level

ART, CRAFT, AND DESIGN

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7201

Course Requirements:

Requires minimum grade 4 in GCSE Art, Textiles, or Photography, or a design subject.

Why should you choose Art, Craft, and Design?

This qualification offers an exciting and creative introduction to a wide range of artistic disciplines. Students will have the opportunity to explore and develop their skills in a variety of media and techniques, including fine art, graphic design, textiles, photography, and 3D design. This course is ideal for students who enjoy working creatively and want to develop their practical skills, as well as their ability to think critically about art and design.

Art, Craft, and Design is highly valued by Higher Education (HE) institutions and employers, as it fosters creativity, independent thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to communicate visually. It is an excellent foundation for careers in the creative industries, including architecture, fashion, graphic design, and fine art.

How is the course assessed?

This A Level course is designed to be taken over two years, with assessments taking place at the end of the course. The qualification is assessed through two components:

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of A Level)

This is a practical investigation supported by written material. Students will develop a personal response to a theme, idea, or issue of their choice. The investigation consists of a portfolio of work and a related written study of between 1000–3000 words.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level)

This component consists of a practical project based on a theme set by the exam board. Students will have a preparatory period to develop their ideas, followed by 15 hours of supervised time to produce a final outcome.

What will you be learning?

Students will explore a wide range of art, craft, and design processes, including but not limited to:

- Fine Art (e.g., painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture)
- Graphic Communication (e.g., illustration, typography, digital media)
- Textile Design (e.g., fashion, surface pattern, constructed textiles)
- Three-Dimensional Design (e.g., product design, ceramics, jewellery)
- Photography (e.g., lens-based media, digital photography, darkroom techniques)

Students will also develop their understanding of the work of artists, designers, and craftspeople, and learn to critically analyse and evaluate their own work and that of others.

Special Considerations:

Art, Craft and Design is a highly practical and creative course, and students should be prepared to dedicate significant time to developing their skills and completing coursework. It is recommended that students have a strong interest in art and design and are willing to experiment with different materials and techniques.

Before committing to this course, students should carefully review the A Level Art, Craft, and Design specification, which is available on the AQA website. This will provide a detailed overview of the course content and expectations.

BIOLOGY

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference:** 7402

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 6,6 in GCSE Science Combined, or grade 6 in GCSE Biology and grade 6 in another Science if separate.

Why should you choose Biology?

This course is for students who want to continue studying Biology after GCSE. You'll already be familiar with some of the topics, but the A Level will give you the chance to study these, and some new ones, in much greater depth. You might be choosing Biology because you're headed for a healthcare or scientific career, though it will give you a set of skills that can be used in a wide range of non-scientific careers too. This course links well with most other A Level subjects, but particularly those such as Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geography, and Psychology.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is through final examination at the end of the course. There will be 3 exam papers:

- Paper 1 (2 hours) (35%)
- Paper 2 (2 hours) (35%)
- Paper 3 (2 hours) (30%)

Exams will comprise short-answer, multiple choice, extended answer and essay questions, critical analysis, and questions on practical techniques. There will also be a teacher assessed practical where candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

What will you be learning?

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

BUSINESS

A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel **Specification Reference:** 9BS0

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 5 in GCSE Business if studied previously. If business has not been studied previously, than a minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE maths is required.

Why should you choose Business?

A Level Business Studies is an exciting and practical subject that equips you with essential knowledge and skills for life. Understanding how businesses operate, make decisions, and adapt to changing environments is invaluable in today's fast-paced world. This course develops your ability to analyse real-world situations, evaluate strategies, and communicate ideas effectively—skills that are highly sought after by universities and employers alike. Whether you pursue higher education, an apprenticeship, or enter the workforce, the ability to think critically and make evidence-based decisions will set you apart. Business influences almost every aspect of our lives, from the products we buy to the jobs we do, and studying it gives you insight into how organisations shape economies and societies. If you want to learn about topics that directly impact your future career and everyday life, A Level Business Studies is the perfect choice.

How is the course assessed?

This specification is designed to be completed over two years, with all assessments taken at the end of the course. The qualification is assessed through three written examinations, each worth one-third of the overall A Level grade. Paper 1 and 2 are 2 hours long, carry 100 marks, and contribute 35% to the final qualification. Paper 3 contributes 30% of the overall mark. The papers include a mix of short-answer, data response, and extended essay questions, requiring analysis and evaluation of real business contexts.

