

Alsager



Sixth Form College

COURSE INFORMATION

September 2025



Welcome to Alsager Sixth Form College

Alsager Sixth Form College is proud of the achievements of its students. On average over 50% of A level grades are A*-B and the pass rate is outstanding. We provide excellent support, care and facilities for our students, providing the environment for them to realise their potential and use the sixth form as a platform for aspirational destinations at the end of Year 13.

Our new state of the art Sixth Form Centre is a purpose built area exclusively for the use of Sixth Form students. We expect our students to achieve their very best and we endeavour to provide them with all of the learning tools and opportunities that will enable them to do this.

We welcome students who are determined to work hard and succeed. Students joining us should have achieved good GCSE results, demonstrating the academic potential to be able to cope with the increased demand of sixth form qualifications. The entry requirements are representative of the individual demands of each qualification so please take time to review these carefully. Any students who do not pass English and or Maths in Year 11 will have to re-take the GCSE in Year 12 and will be enrolled in additional lessons to support this.

Students who apply to the Sixth Form College will be invited to a guidance meeting by one of our sixth form team to help them make sure they have chosen the correct subjects for them to succeed.

This booklet contains details of all of the courses offered and entry requirements for these courses. As well as A levels, Cambridge Nationals and BTEC courses we also offer Traineeships which combine high quality work experience, BTEC Work Skills and, if required, GCSE Maths and English re-sit classes.

If you need further information about any of our courses, would like to come and look round, or to apply for a place online just visit our page on the school website at www.alsagerschool.org, contact us on 01270 871122 or email sixthform@alsagerschool.org.

Once again, many thanks for your interest in our Sixth Form College. We look forward to welcoming you as a new student in September 2025.

Courses offered*

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*Courses subject to funding and feasibility

Subject Entry Requirements 2025

At Alsager Sixth Form we expect students to study 3 qualifications. These can be a combination of any of the qualifications below, as long as they work in combination with the Option Blocks (see separate document).

Subjects listed below are assessed primarily through **exams**. Students therefore require **5 x grade 4 GCSEs or equivalent** to be able to complete them at sixth form plus any subject-specific requirements listed below;

Subject	Entry requirements
Biology	Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science OR Grade 6 in GCSE Biology PLUS grade 5 in GCSE Maths and grade 4 in English Language.
Chemistry	Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science OR Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry PLUS grade 6 in GCSE Maths.
Computer Science	Grade 5 in GCSE Computing or Merit in BTEC IT or equivalent. If not studied previously grade 5 in Maths and Science.
Economics	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths & English.
English Language	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language.
English Literature	Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature.
Ethics, Philosophy & Theology	Grade 4 in GCSE RE* if this qualification was not available at your centre a GCSE 4 in English Language is required.
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 GCSE Mathematics & must also do Maths A Level.
Geography	Grade 4 in GCSE Geography and a 4 GCSE English Language.
German	Grade 5 in GCSE German on a higher tier paper.
Government and Politics	Grade 4 in English Language.
History	Grade 4 in History and Grade 4 in GCSE English.
Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.
Physics	Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science OR Grade 6 in GCSE Physics PLUS grade 6 in GCSE Maths.
Psychology	At least one Grade 5 in Science and Grade 4 in English and Maths.
Spanish	Grade 5 in GCSE Spanish on a higher tier paper.
Statistics	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Subjects listed below have a significant amount of NEA (non-examined assessment) and therefore students require the specific requirements stated below only. All students are required to choose three Level 3 qualifications.

