

Oxford Spires Academy Sixth²⁰²⁴⁻²⁵ Form



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Students in the Sixth Form follow a carefully planned and highly ambitious curriculum, studying a range of subjects in depth.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Highlights
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Welcome

Oxford Spires has a friendly, high aspiring and successful Sixth Form. We offer preparation for a full range of career paths, from apprenticeships to university, and everyone in Year 12 does work experience and engages in the core element of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze or Gold award.

We offer a full range of A level subjects and have very strong provision for those who require that little bit extra to impress in personal statements and at interview for Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. We offer Level 3 BTEC courses as well and pathways through to apprenticeships. Our Sixth Formers lead the school.

The students themselves have created the culture of success and collaboration that makes being a part of Oxford Spires Sixth Form a great experience for all. Our student leadership team lead School Council and House events, as well as mentoring younger students and undertaking community service: building their transferable skills by helping others.

Our Sixth Form facilities to enable students to work effectively, and an experienced Sixth Form team support students achieve their ambitions.

A Level Results 2023

Oxford Spires Academy Sixth Form students excel with higher grades than pre-Covid years.

- Students did not have an opportunity to sit formal GCSE exams in 2021 but still achieved better results than pre-Covid students.
- The number of results among the highest grades A*B increased significantly. We are particularly proud of their achievements as it has been suggested that nationally grades would be lower this year.
- Our highest performing subject was further maths with 60% of grades at A*A and 80% at A*B.
- In addition, more than 60% of students achieved the highest grades A*B in physics, history, maths, philosophy & ethics, french, chemistry and design technology. In 2019 the national averages for these subjects were approximately 50%.



Oxford Spires Academy is a highly inclusive school and pupils describe it as a 'beautiful community'

Ofsted (Nov 2023)

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Our approach

Oxford Spires Academy offers its Sixth Form students a working environment to encourage learning. Students have a purpose built common room and study space, exclusively for the use of Sixth Form students.

There is further access to the IT network for students all around the building, and Sixth Formers work where it suits them best. With access to documents and electronic material from home, there is never any excuse for missing work!

What is available for Sixth Form students?

Apart from the common room and Sixth Form study space, students often find teachers and gain extra help during study periods, working in subject areas, and there is also silent Sixth Form workspace in the Library.

Careers guidance is available for all Sixth Formers and individual interviews take place in Careers room next to the Library. When they are not in lessons, Sixth Form students have their own café, the Willows.

Extra-curricular and supercurricular activities are really important to Sixth Formers, and staff offer a variety of day and residential trips, and after school visits to lectures, workshops and events in Oxford.

Students participate annually in debating competitions and all Year 12s undertake work experience during their first year in the Sixth Form. This is, of course, in addition to the usual school provision of sports, drama, art and music events in school, many of which come through the House system and its annual competitions.



Teachers are skilled at adapting their teaching to address any misconceptions

Ofsted (Nov 2023)

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Beyond the classroom

Sixth Form students at OSA join a dynamic learning community, where excellence meets opportunity.

Here are seven compelling reasons why joining Oxford Spires Sixth Form is the best decision for your future:

1 Early Entry Cohort with The Elephant Group 🦒 Get a head start on your future! Our groundbreaking collaboration with The Elephant Group introduces a unique early entry cohort. Prepare university applications with expert guidance during Year 12, ensuring you stand out in the competitive admissions process.

2 Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Bronze and Gold 🏆 Develop leadership skills, engage in community service, and challenge yourself! Oxford Spires offers the opportunity to complete both Bronze and Gold levels of the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award. Stand tall with a recognized achievement that sets you apart.

3 Fully Funded International Trips 🌍 Immerse yourself in global experiences! As part of the Turing Scheme, our students have the potential to embark on fully funded international trips to exotic destinations like Thailand or Vietnam. Expand your horizons, make memories, and build lifelong friendships.

4 Access to MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) 🌐 Broaden your knowledge with the world at your fingertips! Oxford Spires provides exclusive access to a variety of MOOCs, allowing you to explore diverse subjects and gain valuable skills beyond the traditional curriculum. Stay ahead in an ever-evolving world.

5 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) 📖 Dive deep into a subject you're passionate about! Oxford Spires encourages intellectual curiosity through the Extended Project Qualification. Undertake an independent research project, showcase your skills, and stand out in university applications.

6 Expert Guidance for University Applications 🎓 Navigate the path to higher education with confidence! Our dedicated team offers personalized support throughout the university application process. From choosing the right courses to crafting compelling personal statements, we're here to ensure your success.

7 Thriving Community and Support 💖 Join a community that cares! At Oxford Spires, we foster a supportive environment where every student is valued. Connect with like-minded peers, engage in extracurricular activities, and enjoy a holistic educational experience that goes beyond the classroom.

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Students value the strong support they receive that prepares them well for the next stage of their education, employment or training.

Ofsted (Nov 2023)

Destinations

We are incredibly proud of our Year 13 students, below we have shared some examples of the destinations secured by our 2023 Year 13 students.

Destination	Course	Destination	Course
Birkbeck, University of London	Law	Royal Holloway, University of London	Physics with Music
Bournemouth University	Marketing	Sussex	Psychology
Bournemouth University	Law	Swansea University	American Studies
University of the West of England	Medicine	University of Birmingham	Physics and Astrophysics
University of the West of England	Law	University of Birmingham	History and Philosophy
University of the West of England	Psychology	University of Bristol	Geography
Buckinghamshire New University	Aviation Management with Commercial Pilot Training in Aeroplanes	University of Bristol	Biology
Cardiff University	Philosophy	University of Exeter	Art History & Visual Culture and History
City, University of London	International Political Economy	University of Exeter	English
Coventry University	Music and Audio Production	University of Leeds	Digital Media
Deloitte	Tax Accountancy Apprenticeship	University of Leicester	Physics
Goldsmiths, University of London	International Relations	University of Lincoln	Sports Business Management
Greenwich	Language	University of Northampton	Dental Nursing
Keele	Neuroscience Foundation	University of Oxford	Mathematics
Kingston University	Psychology	University of Portsmouth	Sociology with Psychology
Nottingham Trent University	Accounting and Finance	University of Portsmouth	Software Engineering
Oxford Brookes	Art Foundation	University of Reading	Law
Oxford Brookes	Psychology	University of Reading	Pharmacy
Oxford Brookes	History of Art	University of Reading	Geography (Human and Physical)
Oxford Brookes	Accounting and Finance	University of Reading	Mathematics with a Placement Year
Oxford Brookes	Law	University of Sheffield	Psychology with Placement Year
Oxford Brookes	Accounting and Finance	University of Southampton	Fine Art
Oxford Brookes	Art Foundation	University of Sussex	Criminology
		University of Warwick	Politics and International Studies