- Paper 1: Marketing, People and Global Businesses
- Paper 2: Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy
- Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment

What will you be learning?

- Marketing and People – How businesses attract customers and manage employees.
- Managing Business Activities – Finance, operations, and resource management.
- Business Decisions and Strategy – Planning, growth, and competitive advantage.
- Global Businesses – International trade, globalisation, and ethics.
- Investigating Business – Applying theory to real-world business contexts.



CHEMISTRY

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7405

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 6,6 in GCSE Science Combined or grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry and grade 6 in another Science if separate.

Why should you choose Chemistry?

This course is for students who want to continue studying Chemistry after GCSE. You'll already be familiar with some of the topics, but the A Level will give you the chance to study these, and some new ones, in much greater depth. You might be choosing Chemistry because you're headed for a scientific career, though it will give you a set of skills that can be used in a wide range of non-scientific careers too.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is through final examination at the end of the course. There will be 3 exam papers:

- Paper 1 (2 hours) (35%)
- Paper 2 (2 hours) (35%)
- Paper 3 (2 hours) (30%)

Exams will comprise short-answer, multiple choice, extended answer, critical analysis, and questions on practical techniques. There will also be a teacher assessed practical where candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

What will you be learning?

Chemistry is the study of materials at a molecular level. You will have opportunities to learn about the properties of everyday materials and even make some of them. You will review the fundamentals of chemistry, going over the important concepts that underpin it, including atomic structure and quantitative chemistry. You'll understand the behaviours of the elements of the periodic table and learn about organic and physical chemistry. You'll develop practical skills to plan, conduct and report on experiments and investigations using a range of methods and apparatus and apply your mathematics skills to quantitative analysis. You'll get an insight into the important applications of chemistry to everyday life.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

A Level

Exam Board: OCR **Specification Reference**: H446

Course Requirements

GCSE Mathematics Grade 6 and above, if GCSE Computer Science has not been studied then minimum grade 6 is required in GCSE Mathematics.

Why should you choose Computer Science?

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement. The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop an understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, the ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs and the capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically, and critically.

How is the course assessed?

This specification is designed to be taken over two years, with all assessments taken at the end of the course. There are 2 exams each worth 40% and a Non-Examined Assessment which is worth 20%.

- Paper 1: Computer Systems (40%)
- Paper 2: Algorithms and Programming (40%)
- NEA : Programming Project (20%)

What will you be learning?

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices;
- Software and software development;
- Exchanging data;
- Data types, data structures and algorithms;
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues;
- Elements of computational thinking;
- Problem solving and programming;
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms.



ECONOMICS

A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel **Specification Reference:** 9BS0

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 5 in GCSE Business (if GCSE Business has not been studied then minimum grade 5 is required in GCSE Mathematics).

Why should you choose Economics?

This qualification offers an engaging, comprehensive and effective introduction to Business. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

How is the course assessed?

This specification is designed to be taken over two years with all assessments taken at the end of the course.

Each exam consists of short answer and extended writing. Each written exam is 2 hours.

- Paper 1: Marketing, people and global businesses (35% of final grade) Themes 1 & 4
- Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy (35% of final grade) Themes 2 & 3
- Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment (30% of final grade) all themes

Questions on Paper 3 will be drawn from local, national and global contexts. For Paper 3, there will be a pre-released context document which we use to prepare and complete research prior to the exam.

What will you be learning?

- Theme 1: Marketing & People – customer needs, market research, marketing mix, managing people, entrepreneurs and leaders.
- Theme 2: Raising and managing finance, resources in business, business environment.
- Theme 3: Business decisions and strategy, competitiveness, decision-making.
- Theme 4: Globalisation, growing global businesses.





ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7707

Course Requirements

Minimum GCSE grade 6 in English Language.

Why should you choose A Level English Language and Literature?

This course integrates linguistic and literary study, developing advanced reading, writing and analytical skills valued in a wide range of careers. Typical pathways include law, journalism, publishing, media and communications, marketing, teaching, public relations, civil service, and any role requiring clear analysis and high-quality written communication.

How is the course assessed?

There are two exams sat at the end of the two-year course and one non-exam assessment (coursework)

- Paper 1: Telling Stories (3 hours) – 40%
- Paper 2: Exploring Conflict (2 hours 30 minutes) – 40%
- Non-exam assessment: Making Connections (2,500–3,000 words) – 20%

What will you be learning?