Subject	Entry requirements
Applied Science	44 in GCSE Combined Science OR Grade 4 in two of the following: GCSE Biology; GCSE Chemistry; GCSE Physics and grade 4 in Maths.
Art (Fine)	Grade 4 in GCSE Art or a student not having taken Art will be considered on the basis of a suitable portfolio of work.
Business	Grade 4 in GCSE Business or Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and English if the subject has not been studied at GCSE.
Criminology	Grade 4 in English.
Digital Creative Media	Grade 4 in English Language and English Literature
Drama	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama or Grade 5 English
Health and Social Care	Grade 4 in English or Merit in Child Development plus a minimum of Grade 3 in English.
IT	Merit in an IT-based BTEC. If you have not studied IT at GCSE/ BTEC then a grade 4 in GCSE English or Maths.
Music	You must be able to demonstrate Grade 5 standard on your chosen instrument/voice and have achieved Grade 5 at GCSE Music. We strongly recommend you receive instrumental tuition.
Photography	Grade 4 in GCSE Art or a student not having taken Art will be considered on the basis of a suitable portfolio of work.
Product Design (Resistant Materials)	Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology or Level 2 Pass in Engineering. If not studied before at least one grade 4 in Maths and Physics/Physics component of combined science.
Sport and Physical Activity	Grade 4 in GCSE PE or Pass in Level 2 OCR. If not studied previously a grade 4 in Science.
LLS	Applicants require five GCEs at 9-4 grades, plus Maths and English at a minimum of grade 4. Exceptions may apply if a grade 3 at Maths or English is gained. Applicants will also need to be successful at interview with LLS as a limited number of places are available.
Traineeships	Although there are no formal entry requirements, entry to this programme is by interview to ensure suitability. The traineeship can be studied alongside one of the above qualifications.

Applied Science (Level 3 Extended Certificate)

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Riding
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Type of qualification	Level 3 AAQ Cambridge Advance National
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Exam board and subject code	OCR H151 610/3948/2
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Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	44 in GCSE Combined Science OR Grade 4 in two of the following: GCSE Biology; GCSE Chemistry; GCSE Physics. PLUS grade 4 in Maths
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Course details

This Applied General Science course follows a balanced programme covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It combines a familiar style of learning with refreshed content and an updated structure. This course will allow you to study how science is applied to many different types of professions and industries. The focus of the course is scientific usage, concentrating on how scientists and others use science in their work. You will also learn how science contributes to our lifestyle and the environment in which we live. You will have opportunities to develop broader skills and to become a well-rounded scientific thinker. This course will allow you to progress to scientific careers via a range of HE pathways.

In the first year you will complete two units:

Fundamentals of Science – this covers areas such as medical physics, cells, the heart, exercise, sampling, the periodic table and rates of reactions.

Investigating Science – a practical based unit where you will plan and carry out your own practical work.

In the second year you will complete three units:

Science in Society - you will learn about the skills scientists use and the roles they perform in an international scientific community.

Two units from Forensic Biology, Medical Physics and Environmental Studies.

Assessment

In Year 12:

Fundamentals of Science Exam – 1 hour and 30 minutes

Investigating Science – coursework

In Year 13:

Science in Society Exam – 1 hour and 15 minutes

Career options

This course is excellent for gaining ideas about employment opportunities in science as well as good preparation for courses in Higher or Further Education. Universities recognise the value of this qualification in relation to science and it supports any vocational based science career e.g. nursing, midwifery, science technician, forensic science.

Fine Art

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Donathy
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA Art & Design (Fine Art) A Level 7202

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Art A student not having taken Art will be considered on the basis of a suitable portfolio of work.
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Course details

The Fine Art course is a two year A-Level in which you will be taught how to make informed decisions about your own creative artwork and the world around you in a culture of experimentation, exploration and critical reflection.

You will learn how to use a broad range of art materials and techniques influenced and inspired by the work of contemporary and traditional artists, designers and photographers. The art tutors will expect you to investigate and reflect upon your own practice to take imaginative and creative risks in the artwork you produce.

You can explore any combination of painting and drawing, mixed media, intaglio printing, photography and digital manipulation using Adobe Photoshop. You have your own Sixth Form Art Studio in D10 with access to computers in which you can develop your artwork outside of lessons.

Each individual student will develop their own visual style influenced by the taught workshops. The skills you will develop will be wide and varied with a particular focus on personal expression and developing your own style and approach. Fine Art is about looking, learning, thinking and communicating.

Assessment

At A-level for component 1 you will develop work for a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total A-level marks. In component 2 you will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total A-level marks.

Career options

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.

At the end of the A-level course you will have the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for higher education studying a wide range of Art and Design courses.