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Entry Requirements

To join Oxford Spires Sixth Form students must achieve the following in the 2024 GCSE exams:

- Five grade 9-5 GCSEs
- Grade 6 in the specific subject selected or when necessary the closest subject (in most cases this will be a grade 6 in GCSE English Literature or Language).

Subject specific entry requirements:

- Students require a grade 5 in GCSE business to study Level 3 BTEC Business.
- The following subjects also require a grade 5 in GCSE mathematics: geography.
- The following subjects also require a grade 6 in GCSE mathematics: physics, chemistry, DT, Biology
- A minimum grade 8 in GCSE mathematics is required to study further mathematics.
- Students will also be required to resit their maths and/or English GCSE if they have not reached grade 4.
Exams are run in November 2024 and June 2025.

**Courses will only run if we have enough students wanting to study the subject. Where numbers are small we will look to offer a hybrid model of teaching that may involve students working independently on work set by Sixth Form teachers.*

**We will timetable subjects to minimise clashes between subjects but cannot guarantee every combination of subject. Combinations will be confirmed by Easter 2024.*

**Popular subjects have a maximum class size and places will be awarded based on students GCSE scores in that subject or the nearest subject.*

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Art (A Level)

What will I study?

Unit 1 – Personal Investigation.

This is the personal portfolio and incorporates two major elements: supporting studies and practical work. Internally set, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated.

Unit 2 – Second Personal

Investigation that counts towards their coursework grade. There is a more explicit focus on the written element to prepare for the Personal Study in Year 13.

Unit 3 – Personal Investigation.

This is the personal portfolio and incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a Personal Study. Internally set, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated. The Personal Study is a 3000-5000 word written investigation into an artist / artwork or topic of your choice around the theme in Unit 3 and is worth 12.5% of the overall grade. To strengthen their Personal Study, all art students are entered into the National ARTiculation public speaking competition.

Unit 4 – Externally Set Assignment.

Incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies and the 15–hour period of sustained focus. Externally set, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated.

How will I study?

A wide range of activities and options and in-depth assignments. You will explore a wide range of media and specialisms. You will be expected to work outside of lessons in the studio to develop your on-going portfolio and build your skills and knowledge. Visits to galleries, museums, workshops and studios will be a key element to your research.

How will I be assessed?

All work is assessed internally and then externally moderated. Units 1-3 are internally set, and the exam unit 4 is externally set.

What can I do afterwards?

Students can progress from this qualification to further education courses such as the BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (QCF), higher education courses such as BTEC Higher National Diplomas in art and design subjects, or direct to a BA Honours degree with an art and design focus, apprenticeships or other training, employment in a related sector.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
- 7. Biology**
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Biology (A Level)

What will I study?

You will study a range of topics across the two years of study. In your first year, these will include: Biological Molecules, Cells, Exchange Between Organisms and Genetics. In the second year, you will progress with your understanding of biology to consider topics such as: ecology, control of gene expression, energy transfers and coordination of responses to stimuli in plants and animals.

How will I study?

You will use a range of methods in class, such as individual and group work alongside regular practical work. In lessons, we will consider the theory behind the topics that we are studying, and you will learn to apply this to the wider world and to other aspects of biology. Outside of the lesson, you will develop and use independent skills to complete homework that will be set after each lesson. This may include research, writing up practicals or completing exam questions.

How will I be assessed?

At A Level, there are 3 exams at the end of the two year course. These will cover all of the topics of the course. You will also work towards a Practical Endorsement certificate throughout the year by completing a range of core practicals and practical write ups. Both of these will be needed for future university courses in the sciences and further study of biology.

What can I do afterwards?

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions and wish to study courses at university such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Optometry and Nursing. It is also important for Zoology, Marine Biology or Forensic Science. Biology is one of the Russell Group's facilitating subjects and seen as helpful for undergraduate study.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
- 8. Business**
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Business (A Level)

What will I study?

Our A level course (Edexcel) introduces you to all you need to know about working in business, providing a solid foundation for further study. With a focus on helping, you to become a good decision maker, you will learn essential managerial skills, alongside techniques to help you become an analytical problem solver. These skills are all highly sought after and valued in a wide range of careers.

Year 12 (first year)

An introduction to key business areas: marketing, people, finances and managing business activities. This includes a special focus on decision making – particularly how decisions made in one area can affect the rest of the business.

Theme 1: Marketing and People

Students will develop an understanding of: Meeting customer needs / The market / marketing mix and strategy / managing people / entrepreneurs and leaders/

Theme 2: Managing Business activity:

Students will develop an understanding of: Raising finance, financial planning, managing finances, resource management and external influences.

Year 13 (second year)

Student's second year of study covers key business areas: Business decisions and growth, globalisation and operating in global industries.

Theme 3: Business Decisions and strategy

Students will develop an understanding of: Business objectives and strategy, business growth, decision making techniques, influences on business decisions, assessing competitiveness and managing change.

Theme 4: Globalisation

Students will develop an understanding of: Globalisation, global markets and business expansion, global marketing and multinational companies.

How will I be assessed?