- Telling Stories
  - Remembered places: representation of place using the AQA Anthology: Paris (closed book in the exam)
  - Imagined worlds: point of view, character, time and setting in a prose novel (open book) – Frankenstein / The Handmaid's Tale
  - Poetic voices: how poets construct voice and perspective (open book) - Seamus Heaney
- Exploring Conflict
  - Writing about society: re-creative writing from a set text – The Great Gatsby
  - Dramatic encounters: conflict in drama (open book) – A Streetcar Named Desire
- Making Connections (coursework)
  - An individual investigation comparing a literary text with non-literary material on a chosen theme or technique (2,500–3,000 words)

Key skills you will develop:

- Close language analysis: phonetics/phonology, lexis/semantics, grammar, pragmatics and discourse
- Comparative reading and contextual understanding
- Academic essay writing, re-creative writing and reflective commentary
- Independent research, planning and investigation skills

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7447

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 5,5 in GCSE Science Combined, or grade 5 in GCSE Biology and grade 5 in another Science if separate.

Why should you choose Environmental Science?

Environmental Science is the perfect subject for students who want to understand the world around them and make a real difference to its future. From climate change and renewable energy to conservation, pollution, and sustainable resource management, Environmental Science explores some of the biggest challenges facing our planet today. The course combines elements of biology, chemistry, physics, geography and skills, helping students develop investigative, analytical, and practical skills that are highly valued by universities and employers. Whether you are interested in protecting wildlife, shaping environmental policy, engineering sustainable solutions, or simply understanding how human activities affect the natural world, Environmental Science offers a fascinating and relevant pathway to a wide range of careers and opportunities.

How is the course assessed?

A Level Environmental Science with AQA is assessed through two written exam assessments. The course encourages students to explore nature of the living and the physical world, develop analytical and critical thinking skills, and engage critically with real-world issues.

Assessment Structure:

- Paper 1: 3 hours – 120 marks – 50% of A Level
- Paper 2: 3 hours – 120 marks – 50% of A Level

What will you be learning?

A Level Environmental Science is an exciting and interdisciplinary subject that explores the relationship between humans and the natural world. Throughout the course, you will investigate some of the most pressing environmental issues facing society today, as well as other secrets to life and all the services the planet provides for us as well as all the ways in which we as humans interact with the environment. This will take place through a number of topics such as:

- The living environment – Focuses on why life exists on this planet, all the complexities of life and challenges in sustaining it as well as the processes required for a balanced and healthy ecosystem.
- The Physical Environment – Focuses on the Earth's natural systems, including the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere, examining how these systems interact to create the conditions necessary for life and how they are affected by natural and human-induced changes.
- Energy Resources – Focuses on how energy is generated, distributed and used, exploring both renewable and non-renewable energy sources, their environmental impacts, and the challenges of meeting growing energy demands sustainably.
- Pollution – Focuses on the causes, effects and management of pollution in the atmosphere, water and land, investigating how human activities can damage environmental quality and the strategies used to reduce these impacts.



FRENCH

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7652

Course Requirements

Requires minimum Grade 6 in GCSE French

Why should you choose French?

The A-level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree.

Knowledge of a foreign language will vastly increase your chances of employment and international mobility. Our French course develops language skills and explore topics such as popular culture, media, youth issues, cultural identity and social issues within the context of the country. Background studies include a film and a piece of literature or a period of history. Lessons are conducted in the foreign language and involve reading, discussion, listening, and pair work.

How is the course assessed?

The specification has been designed to be studied over two years. This qualification is linear.

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing 2 hours 30 minutes 50% of A Level
- Paper 2: Writing 2 hours 20% of A Level
- Paper 3: Speaking 21-23 minutes 30% of A Level

What will you be learning?

Students following this specification will develop their language knowledge, understanding and skills through:

- Using language spontaneously to initiate communication; ask and answer questions; express thoughts and feelings; present viewpoints; develop arguments; persuade; and analyse and evaluate in speech and writing, including interaction with speakers of French
- Applying knowledge of pronunciation, morphology and syntax, vocabulary and idiom to communicate accurately and coherently, using a range of expression
- Listening and responding to spoken passages including some extended passages from a range of different contexts and sources, adapted as necessary, covering different registers and types, including authentic communication involving one or more speakers
- Reading and responding to a variety of texts including some extended texts written for different purposes and audiences drawn from a range of authentic sources, including contemporary, historical and literary, fiction and non-fiction texts, adapted as necessary.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel **Specification Reference**: 9FM0

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

Why should you choose Further Mathematics?

