



LEWESTON
SHERBORNE

SIXTH FORM COURSE DIRECTORY



WELCOME TO LEWESTON SIXTH FORM

Moving on to Sixth Form studies presents you with new opportunities and challenges, whether you are progressing from Year 11 at Leweston or joining us from another school. Whatever your background, you will be aiming to build on your achievements to date, to explore the many opportunities open to you and plan for your future. We aim to support and encourage you as much as we can to help you to achieve your goals and realise your potential.

There is a strong work ethic in our Sixth Form and we are very proud of the achievements of all our students. The two years spent in Sixth Form mark the transition between school and going on to college, university, taking a GAP year or entering employment.

The Sixth Form at Leweston offers you a broad and enriching curriculum. As well as exploring new areas of knowledge, perhaps in new subjects, you will find opportunities for wider interaction with others, for leadership and involvement in the community as well as different experiences in sport, art, design, drama and music. We attach great importance to the skills and personal qualities that you gain not only through your work but also through other activities both in and out of school. There are opportunities to work in teams, to help others and to take on roles of responsibility. You will take part in visits both as a year group and through academic departments; you will have access to facilities that include art studios, design and technology workshops, laboratories, drama, music, sport and ICT. Taking advantage of these opportunities will help you to achieve high standards in all you do and to make the most of the Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form community aims to be inclusive and supportive of everyone. Life-long friendships are made here and sustained in years to come. It is an exciting time and the decisions, plans and ideas you make now will forge the future ahead. Over the two years you will explore your aspirations and develop your thinking and life skills, so that you leave us as an independent young person equipped to thrive and lead in the world.

Mr Matthew Ryan-East, Head of Sixth Form
B.A. Hons (Plymouth), P.G.C.E (Soton), M.St (Cantab)



SIXTH FORM LIFE

Sixth Form is a busy time and your needs now are not those of before. All students, day and boarding, have dedicated space to work, socialise or relax. The Sixth Form Centre provides a kitchen, courtyard garden and space to connect, close to the library and careers resources. The Eleanor Library offers a dedicated Sixth Form study space for private work as well as collaborative tasks and study groups. Sixth Form students are also able to use Cedars Café during breaks and study periods.

The maturity and independence of Sixth Formers serve as a passport to move freely around the school and capitalise on its resources; for example, both the Norfolk Art and Design Centre and Music School have A Level studios purely for your use. Whatever your learning style, or task, there is somewhere for you. What's more, away from study, Sixth Form students also enjoy many privileges not extended to the rest of the school.

Leweston's values of community, opportunity and expertise are central to the Sixth Form experience. You are encouraged to look at ways your skills and interests can offer service to others. All students take part in the Leweston Enrichment and Development (LEaD) programme (see below), an innovative programme that offers a range of activities, experiences and opportunities to help develop you as a person, student, citizen, employee and integral member of myriad communities. Moreover, all Sixth Form students also engage in PSHRE and General RS as part of our commitment to offering an holistic education in the 21st century. In Year 13, you will become a peer mentor, undergoing formal training to support pupils in the younger years. Mentors play a critical role in settling and supporting others and are an integral part of our pastoral care structure. Prefects are appointed every summer from Lower Sixth. These students are ambassadors and role models within the community taking responsibility for different aspects of school life and providing a voice for all pupils.





LEWESTON ENRICHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (LEaD)

At Leweston we are wholly committed to providing a holistic education for our Sixth Form students. To complement our comprehensive tutorial programme, the Leweston Enrichment and Development (LEaD) programme is designed to develop you as the senior student leaders of our community.

The programme offers the opportunity for you to engage in a range of experiences that go beyond your timetabled studies while providing you with the tools to grow as experts in both intellectual and practical ways. To ensure that the whole person is 'enriched and developed' by this programme, we have divided LEaD activities into three separate strands and across each term.

The LEaD Strands:

1. Community – actively engaging in initiatives, activities and events that support the school or local and wider community. Example activities:

- Organising a charity event
- Visiting residents of a local care home
- Supporting a Year 7 tutor group one day a week
- Taking part in the peer mentoring scheme
- Acting as a Guardian Angel for a new member of the school
- Volunteering in the nursery or prep school

2. Opportunity – taking a lead in organising, running and participating in activities and events that develop employability and transferable life skills, personal attributes, physical fitness and sports ability, health and wellbeing, social responsibility and an appreciation of culture and the arts. Example activities:


- Attending a car maintenance workshop
- Taking part in budgeting skills activity
- Setting up a new sports club
- Competing in the House swimming competition
- Organising a music concert at the school for students
- Completing Ten Tors and/or Gold Duke of Edinburgh

3. Expertise – developing academic potential, skills and knowledge through participation in subject and non-subject-related extension/super-curricular activities, post-A Level preparation sessions (e.g. UCAS), study-skills training, academic competitions and societies and the EPQ. Example activities:

- Attending and participating in a university interview workshop
- Undertaking the Extended Project Qualification
- Participating in the Head's lecture series
- Attending university open days as part of the UCAS process and experience a taster lecture
- Entering a national essay-writing competition in chosen discipline
- Learning a new language

You will be expected to engage in all three of these LEaD strands each term (except in the summer term of Upper Sixth), setting targets and recording your progress towards completing the programme with your tutor. As well as engaging in these activities in tutor times, occasional off-timetable events and in your own time, you will have a timetabled fortnightly enrichment slot where you can sign up to a termly option. In 2021/22 options included global citizenship, events management, debating and public speaking, study support and marketing content production. All students are expected to meet the quota of LEaD activities throughout their time in the Sixth Form. However, those who go above and beyond will be considered for a LEaD Programme Distinction award on Speech Day.





In addition to the activities contained in the Sixth Form LEaD programme students have access to:

Extended Project Qualification: The Extended Project Qualification, or EPQ, is a standalone qualification with significant UCAS value. It is highly respected by universities because it helps to develop independent learning skills. The EPQ is based on a self-selected project and is an ideal way to study something you are interested in but is not part of the curriculum of your main subjects. Candidates who choose to embark on an EPQ in addition to their timetabled Sixth Form studies will be assigned a supervisor and attend extra research-skills sessions during Lower Sixth. It is expected that the EPQ will be completed by the end of the autumn term of Upper Sixth.

PSHRE: Sessions focusing on personal, social, health and relationships education will be embedded within your weekly timetable and may also be delivered through the pastoral programme (i.e. assemblies and tutor time). Visiting speakers and in-house teams will lead sessions on a range of issues such as study skills, rights and responsibilities, citizenship, sexual health and wellbeing, drug and alcohol abuse, stress management, gap year opportunities and higher education. Our Careers programme (details below) will also contribute to our Sixth Form LEaD programme offer.

Religion, Ethics and Morality: In the Sixth Form, one period per week is devoted to consideration of various human rights issues.

Leiths Certificate in Food and Wine: Leiths is an internationally recognised, five-term practical course designed to give you confidence in a wide variety of cooking skills. It is a professional qualification which offers you the opportunity to put your skills to work through Leiths List, an employment agency which matches students with a wide range of paid, family-level cooking jobs. This qualification could help you finance yourself at university. Leweston is currently part of a scheme which allows students taking the Leiths Certificate to work towards an extended qualification. This carries between 12 – 36 UCAS points.

A person wearing a blue jacket with "LEWESTON EQUESTRIAN" on the back and a blue helmet is riding a brown horse in an indoor arena. Another person's hand is visible on the rider's back. The background shows the arena's structure and lights.

LEWESTON
EQUESTRIAN

Physical Education: Sixth Formers have an afternoon of sport once a week and many continue to compete for the school throughout Sixth Form. Every year the school welcomes Pentathlon, Equestrian and Sports scholars into Sixth Form who participate in the relevant elite sports programme. Students can choose their own programme from a range of competitive and recreational sports as well as activities that promote health and fitness. Current options include: Hockey, Netball, Football, Badminton, Basketball, Swimming, Rugby, Zumba and Yoga. Sixth Formers can use the gym equipment during their free time. Although after-school activities are no longer compulsory in the Sixth Form, students are encouraged to participate and have the opportunity to lead those of particular interest.

Lifeguarding: Sixth Form students can opt to train as lifeguards with our Swimming Pool Manager. On completion of the course you are awarded a professional qualification which will allow you to work poolside across the country. The qualification also opens up opportunities to lifeguard at the school during the holidays and at sporting events.

The Ten Tors Challenge: This event is organised by the British Army with support from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force as well as civilian emergency services and volunteers. The challenge is attempted in teams of six who navigate routes over Dartmoor, visiting ten nominated tors in under two days. Teams must be self-sufficient, carrying all that they need. All those who attempt Ten Tors will remember it for the rest of their lives.