Biology

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Riding
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7402

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 6 achieved in Combined Science OR Grade 6 achieved in GCSE Biology (Triple) PLUS grade 5 in Maths PLUS grade 4 in English Language or Literature
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Course details

A Level Biology is an exciting course that builds on your existing GCSE knowledge of key topics such as stem cells, enzymes, immunology and genetics. It also introduces new topics such as muscles, the biology of cancer and up-to-date advances in research. Would you like to learn about things such as how we can stop disease progression by switching off the production of proteins or how the environment can cause inherited changes in features without changes to the DNA sequence?

Students will develop good practical skills during their Biology course and will complete experiments set by the exam board. This will provide excellent transferrable skills for future scientific courses and a wide array of careers.

Units studied include:

Unit 1 – Biological Molecules

Unit 2 – Organisms and substance exchange

Unit 3 – Cells

Unit 4 – Genetic information

Unit 5 – Energy transfers

Unit 6- Organisms: responses to the environment

Unit 7 – Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems

Unit 8- Control of gene expression

Assessment

3 x 2 hours exams at end of Y13.

Paper 1 – exam on Year 12 content, including practical work.

Paper 2 – exam on Year 13 content, including practical work.

Paper 3 – exam on both years content and includes an essay.

You will complete required practicals throughout the course. The exams will test you on these practical skills. You will also receive a practical certificate if the teacher deems that your practical skills meet the pass criteria.

Career options

The subject has enormous applications and can be combined into a number of vocational courses at University. Many students go on to study subjects such as Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Genetics, Nursing and Forensic Science or combine Biology with other subjects, e.g. Business and Psychology.

Business

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Potts
Type of qualification	Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Business
Exam board and subject code	OCR 05834
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Business or Merit in BTEC Business if subject studied at KS4. Otherwise Grade 4 in GCSE Maths and English
Course details	
<p>You will study 3 mandatory units: The Business Environment, Working in Business and Customers and Communication. And select an additional 2 units from a range of subjects such as Law, Accounting, International Business, Project Management etc.</p> <p>You will learn how a business might evolve from a small start-up business to a large multinational organisation. You are required consider a range of different business types and gain an understanding of how the choice of business type might affect the objectives that are set. You will also look at the internal workings of businesses, including their internal structure and how different functional areas work together. Plus, by looking at the external constraints under which a business must operate, you will gain an understanding of the legal, financial and ethical factors that have an impact. You will also explore ways in which businesses respond to changes in their economic, social and technological environment and gain an appreciation of the influence different stakeholders can have upon a business.</p>	
Assessment	
<p>Unit 1: The Business Environment – worth 120 Points (external exam) Unit 2: Working in Business – worth 60 Points (external exam) Unit 4: Customers & Communication – worth 60 points (coursework) Plus two optional units (yet to be confirmed) – worth in total 60 points each</p> <p>Examples of Optional Units: Unit 9: Introduction to Human Resources – worth 60 points (coursework) Unit 3: Business Decisions (external exam)</p>	
Career options	
<p>The business world values the ability to research, analyse and evaluate information in order to make effective decisions and this course will equip you to gain these vital skills. Alongside this you will develop practical employability skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with both internal and external stakeholders, and to manage your time effectively. Cambridge Technicals' provide a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or employment and are recognised for UCAS tariff points. Past Business students have also gone on to study Business related apprenticeships for Network Rail, Bentley & local firms. Alternatively students may go on to study a variety of Business and/or Economics related degrees at university. Business also combines well with Accounting, Politics, Geography, Law and Foreign languages at degree level. A wide range of career options naturally follow from studying Business. For instance – Retail Management, Human Resource Management, Marketing and Commercial Banking.</p>	

Chemistry

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Riding
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7405

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 6 achieved in Combined Science OR Grade 6 achieved in GCSE Chemistry (Triple) PLUS grade 6 achieved in GCSE Maths.
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Course details

A level chemistry is an exciting, challenging and ultimately rewarding course designed to develop students' scientific skills and knowledge.

Practical chemistry is central to the way we deliver the core chemical concepts and is often where students learn to be the most creative.

We develop your knowledge and understanding of the concepts such as atomic structure, organic chemistry, energetics, kinetics, new and novel polymers, modern analytical techniques and catalysis.

Assessment

3 x 2 hours exams at end of Y13.

You will complete required practicals throughout the course. The exams will test you on these practical skills. There is no separate practical test but you will receive a practical certificate if the teacher deems that your practical skills are good enough.