Maths skills are in demand in a variety of jobs and sectors. You could move on to degree level studies in subjects including mathematics, actuarial science, the natural and physical sciences, medicine, healthcare science, engineering, business and finance, economics, and more. The transferable skills you'll acquire are useful in careers from finance to engineering, commerce to healthcare. There are opportunities for entering employment, higher and degree apprenticeships after A levels.

How is the course assessed?

There are four exams that are sat at the end of the two-year course:

- Paper 1 – Core (1 hr 30mins) (25%)
- Paper 2 – Core (1 hr 30mins) (25%)
- Paper 3 – Mechanics (1 hr 30mins) (25%)
- Paper 4 – Statistics (1 hr 30mins) (25%)

What will you be learning?

Half of the course will focus on pure mathematics covering techniques in algebra, number, geometry and calculus that form the fundamental building blocks of the subject. The remainder of the course covers mechanics (forces, energy and collisions) and statistics (probability distributions, probabilities and testing hypotheses). Throughout the course you will be practising solving problems of increasing difficulty, applying the theory you have covered, developing your skills as a confident and independent mathematical thinker and analyser.

GEOGRAPHY

A Level

Exam Board: OCR **Specification Reference:** H481

Course Requirements

To study A Level Geography, you'll need at least a Grade 5 in GCSE Geography

Why should you choose A Level Geography?

Geography is one of the most exciting and relevant subjects you can study. It helps you make sense of the complex world we live in — from climate change and global inequality to urban growth and resource management. You'll develop a wide range of transferable skills, including research, analysis, and problem-solving, that are highly valued by universities and employers alike. Whether you're interested in environmental science, politics, economics, or global development, Geography opens doors to a variety of careers and helps you understand your place in an ever-changing world.

How is the course assessed?

A Level Geography with OCR is assessed through a combination of written examinations and an independent investigation. The course encourages students to explore physical and human geography, develop analytical and evaluative skills, and engage critically with real-world issues.

- Paper1: Physical Systems 2 hours 30 minutes – 96 marks (36% of A Level)
- Paper2: Human Interactions 2 hours 30 minutes – 96 marks (36% of A Level)
- Paper 3: Geographical Debates 2 hours 30 minutes – 72 marks (28% of A Level). Students explore two in-depth geographical debates, such as Climate Change and Hazardous Earth.
- Independent Investigation (Non-Examined Assessment – NEA)

What will you be learning?

A Level Geography takes you beyond the classroom to explore the world around you — from dramatic landscapes to global issues shaping our future.

- Physical Systems: Discover how our planet works by studying landscapes such as coasts or glaciers, and explore the vital carbon and water cycles that sustain life on Earth.
- Human Interactions: Learn how people and places are connected through topics like globalisation, migration, trade, and human rights — and how these shape the modern world.
- Geographical Debates: Tackle big global questions such as Climate Change and Hazardous Earth, developing your ability to think critically, debate, and make informed decisions.
- Independent Investigation: Choose a topic you're passionate about and carry out your own research project, collecting and analysing real data — perfect preparation for university study.

HISTORY

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7042

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 5 in GCSE History (if GCSE History has not been studied then minimum grade 5 is required in a humanities subject).

Why should you choose History?

History can help you develop the ability to question and counter-argue. These skills are useful in a variety of fields including; law, journalism, philosophy, business and commerce.

A-Level History can help you develop the ability to analyse information and communicate effectively and help you better understand the ever changing world we live in today by giving its students a sense of the past and values, systems and societies have changed and moulded themselves into the 21st century form.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed over two exams (which equate to 40% each of the total score) and one non exam assessment (20% of total score) which the students will do throughout their study. The non exam based assessment, the students have the opportunity to research, write and finalise a 4,000 assignment on a historical subject of their choice. Past subjects that have been completed by our students are; Civil Rights in USA, Ireland in the 18th and 19th century, Ming Dynasty and many more. Both History exam papers are 2 and a half hours long and are completed at the end of the second year of study.

What will you be learning?