A-level assessment consists of three x 2 hour written exams taken at the end of the two-year course. Each exam will be worth approximately a third of the A-level (Paper 1 = 35%, Paper 2 = 35% and Paper 3= 30%). Assessments will include questions ranging from 4 marks to 20 marks.

The following papers draws on specific course content:

Paper 1 = Theme 1 and Theme 4

Paper 2 = Theme 2 and Theme 3

Paper 3 = All 4 themes

What can I do afterwards?

If you'd like to study business, finance or management at university, A-level Business provides an excellent foundation. The skills you learn are transferable across a broad range of subjects and careers. Whatever you choose to do in the future, you'll find that the things you learn in this course will help. For example, you'll probably work with lots of different people, so knowledge of motivational theory will help you to work well with others and help them achieve their potential.

You might have ambitious plans to start your own business. If that's the case, you'll find the marketing and finance topics particularly useful.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
- 8. Business**
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Business (Level 3 BTEC)

Why study a Business BTEC?

University progression BTECs have a strong reputation with universities and currently 95% of universities in the UK accept BTEC students, including competitive universities from the Russell Group. In 2015 over a quarter of students who were accepted into higher education held at least one BTEC proving they are an excellent choice for those moving into Higher education.

Employability

BTECs prepare students for employment. In addition to academic skills students are also able to develop employability skills as assessments offer the experience of real-life practical tasks.

Practical assessments

BTECs are more practical qualifications. They focus on flexible learning and create independent learners. This appeals to those who find traditional teaching methods and exams difficult. The assessment for BTECs is largely based on regular coursework which makes them an ideal option for those who struggle under the pressure of exams.

What will I study?

Single Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate - 1 A level

Double Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma - 2 A levels

Both single and double business students will study business environments, marketing and customer service. In addition, double business students will also study international business, management, human resources and event management.

How will I study?

We do a lot of investigation into businesses to find out how they are putting the theory into practice in the current economic climate. A number of day trips may take place to bring learning to life and you will be required to carry out work and independent research of both local and national business inside and outside of school. The coursework element of this qualification will require you to work consistently hard throughout the two years as assignments will be set that count towards the final grade on a regular basis.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is a mixture of examinations (externally assessed) and coursework (internally assessed). All assessment has a practical as well as an academic element to it.

What can I do afterwards?

Are you a real go-getter with a desire to succeed? The world of business is vibrant and fast paced, offering opportunities across a range of industries. This course prepares you for roles in a variety of sectors as well as self-employment and university. You gain experience, expertise, and the essential business and entrepreneurial skills in a sector of your choice, alongside a recognised qualification.

We are able to develop your business skills, knowledge and understanding in areas such as marketing and human resources. You will build your confidence in a business environment as you'll work closely with employers whilst undertaking real projects.

The course will also improve your communication skills as you'll be writing business reports and making professional presentations.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Chemistry (A Level)

What will I study?

The course is divided into three sections: Organic, Inorganic and Physical Chemistry. It builds upon the foundations of GCSE Chemistry and extends it to include:

- How chemistry relates to industry, including chemical calculations
- Synthesis of organic compounds and their reaction mechanisms
- Reactivity patterns in the Periodic Table, analytical techniques and basic biochemistry
- How to carry out a range of essential practical techniques.

How will I study?

The course is intensive and requires a strong element of independent study. You will need to learn a significant body of work and apply this both qualitatively and quantitatively. Therefore, it is vital that you have a good grasp of mathematics. You need to be an independent student with the ability to problem solve.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by 3 exams at the end of the two year course. In addition, students will have to carry out ongoing practical work, over the two years, which will be assessed as part of the practical endorsement.

What can I do afterwards?

A level Chemistry is a challenging, academic course highly valued by employers and university admissions tutors alike due to the level of commitment required to attain the higher grades. Besides the possibility of working specifically in the field of chemistry, a chemistry A-level qualification is compulsory for most Medical, Dental and Veterinary courses as well as other science degrees. The chemistry course will provide you with the following skills: scientific, numerical and technical skills; an enquiring mind; logical approach to solving problems; patience and persistence; the ability to analyse data; leadership and teamworking skills; the ability to make decisions; good spoken and written communication skills, determination, creativity, flexibility and decisiveness. Chemistry is one of the Russell Group's facilitating subjects and seen as helpful for undergraduate study for a wide variety of course.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
- 10. Classics**
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Classics (A Level)

What will I study?

Classical Civilisation is the study of the culture and ideas of ancient Greece and Rome. The course at OSA is mainly literary, though it will cover ideas and examples of classical art and philosophy. In the first year you will study Epic (looking at translations of Virgil's Aeneid and one of Homer's Odyssey or Iliad) and Greek Theatre (with a focus on the context of theatre in Athens, and on both tragedy and comedy).

The second year will move attention to classical thought, and will look at areas such as religion, love, politics and war. These, of course, are the literature and the ideas that have shaped culture in most of Europe, and learning about them is a really good way to support studies in English literature, history, philosophy and ethics, politics, and modern languages.

How will I study?

You will have discussions in class, based on prior reading. You should enjoy reading – and analysing – literary texts such as plays and poetry to do this course. You will be expected to research issues and make presentations. You will learn how to write essays that present an argument clearly, and to answer shorter questions – and in order to do this, you'll practise exam-style work.

How will I be assessed?

There will be three exam papers at the end of the A level course.

Paper 1 (The World of the Hero) = 2hr 20min

Paper 2 Culture and the Arts) = 1hr 45min

Paper 3 (Beliefs and Ideas) = 1hr 45min

What can I do afterwards?

Almost anything! The skills this course develops are highly transferable, and 70% of degree-level jobs do not mind which subjects you have studied at A level or at university. If you wished to go to university to study Classics, you can do this – and would learn Latin or Greek language once you were there. It would also help you if you planned to go to study English, history, philosophy, politics and so – or subjects such as law.