Career options

A-level Chemistry is a good choice for students considering careers in the health and clinical professions, including medicine, veterinary science, nursing, dentistry and forensic science. Studying Chemistry will also prepare students for industry careers, such as those within the pharmaceutical or petrochemical sectors. Many of the skills you will develop are sought by employers from a wide range of backgrounds; A-level chemists are numerate and possess good communication skills.

Computer Science

Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Steed
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	OCR (H446) QAN = 601/4911/5

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in GCSE Computing or Merit in BTEC IT or equivalent. If not studied previously grade 5 in Maths and Science.
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Course details

Computer Fundamentals

Students look at computing fundamentals, including hardware and software; the presentation, structure and management of data; how data is transmitted and networked; the life cycle of systems development; the characteristics of information systems; and the implications of computer use.

Programming techniques and logical methods

Students learn about designing solutions to particular problems; how procedural programs are structured; the types of data and data structures; the common facilities of procedural languages; how to write maintainable programs; and how to test and run solutions.

Advanced Computing Theory

Students understand the function of operating systems; the function and purpose of translators; how computer architectures are structured; how data is represented, structured and manipulated; high-level language programming paradigms; low-level languages; and how databases function.

Computing Project

Through coursework, students gain an understanding of definition, investigation and analysis; system design; software development and testing; documentation; evaluation; and how to produce written reports covering these topics. The coursework is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Assessment

Computer systems 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper (40%)
Algorithms and programming 2 hours and 30 minutes written paper (40%)
Programming project Non-exam assessment (20%)

Career options

This specification has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of Computing would be beneficial. Students can study Computing A level and go on to a career in medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science.

Criminology

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Taylor
Type of qualification	WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate and Diploma in Criminology
Exam board and subject code	WJEC 601/6248/X and 601/6249/1
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE English

Course details

Unit 1 Changing awareness of crime

You will study different types of crime and look at why some people are reluctant to report certain crimes. You will examine the links between unreported crimes such as counterfeiting designer goods as a way to fund terrorism and human trafficking and consider the role of the media. You will have gained the skills to plan a campaign for change in relation to crime; for example, to raise awareness, change attitudes or change reporting of behaviours.

Unit 2 Criminological theories

You will gain understanding of why people commit crimes, what makes behaviour 'criminal'. You will be looking at what makes someone a serial killer or abusive to their family. This unit also addresses the theories of Criminologists and how these can be applied to real life scenarios. In this module you will learn how to evaluate expert opinions and gain skills to apply theories to specific crimes or criminals.

Unit 3 Crime scene to court room

You will be looking at how the justice system works, from the moment the crime has been identified right through to the verdict. How fair have past verdicts been? You will get to review cases and make a decision.

Unit 4 Crime and punishment

You will be evaluating how effective the Criminal Justice system is in England and Wales by asking questions such as why do we punish people? How effective are current punishments? Why do most people tend to obey the law?

Assessment

- Unit 1: 8 hour Controlled Assessment at the end of the unit
- Unit 2: 90 minute exam (external)
- Unit 3 8 hour Controlled Assessment at the end of unit.
- Unit 4: 90 minute exam (external)

Career options

Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is relevant to job roles within the Criminal Justice Sector, social and probation work, Sociology and Psychology. People who are considering working for the Police would also benefit from this qualification.

Digital Creative Media

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Darley
Type of qualification	BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 601/7467/5

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in English Language <u>and</u> grade 4 in Literature
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Course details

This course aims to develop both theory and practical skills in relation to the study of media.

Year 12: There are two Units for Year 12. Unit 4: Production portfolio and Unit 14: Digital Magazine Production. This year focuses on the creation of a coursework portfolio and designing a magazine that features across print and digital platforms. For Unit 4, candidates need to understand the requirements at both pre-production and production level in order to effectively produce a fit for purpose digital media product. Part of this will require candidates to compile a pre-production portfolio evidencing primary and secondary research as well as reviewing the methods undertaken to create this work. Unit 14 will be assessed through the development of materials for the magazine production as well as through the production of magazine layouts applying the codes and conventions of the genre.