- Paper 1 – The Tudors 1485-1603
  This includes all the Tudor Monarchs; Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I and their policies both domestic and foreign during the entirety of the Tudor Dynasty.
- Paper 2 – Germany Democracy and dictatorship 1918-1945.
  This includes the Weimar Republic from 1918-1933 and the time under Nazi Rule in Germany from 1933 to 1945 looking at the 'Golden Age' of Weimar Republic to impact of war on German citizens until the culmination of the conflict in the spring of 1945.

MATHEMATICS

A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel **Specification Reference:** 9MA0

Course Requirements

Requires a minimum of grade 6 in GCSE mathematics.

Why should you choose Mathematics?

Maths skills are in demand in a variety of jobs and sectors. You could move on to degree level studies in subjects including mathematics, actuarial science, the natural and physical sciences, medicine, healthcare science, engineering, business and finance, economics, and more. The transferable skills you'll acquire are useful in careers from finance to engineering, commerce to healthcare. There are opportunities for entering employment, higher and degree apprenticeships after A Levels.

How is the course assessed?

There are three exams that are sat at the end of the two-year course:

- Paper 1 - Core (2 hours) (33.3%)
- Paper 2 - Core (2 hours) (33.3%)
- Paper 3 – Applied (statistics and mechanics) (2 hours) (33.3%)

What will you be learning?

Two thirds of the course will focus on pure mathematics covering techniques in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus that form the fundamental building blocks of the subject. The remainder of the course covers mechanics (forces, energy, motion) and statistics (probability, data handling, testing hypotheses). Throughout the course you will be practising solving problems of increasing difficulty, applying the theory you have covered, developing your skills as a confident and independent mathematical thinker.

MEDIA STUDIES

A Level

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas
Specification Reference: A680QS

Course Requirements

Minimum GCSE grades: Grade 5 in English Language.

Why should you choose Media Studies?

Media shapes culture, politics and everyday life. You will develop analytical, critical thinking and creative production skills valued by universities and employers. Typical pathways include journalism, broadcasting, advertising, PR, social media management, film/TV production, game industries, marketing, communications, digital content creation, UX, and cultural policy. The course builds transferable skills in research, argument, project management, and digital literacy.

How is the course assessed?

There are two exams at the end of Year 13 and one non-exam assessment (coursework):

- Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences (written exam, 2h 15m) – 35%
- Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth (written exam, 2h 30m) – 35%
- Component 3: Cross-Media Production (coursework/NEA) – 30%

What will you be learning?

You will study the media through four key areas: media language, representation, industries and audiences, applying advanced theories (e.g. Barthes, Hall, Van Zoonen, Butler, Gilroy, Curran & Seaton, Hesmondhalgh, Jenkins). Main topics and set products include:

- Component 1
  - Section A: Analysing media language and representation in advertising/marketing, music video and newspapers.
  - Section B: Media industries and audiences in advertising, film, newspapers, radio and video games.
- Component 2
  - Section A: Television in the Global Age – choose one pairing (e.g. Peaky Blinders and The Bridge; or Black Mirror and The Returned; or Killing Eve and Tehran).
  - Section B: Magazines – comparative study of one mainstream and one alternative/historical title
  - Section C: Media in the Online Age – one YouTube creator
- Skills and practical aspects:
  - Critical analysis, comparative writing, application and evaluation of theory.
  - Understanding media contexts (social, cultural, historical, political, economic).
  - Practical production: plan and create an original cross-media project in two linked forms (e.g. a TV sequence with related online/print; an original music video with related print/online; a magazine with online/audio-visual). You will research audiences, use appropriate codes and conventions, and submit a 500-word statement of aims.





PHOTOGRAPHY

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7206

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 4 in GCSE Art, Textiles, or Photography, or a design subject.

Why should you choose Photography?

A Level Photography offers a dynamic and creative opportunity to explore the world through the lens. This course is ideal for students who have a passion for visual storytelling and want to develop their technical and conceptual skills in photography. You will learn how to use photographic techniques and processes to communicate ideas, emotions, and narratives effectively.

Photography is highly regarded by Higher Education (HE) institutions and employers for nurturing creativity, independent thinking, and problem-solving skills. It is an excellent foundation for careers in the creative industries, including photojournalism, fashion photography, advertising, and fine art photography.

How is the course assessed?

This A Level course is designed to be taken over two years, with assessments taking place at the end of the course. The qualification is assessed through two components:

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of A Level)

This is a practical investigation supported by written material. Students will develop a personal project based on a theme, idea, or issue of their choice. The investigation consists of a portfolio of work and a related written study of between 1000–3000 words.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level)

This component consists of a practical project based on a theme set by the exam board. Students will have a preparatory period to develop their ideas, followed by 15 hours of supervised time to produce a final outcome.