Duke of Edinburgh Award: The Duke of Edinburgh Award flourishes at Leweston with a significant number of students taking part each year. The scheme focuses on personal development, developing commitment, resilience, independence and responsibility. It is regarded as an asset by both universities and employers and can support your further education application. The Gold Award is exclusive to Sixth Form and takes 12 to 18 months to achieve. As with the other levels it includes an expedition and volunteering but exclusive to Gold is the 5-day residential section when you have to undertake a shared activity away from home. If successful you may receive your award at an event at one of the Royal Palaces.

SUPPORTED TO SUCCEED

We recognise that moving from GCSEs to Sixth Form is a big step so we provide a network of people to help you transition successfully.

Every student has a personal tutor who builds a close working relationship with you through individual discussions, informal gatherings and weekly tutorials. Your tutor will champion your academic progress and support you in your choices, including the next stage of your education. They are there to keep you purposeful, reflective and resilient in your approach to study.

In addition you will have the specialist support of your teachers who talk regularly with your tutor. You will find your relationships with staff change as you move into Sixth Form. Lessons will take a more collaborative, seminar based approach and there is an increased expectation of independent work.

You will receive support and guidance from the Head of Careers enabling you to make considered and informed choices about your future. As the university application process begins you will be helped to find the right subject choices and courses, and research what it is like to work in a particular profession or field.

You will be taken to a Russell Group university to meet student ambassadors and university staff. You will learn about life on campus and what it's like to study within Higher Education, while also getting to experience the 'feel' of a university first hand. This is followed by Futures Directions Day including workshops on applying to university. The Head of Careers will work with you to hone and perfect your personal statement ensuring that applications are ready by the early deadline for Medicine and Oxbridge. You will be given advice on how to ensure your university experience is successful, fulfilling and rewarding as well as practical advice on building a CV and a LinkedIn profile, directing you towards a successful career after university. This is equally important to students who decide to apply directly for employment, or higher-level apprenticeships.

The school is also supported by our network of Alumnae who are happy to advise and mentor Sixth Formers, using the breadth of their knowledge and experience.





SIXTH FORM BOARDING

Sixth Form boarding provides increased freedoms and privileges as well as more responsibility for yourself and those around you. Weekend activities and socials continue but you are increasingly encouraged to organise your own time.

Flexi boarders can stay in school one, two or three nights a week on an occasional or regular basis. Flexi is popular with students who have regular after school commitments or those who want to access study facilities during the week.

Weekly boarders can stay 5 nights a week. This frees you from daily travel allowing you to concentrate on academic study and extra-curricular activities. As Leweston has no Saturday school, weekly boarders can return home on Friday evenings and come back to school on Sunday night or Monday morning.

Full boarders stay at school 7 nights a week and return home for holidays. This option provides the opportunity to focus on your studies in the evenings and at weekends with all the school's resources on hand. You can also enjoy all of the social opportunities Leweston has to offer.

Regular flexis, weekly and full boarders have their own study bedroom in either Eleanor (girls) or Antony (boys) House. You will also have access to the dedicated Sixth Form study areas and can work there at evenings and weekends. When you want to be social there are common rooms to relax in and spend time together.

Many students board for the first time in the Sixth Form to take advantages of the benefits of being onsite. Educationally, boarding helps you form strong relationships with tutors and academic staff who spend time in the Houses.

Socially, boarding teaches you to live in a community, to better understand those around you and respect their differences. It encourages independence and self-sufficiency at a time when you will be asked to demonstrate both.

CHOOSING YOUR SIXTH FORM PROGRAMME

Our aim is to provide an individual programme of study for every pupil. We therefore do not arrange the subjects into pre-determined option blocks, where you can only choose one subject from each block. Instead we ask you to submit your subject choices from a list of possible options and the Deputy Head Academic will then attempt to construct the timetable to accommodate these requests.

The deadline for initial subject choices is February but we recognise that not everyone will have finalised their choices by this point. For this reason you are asked to provide as much information as possible about your interests so that we can try to maintain flexibility within the option blocks.

After this point, work will start on constructing the timetable and the Deputy Head Academic may need to hold discussions with you about your choices and how they can be accommodated. Once the option blocks have been finalised, usually around the beginning of May, you can only change your subject choices within the constraints of these blocks. Very occasionally there is not enough interest in a subject for it to be part of the curriculum, if this happens you will be advised as early as possible and invited to make an alternative choice.

Pupils are offered help and advice making their subject choices, with independent careers interviews available at the start of Year 11. Individual discussions also take place with the Deputy Head Academic, Head of Sixth Form and Head of Year and students applying to join Sixth Form are welcome to talk to the same staff members.

Heads of Department can also advise about courses and there is the opportunity to discuss these at our Sixth Form Information Evening.

Our recommendation to all students is to study three subjects, although good mathematicians may choose to study four, including both Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

The basis for a successful Sixth Form programme is laid down in the work undertaken at GCSE. The standard entry requirement for Leweston Sixth Form is 6 GCSEs at grade 5 or above with a grade 7 or above in the subjects you wish to take at A Level or BTEC.





SUBJECT CHOICES FOR UNIVERSITY COURSES

Many university courses do not request specific subjects as a condition of entry however, some do, particularly those of a vocational nature. If you want to study any of the following subjects at university, please consider the advice below and discuss your choices with the Head of Sixth Form and/or Careers Advisor before finalising your A Levels.

Accountancy

Any A Levels are acceptable but GCSE Maths must be at grade 6 or above. The combination of Maths with Humanities to demonstrate numeracy and literacy skills is recommended. Architecture Art and/or Design with preferably Maths, Physics or both.

Business Management

Any A Levels are acceptable, but Business Studies, and a language is useful. Top universities may require grade 6 or 7 in Maths GCSE.

Computer Science

Computer Science or Physics or Maths.

Dentistry

Chemistry and Biology are essential, and it is preferable to have Physics and/or Maths.

Economics

Russell Group universities are likely to require Maths but not all universities require this.

Engineering

Maths and Physics, although some universities will accept Design instead of Physics. Chemistry is useful for Material Science.

Law

Essay writing and analytical subjects. Top universities expect English and History. Religious Studies is also an option.

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Mathematics is often listed as a preferred or essential requirement for taking this subject at university, especially Russell Group. Economics and/or Philosophy could also provide effective preparation for this course.

Medicine

Chemistry and Biology are essential and preferably Physics and/or Maths. If Physics and Maths are not studied at A Level a grade 7 at GCSE would be expected. Religious Studies can support elements of the Medical Ethics course.

Nursing

Biology.

Nutrition/ Food Science

Biology and/or Chemistry would be an advantage.

Physiotherapy

Biology.

Psychology

Most courses will require at least one science subject and at least a grade 6 in Maths GCSE. Psychology at A Level is not a requirement but is offered in Sixth Form.

Radiography

At least one science.

Sports Science

Most courses require a science subject and BTEC Sports Science is offered in Sixth Form.

Teaching (Primary School)

One A Level must be in a national curriculum subject i.e. English, Maths, Science or ICT, with at least grade 4 in English, Maths and a Science at GCSE.

Veterinary Science

Chemistry and Biology and preferably Physics or Maths.

A Note on Competitive universities

Some competitive universities do not view all A Levels as equal, though they might not always admit this. If you are considering two 'non-traditional' A Levels please talk to the Head of Year 11 or Head of Sixth Form about any impact this may have on your higher education choices.

RESULTS AND DESTINATIONS

Leweston consistently achieves some of the best examinations results in the South-West. In 2023 the proportion of A Level grades that achieved A or A* grades was twice the national average. Whilst the proportion of top grades nationally was only 1.8% higher than 2019, Leweston’s grades were substantially higher than the last set of pre-COVID results. Almost half achieved at least two A* or A grades. What is most important at Leweston is finding the right pathway for each individual pupil, something demonstrated by the range of higher education institutions and destinations chosen by our leavers. Over the past eight years the most popular course family chosen by Leweston students is Social Science, closely followed by Physical Science and Art, Architecture and Design. 54% have gone to Russell Group universities but students are also supported in applications to apprenticeships or employment.