Year 13: This year is fully focused on the two exam units. Unit 1: Representations and Unit 8: Responding to a commission. For Unit 1 we explore a range of different media texts including magazines, films and print adverts. Key theories are taught in relation to the deconstruction and understanding of how texts are targeted towards an audience and consumed by them. For Unit 8 we explore the planning and preparation that is required when fulfilling the requirements of a set brief. This enables candidates to explore how to respond to a brief in terms of content, style, audience, purpose and approach. As well as working within the requirements and constraints of the client's specifications. Communication and problem solving skills will be integral part of successfully completing this external unit.

**please note there is no Supplementary level that results in a grade being awarded at the end of Year 12*

Assessment

There are four Units delivered over the courses of the two years.

Year 12 External Assessment:

Unit 4: Pre-Production Portfolio - Work in lesson and outside of lesson (90 hours)

Unit 14: Digital Magazine Production - Work in lesson and outside of lesson (60 hours)

Year 13 Internal Assessment:

Unit 1: Media Representations – Onscreen, Two Hours (80 Marks)

Unit 8: Responding to a commission - A set task from the Exam Board which consists of responding to a commission. Response in a 5 hour time period (75 Marks)

Career options

This course has a very vocational focus that would suit any workplace as it teaches independence and excellent communication skills. It links particularly well with: English Language and Literature, Journalism, Business and Media Studies all of which can be taken at Degree level. A university degree in Media Studies (e.g. TV production or a more theoretical course) or a related area such as Film or Cultural Studies. It also combines well with another subjects (e.g. English) or a degree in Sociology, Publishing and Information Science. The course allows students to develop a range of skills that are transferable to other areas of study as well as employment. The BTEC is designed as vocational qualification that is recognised in the Media industry e.g. television, radio, publishing etc. and therefore will provide a wide and varied range of employment desirable qualities.

Drama and Theatre Studies

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Holland
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7262
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama and either English Literature or Language
Course details	
<p>Component 1: Drama and theatre - You will study of two set plays and analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers.</p> <p>Component 2: Creating original drama (practical)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process of creating devised drama. • Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). <p>Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner.</p> <p>Component 3: Making theatre (practical) - Practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts each taken from a different play. Methodology of a prescribed practitioner must be applied to one which is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.</p>	
Assessment	
<p>Component 1</p> <p>What is assessed? Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre of the study of two set plays and live performance theatre review.</p> <p>How is it assessed? Written exam: 3 hours. Open book.</p> <p>Section A: one question (from a choice) of a set play (25 marks).</p> <p>Section B: one, three part question on a given extract from one of the set plays (30 marks).</p> <p>Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (25 marks)</p> <p>80 marks in total, 40% of A-level</p> <p>Component 2</p> <p>What is assessed? Process of creating original performance and the application of a practitioner in a devised performance.</p> <p>How is it assessed? Working notebook (40 marks) Devised performance (20 marks)</p> <p>60 marks in total, 30% of A-level which is marked by teacher and moderated by AQA</p> <p>Component 3</p> <p>What is assessed? Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks) • Reflective report (20 marks)</p> <p>60 marks in total, 30% of A-level</p> <p>How is it assessed? This component is marked by an external examiner from AQA.</p>	
Career options	
<p>Many of our students have gone on to study Theatre at university or at Performing Arts College. However, the course is not vocational. It helps students to develop excellent presentational and communication skills valuable in a range of professions, such as Law and Marketing. Students develop a high level of competence in analysis of text and performance, which has led to degree courses in English, History and American Studies for some of our candidates.</p>	

Economics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Potts
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9EBO

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths & English. <i>However the willingness to read regularly and write frequently are also essential.</i>
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Course details

Economics is about real world issues that matter. Questions such as ‘What impact does the economy have on the business world?’ and ‘Why do some economies grow and others don’t?’ will be covered.

You will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail, consumer choices and enterprise in the economy. You will also consider the role of banks and life in a global economy. (Themes 1 & 2)

You will explore the impact of globalisation on consumers, firms and the labour market. You will also investigate the role of the government and have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector. (Themes 3 & 4)

Through the study of Economics we will be debating economic issues such as inequality, immigration and how we should pay for healthcare. We will be using and interpreting data to analyse economic problems. We also will be discussing alternative courses of action, such as how to use tradeable permits to reduce pollution and we will be keeping up to date with national and international trends.