What will you be learning?

Throughout the course, students will explore a wide range of photographic techniques and processes, including both traditional and digital methods. The course covers:

- Digital Photography
  Learn how to use digital cameras, editing software (e.g., Adobe Photoshop), and other digital tools to create and manipulate images.
- Studio Photography
  Gain experience in controlled lighting setups, working with models, and creating professional-quality images.
- Experimental Photography
  Experiment with mixed media, alternative processes, and unconventional approaches to photography.
- Critical Analysis
  Develop your ability to analyse and evaluate your own work and the work of others, including the study of historical and contemporary photographers.

Special Considerations:

Photography is a highly practical and creative course that requires dedication and time outside of lessons to develop your skills and complete your portfolio. Students should have a strong interest in visual arts and be willing to experiment with different techniques and processes.

Before committing to this course, students should carefully review the A Level Photography specification, which is available on the AQA website. This will provide a detailed overview of the course content and expectations.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A Level

Exam Board: OCR **Specification Reference:** H555

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 4 in GCSE Physical Education. You will also need to provide evidence of participation at club level in one sport.

Why should you choose PE?

This course is for anyone moving on from GCSE with an interest in Sport and Physical Education. You might decide to choose PE because you are heading for a career in the sports industry. However, it will also equip you with valuable skills such as teamwork, resilience and communication that can be used in a wide range of careers. You will need enthusiasm and passion for sport, along with a commitment to training and performing regularly in at least one sport at a minimum of club level. A Level Physical Education combines well with subjects including Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Psychology.

How is the course assessed?

70% of the final grade is through examination; including 1 two hour paper and 2 further one hour papers (three in total). The remaining 30% is comprised of 15% awarded for practical performance and 15% for a verbal response (speech) which involves analysing a performance in your chosen sport and designing a training plan for development.

What will you be learning?

For the practical element of this course you'll perform or coach a sporting activity which must be undertaken outside of the Academy. You will also study a range of theoretical topics relating to sport and physical activity. You will explore the science behind physical activity: how the body systems work together to enable us to be physically active, as well as the influence of diet, training and skill acquisition on performance. You will learn about acute and chronic sports injuries and how they are treated and gain an understanding of how biomechanics and modern technology can be used for analysing and improving sports performance. Sports psychology will give you an insight into how we learn and develop sporting skills and the psychological factors that can affect performance. You will also look at the development of sport over time and the factors that shape it today.

This course is taught theoretically; all practical elements will be expected to be completed by the participant outside of the Academy.



PHYSICS

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference:** 7408

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 6,6 in GCSE Science Combined, or grade 6 in GCSE Physics and grade 6 in another Science if separate.

Why should you choose Physics?

This course is for students who want to continue studying Physics after GCSE. You'll already be familiar with some of the topics like forces and electricity, but the A Level will give you the chance to study these, and some new ones, in much greater depth. You might be choosing Physics because you're headed for a scientific career, though it will give you transferable skills that can be used in a wide range of non-scientific careers too. To study Physics A Level, you'll need a keen interest in science and good mathematics skills.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is through final examination at the end of the course. There will be 3 exam papers:

- Paper 1 (2 hours) (34%)
- Paper 2 (2 hours) (34%)
- Paper 3 (2 hours) (32%)

Exams will comprise short-answer, multiple choice, extended answer, critical analysis and questions on practical techniques. There will also be a teacher assessed practical where candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

What will you be learning?

A Level Physics combines practical investigations and experiments with theoretical ideas, giving you the skills to logically analyse and solve problems. You'll cover the following topics: Measurements and their errors, Particles and Radiation, Waves, Mechanics, Electricity, Further Mechanics, Thermal Physics, Fields, and Nuclear Physics. You'll also have the opportunity to find out more about Engineering Physics.

POLITICS

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7152

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 5 in GCSE History (if GCSE History has not been studied then minimum grade 5 is required in a humanities subject).

Why should you choose Psychology?