Destinations 2019 - 2023

University of Aberystwyth	Psychology
University of the Arts, London	Fashion Design and Development, Media Communications
University of Bath	Sports Performance
Bath Spa University	Textile Design for Fashion and Interiors
University of Birmingham	Psychology
Birmingham City University	Mechanical Engineering Foundation
Arts University Bournemouth	Commercial Photography, Make up for Media and Performance
University of Bristol	Geography, Criminology
Cardiff University	Mathematics, Psychology, Medicine
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Food Science and Nutrition
University of Coventry	Analytical Chemistry and Forensic Science
University of the Creative Arts	Fashion Image and Styling
University of Dundee	Fine Art
University of Durham	Theology and Politics
University of Edinburgh	Chemical Engineering, Psychology, History of Art
University of Exeter	History and Ancient History, Geography, Politics and Modern Languages, Exercise and Sports Sciences. Modern Languages, Geology, History, Philosophy, Art History and Visual Culture
University of Essex	Psychology, Biochemistry
Falmouth University	Drawing Foundation
Medical University of Gdańsk	Medicine
Harpbury	Equine Sport Science
Imperial College, London	Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics with Applied Mathematics and Physics
King's College, London	Computer Science with Intelligent System , Mathematics with Statistics
Kingston University	Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, Law
University of Leeds	Business Management, Cyber Security and Computer Forensics
University of Liverpool	Arts and Humanities with Foundation
Loughborough University	Psychology
University of Manchester	Fine Art
University of Newcastle	Medicine, Fashion Marketing, Music, Physics with Astrophysics
University of Nottingham	Sociology
Plymouth University	Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Medicine
University of Reading	Medicine, Psychology
Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	Biomedical Science, Business Management with Foundation, Psychology, Building Surveying, Zoology
Royal Holloway	Design for Performance
Royal Veterinary College	Classical Civilisation, Ancient History, Psychology, Zoology
Royal Agricultural University	Veterinary Science
School of Oriental and African Studies	Real Estate Management, Rural Land Management
University of Southampton	Business, Management, Economics and Law with Foundation Year
Sorbonne University	Computer Science
University of St Andrews	Music and Musicology
St George's University Hospital	Molecular Biology
University College, London	Medicine
University of the West of England	Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Arts and Sciences, Biomedical Engineering
University of Westminster	Psychology Foundation, Product Design Technology, Integrated Wildlife Conservation, Philosophy
University of Winchester	Fashion Marketing
University of York	Interior Architecture with Foundation, Media Studies
	Computer Science and Maths, Psychology



ART AND DESIGN

Head of Department: Ms Lacey
Exam Board: OCR

The Art and Design department offers a range of A Level options to students: Fine Art, 3D Design, Fashion and Textile and Photography. Not all of these courses will run each year, this will depend on the interest in each subject.

What do you need to study Art and Design?

It is preferable if you have taken Art or Design at GCSE or equivalent as the courses lead directly onto A Level. It is essential to have good observational drawing skills or design skills and an awareness of Art and Design History. If taking photography it is preferable to own your own camera.

Where will it take you?

Post A level you can pursue a one-year Art and Design Foundation course, prior to degree in a specialist area, or some students apply direct to specialist Art and Design degree courses. The Head of Department will help you to select and apply to Art and Design Schools and to prepare a portfolio for interview. Art and Design A levels are seen as equivalent to any other A level by universities for UCAS applications.

How will you be assessed (all subjects)

Component 1: Personal Investigation

You must produce two elements:

- A portfolio of practical work showing your personal response to either a starting point, brief, scenario, or stimulus, devised and provided by you in consultation with your teacher.
- A Related Study of continuous prose with a guided minimum of 1,500 words.

Component 2: Externally set task

The Examination paper will be issued on 1 February and provides you with a number of themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points, briefs and stimuli. From these one must be selected, upon which to base a response.

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You will have from the issuing of the paper to the exam date to prepare. You are then given a total of 15 hours to complete an outcome in exam conditions. The dates of which will be set by the Head of Department.

All components are marked internally by the Art and Design Department staff and an exhibition of work is held in the school. The work is finally moderated by a visiting examiner at school in June.

The courses include trips to exhibitions in London and a biannual study tour abroad.

FINE ART

Why Study Fine Art?

The course encourages a broad approach to a range of areas of Fine Art inspired by the study of historical and contemporary artists. You will gain skills in research, observation, development and experimentation in a range of media, processes and techniques.

What will you study?

- Painting and Drawing
- Printmaking
- Lens based media
- Digital manipulation
- Sculpture and Installation
- History of Art

During the course you can select areas of particular interest.

ART AND DESIGN (cont.)

FASHION AND TEXTILE DESIGN

Why Study Fashion and Textile Design?

The course encourages a broad approach to a range of areas of Textile and Fashion Design influenced by the study of historical and contemporary designers. You will gain skills showing how materials and processes associated with textiles can be used in a decorative or functional way.

What will you study?

- Fabric Manipulation
- Print
- Garment Construction
- Adobe Photoshop
- Screen Printing

3D DESIGN

Why Study 3D Design?

This is a diverse course that enables pupils to explore ideas and processes with a 3D outcome drawing upon intellectual, creative and practical skills. Pupils are taught skills in model making, construction, surface treatment, assembling and modelling. The final outcome can be made from media and materials from the student's personal intentions and can include wood, metal, plaster, plastic and found materials. The course provides a good foundation for progression to Foundation and Degrees in Art & Design.

What will you study?

- Architectural design
- Sculpture Ceramics
- Product design
- Jewellery and body adornment
- Interior design
- Exhibition design
- 3D digital design
- Designs for theatre, film and TV
- Environmental/landscape/ garden design

PHOTOGRAPHY

Why Study Photography?

This course allows you to explore, research and acquire techniques and develop your skills and understanding in a range of photographic media. You may use traditional methods such as photographic film and digital techniques to produce images. You will be encouraged to study both historical and contemporary photographers within your portfolio of work.

What will you study?

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography
- Commercial photography
- Still-life photography
- Documentary photography
- Experimental imagery
- Editorial photography
- The photographic process
- Animation

During the course you will explore and experiment in all of these areas.

BIOLOGY

Head of Department: Mrs Dawson
Exam Board: AQA

Why Study Biology?

Are you interested in how living things function? Do you want to understand more about how your heart knows how often to beat, or why proteins are so essential to life? If so, A Level Biology could be the subject for you. There has never been a more exciting time to study this broad subject. Advances are taking place all the time in areas such as genetics, biochemistry, ecology and histology, and these will all impact upon the world we live in. For some higher education courses, such as medicine or physiotherapy, an understanding of Biology is essential.

What do you need to study Biology?

Firstly, and most importantly, an enthusiastic interest in the subject is vital. The course requires a student to be motivated enough to undertake self-supported study, wider reading and research. In all examining boards Biology makes use of several disciplines and is not an easy option. It is expected that you will have studied either GCSE Biology or GCSE Combined Award Science and Higher Level Mathematics achieving at least a grade 6.

Where will it take you?

Biology is a very popular choice at A Level, partly because of the many career prospects it opens up: Medicine, Agriculture, Physiotherapy and Veterinary Science to name but a few. Equally, Biology appeals to students considering careers in Computing, Archaeology, Marine Biology, Engineering and Land Management.

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What will you study?

In the first year, you will study the following:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- How organisms exchange substances with their environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms

In the second year, you will study:

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- How organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

In addition, you will learn a minimum of 12 standard practical procedures to investigate the above and how to analyse and evaluate the data you obtain.

How will you be assessed?

You will sit three exams, all at the end of the course, with a total time of six hours. There will be no coursework or controlled assessment. The theory behind the standard practical investigation procedures will be examined in the written exam papers and will account for 15% of the marks. There will be a separate endorsement of your practical skills which will either be a pass or a fail, but only a pass will be recorded on your A Level certificate. The exam questions will be a mixture of short-answer structured questions and questions that require a longer response. In addition, 10% of the marks will examine mathematical skills at the Higher Tier GCSE standard.

BUSINESS (BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate)

Head of Department: Mrs Bruller

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Why Study Business?

The content of this course has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. Employers and professional bodies have been involved to confirm that the content taught is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners planning to enter into the business sector.

Course content includes:

- Business environments
- Finance
- Marketing
- Human Resources

These units are designed to support business courses in higher education and to link with relevant occupational areas.

What is a BTEC?

A BTEC is an alternative to A Levels that gets you equivalent qualifications while you study in a more practical, hands-on way. Nearly 1 in 4 university students have studied BTECs. Employers appreciate the practical approach. Course entry requirements ideally include a GCSE Grade 5 or above in English, Maths and Business (if studied).

Where will it take you?

This qualification teaches students about the different areas of business and can lead to careers in marketing, finance, operations management or human resources. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers. It combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to wide range of disciplines. The course aims to provide students with an in depth understanding of the operations and structures of businesses and to equip you with the skills required to succeed in employment or at university.