Future jobs that require the skills classical subjects build include work in museums, being an archivist, a lawyer, work in publishing or journalism, teaching, work in public relations – but many jobs in business or enterprise would also value intellectual flexibility and analytical thinking skills too. If you do not plan to go to university, the focus on reasoned argument, on examination of source material and on verbal confidence and articulacy are highly marketable skills in terms of apprenticeships and traineeships.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
- 11. Computing**
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Computing (A Level)

What will I study?

The content of the A Level in Computer Science is divided into three components:

1 Computer systems component: contains the majority of the content of the specification and is assessed in a written paper recalling knowledge and understanding.

2 Algorithms and programming component relates principally to problem solving skills needed to apply the knowledge and understanding encountered in component 1 and to apply these to component 3.

3 Programming project which is a practical portfolio based assessment with a task and is produced in an appropriate programming language and submitted as a report demonstrating your ability to analyse, design, develop, test, evaluate and document a program written in a suitable programming language and must also follow the agile development approach to the project development.

How will I study?

The core emphasis in computing is problem solving. You will gain both practical and academic skills as you use your knowledge of computational thinking to develop both algorithmic and practical solutions to problems, culminating in the development of your programming project. The project is a very time intensive component of this course. It is thus not advised that you take this course alongside another project intensive course.

How will I be assessed?

Computing A level is assessed the end of the course by two written examination papers of 2½ hours duration, each worth 40%. The final 20% will be earned from the programming project.

What can I do afterwards?

This qualification is suitable for pursuing any career in which an understanding of technology is needed. A range of transferable skills which will facilitate personal growth and foster cross curriculum links in areas such as maths, science and design and technology. Computer science is a very academic but creative subject and skills such as problem solving, and analytical thinking make the course a desirable course for those intending to pursue either a practical vocation in the technology or IT industry, as well as university study in computer science, physics, mathematics, technology or engineering.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
- 12. Drama and Theatre Studies**
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Drama and Theatre Studies (A Level)

What will I study?

Component 1: Devising – will form 40% of the final grade. You will devise an original performance piece using one key extract from a performance text and your performance will have a clear theatre practitioner focus. You will then create a portfolio of supporting evidence exploring and contextualising the creative process you and the ensemble followed. The unit is coursework and is completed over the course of Year 12 – it is vital students see as much live theatre as possible to help shape their work and ideas.

Component 2: Text is Performance – will form 20% of the final grade. All students will perform as part of an ensemble, working on producing a performance from a contemporary text with a clear artistic intention. You will also perform a monologue from a classical text, once again thinking about interpretation and intent. Component 2 is assessed by a visiting external examiner in front of a live audience.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice – will form 40% of the final grade. Students complete a written 2 and half hour exam.

How will I study?

Everything you do is rooted in the practical experience of performance, designing or directing. You will need to spend time rehearsing as a group and individually, both in lessons and independently. You will perform regularly but also you will need to make detailed notes, complete essays, reflect and analyse your work and the work of others. Develop a deep knowledge of practitioners and their influence on the development of theatre over the centuries. You should read plays, visit the theatre and generally be involved in the faculty, sharing your passion and skill.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Ensemble Performance (Devised) - 30 minutes and a 3500 word supporting portfolio (Coursework) in Year 12

Component 2: Ensemble Performance – 30 minutes (Scripted) and a Monologue Performance – 5 minutes (Scripted) (external visiting examiner) in Year 13

Component 3: One 2.5 hour written exam in Year 13

What can I do afterwards?

A level Drama will then give you access to an arts degree at university, an arts placement or an acting career through drama school. However, drama focuses heavily on communication skills, teamwork, organisation, time management, being creative and thinking outside the box – many of the graduate attributes that universities and employers are seeking.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
- 13. DT**
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

DT (A Level)

What will I study?

The WJEC GCE in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. This specification encourages learners to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values.

How will I study?

Learners should take every opportunity to integrate and apply their understanding and knowledge from other subject areas studied during key stage 4, with a particular focus on science and mathematics, and those subjects they are studying alongside design and technology at A level.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century.

Written exam (3 hours) – worth 50%

Component 2: Design and Make Project.

Non-exam assessment of 80 hours – work 50%

What can I do afterwards?

You might use your product design to go to university or take an apprenticeship. You could enter any of the disciplines of engineering (mechanical, electrical, aeronautical, fluid, structural), as well as going into product design itself. It is also useful for architecture applications.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
- 14. English Language**
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

English Language (A Level)

What will I study?

A level English Language is not like GCSE. Although you still analyse non-literary texts (websites, leaflets, newspaper articles etc.), you learn to do this in a much more technical way – learning a lot about grammar. You also look at spoken texts – transcriptions of conversations – and how they work. As well as analysis of texts, you learn theory areas about language use, including:

- Language and gender
- Language and social class
- Children's language acquisition
- Language change

Finally, you learn to write in particular forms and for specific audiences, producing your own stories, articles and webpages to appeal to different readers.

How will I study?

You will need to be interested in language. In class, you will take part in discussion work and exercises to develop your understanding. You will debate and give presentations. On paper, you will learn how to write analyses of texts, essays about theory and more creative work. You will need to keep notes, and to build on class notes at home. You will be expected to read a wide variety of texts independently, including broadsheet newspapers (or their web equivalents), and to build your own wider notes on linguistic issues – rather like a scrapbook.

How will I be assessed?

There are 2 exams, both 2.5 hours long, at the end of Year 13 – assessing your ability to analyse unseen text, and to write essays on theory. These are worth 80% of your A level. The remaining 20% is a coursework folder consisting of a language investigation and a piece of creative writing, with an accompanying commentary.

What can I do afterwards?

English leads to many careers and university courses: over 70% of graduate jobs don't mind what subject your degree is in. In particular, English Language is helpful if you want to study Linguistics, Speech Therapy, Journalism, Business courses, Teaching or Law.

NB. If you wish to study English at university, you need to study English Literature (with or without English Language). If you're not planning on going to university, an English A level helps you communicate, and in particular to write, more effectively – and that is useful in almost all areas of employment.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
- 15. English Literature**
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

English Literature (A Level)

What will I study?