A Level Politics is an incredibly interesting subject, encompassing many important skills and knowledge that you will keep for life. Being able to write effective essays that convey a point of view and backing that with evidence is an incredible skill to have for later in life. Whether you go to university, an apprenticeship or employment, evidence-based writing is a skill that many employers look for and will be a credit to your skillset at university. In the ever evolving modern world, Politics is having a vital impact on our lives and us as citizens, such as voting in elections and participating in how the country you live in is shaped and governed. The best way to learn about topics that directly impact your life is to study A Level Politics.

How is the course assessed?

This specification is designed to be taken over two years with all assessments taken at the end of the course. All three examinations are worth a third of the overall A Level grade. Each written exam is 2 hours and consists of short, long and extract based exam questions.

- Paper 1: Government and Politics of the UK
- Paper 2: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics
- Paper 3: Political Ideas

What will you be learning?

- British Constitution
- Structure and role of Parliament
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The Judiciary
- Devolution
- Democracy and Participation
- Elections and Referendums
- Political Parties
- Pressure Groups
- Politics of the USA including: The US Constitution, Congress, The Presidency, Supreme Court, Elections, Party Histories and Pressure Groups
- Political ideas and theories such as Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Nationalism.

PSYCHOLOGY

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7182

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 4 in GCSE Psychology (if GCSE Psychology has not been studied then minimum grade 5 in English Language or Literature is required).

Why should you choose Psychology?

This qualification offers an engaging and effective introduction to Psychology. Students will learn the fundamentals of the subject and develop skills valued by Higher Education (HE) and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking, and research.

How is the course assessed?

This specification is designed to be taken over two years with all assessments taken at the end of the course. All three examinations are worth a third of the overall A Level grade. Each written exam is 2 hours, worth 96 marks in total, and contributes to 33.3% of the A Level qualification. Each exam consists of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.

- Paper 1: Introductory topics in Psychology
- Paper 2: Psychology in Context
- Paper 3: Issues and options in Psychology

What topics will you be learning?

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in Psychology
- Biopsychology
- Research methods
- Issues and debates in Psychology
- Gender
- Aggression
- Eating behaviour

Mental Health Disclaimer:

It is important to note that through the expectation of students to learn about psychopathology you will have to learn about mental health problems in great detail which may cause unexpected upset or distress to some. Please read the AQA A Level Psychology specification content carefully before committing to study Psychology as a two year course.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS)

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference**: 7062

Course Requirements

Students require a grade 5 in RS or a humanities subject if they have not studied RS at GCSE level.

Why should you choose Philosophy and Ethics?

Students learn to question, think, criticise, analyse and respect a wide range of philosophical, ethical, and religious viewpoints. The course explores complex ideas including philosophical arguments for the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering, and the challenges of science to religious experience. The course allows students to attain skills that are widely recognised in universities, the course itself is very popular and well acknowledged in universities. The course allows students to enter careers of law, politics, social work, teaching, and so much more!

How is the course assessed?

The specification is designed to be taken over two years with all assessments taken at the end of the course. Each exam is worth 50% of the overall A Level grade. Each written exam is 3 hours long and is worth 100 marks each in total. Each exam consists 10-mark written analysis questions and 15-mark essay questions.

- Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics – 3 hours
- Paper 2: In-Depth Study of Christianity and Dialogues – 3 hours

What will you be learning?

Philosophy of Religion:

- Arguments for the existence of God
- The problem of evil and suffering
- Miracles
- Self, life and afterlife
- Religious language

Ethical studies:

- Ethical theories
- Issues of human life
- Issues of animal life
- Introduction to meta-ethics
- Conscience

In-depth study of Christianity:

- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and science
- Religion and secularisation
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Sources of wisdom and authority

SOCIOLOGY

A Level

Exam Board: AQA **Specification Reference:** 7192

Course Requirements

The entry requirement sociology is a grade 5 in sociology, or a humanities subject if they have not studied sociology at GCSE level.

Why should you choose Sociology?

Studying Sociology at A level is valuable because it helps students understand how society works and why people behave the way they do. It develops critical thinking, analytical skills, and the ability to interpret data and arguments—useful for many subjects and careers. Topics such as family, education, crime, and social inequality encourage students to question assumptions and see issues from multiple perspectives. It also supports strong essay writing and research skills, preparing students well for university courses like sociology, law, criminology, politics, social policy, psychology, and journalism, as well as careers in teaching, public services, social work, and the charity sector.

How is the course assessed?

There are three exams that are sat at the end of the two-year course:

- Paper 1 education and research methods (2 hours) (33.3%)
- Paper 2 Topics (2 hours) (33.3%)
- Paper 3 crime and deviance and research methods (2 hours) (33.3%)

What will you be learning?