Today's employers are looking for confident young people with a range of skills and background. They want candidates who have the practical knowledge, experience and skills learnt in a BTEC course. The course particularly encourages the development of teamwork, leadership, problem-solving skills, performance analysis, resilience, analysis and synthesising concepts.

What will you study?

Unit 1 Exploring Business: the purposes of different businesses, their structures, the effect of the external environment, and how businesses need to be dynamic and innovative to survive. A mandatory unit is assessed internally through assignments.

Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign: explore the dynamic field of marketing examining the role of marketing, influences on a businesses marketing activity and how businesses develop a marketing campaign. A mandatory unit, assessed under supervised conditions set by the awarding body.

Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance: the purpose and importance of personal and business finance. This unit introduces business accounts, the different sources of finance available to businesses, how to measure financial performance, analysing income, financial accountability etc. A mandatory unit, assessed via a written 2-hour exam.

Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection Process: explore the recruitment process. This unit gives you the opportunity to participate in selection interviews and to review your performance. It provides a foundation for progression to employment, for example in a human resources role or to higher education within this field.

The flexibility with the internally assessed units enables the course tutor to set assignments that nurture such skills. There is also scope to deliver much of this course in a practical context to enable you to apply and reinforce your understanding.

CLASSICS

Teacher in Charge: Miss Howlett
Exam Board: OCR

Why Study Classics?

First and foremost for its own sake; a study of the Classics is particularly satisfying because it covers an entire culture: language, literature, history and philosophy. Seeing life from every angle means transferable skills, research, analysis, mastering a language and creativity, to name but a few, are highly developed. The multi-faceted nature of Classics means it is an ideal subject to combine with both Sciences and the Arts, and the skills developed mean it is highly valued and respected by universities and employers around the world.

What do you need to study Classics?

For Latin A Level a GCSE pass (minimum grade 6) is required in the subject. A minimum grade 6 in a Humanities subject is required for Classical Civilisation at A Level.

Where will it take you?

The skills gained studying Classics open up a whole host of further education and career opportunities. Classicists are attractive to employers in banking and commerce, the Civil Service and local government, the law, politics, arts and the media.

What will you study?

Latin: Year 12

You will develop your language skills through study of prescribed verse and prose texts, such as Cicero or Tacitus, Virgil or Ovid. By the end of the course you will have acquired an understanding of literary techniques and will have the opportunity to make a personal response to the text. You will also be required to demonstrate the ability to translate from Latin into English.

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Year 12

You will explore Latin prose and verse through prescribed texts, such as Tacitus, Cicero, Virgil and Ovid, analysing and evaluating Latin literary texts, and responding to unseen prose and verse passages by means of comprehension questions and components. You also have the option to study one author in depth or the works of two different authors.

Classical Civilisation: Year 12

An interest in literature and art is key for Classical Civilisation, as you study sculpture, art, poetry and mythology. Modules range from Women in Athens and Rome, Roman Architecture to Homer's Epic Poems. You will develop an analytical approach to classical sources, and establish a firm understanding of the Classical era. The modules allow you to broaden and deepen your understanding of Classical Civilisations, whilst forming your own personal responses to the era.

Year 13

You will develop your skills and apply them to topics ranging from the Augustan Era of Rome and the Mycenaean Civilisation, to the Aeneid. You will be able to critically evaluate classical sources, and draw and understand links between the central elements of the modules studied.

How will you be assessed?

Latin - there are four written examinations at the end of the two year course. There is no coursework or controlled assessment. The papers assess language and literature skills through a mixture of translation, comprehension, commentary and essay questions.

Classical Civilisation - all examinations take place at the end of the two year course. There is no coursework or controlled assessment. The papers assess a knowledge and understanding of literature, visual and material culture and classical thought.

CHEMISTRY

Teacher in Charge: Dr Whale
Exam Board: OCR

Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the study of all materials and is vital to every aspect of life. It will give you a greater understanding of the world and can lead to stimulating and rewarding career opportunities. Chemists are responsible for much of what makes our lives safe, comfortable and enjoyable. They are making medicines in the fight against cancer; improving the colour and taste of foods; investigating the chemicals in cosmetics; measuring alcohol content in drinks, improving the way that the new materials are used and protecting the environment for future generations.

What do you need to study Chemistry?

You should have grade 6 or above in GCSE Chemistry or GCSE Combined Science. You also need some mathematical skills (though not beyond GCSE level).

Where will it take you?

Chemistry is an essential subject for many careers including medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, agriculture, food science and chemical engineering. Chemistry graduates work in law, accountancy, IT, journalism, banking, marketing and sales, in education as teachers, lecturers or technicians. Even for those not planning a career in science, Chemistry is a highly respected A Level.

What will you study?

Chemistry is split into six modules:

Module 1: Development of Practical Skills in Chemistry. This underpins the whole of the specification, and covers the practical skills that you develop throughout the course. Planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation will be covered.

Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry. Covering concepts required throughout the remaining modules including atoms, compounds, molecules and equations. Amount of substances, acid-base and redox reactions as well as electrons, bonding and structure.

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Module 3: Periodic Table (Periodicity, Group 2, Halogens), Qualitative Analysis and Energy (Enthalpy changes, rates and qualitative equilibrium).

Module 4: Core Organic Chemistry includes basic concepts, hydrocarbons, alcohols and halogenoalkanes, organic synthesis and analytical techniques (IR, MS).

Module 5: Physical Chemistry and Transition

Elements includes rates and quantitative equilibrium, pH and buffers, enthalpy, entropy and free energy, redox and electrode potentials and transition elements.

Module 6: Organic Chemistry and Analysis includes aromatic, carbonyl and nitrogen compounds, carboxylic acids and ester, polymers, chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR).

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1: Periodic Table, Elements and Physical

Chemistry – 2hr 15mins. Section A – Multiple choice – 15 marks. Section B – Structured questions covering theory and practical skills – 85 marks. Paper 1 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 3 and 5 and is 37% of A Level

Paper 2: Synthesis and Analytical Techniques – 2hr

15mins. Section A – Multiple choice – 15 marks. Section B – Structured questions covering theory and practical skills – 85 marks. Paper 2 assesses content from modules 1, 2, 4 and 6 and is 37% of A Level

Paper 3: Unified Chemistry – 1hr 30mins.

Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills – 70 marks. Paper 3 assesses content from all modules (1-6) and is 26% of A Level.

Non-Exam Assessment: Practical Endorsement for Chemistry – Pass/Fail. Candidates complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Head of Department: Mr Stephens
Exam Board: AQA

Why Study Computer Science?

Computer Science is a subject both relevant to the classroom and the real world. Advances in computing are transforming the world in which we live and we see examples of technology in use at every point of our day. The course has very clear, well-structured assessment criteria and the exams include a variety of assessment styles so you can be more confident to engage with the questions. One of the most exciting parts of the course is the opportunity to carry out your own project, creating a solution to a problem from any area of computing, for example: building a game, using physical computing (Arduino, Raspberry Pi, ESP32 etc.), exploring machine learning, utilising artificial intelligence, writing desktop/mobile apps, understanding complex modelling and more – the choice is yours!

What do you need to study Computer Science?

GCSE Computer Science is a big advantage but not essential, however; those without this experience will need a Mathematics GCSE at grade 7 or above. Some prior experience of computing is definitely beneficial.

Where will it take you?

This A Level puts students in a strong position when applying for a Computer Science degree or degree apprenticeship and can lead to a number of extremely well-paid careers as the technical skills gained are highly valued by employers. This might include becoming an app developer, cyber-security analyst, software engineer, web developer, games designer or data analyst.

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What will you study?

Year 12

- Fundamentals of programming
- Fundamentals of data structures
- Theory of computation
- Systematic approach to problem solving
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Fundamentals of computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture

Year 13

- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Consequences of uses of computing
- Fundamentals of communication and networking
- Fundamentals of databases
- Big Data
- Fundamentals of functional programming
- Non-exam assessment – The computing practical project

How will you be assessed?

Paper one: On-screen examination - 40% (2 hours 30 minutes). A series of short questions and write/adapt/extend programs in an electronic answer document. There will be preliminary material, a skeleton program and test data for use in the exam.

Paper two: Written examination - 40% (2 hours 30 minutes). Compulsory short-answer and extended answer questions.

Non-Exam Assessment - 75 marks and 20%.

Assesses your ability to use the knowledge and skills gained to solve or investigate a practical problem. You will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving, as shown in section 22.

DRAMA AND THEATRE

Head of Subject: Miss McIntosh
Exam Board: WJEC Edquas

Why Study Drama and Theatre Studies?