Unit 1: Drama

- One Shakespeare play and one other drama, such as A Streetcar Named Desire or The Duchess of Malfi.
- Critical essays related to the selected Shakespeare play.

Unit 2: Prose

- Two prose texts from a chosen theme. At least one of the prose texts must be pre-1900, linked by a common theme such as women or the supernatural – for example Dracula and The Little Stranger or Wuthering Heights and Mrs Dalloway.

Unit 3: Poetry

- Unseen poetry analysis
- a selection of poetry from a post- 2000 collection and
- a range of poetry from either a literary period or a named poet from within a literary period (for example, Chaucer).

Unit 4: Coursework:

- You have a free choice of two texts to study and write one extended comparative essay referring to both.

How will I study?

Read and discuss your core texts; read around the subject and enhance your understanding by looking at similar texts; work individually and collectively to share ideas and present them to your peers; use ICT and a range of media to explore and present your responses; learn the skills of precise analytical evaluation; explore the rich contexts in which writers work.

How will I be assessed?

Three exams worth 80% of your A level, and one coursework essay for the remaining 20%.

What can I do afterwards?

Progression to university courses such as English, Journalism, Law, Media, Librarianship and any career path which requires communication skills, analytical ability, and sensitivity to language. Over 70% of graduate jobs don't need applicants to have studied a specific subject. English Literature is one of the Russell Group's Facilitating Subjects and seen as helpful for undergraduate study.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
- 16. French**
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

French (A Level)

What will I study?

Theme 1: the evolution of society in the target country. This theme covers social issues and trends, change in family structures and new attitudes towards marriage, relationships and family. The education system and the world of work and the impact of tourism.

Theme 2: Political/intellectual/artistic cultures in Francophone countries. This theme covers artistic culture (through music and festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media).

Theme 3: Immigration and multiculturalism. – the positive impact of immigration, economic and cultural contribution of immigrants. The rise of the far right - aims of the Front Nations; party leaders and public opinion.

Theme 4: Political/intellectual/artistic culture. The occupation and resistance. This theme covers life in Vichy France: occupied France and collaboration; anti-semitism and the French Resistance, importance of Jean Moulin and Charles de Gaulle.

How will I study?

You will become an effective communicator in your chosen language through class discussions, debates and presentations. There is an online book from the exam board, including interactive audios, videos, readings and assessment materials. Independent study will require investigation into the news, blogs and other useful sources.

How will I be assessed?

This course does NOT have an AS. You will be assessed at the end of the course for the full A level covering all 4 themes, film and literature.

Paper 1 – listening, reading and translation skills.

Paper 2 – written response to works (we study a film and a novel) and translation from English.

Paper 3 – speaking assessment: a discussion on a theme, and a presentation and a discussion on your own research project.

What can I do afterwards?

There are many business openings for candidates with an A level in French, German or Spanish – French is the eleventh most commonly spoken language, Germany is the UK's largest trading partner, and 350 million people speak Spanish as their native language. An A level in one of these languages will also make your university application stand out, even if you do not decide to study it at university. And, if you do so, don't forget, statistics show that language graduates earn more money than most of their peers!

Modern Languages are facilitating subjects according to the Russell Group and are seen as helpful for undergraduate study.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Further Mathematics (A Level)

If you love maths or are planning on taking a university course with a high degree of mathematical content, you may also wish to consider A Level Further Mathematics. This will enable you to deepen your understanding of Pure Mathematics through looking at a wider variety of topics including matrices, complex numbers and proof, as well as alternative strategies for solving equations. You will also undertake additional study of other aspects of mathematics which may include Further Pure, Mechanics or Decision Mathematics.

How will I study?

Students taking further maths will have double the number of maths lessons compared to those taking the single A-level. Students must take A Level mathematics in order to study A Level Further Mathematics

How will I be assessed?

Further Maths is assessed through four equally weighted exam papers lasting one and a half hours each.

What can I do afterwards?

Maths and Further Maths A levels are highly valued by competitive universities and are listed as Facilitating Subjects by the Russell Group. A level Maths is an entry requirement for most courses in engineering, physics, computer science, economics and of course, mathematics, as well as for some higher level apprenticeships. However, as a rigorous academic subject it aids you in your development of transferable skills that are desirable regardless of your future pathway.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

Geography (A Level)

What will I study?

Edexcel Geography A level.

- 4 Human Geography topics: Globalisation / Diverse Places / Superpowers / Health and Human Rights.
- 4 Physical Geography topics: Plate Tectonics / Coasts / Water Cycle and Water Supply Issues / Carbon Cycle and Energy Issues.

You will be examined on these topics and there will be a synoptic problem solving exam that incorporates all the topics, much like we did in GCSE. You will also go on 2 residential field trips and do a controlled assessment from those experiences which comprise 20% of your final grade.

How will I study?

You will be:

- Reading news articles, books, diagrams, and maps.
- Writing essays and exam answers.
- Researching, collecting and handling information /data.
- Competing with your classmates on Kahoot quizzes and writing competitions
- Using revision guides to consolidate your learning

How will I be assessed?

Coursework is 20% of your A level (a 4,000 word investigation).

Exams count for 80%, and they are taken in the summer of Year 13.

What can I do afterwards?

Anything! geography is known as a “facilitating” subject which means it gives you the knowledge and skills needed for just about any university course or any line of employment.

Top universities will want you to have A Levels in these facilitating subjects. There is a serious shortage of geographers in the UK right now; we are in high demand! We need more remote sensing (satellite imagery) specialists, computer mapping specialists and (yes!) geography teachers. Geography is one of the Russell Group's facilitating subjects and seen as helpful for undergraduate study.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport
31. Summary

German (A Level)

What will I study?

Theme 1: the evolution of society in the target country This theme covers social issues and trends, natural living, environment awareness, the education system and issues facing students resitting the year (sitzenbleiben); apprenticeships. It also covers the world of work.

Theme 2: Politics and the arts This theme covers artistic culture (through music and festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media).