- Families and Households
  Families and Households examines how family life is organised, how it's changing, and why. You study demographic trends (fertility, birth, death and divorce rates; ageing; migration), family diversity (nuclear, extended, reconstituted, lone-parent, cohabiting, same sex; the "beanpole" family).
- The sociology of Education
  In this unit you learn important areas regarding education. For example, Education looks at what schools do, who succeeds and why, and how policy shapes outcomes. You study the functions of education (e.g. Functionalism on social solidarity and meritocracy; Marxism on ideology, the hidden curriculum and the correspondence principle; New Right on marketisation).
- Crime and Deviance
  The unit is important as it examines how and why rules are made, broken and enforced, and who gets labelled "criminal". You study ways of measuring crime (official statistics, victim surveys, self reports and the "dark figure"), social order and social control, and the role of the media in moral panics and fear of crime.
- The Media
  This unit is important because it explores how media is produced, who controls them, how content is selected, and how audiences use and interpret it.
- Research methods and methods in context
  How sociologists gather and analyse data. You learn the difference between primary and secondary data, and quantitative and qualitative approaches. You study key methods: questionnaires, interviews (structured, semi-structured, unstructured), observations.

APPLIED SCIENCE

Level 3 Cambridge Technical

Exam Board: OCR **Specification Reference:** Certificate HO5I

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 5,5 in Combined Science or two grade 5s in Separate Science.

Why should you choose Applied Science?

If you're passionate about science and want a practical, career-focused qualification, the OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Applied Science (HO51) is the perfect choice. Designed for students aged 16–19, this course combines hands-on laboratory work with academic study and can be taken alongside A Levels or other Level 3 qualifications as part of a mixed programme.

With strong progression routes into higher education, apprenticeships, and science-based careers such as biomedical science, forensic science, environmental science, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and laboratory research, this qualification will give you the confidence and independence to succeed in the next stage of your journey.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of external exams and Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) units, graded on a Pass, Merit, Distinction, and Distinction* scale.

- External exams test subject knowledge and understanding.
- NEA units focus on applied and practical skills, with optional units for flexibility.
- Assessment split: 50% exam, 50% NEA

What will you be learning?

The Certificate consists of two mandatory units that provide a strong foundation in applied science:

- Science Fundamentals
  - Key principles of biology, chemistry, and physics
  - Atomic structure and the periodic table, quantitative chemistry, Structure and bonding, and Rates of reaction and enthalpy change
  - Electricity, Motion, Medical Physics
  - Cell structure and microscopy, Bioenergetics, Structure and function of biological molecules, Biodiversity and ecosystems
- Laboratory Techniques
  - Practical skills for preparing and analysing samples
  - Safe working practices and risk assessment
  - Use of scientific equipment and accurate measurement
  - Recording, presenting, and interpreting data

Level 3 Cambridge Technical

SPORTS & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Exam Board: OCR **Specification Reference:** 05872

Course Requirements

Requires minimum grade 4 in GCSE Physical Education or a pass grade in Sports Studies at Level 2.

Why should you choose Sports & Physical Activity?

This course is ideal for those progressing from GCSE Physical Education or Cambridge National in Sport Studies or Sport Science and looking to delve deeper into the subject. Whether you're aiming for a career in the sports industry or seeking to develop valuable skills like teamwork, resilience, and communication, this course has you covered. Enthusiasm and a passion for sport are essential, as this is a full-time commitment. The Cambridge Technical qualification is crafted with both the workplace and Higher Education in mind, offering a high-quality alternative to A Levels at Level 3.

How is the course assessed?

- External Exams: Some units are assessed through exams set and marked by OCR. These exams test your understanding of the theoretical aspects of the course.
- Internal Coursework: Other units are assessed internally by your teachers. This includes a variety of methods such as:
  - Written Assignments: Based on vocational scenarios.
  - Presentations: Demonstrating your knowledge and communication skills.
  - Role Play: Simulating real-world situations.
  - Case Studies: Analysing specific examples to apply your learning.
  - Practical demonstrations.

What will you be learning?

- Exercise and Fitness: Understanding the principles of fitness and how to apply them.
- Coaching: Developing skills to coach and lead sports activities.
- Leadership: Learning about leadership roles within sports settings.
- Sports Development: Exploring how to develop and promote sports activities and programs.



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