In Year 12 the course enables you to acquire a knowledge and understanding of the language of drama and theatre as well as to develop your performing and analytical skills. In the second year the course enables you to operate more autonomously and with confidence within a drama and theatre context.

Students completing the course successfully will have a thorough understanding of drama and theatre, highly toned analytical and creative skills and an ability to communicate effectively with others.

What do you need to study Drama and Theatre Studies?

You do not need to have a GCSE in Drama, however it does give good background knowledge. You do not have to be an actor or have had previous technical experience. You do need enthusiasm, commitment and an open mind!

Where will it take you?

Drama and Theatre is considered a subject of great merit by universities, it is not considered a "soft option". Students have gone on to study Drama at University or Drama School, but also History, English, Psychology and other scientific subjects. The study of theatre offers an education to anyone committed to acquiring it. It is a discipline that should lead to an informed appreciation of one of the most stimulating art forms. The skills learnt are of benefit for life not merely university entrance. They are also directly useful in the working environment of the theatre.

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What will you study?

Component 1 – Theatre Workshop

You will be assessed on either acting or design. You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre reinterpreting an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by the exam board. You will learn how to develop a piece of theatre using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. For this component, you will produce the performance itself and a creative log that outlines your devising and reinterpretation process. This is an internally assessed component.

Component 2 – Text in Action

You will be assessed on either acting or design. This involves participating in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by the exam board:

1. a devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company (different to that chosen for Component 1)
2. an extract from a text in a different style chosen by you and your group. You will complete a process and evaluation report as part of your coursework upon completion of the practical work.

This component is externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3 – Text in Performance

A written exam taken at the end of Year 13. You will study three different play texts and answer questions within three sections. Sections A and B include two questions, based on two of the texts, one written pre-1956 and one written post-1956. Section C is based on the third text, you will be given an extract and asked how you would stage it for a contemporary audience.

ECONOMICS

Head of Subject: Mrs Bruller
Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Why Study Economics?

Studying economics will give you a comprehensive understanding of both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Starting with microeconomics, focus is on the effects of individual decisions.

Topics covered include economic problems and the ways in which economists think and work, how demand and supply interact to allocate resources, how businesses aim to maximise profit but why consumers may not behave rationally and the impact that this has. We investigate market failure and how governments may intervene.

In macroeconomics students will be introduced to the aggregate demand/aggregate supply model so that they can use it to analyse changes within the economic environment. Students will examine ways of improving an economy's performance, and will consider the different approaches that may be used by policymakers to address macroeconomic issues and be able to identify the criteria for success. Students will have knowledge of the UK economy in the last 10 years and will consider the significance of globalisation, international trade, the balance of payments and exchange rates. They will examine public finance, macroeconomic policies and the role of the financial sector in a global context. Students will consider the factors influencing the growth and development of emerging and developing countries.

What do you need to study Economics?

No prior knowledge of Economics is needed. If you are already studying GCSE Economics or Business Studies, you will revisit some of the learning and build on it. You do need grade 6 or above in GCSE/iGCSE Mathematics. It helps if you are interested in current affairs and can think clearly and logically. You will need a good standard of English and reasonable numeracy skills.

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Where will it take you?

Today's employers are looking for confident young people with a range of skills and background and an understanding of how global and local economics can affect businesses and sales. Economics A Level teaches students how to apply economic theory practically to various real scenarios. Economics is a useful subject that can help you learn skills to prepare you for the challenges you may face in working life, like assessing the value of goods, making sales decisions and investing for the future. The requirements of the qualification will mean that you develop the transferable and higher order skills that are valued by higher education providers and employers.

What will you study?

In Year 12 there are two units:

- Introduction to Markets and Market Failure
- The UK Economy – Performance and Policies

In Year 13 there are two more units:

- Business Behaviour and the Labour Market
- A Global Perspective

How will you be assessed?

Three externally assessed exam papers, each one is two hours long:

- Markets and Business Behaviour
- The National and Global Economy
- Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

The papers will include short response questions, data response and extended open questions.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Head of Department: Miss Evans
Exam Board: Edexcel

Why Study English Literature?

English Literature will ask much of you but give much in return. The course will encourage you to doubt your certainties, recognise your prejudices and walk in another's shoes. It is a journey that will challenge your perceptions of yourself and others. English Literature in the Sixth Form consists of reading, reflection, analysis and discussion. You will build on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired at GCSE. The course offers a programme of study that will be rewarding and enjoyable in its own right and which forms a basis for further study at degree level.

What do you need to study English Literature?

The minimum requirements are grades 5 in English and English Literature, but grades 6 and above are desirable.

Where will it take you?

English is considered rigorous and demanding so the subject is well respected. It combines with most other subjects; Arts, Sciences or Humanities. There is a wide range of careers for which English is relevant: journalism, publishing and media but the skills of communication and interpretation can be applied to many others, such as law, management, marketing, advertising, public relations and medicine.

What will you study and how will you be assessed?

The course aims to develop four key areas:

- Competence in writing and reading and expressing yourself effectively and appropriately;
- Criticism: being able to apply ideas and to read analytically, with insight;
- Connection: to be able to draw effective comparisons within and between texts;

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- Context: to understand how the background to a text and the experience of its author and the situation of the reader are part of the experience of literature.

The course has four components, three of which are assessed at the end of the course. It aims to develop your critical skills, while engaging your enthusiasm and imagination as you explore a diverse range of texts from various literary periods and genres. All the examinations are 'open book' which allows you to take a clean copy of your set text into the examinations.

Component One: Drama - Two plays studied in detail: a play by Shakespeare and a modern classic.

Component Two: Poetry - Two collections studied in detail: Poems of the Decade from the contemporary anthology, the Forward Book of Poetry and one collection from a choice of pre-twentieth century poets and movements.

Component Three: Prose - Two novels studied comparatively in relation to a theme. For example, 'Science and Society' or 'The Supernatural'.

Component Four: Coursework essay - An internally marked and externally moderated comparative essay. The deadline is before the Easter holiday of Year 13. You will devise your own title for the essay which must compare the work of two authors and show good background knowledge. This component includes some taught content but is an exciting opportunity for you to follow your own literary interests in a guided and supported context.

The two- year course allows you to develop increasingly mature critical skills and to approach the examinations with a solid and confident knowledge of your set texts and their contexts. You will also have opportunities to experience Literature outside of the classroom. Trips and visits to performances, poetry readings and conferences form an integral part of the course.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

International Students only

Director of International Students:
Mrs Kelly-Quick

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Why take EAL lessons?

If you are a student for whom English is not your first language English as an Additional Language (EAL) lessons will support you to improve your language skills. EAL lessons will also help you to study for an examination to prove your English language proficiency for university. All students have one hour of in-house support each week with one hour of prep expected in students own time. Further support is available at an additional cost.

What do you need to study EAL?

You do not need to have studied anything specific but students studying in the Sixth Form will be at, or very close to, B2 level of language proficiency on the Common European Framework of Reference. This is IELTS 5.5 – 6.5 or Cambridge First Certificate.

Where will it take you?

Universities courses which are taught in English require students to prove their ability to study in the English language. Accepted qualifications to prove this include IELTS (usually 6.5-7.5) and Cambridge Advanced.

What will you study?

The area of study includes:

- Development of the skill of Listening
- Development of the skill of Reading
- Development of the skill of Writing
- Development of the skill of Speaking
- Raising awareness of strategies for learning vocabulary

Students are encouraged to take the exam in either the Easter of Year 12 or the summer before Year 13.

How will you do this?

You will follow a bespoke course designed to meet your needs. You will also be provided with a wide range of examination style material to ensure familiarity with the appropriate English language examination for you.

EQUINE MANAGEMENT (BTEC Level 3)

Exam Board: Pearson

Equine Management offers two different options to students: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate (equivalent to one A Level) or BTEC National Extended Diploma (equivalent to three A Levels).

What do you need to study Equine Management?

No prior study of the sector is needed but learners should normally have a range of achievement at Level 2, in GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, including English, mathematics and science.

NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

This qualification offers an engaging programme to students who want a career in the equine sector. It can prepare learners for a range of apprenticeships in the equine sector, or direct entry to roles such as trainee groom or stable yard worker. When taken alongside further qualifications, it supports progression to a range of higher education courses in equine management.

What will you study?

There are four mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Equine Structure, Form and Function
- Unit 4: Work Experience in the Equine Sector
- Unit 5: Horse Tack, Equipment and Rugs
- Unit 6: Equine Health and Husbandry.

You will be able to add one optional unit.

All students taking this qualification will be required to engage with sector employers as part of their course, including 75 hours of evidenced work experience with an employer in the sector.