Theme 3: Immigration and multiculturalism This theme covers social issues and trends – the positive impact of immigration, economic and cultural contribution of immigrants. We confront the challenging issues of migration and isolation, immigration in politics and public opinion.

Theme 4: Political /intellectual/artistic culture. Society in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and Germany since reunification.

How will I study?

You will become an effective communicator in your chosen language through class discussions, debates and presentations. There is an online book from the exam board, including interactive audios, videos, readings and assessment materials. Independent study will require investigation into the news, blogs and other useful sources.

How will I be assessed?

This course does NOT have an AS. You will be assessed at the end of the course for the full A level covering all 4 themes, film and literature.

Paper 1 – listening, reading and translation skills.

Paper 2 – written response to works (we study a film and a novel) and translation from English.

Paper 3 – speaking assessment: a discussion on a theme, and a presentation and a discussion on your own research project.

What can I do afterwards?

There are many business openings for candidates with an A level in French, German or Spanish – French is the eleventh most commonly spoken language, Germany is the UK's largest trading partner, and 350 million people speak Spanish as their native language. An A level in one of these languages will also make your university application stand out, even if you do not decide to study it at university. And, if you do so, don't forget, statistics show that language graduates earn more money than most of their peers!

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1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
- 20. Government and Politics**
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Government & Politics (A Level)

What will I study?

1. Government and politics of the UK. This consists of:
 - Democracy in the UK: how does it work, and is it effective?
 - The constitution: how is the UK governed?
 - Parliament: how effective is it?
 - The Prime Minister and Cabinet: who has the power?
 - The judges: do they protect our human rights?
 - Devolution
2. Government and politics of the USA and comparative politics. You will look at how the US is governed and how this compares to the UK.
3. Political ideas. More specifically, you will look at Liberalism, Socialism, Conservatism and Anarchism.

How will I study?

- Note taking from books, articles, lectures and videos
- Class discussions and debates
- Creating and delivering presentations
- Writing essays and exam practice
- Applying your theoretical knowledge to current events
- Trips (for example, to Parliament)

How will I be assessed?

3 separate 2-hour exams at the end of Year 13.

What can I do afterwards?

Politics is highly sought after by universities and employers. It provides perfect preparation for courses such as history, politics, economics and law.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
- 21. History**
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

History (A Level)

What will I study?

Edexcel History A level.

Unit 1 - USA 1917-1990 In search of the American Dream.

Unit 2 - South Africa The making of the Rainbow Nation.

Unit 3 The British Experience of Warfare 1790-1918.

Unit 4 Choice of your own Individual Study Coursework.

How will I study?

You will be:

- Reading articles and books.
- Discussing & debating.
- Writing essays and exam answers.
- Researching and handling information.
- Dealing with arguments and different debates/interpretations.
- Presenting information in different ways, for different audiences.
- Forming and developing convincing arguments.
- Interpreting and evaluating differing interpretations of events

How will I be assessed?

Coursework forms 20% of your A level (a 4,000-word essay).

Exams count for 75% in the summer of Year 13.

What can I do afterwards?

History is a traditional, rigorous and academic subject. It is well respected as a qualification and is highly sought after by universities and employers. It provides a perfect preparation for courses and employment in fields such as history, politics, economics, journalism and law. History is one of the Russell Group's facilitating subjects and seen as helpful for undergraduate study.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
- 22. Mathematics**
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Mathematics (A Level)

What will I study?

In A-level Maths you will study Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. Pure Mathematics builds on your existing algebraic, coordinate geometry and trigonometry skills and introduces you to calculus, logarithms and exponentials. Statistics develops your understanding of data analysis and probability, extending your skills to utilise the binomial and normal probability distributions, test hypotheses and apply your understanding to real world data. Whilst mechanics involves the study of motion and how forces affect it, including the application of Newton's Laws of Motion.

How will I study?

At A level there is greater emphasis on students being exposed to the origins of standard formulae, approaches or results through the use of algebraic manipulation and proof. Students are expected to develop their understanding of topics so that not only can they fluently use techniques, but also apply them to problems, both mathematical and contextual, as well as interpret the outcome of calculations within specified contexts. Students should expect to be set approximately an hour's worth of independent study work after each lesson to develop their ability to utilise and apply the techniques. There is also regular formative assessment and feedback to enable you to develop your understanding, gauge and improve your progress.

How will I be assessed?

Maths A level is assessed entirely at the end of the course by three equally weighted examination papers of two hours duration. The first two papers assess your understanding of and ability to apply Pure Mathematics, the third is split into two sections, one assessing Statistics and the other Mechanics.

What can I do afterwards?

Maths is highly valued by competitive universities and are listed as facilitating subjects by the Russell Group. A level Maths is an entry requirement for most courses in engineering, physics, computer science, economics and of course, mathematics, as well as for some higher level apprenticeships. However, as a rigorous academic subject it aids you in your development of transferable skills that are desirable regardless of your future pathway.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
- 23. Media**
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Media (A Level)

What will I study?

Media combines Cultural Theories, Political Theories, Philosophy, Society and Identity. You will analyse how the power of the media is shaping and changing society, identity and 'truth'. We look at how developing technologies are rapidly impacting the very structure of society and culture. You study 18 'Close Study Products' from nine different media formats, TV, radio, film, newspapers, magazines, adverts, music video, computer games and online media. We study these products and analyse their role in society through media, cultural, ideological and psychological theories. You will develop the ability to write essays combining all of these theories with your own analysis in order to pass the written papers which form 70% of the exam. 30% is a practical coursework element where you create your own magazine, film trailer, website or other media form stipulated by the exam board, with technical support from your teacher, using the professional facilities available to you.

How will I study?

Class discussions, group work, essay writing and practical work. Students doing A level Media will have access to the latest technologies including Apple Macs, Adobe Creative Suite (which includes Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Flash & Dreamweaver), Quark, Final Cut Pro, Green Screen and Telecaster, digital still cameras and HD video cameras and professional audio equipment.

How will I be assessed?