An interest and passion for the Economy and World affairs would be beneficial. Economics works very well with many other subject areas, as the course stems from Humanities as well as Maths.

Assessment

100% externally assessed.

There are 3, 2 hour exams at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 – Theme 1 & 3; accounts for 35% of the A level
- Paper 2 – Theme 2 & 4; accounts for 35% of the A level
- Paper 3 – All 4 themes; accounts for 30% of the A level

Career options

Economics is a popular degree at University, and can be studied on its own, or combined with a variety of other subjects such as accountancy, a foreign language or geography. The study of Economics at A Level can also lead into other degree subjects such as Business and Finance. It also leads to possible careers in: the Civil Service, Insurance; Management, Accountancy, Retail and Finance.

English Language

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Darley
Type of qualification	A Level
Exam board and subject code	AQA A level 7702

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
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Course details

A Level English Language will enable you to study a wide range of texts from a range of time periods. It allows you consider different approaches of analysis and you will be able to apply the views of a range of theorists as well as contributing your own ideas and beliefs on the English language to analytical essays. Furthermore, there are various elements of creativity included within the course which are tested both in the exam and in the coursework components.

This course requires a certain amount of independent study alongside teacher support and intervention when needed.

Assessment

Exam – 80% Coursework – 20%

Exam Paper 1: Language, the individual and Society- The first section of this exam covers the introductory aspects of the study of language using a variety of texts that was studied during the two-year course. It mainly focuses on how language is used to create meaning and representation. However, Section B looks at 'Children's Language Development' looking at how children learn to read, write and speak.

Exam Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change- The first section of this exam unit may ask you to consider how men and women talk differently and whether men really are from Mars and women from Venus! You may also consider how much variety there is in the modern English Language – for example, are accents really dying out? Section B will ask you to look at how language is changing and consider why, for example, 'wicked' now means something positive. In addition to this, you will be asked to consider language change and write an opinion article in which you voice how you feel about words such as 'Reem' entering the English Language.

Coursework: Language in Action – In this coursework unit, candidates apply their knowledge of linguistic methods and concepts to an investigation of their choice. Students choose whichever area of language interests them most.

The investigation is followed by the production of a piece of original writing (e.g. a monologue) followed by a commentary.

Career options

English Language combines effectively at A Level and at undergraduate level with a huge range of subjects. It is a useful subject for Journalism, Law, Media Studies, Social Sciences, Modern Languages and Speech and Language therapy. Effective English is always a great asset for employment. Students wanting to study a traditional English course at University may need to study Literature too.

English Literature

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Jardine
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7717

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature
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Course details

A Level English Literature involves the study of a wide range of texts, including prose, poetry and plays, so a love of reading is a must. Students will study Shakespeare's 'Othello', Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' and a selection of John Keats' poetry through the lens of Tragedy (Paper 1). Students will also study a range Crime Writing (Paper 2) such as Ian McEwan's 'Atonement' and Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'. Students are expected to read widely outside of class.

Assessment

Over the two-year course, students will prepare for two final examination papers (80% of the final grade) and a non-exam assessment (20%).

Paper 1 (2hr and 30 minutes) is a closed book examination on **Aspects of Tragedy**.

Paper 2 (3 hours) is an open book examination on **Elements of Crime Writing**.

The **Theory and Independence non-exam assessment** involves students selecting one poetry collection and one prose text (of their choice) and examining the texts through the lens of critical theory such as Feminism or Marxism. They will produce two essays of 1,250 – 1,500 words.

Career options

Of course, if you hanker to study English Literature in Higher Education, then an English Literature A level is a must. The new courses clearly offer plenty of scope for developing the kind of independent thought and study habits which will be essential at university level, and it's our aim to foster pupils' love of literature while fully equipping them to take their studies further.

English Literature fits well in any combination of A level subjects. In Higher Education an increasing number of courses allow for English to be studied alongside other subjects, particularly those from the Arts or Humanities.

The intellectual and practical skills learned and developed during this course are valued highly by universities and employers, and a good English Literature A level is widely recognised as proof of intelligence and communicative skills. Career opportunities include journalism, business and management, media and law.