How will you be assessed?

The course includes a range of assessment types and styles. The majority of units are assessed internally but Unit 1: Equine Structure, Form and Function will be a written examination set by Pearson. The exam lasts one and a half hours and is worth 80 marks.

Where will it take you?

When achieved alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning, learners will be able to progress to a range of specialist degree programmes in the equine management sector. The qualification is intended

NATIONAL EXTENDED DIPLOMA

This qualification is equivalent in size to three A Levels and will normally be the only qualification in a two-year study programme. It is particularly for those with a firm intention of progressing to employment in the equine industry. This qualification will serve as preparation for a higher education course. This route gives learners the opportunity to enter the sector at a higher level, or in a more specialist role.

What will you study?

There are nine mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Equine Structure, Form and Function
- Unit 2: Equine Diet and Nutrition
- Unit 3: Managing Equine Disease
- Unit 4: Work Experience in the Equine Sector
- Unit 5: Horse Tack, Equipment and Rugs
- Unit 6: Equine Health and Husbandry
- Unit 7: Preparation and Presentation for Competition Disciplines
- Unit 8: Equine Behaviour
- Unit 9: Managing an Equine Yard.

EQUINE MANAGEMENT (cont.)

You will be able to select six optional units.

All students will be required to engage with sector employers as part of their course, including 300 hours of evidenced work experience with an employer in the sector

How will you be assessed?

The course includes a range of assessment types and styles. The majority of units are assessed internally with the exception of:

Unit 1: Equine Structure, Form and Function a written examination set by Pearson. The exam lasts one and a half hours and is worth 80 marks.

Unit 2: Equine Diet and Nutrition a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions. The assessment is two-hours and thirty minutes in a specified session timetabled by Pearson with a written submission of evidence. it is worth 60 marks.

Unit 3: Managing Equine Disease a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions. The supervised assessment is three hours in a specified session timetabled by Pearson with a written submission of evidence. It is worth 66 marks

Where will it take you?

This qualification will prepare you for employment in the equine management sector, and is suitable for those wanting to enter a particular specialist area of work such as:

- equine event manager
- yard manager
- stud hand
- riding instructor
- head groom.

The qualification carries UCAS points and meets admission requirements for many courses, for example:

- BSc (Hons) in Equine Sports Coaching
- BSc (Hons) in Equine Sports Science
- BSc (Hons) in Equine Business Management
- BSc (Hons) in Equine Sports Therapy
- BSc (Hons) in Equine Science and Management
- BSc (Hons) in Equine Training and Management
- BSc (Hons) in Equine Behaviour

GEOGRAPHY

Head of Department: Mrs Dencher
Exam Board: AQA

Why Study Geography?

"The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together." Barack Obama

Geography combines well with both arts and science subjects. It is a broad based subject that really fits well with many subject combinations. It is an exciting, interesting and relevant subject – issues such as migration, climate change, and natural hazards are all important to the future of our world.

What do you need to study Geography?

Most importantly, you require an interest in the world around you and an enthusiasm to learn more. There is no minimum requirement at GCSE, although a grade 5 or above in Geography, English and Maths is desirable.

Geography requires a wide spectrum of skills including: researching and consolidating information from a variety of sources; using knowledge and understanding to write a coherent argument based on evidence; analysing data and text to find trends and anomalies, as well as being able to manipulate simple statistical formulae and apply practical fieldwork skills.

Where will it take you?

Geography is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice. The Russell Group report, published in 2011, names geography as one of the eight facilitating subjects. This is a subject most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and choosing facilitating subjects will keep more options open to you at university. Geographers are highly employable across a wide range of areas, from Law, to business, to engineering, to teaching. It will not limit your future options.

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What will you study?

We follow the AQA specification. It is a linear course, which means you will take all your exams for Geography at the end of Year 13. The course also includes a 20% non-examined assessment (NEA) – a personal investigation based on primary data. The course is divided into 3 parts:

Paper 1 – Physical Geography – Water and Carbon Cycles, Hazards, Coastal Landscapes and Processes (40%)

Paper 2 – Human Geography – Changing Places, Global Governance and Global Systems and Contemporary Urban Environments (40%)

Paper 3 – Geographical Fieldwork Investigation (NEA), based on primary data collection (20%).

Fieldwork

Fieldwork is a vital part of Geography, helping bring the subject to life and is a compulsory part of the course. Over the two years, four days must be spent on fieldwork. We will undertake both local fieldwork (coastal, rivers or urban) and a three day residential course at a field study centre, learning techniques in preparation for the personal investigation. As well as this compulsory element there is currently also an optional trip to Iceland offered to Year 13 Geographers in October half term.

How will you be assessed?

Two written papers of two and a half hours (40% each.) One NEA of approximately 4000 words (worth 20%).

HISTORY

Head of Department: Mr Hayward
Exam Board: OCR

Why Study History?

History provides us with an opportunity to understand ourselves and how the world has come to be as it is. An understanding of History is essential for the development of informed citizenship and develops a sceptical, informed and independent judgement. History also provides a fund of entertaining stories that would be too strange and outlandish to be included in a work of fiction.

What do you need to study History?

Although a good grade at GCSE is helpful, it is not essential. A willingness to engage with challenging new ideas and concepts is more important.

Where will it take you?

The short answer is wherever you want to go. History provides a gymnasium for the intellect and can help prepare you for a very wide range of careers, including the law, business, advertising, politics, the Civil Service and the media.

What will you study?

Britain 1930–1997 (25% of total marks). With special emphasis on the career of Winston Churchill, this will include Churchill's time "in the wilderness" 1929–39, his opposition to Appeasement and his attitudes to the abdication crisis and to the Empire. Churchill's role as war leader and his impact on diplomacy including the "Iron Curtain" speech and his role in the start of the Cold War. You will explore Conservative political dominance from 1951 to 1964, their loss of power in the wake of scandals, Labour and Conservative rivalry, reforms and crisis up to 1979 and the triumph of Margaret Thatcher. International relations and war, including Suez, The Falklands and the First Gulf War.

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The USA in the 19th Century 1803 - c.1890 (15% of total marks). You will study a range of factors driving westward expansion: exploration, the Mormons and the ideology of 'manifest destiny.' Consider the nature and diversity of Native American society, their defeat and the attempts by the US government to end their way of life. It includes the Civil War studying the main differences between North and South, the events and factors that led to war and the reasons for Union victory. This involves the political and military leadership, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, the organisation of each side's war efforts, the availability of resources and the attitudes of foreign powers.

Popular Culture and the Witch Craze in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries (40% of total marks). Including the background to the craze, the significance of ritual, role of pageants and the festivals of misrule, public humiliation, moral regulation; the role of magic in society; challenges to popular culture, religious change, political change, economic change, climate change, religious upheaval and social control. The main case studies are: Southern Germany c1590–1630, Hopkins and the English witch hunt of 1645–1647 and the Salem witch trials of 1692 in America.

An independently researched essay of 3000–4000 words (20% of total marks). On a topic of your choosing this allows you to write one fifth of the syllabus yourself. Alternatively, you may choose from a range of topics provided by the Department.

How will you be assessed?

Essay writing remains crucial to assessment in History. However, the ability to evaluate original source material as well as the often conflicting views of historians is also important.

MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Head of Department: Mrs Newnham
Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

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MATHEMATICS

Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a much sought after qualification for entry to a wide variety of full-time courses in Higher Education and it is considered one of the facilitating subjects by leading universities.

Mathematics A Level will teach you to think logically, to process information accurately, and to understand and manipulate numbers and mathematical processes. These are all skills which will benefit you greatly in whatever profession you choose and it is these skills which, more and more, employers are looking for in prospective employees.

What do you need to study Mathematics?

For all modules, a grade 7 or above at GCSE is advised and you should enjoy working with algebraic notation.

Where will it take you?

At Leweston, the Advanced Mathematics Course has been developed in order to provide you with a Mathematics education which will be appropriate for a wide range of College and University studies. Courses that require A Level Mathematics or are strongly related include: Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching, Psychology, Environmental Studies, Computing and Information Technology.

What will you study?

Leweston follows the Edexcel specification. You will study Pure Mathematics which includes algebra, trigonometry and calculus together with areas of applied mathematics from Statistics and Mechanics. For more details on the topics studied please see the detailed Mathematics Course Guide.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Why Study Further Maths?

If you wish to read Maths, or other STEM subjects at University or simply derive joy from the subject then Further Maths is for you. Further Maths is also considered one of the facilitating subjects by leading universities.