There are 2 exams (2 hours each) at the end of Year 13, and a portfolio of coursework (worth 30% of your final A level).

What can I do afterwards?

Media Studies A level caters for many university/college courses and the world of work. You could join the thriving British film, special effects and gaming industries, and there are many job opportunities in areas of the media such as radio, TV, music and the press.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
- 24. Music**
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Music (A Level)

What qualifications do I need for this course?

Music A Level is all about passion and commitment for the practical performance elements but also having a subject. Students must also play an instrument proficiently to a minimum of ABRSM Grade 6 and ideally have Grade 5 theory.

What will I study?

Component 1: Performance

Component 2: Composing – students have to create two compositions, one to a set brief and one that is a free choice. Compositions must be substantial and last for a minimum of 4 minutes each. Students also have to complete a compositional technique task, composing in a given style using a prescribed technique – this must be at least 1 minute long.

Component 3: Appraising – students must demonstrate their understanding of musical context, elements and language to analyse and evaluate; vocal music, instrumental music, music for film, popular music and Jazz, fusion and new directions.

How will I study?

Everything you do is rooted in the practical musicianship, you will spend time rehearsing for the recital one in Year 12 and one in Year 13. You will create a portfolio of compositions responding to briefs and compositional techniques, enabling you to submit the strongest. Developing a deeper understanding of the various areas of study – you will be taught but also complete independent research and presentations broadening your knowledge and understanding.

How will I be assessed?

You will be constantly assessed through practical performance and written tasks set in lessons by your teacher. Formal assessment is: Component 1: Performance Recital to an audience and visiting examiner.

Component 2: Portfolio of Compositions: manuscripts and recordings internally examined and externally moderated.

Component 3: 2 hour formal written exam.

What can I do afterwards?

A level Music then give you access to an arts degree at university, an arts placement or being a musician as a career through music school.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
- 25. Photography**
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Photography (A Level)

What will I study?

You will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to photography and the wider discourse of art and design. Your responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities, which demonstrate your understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

How will I study?

Through research and study to develop an understanding of theory. Through the practical application of that theory in a range of different styles, experimenting and perfecting practical work. Through written analysis of the work of other photographers and my own work.

How will I be assessed?

- Through a portfolio of work that includes journals and written analyses.
- In addition, an externally set final exam in year 13, in controlled conditions (15 hours).
- 12% of your final mark will be written assessment.

What can I do afterwards?

You can continue to study photography at degree level in many universities. It will also equip you for many of the areas of business and advertising that look for artistic and photographic skills as well as marketing and publishing. For those who love photography, the course will enable you to create portfolios of work that you can take forwards to becoming a photographer – sending your work through to publications, working freelance or working for a photography company.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
- 26. Physics**
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Physics (A Level)

What will I study?

The physics syllabus is broad and comprehensive covering everything that an A level Physics course would traditionally include. More specifically topics include: electronics; optics; material properties; wave behaviour; motion; radioactivity; oscillating systems; gravitational fields; electromagnetism; electric fields; astronomy; hot and cold matter; and subatomic particles.

How will I study?

You will study in many different ways, including research projects, group work, calculations, independent study, but in particular through practical investigations and problem solving. You will be taught to approach investigations using scientific method, to identify error in your experiment in order to adapt your method to minimise it. You will be taught how to analyse data and accurately evaluate the uncertainty in it. You will learn how to approach questions in a logical and critical way.

How will I be assessed?

A level Physics is assessed by linear exams. In addition, there is a practical endorsement which is completed throughout the course and is a pass or fail unit.

What can I do afterwards?

Physics is a challenging subject that is respected by universities and employers in many different fields for its analytical approach and its academic rigor. Employers see a student with a qualification in physics as someone who has demonstrated an ability to work through a demanding course and who has gained a wide variety of technical and transferable skills. A level Physics can be used as a stepping stone to degree courses and careers in: physics, medical physics, engineering, medicine, economics, finance, business management, consultancy, astronomy, and meteorology. Physics is one of the Russell Group's facilitating subjects, and seen as helpful for undergraduate study.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
- 27. Psychology**
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Psychology (A Level)

What will I study?

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. We examine how and why we think, feel and act the way that we do. Psychology is a science and psychologists conduct experiments to test their hypotheses and develop their theories. As such, a lot of time in A-level Psychology is spent examining psychological research. We will describe psychological ideas and concepts and see how these apply in the real world. Importantly we will evaluate the evidence for these ideas and concepts. Psychology is a vast subject but we will focus in the first year on: social influence, memory, attachment and biopsychology. In the second year we will focus on forensic psychology, schizophrenia and cognitive development.

How will I study?

Active learning is encouraged through class discussion, debates, research based investigations, group presentations, review of contemporary issues and real life scenarios, trips, essays, extended reading and literature research, exam practice and independent tasks.

How will I be assessed?

There are three 2 hour exams. Exam questions are a mixture of short answer and essay based questions.

What can I do afterwards?

A qualification in psychology is useful in many professions as students will have developed a wide range of transferable skills including teamwork, communication, data analysis, problem solving, critical and creative thinking, numeracy, statistical and IT skills. Psychology is particularly relevant to any job that involves working directly with people, including PR, marketing, customer services, social work, counselling, education, police and scientific based jobs.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
- 28. Sociology**
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Sociology (A Level)

What will I study?

- Families and Households: This unit considers changes in family structures, patterns and trends: marriage, divorce, legislation, childhood, gender roles. It looks at sociological theory of the family; ideas, concepts and issues through changes in society; and how these changes have impacted on family life.
- Education with Research Methods: In this unit you will study the role of education. You will look at factors in education that impact on achievement; educational social policies; and relationships and processes, internal and external to institutions. You will also learn how sociological research is conducted in relation to education.
- Belief Systems in Society: This considers the changing role of science and religion in contemporary society and its significance through religious organisations/movements, social groups and participation.
- Crime and Deviance: Here you will focus on theorists' explanations of crime and deviance; patterns by social groups; globalisation in contemporary society; control, prevention and punishment; and the sociological study of suicide.