Ethics, Philosophy and Theology

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Skingle
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7062

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE RE (if this qualification was not available at your centre, a GCSE English Language is required)
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Course details

The A Level course has two components:

Component 1: Philosophy of religion and ethics: The following content is covered:

- Section A: Philosophy of religion - Arguments for the existence of God; Evil and suffering; Religious experience; Religious language; Miracles; Self and life after death
- Section B: Ethics and religion - Ethical theories; Issues of human life and death; Issues of animal life and death; Introduction to meta ethics; Free will and moral responsibility; conscience; Bentham and Kant.

Component 2: Christianity: Study of religion and dialogues: The following content is covered:

- Section A: Sources of wisdom and authority; God/gods/ultimate reality; Self, death and the afterlife; Good conduct and key moral principles; Expression of religious identity; Religion, gender and sexuality; Religion and science; Religion and secularism; Religion and religious pluralism.
- Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion.
- Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion.

Assessment

Written exam: 1 x 2 hour exam worth 120 marks and 1 x 1 hour exam worth 60 marks.

Career options

The course encourages students to develop their critical and evaluative skills which will enable them to go on to Higher Education studying a wide range of courses such as Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy, Law, Sociology and the Social Sciences.

This can lead to job opportunities in the following areas; business (particularly international business), counselling and social work, education, journalism, law, event planning, hospitality, or the service industry, the government, foreign service, or the Peace Corps, marketing and management, museums and the arts, non-profit or non-governmental organizations, publishing.

Geography

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Coxon
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9GEO

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Geography and a grade 4 in English.
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Course details

Paper 1: Interactions between Dynamic Landscapes and Resources - 30% of course

- Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – Investigation topic: Coastal Landscapes and Change with **fieldwork** to the Anglesey and North Wales Coastline.
- Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Paper 2: Interactions between Dynamic Places and Human Development - 30% of course

- Topic 3: Globalisation
- Topic 4: Regenerating Places
- Topic 8: Superpowers
- Topic 9: Health, Human Rights and Interventions

Paper 3: Synoptic Exam - 20% of course

Based on knowledge and understanding from the above parts of the course.

Coursework: Independent Investigation - 20% of course

Investigation, relating to the compulsory or optional content. The topic may relate to any aspect of geography contained within the specification. The investigation is internally assessed and externally moderated, within 3000–4000 words.

Assessment

80% Exam (Paper 1 30%, Paper 2 30%, Paper 3 20%)
20% Independent investigation

Career options

Developing excellent analytical and communication skills geographers can go into a wide range of jobs, including:
Advertising, Education, Environmental management, Finance, Law, Marketing, Retailing, Sales, Social/health services, Geographical Information Systems or any career with an environmental concern or interest.

German

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Howlett
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA German 7662
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in GCSE German on a higher tier paper

Course details

You will continue to study the language through the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will develop your knowledge of society and culture, past and present, of the countries and communities where German is spoken. You will develop your opinions and be able to justify them on a wide range of topics. You will also explore the world of German literature and films.

All Sixth Form language students work within small groups. We aim to provide you with a wide range of opportunities, by using magazines, newspapers, videos, songs, the internet, our state of the art multi-media language lab, cartoons and other authentic materials.

Assessment

Speaking Examination 30%
Listening, reading and translation (Written paper) 50%
Critical and analytical response in writing (Written paper) 20%

Career options

‘Die Welt liegt dir zu Füßen’. Employers are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of employing staff with language skills. Potential employers will often want you to combine your language skills with another subject area. The choice of University courses offering such opportunities is incredible: you can combine language study with a vast range of other subject areas including science, maths, business and the Arts.

German is a widely spoken language, especially in Business, and by speaking the tongue, you are able to more closely work with people in Europe. Your language skills can help to give you an advantage in a competitive job market and give you access to a higher salary. Students interested in Primary Education will also reap the benefits of studying a foreign language as the demand for teachers of MFL is constantly increasing.

Government and Politics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Brookshaw
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9PLO

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE English
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Course details

This is an exciting course aimed at students who are interested in how our world works!

You will be debating the power of the President in US politics, investigating why Americans are allowed to have guns and deciding how “free” people should be.