Further Maths will build upon ideas and techniques taught in the main A Level, but introduce aspects of Proof, Matrices and Complex numbers as well as Mechanics.

No degree course requires a student to study Further Maths however many top universities strongly encourage students to study it if they wish to read Mathematics, Physics, Natural Sciences, Economics, Engineering and other STEM subjects.

What do you need to study Further Maths?

Grade 8 or above at GCSE is advised and you should enjoy working with algebraic notation. It is important that you enjoy mathematics and the challenges of the subject.

Where will it take you?

The Further Maths course has been developed to provide you with a Mathematics education appropriate for a wide range of College and University studies. The course can be personalised to suit your potential degree course.

What will you study?

You will study Further Pure Mathematics including algebra, complex numbers, trigonometry and calculus together with areas of applied mathematics from Decision Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics. More details on the topics studied are in the Mathematics Course Guide.

STEP: those wishing to read Mathematics/MORSE at Cambridge or Warwick, STEP will be required. Specific coaching is available.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Head of Department: Mr Dillow
Exam Board: AQA

Why Study a Modern Foreign Language?

Competence in a foreign language is a useful social skill and learning a language is an end in itself; it can help you to understand your own language and it offers the possibility to learn more than one foreign language with ease. To take advantage of the opportunities in today's global job market, young people need to wake up to the need for language skills. Languages are of clear commercial benefit. They enhance other skills in the field of communication; they are of huge cultural importance and create opportunities for individuals who speak them.

French

French is the second most frequently taught language in the world after English. The International Organization of Francophonie has 51 member states and governments. Of these, 28 countries have French as an official language. French, along with English, is the official working language of the United Nations, UNESCO and NATO.

Spanish

Around 400 million speakers use Spanish as their first language. It's the third most commonly spoken language in the world (after Mandarin and English) and, according to some counts, has more native speakers than English does; in the USA around 34 million speak Spanish as their first language. It is an official language on four continents and is of historical importance elsewhere.

What do you need to study a Modern Foreign Language?

You will need a high grade at GCSE if you choose to continue with French, or Spanish, to A Level, as you will be building on the skills you have already developed.

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As part of the MFL programme, you will spend time talking to native speakers and have the opportunity to spend time immersed in the language of your choice on study visits, promoted and recommended by the department.

Where will it take you?

Many universities offer languages combined with a variety of subjects alongside their traditional courses. Most courses include a year in a country where the language is spoken, you can attend a foreign university or get valuable work experience. Many employers increasingly value linguistic skills and, besides usefulness, learning a language can be both stimulating and fun.

What will you study?

You will develop four linguistic skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. You will study contemporary material drawn from newspapers, television, films and the Internet. Topics include the environment, communication and technology, the media and many aspects of culture and society

We actively encourage study visits abroad which combine learning and skills building with a total immersion in the chosen country and language. These visits allow you to attend lessons and stay with families. Visits to France are offered on their own or in combination with other academic subjects.

How will you be assessed?

The current syllabus is very flexible. The examination tests the four skills. You may choose your own topics for the oral exams. There is no written coursework. You will study one work of literature and one film in your language in addition to a wide range of topics on contemporary issues affecting Spanish/French speaking countries. The course provides a wide range of online resources accessible at school or home. These resources allow independent learning and self evaluation.

MUSIC

Head of Department: Dr Milestone
Exam Board: Eduqas

Why Study Music?

This is the easiest question of all! Study music because it enriches the soul and broadens the mind; it is both academically stimulating and emotionally rewarding. To study music is to encounter works of art that have the power both to express the spirit of an entire age or society, and to allow us access to the innermost emotional urges of some of the greatest musicians.

What do you need to study Music?

A love of music and a desire to delve deeper into its language and history. Practical musical experience is essential, and though GCSE music is usual, it is not mandatory. You should have achieved (or be intending to achieve) Grade 5 Theory by the end of the first year, and should be able to perform on at least one instrument to Grade 5 standard by the same time.

Where will it take you?

Music is a vocational subject, and is essential for those wishing to pursue their formal musical studies at university or music college. The course is both challenging and rewarding, and can be combined with any other subject at A Level. Anyone considering a career in the music industry (from concert performing and arts management to musical journalism) would benefit from the course. Those who choose to discontinue formal musical training post18 will feel the benefits of A Level Music for the rest of their lives, and universities look favourably upon Music as a relevant academic A Level for all degree courses.

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What will you study?

The course has three components:

Component 1: Performing Music 35%

An externally assessed performance of 10-12 minutes, with a minimum of three pieces. At least one piece must be a solo and the whole performance must cover TWO areas of study (from Classical/Rock & Pop/Jazz/Musicals/C20/C21).

Component 2: Composing 25%

An externally assessed portfolio of 4-6 minutes, consisting of a minimum of two pieces. One must be based on the Western Classical Tradition to a brief set by Eduqas, and the other is a free composition.

Component 3: Appraising 40%

An externally assessed Exam (2h 15m). There are various options but at Leweston our areas of study are: The Development of the Symphony, Musical Theatre, and 'Into the Twentieth Century'. You will be required to undertake analysis of set works with a blank score, essay questions on the wider context of set works, and questions on unprepared extracts with and without a score

The course is taught with an emphasis on the practical experience of music – trips to concerts and opera performances are arranged to bring academic studies to life. Leweston offers many musical activities and there is scope to perform all year round. The Sherborne Schools' Symphony Orchestra and various Leweston ensembles rehearse weekly. Our senior auditioned choir, Schola Cantorum, has a high reputation, providing music for Wednesday Mass as well as singing at weddings, in cathedrals (Westminster and Winchester among them), and undertaking international tours.

PHYSICS

Head of Department: Mrs Valentine
Exam Board: AQA

Why Study Physics?

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us. It challenges our imaginations with concepts like relativity and string theory, and leads to great discoveries, like computers and lasers, that lead to technologies which change our lives—from healing joints, to curing cancer and developing sustainable energy solutions. Physics encompasses the study of the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles.

Moreover, it's the basis of many other sciences, including chemistry, oceanography, seismology, and astronomy (and can be applied to biology or medical science).

Physics asks and answers questions covering the whole range from the sub-atomically tiny to the mind bogglingly big!

The new course is designed to:-

- provide a relevant and interesting physics course for post-16 students
- allow smooth progression from previous GCSE studies of Physics
- highlight the links between Physics and other sciences and how the subject underpins important technologies.

What do you need to study Physics?

You need to be curious about the way things work and to have the ability to understand and apply the underlying principles to further investigation. You need practical dexterity, good powers of observation and accuracy in recording results. You will need to have obtained a good grade at GCSE in Combined Science and in Mathematics. You do not have to be studying GCSE Physics.

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Where will it take you?

Anywhere you want to go! A Level Physics is not just for those who want to do Physics or Engineering degrees. It is useful for those wishing for careers in Medicine, Veterinary Science, industry, banking and the city, architecture, the environment and teaching amongst many others.

Physics combines well with Mathematics as well as with the other sciences however, it may also be studied in combination with subjects such as Geography, Economics and Music.

What will you study?

The course is a linear one with examinations at the end of Year 13.

Three two hour papers based on the following:

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and energy
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields
- Nuclear physics

Plus one topic option from: Astrophysics, Medical Physics, Engineering, Physics, Turning Points in Physics, Electronics.

How will you be assessed?

Examinations will be set in June of each year.

Practical work forms an important part of any science course and you will be given plenty of opportunities to develop your practical skills.

Assessment of practical skills will take place in a data analysis section of Paper 3. Pupils will also be expected to submit a portfolio of 12 practicals carried out during the course.

PSYCHOLOGY

Head of Department: Mrs Hunt
Exam Board: AQA

Why Study Psychology?

The study of Psychology will provide you with an appropriate foundation for further study in Psychology or related subjects in higher education. Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. You may choose to study Psychology because you wish to see what we have learned about human behaviour from one hundred years of scientific investigation. This course is a broad introduction to the subject, and you will become familiar with theories and studies conducted in the major areas of Psychology.

What do you need to study Psychology?

You need to have competence in reading and writing English, reasonable Maths skills and some experience of conducting and writing up scientific investigations. No specific background subjects are needed.

Where will it take you?

A Level Psychology is useful for pupils considering work in teaching, nursing, social work and counselling. A degree in Psychology can lead to a postgraduate qualification in clinical, educational, occupational, forensic and academic psychology. People with a background in Psychology can be found in careers as diverse as advertising, medicine, the civil service, business management, journalism, television and the law.

Note 1: For entry to some courses in teacher training, A Level Psychology needs to be combined with a National Curriculum subject.