How will I study?

Class discussions, presentations, independent research, extended reading; collating notes for revision purposes and assessments; media representations of past and current thinking on issues/topics relevant to the course.

How will I be assessed?

Regular assessments in class, with external exams on all four units at the end of Year 13.

What can I do afterwards?

Many students go on to do university degrees in sociology or related subjects, but the subject is good preparation for courses or careers in most 'people-centred' areas, such as teaching, policing or social work.

1. Welcome
2. Our approach
3. Beyond the classroom
4. Destinations
5. Entry requirements
6. Art
7. Biology
8. Business
9. Chemistry
10. Classics
11. Computing
12. Drama and Theatre Studies
13. DT
14. English Language
15. English Literature
16. French
17. Further Mathematics
18. Geography
19. German
20. Government and Politics
21. History
22. Mathematics
23. Media
24. Music
25. Photography
26. Physics
27. Psychology
28. Sociology
29. Spanish
30. Sport

Spanish (A Level)

What will I study?

Theme 1: Social issues and trends: Evolving society in Spain. This theme covers changing family structures, and attitudes towards marriage, relationships and family. The world of work and the impact of tourism.

Theme 2: Political/intellectual/artistic cultures in the Spanish speaking world. This theme covers artistic culture (through music and festivals and traditions) and political and artistic culture (through media).

Theme 3: Immigration and multiculturalism This theme covers social issues and trends – the positive impact of immigration, economic and cultural contribution of immigrants. We confront the challenging issues of migration and isolation, immigration in politics and public opinion.

Theme 4: Political/ intellectual/artistic culture: The Franco dictatorship and transition to democracy.

How will I study?

You will become an effective communicator in your chosen language through class discussions, debates and presentations. There is an online book from the exam board, including interactive audios, videos, readings and assessment materials. Independent study will require investigation into the news, blogs and other useful sources.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed at the end of the course for the full A level covering all 4 themes, film and literature.

Paper 1 – listening, reading and translation skills.

Paper 2 – written response to works (we study a film and a novel) and translation from English.

Paper 3 – speaking assessment: a discussion on a theme, and a presentation and a discussion on your own research project.

What can I do afterwards?

There are many business openings for candidates with an A level in French, German or Spanish – French is the eleventh most commonly spoken language, Germany is the UK's largest trading partner, and 350 million people speak Spanish as their native language. An A level in one of these languages will also make your university application stand out, even if you do not decide to study it at university. And, if you do so, don't forget, statistics show that language graduates earn more money than most of their peers!

Modern Languages are Facilitating Subjects according to the Russell Group and are seen as helpful for undergraduate study.

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Sport (Level 3 BTEC)

What will I study?

Interest in a wide variety of sports is essential for this course.

You will study units in:

- Anatomy and Physiology (examination unit),
- Fitness, Training and Programming (controlled assessment)
- Professional Development in the Sporting Industry (coursework)
- Sports Leadership (practical and coursework)

What can I do afterwards?

The course is the equivalent of one A level and will allow you to study sport as part of an academic programme of study at university. It is also good preparation for a career in the sporting and fitness industries.

A Level Physical Education

What will I study?

- Applied anatomy and physiology, Skill acquisition
- Sport and society, Exercise physiology
- Biomechanical movement, Sport Psychology
- Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport

How will I be assessed?

Two exam papers at the end of the course

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport (35% of grade)

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

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport (35% of grade)

- Exercise physiology and biomechanics, Sport psychology
- Sport and society and technology in sport

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport (30% of grade)

- Assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity
- Written/Verbal analysis of performance

What can I do afterwards?

This course will allow you to study sport or contribute to a studying a different subject at university. It will also help prepare you for a career in the sport, leisure and fitness industries.

Welcome to Oxford Spire Sixth Form Open Evening!

At Oxford Spire Academy Sixth Form, we are committed to providing students with exceptional opportunities and experiences that go beyond the traditional curriculum. We are excited to inform you about some of the unique offerings available to our students:



Early Entry Cohort with The Elephant Group: Our Early Entry Cohort, in collaboration with The Elephant Group, ensures that Year 12 students have the opportunity to visit universities, complete successful applications to summer schools, and make the right choices for them for further study and employment. In Year 12 our Early Entry Cohort will take part in a range of activities such as:

- University-level learning and study
 - Virtual and physical events including live Q&A sessions with current university students
 - Interview and admissions guidance
 - Work experience, to support university applications
 - Revision and study skills sessions to ensure students reach their full potential
 - Workshops on applying for financial support and managing student finance
- <https://www.theelephantgroup.org/>



TURING

SCHEME

Enrichment Experiences:

- Students at Oxford Spire will be supported to complete the core components of the **Duke of Edinburgh** Bronze or Gold award (expedition element will be optional).
- Engage in a new skills and learning thorough **MOOCs** (<https://www.mooc.org/>) and the **Extended Project Qualification** (EPQ).
- We have applied via The Turing Scheme for two fully funded trips to **Thailand** and **Vietnam**, providing unique cultural and educational experiences exclusively for Year 12 students (confirmation of funding to be received July 2024).

Important Dates

Sixth Form Taster Day – 1st March

You will have the chance to experience A Level content and teaching at our Sixth Form Taster Day. This hands-on experience will help you make informed decisions about your subject choices.

Sixth Form Induction Day – 24th June

Our Sixth Form Induction Day will be a fantastic opportunity to step into Year 12 before the summer break. You will meet and work with leaders and tutors in the Sixth Form team, preparing for the exciting journey ahead.

Further support

Staff are available during Champions Hour everyday from 3:00-4:00 pm in the Enterprise Suite if students have any further questions or if you would like to discuss anything in more detail. We are confident that our Sixth Form can provide the ideal environment for you to thrive academically and personally.

We look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to Oxford Spire Academy Sixth Form and supporting you in achieving your academic and personal goals.



Please scan this QR code to complete a short survey on the event and request further support or response to a specific query. Thank You!