Note 2: Psychology can be studied at university without taking the subject at A Level.

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What will you study?

Paper 1

- Social Influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology

Paper 2

- Approaches
- Biopsychology
- Research Methods

Paper 3

- Issues and Debates
- Relationships
- Schizophrenia
- Addiction

How will you be assessed?

There are three two hour examinations at the end of the second year. Each paper is worth 33.3% of the A Level.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND NEW TESTAMENT

Head of Department: Ms O'Toole
Exam Board: EdExcel

Why Study Ethics and Philosophy of Religion?

Ethics and Philosophy of Religion challenges you to consider the basic questions of our existence: Who am I? What is the purpose of life? Is there anything beyond?

As such it goes far deeper than a school subject and helps to prepare you for life in general.

What do you need to study Ethics and Philosophy of Religion?

It is not necessary to have studied, or have gained a grade at GCSE Religious Studies to study at A Level. What is required is an ability to challenge accepted theories, to think independently and to present information and ideas in a logical and coherent manner.

Where will it take you?

A Level Religious Studies: Ethics and Philosophy of Religion can lead directly on to further study at university, in the areas of Theology or Philosophy; as a fully academic subject it is recognised as a complementary discipline to many degree courses in both the arts and sciences. Knowledge of religious, moral and philosophical issues is a great benefit in a wide range of careers and professions.

What will you study?

- Philosophy of Religion
- Religion and Ethics
- New Testament Studies

All of the components are assessed through an externally examined paper in June.

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Religious Studies encourages you to develop an appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies. The qualification does this through an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.

Religious Studies helps develop a holistic understanding of religion – the specification facilitates enquiry into, and develops insightful evaluations of, ultimate questions about the purposes and commitments of human life, especially as expressed in philosophy, ethics and religion.

Philosophical issues and questions such as arguments for and against the existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience, problems of evil and suffering, philosophical language, works of scholars, influences of developments in religious belief.

A study of three ethical theories, application of ethical theories to issues of importance such as the environment, medical ethics, war and peace, equality, ethical language, Deontology, Virtue Ethics and the relationship between religion and morality.

Social, historical and religious context of the New Testament; Texts and interpretation of the Person of Jesus; Interpreting the text and issues of relationship, purpose and authorship; Ways of interpreting the scripture; Texts and interpretation: the Kingdom of God, conflict, the death and resurrection of Jesus; Scientific and historical-critical challenges, ethical living and the works of scholars.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Head of Course: Mr Slater

Exam Board: Pearson

The PE department offers two Sixth Form options: A Level Physical Education and BTEC Sport Studies. Both of these courses will not necessarily run each year, this will depend on the interest in each subject.

SPORT BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

Why Study Sport?

Many people think that pursuing a career in sport means that you need to be athletic. However, the sports industry is so large and diverse, that almost anybody can have a career in it, regardless of their athletic ability. Whilst those who perform well in sport can compete at a professional level, there are plenty of other pathways available. Becoming a professional athlete, working in sports health and psychology, teaching or coaching, or even sports journalism are just a few of the career opportunities open to you.

What do you need to study Sport?

A genuine interest in sport, fitness and the sports industry in a performing, officiating or coaching/instructing capacity. Course entry requirements ideally include a GCSE Grade 5 or above in Science and Physical Education (if studied) and a Pass in a Level 2 BTEC Sport qualification (if studied).

Where will it take you?

The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers. It combines well with a large number of subjects and supports entry to higher education in a wide range of disciplines. It can also lead to further study in a range of sports related degrees such as Sports Science, Sports Coaching, Sports Journalism, Physiotherapy, Sports Marketing and Physical Education teaching courses. It particularly encourages the development of skills and behaviours such as teamwork, leadership, performance analysis, resilience, analysis and synthesising concepts.

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What will you study?

Year 12

Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology

You will study the human body and its many systems (e.g. skeletal, muscular, respiratory, cardiovascular), applying these to sports performance. This is an externally assessed mandatory unit with a written 1.5 hour examination worth 90 marks

Unit 7 – Practical Sports Performance

You will demonstrate and evaluate different skills, techniques and tactics required in team and individual sports, showing understanding of rules/laws. You will also analyse your own performance identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

Year 13

Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

You will produce a training programme for an individual that demonstrates understanding of lifestyle factors, nutritional needs, and health screening data in context. This is an externally assessed mandatory unit. You will be provided with a case study 2 weeks before a 2 hour supervised assessment.

Unit 3 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry

You will explore the different career pathways and job opportunities in the sports industry and their requirements. This is the final mandatory unit but is internally assessed via assignments selected and designed by the course tutor. This is a vocational course designed to equip you with a variety of transferable skills that will be of benefit as you progress to higher education or work. The internally assessed units enable the tutor to set assignments that nurture skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, adaptability and resilience to name a few! Much of this course is delivered in a practical context to enable you to apply and reinforce your understanding.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (cont.)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION A LEVEL

Why Study Physical Education?

If you love being in active then the A-Level Physical Education course delivers a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sports science, providing a strong base from which to move on to higher education, employment or further training. The emphasis throughout the course is on the development of knowledge, application of knowledge, competence and confidence in a wide variety of skills. You will learn how Physical Education affects and contributes to society and also how to apply your knowledge from this course to any number of different practical situations or career choices.

What do you need to study Sport?

Firstly, and most importantly, a passionate and genuine interest in being active is essential. The course requires you to be motivated enough to undertake self-supported study, wider reading and organisation. Physical Education includes a wide range of topics covering sport in society, study of the human body and physiology, biomechanics, skill acquisition and makes use of several disciplines. It is expected you will have studied either GCSE Physical Education, BTEC Level 1-2 Sport or GCSE Combined Award Science achieving at least a Grade 6. Candidates ideally also possess sound mathematical skills.

Where will it take you?

A Level Physical Education is a well-respected course which provides a strong platform for students who wish to progress to further study at universities, apprenticeships and colleges. Students typically progress to study in medicine, sport science, physiotherapy, osteopathy, nursing, personal training, sport therapy, sport coaching and other physical activity and health related contexts. The course provides an excellent platform for students interested in high performance sport and will support study or personal development in this area.

What will you study?

In Year 12 you will study three modules:

- Applied anatomy, physiology and Biomechanics
- Skill Acquisition
- Sport and Society

In Year 13 you will study a further three modules:

- Exercise Physiology
- Sport Psychology
- Sport and Society and Technology in Sport

How will you be assessed?

Assessment comprises of two external examination papers taken at the end of the second year of study. This is supplemented by assessment in one practical activity and a written sport evaluation and analysis assessment.

Exam Structure

Each section is comprised of two multiple choice, multiple short answer and two extended writing questions. Paper 1 and 2 Written exam: 2 hours, 105 marks (per paper), 70% of A Level.

Practical Component

Students select a sport for which they are graded on:

- Attacking skills
- Defensive skills
- Application of strategies and tactics

This is 15% of the A Level.

Written Evaluation and Analysis

Students are required to analyse and evaluate, using appropriate theoretical content a performance as either player/performer or coach, in one activity from the specification. This is worth 15% of the A Level.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION(EPQ)

Centre Coordinator: Mr Ryan-East
Exam Board: AQA

Why Study the EPQ?

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a standalone qualification that is usually undertaken in addition to other timetabled A Level or BTEC studies. It provides students with an opportunity to extend their academic abilities beyond their other, taught Sixth Form courses, helping them to stand out and prepare for university or their future career.

Students are responsible for choosing their project's focus and its design, encouraging them to:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise

What do you need to study the EPQ?

The Head of Sixth Form, in consultation with the Deputy Head, will assess the individual suitability of any student who is considering the Extended Project Qualification as an extension to their other agreed Sixth Form courses. While there is no minimum requirement in terms of GCSE grades for this course, students will need to agree to devote their own study time to completing this qualification while demonstrating excellent time-management skills, perseverance and self-motivation.

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Where will it take you?

The EPQ is worth half an A Level (28 UCAS points) so will contribute to a students' overall UCAS points tariff. It is also highly respected by employers and universities, including those included within the Russell Group. Many universities make lower A Level offers to students undertaking an EPQ as they consider the qualification to be a very strong indicator of a Sixth Form students' potential for undergraduate study.

What will you study?

The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

All EPQ candidates will receive a series of dedicated skills workshops, providing them with the requisite tools to select, plan, refine, research, produce, reference and present their work. In addition, students will be allocated a dedicated supervisor to support, advise, encourage and monitor them throughout the project.

How can you register your interest?

Students who are interested in taking the EPQ should contact Mr Ryan-East, Head of Sixth Form.