You will study the impact of the government in the UK on our lives, how the British system works and how decisions made in parliament are interpreted by the courts. You will explore different political ideas, from liberalism to socialism as well as specific issues such as the environment and gender equality.

If you are interested in whether referendums are the best way to make decisions or whether political parties should be doing more for the environment, then this could be the course for you.

Assessment

The Politics A Level will be assessed at the end of Year 13 with 3 exams. Each exam is 2 hours long and is worth one third of the overall A Level.

Paper 1: UK Politics. This includes topics such as democracy, voting behaviour and the media, as well as core political ideas such as conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

Paper 2: UK Government. This includes topics such as the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister as well as non-core political ideas where we study feminism.

Paper 3: Comparative Politics. This includes the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, US presidency, US Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation and comparative theories.

Career options

Politics is an academic subject that is valued by universities, colleges and employers. You will be developing skills that are highly prized in the work place from analysis, to presenting an argument and carrying out independent research. Politics can lead to a wide-range of careers and professions such as law, journalism, marketing and many more.

Health and Social Care

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Howard
Type of qualification	Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate
Exam board and subject code	OCR 05831
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or English Literature or a Merit in Child Development plus a minimum of Grade 3 in English Language or English Literature
Course details	
<p>This qualification is for learners who want to study health science, social care or childcare. It isn't just about caring for babies or the elderly and the ill; it will provide learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding to progress into Higher Education on a health and social care related programme.</p> <p>You will focus on: building positive relationships in health and social care, equality, diversity and rights in health and social care as well as health, security and safety. Another mandatory unit focuses on anatomy and physiology for health and social care.</p> <p>This content will give you an understanding of health and social care in the wider contexts of different environments and settings where care takes place, the importance of communication as well as the importance of legislation. Students will also develop transferrable skills such as communication, research, planning and organisation.</p>	
Assessment	
<p>This course is based on 360 Guided Learning hours and is equivalent to one A Level. The course is made up of 4 mandatory units plus other optional units to be set by the subject teachers.</p> <p>Mandatory units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building positive relationships in health and social care (internally assessed assignment) • Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care (externally assessed 1.5hr exam paper) • Health, safety and security in health and social care (externally assessed 1.5hr exam paper) • Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (externally assessed 2hr exam paper) 	
Career options	
<p>Suitable for a wide range of careers: nursing, care assistant, support worker, dental careers, health care assistant, midwife, occupational therapist, counsellor, probation officer, social worker plus many more.</p>	

History

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Brookshaw
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA HIS 1K and 2S

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE History and Grade 4 in GCSE English
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Course details

1K The Making of a Superpower: USA 1865-1975

You will explore how America came to be the superpower that it is today by looking at how America unified after its catastrophic Civil War, the impact of slavery, the social and cultural developments of America and weigh up its foreign policy decisions such as the Vietnam War. You will be exploring the development of modern American society and how the decisions of politicians have shaped the lives of millions. (Year 12: 1865-1920 and Year 13: 1920-1975)

2S The Making of Modern Britain, 1951-2007

You will explore the changing face of modern Britain from a country without an NHS and nearly bankrupted by war, to the affluent society of the 1960s. You will examine a range of issues, for example the rise of the teenager, the impact of the Falklands War, Thatcher's new economic policies and the "war of on terror". You will explore the impact of the media, immigration and music has had on British society during this time. (Year 12: 1951-1979 and Year 13: 1979-2007)

Historical Investigation (Coursework) 20% A Level

This is your chance to craft a convincing argument about the gruesome rebellions in Tudor England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Through this you will explore Tudor society, religion, law and order and threats from abroad. You will carry out your own research to produce a 4000-4500 word essay.

Assessment

The course is taught over 2 years with a final examination at the end. You will study 1K and 2S in Year 12 and Year 13.

80% Exam (1K and 2S)

20% Coursework

Career options

A Level History is a rigorous academic subject which is greatly valued by employers and universities. Through the study of History, you will develop the ability to argue a case effectively, analyse a range of information including a range of sources and present information cogently. These skills are sought after in a wide range of careers from law to journalism and from business to marketing.

IT Data Analytics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Hewitson/Mr Steed
Type of qualification	Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National
Exam board and subject code	OCR: H119
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Merit in an IT based BTEC. If you have not studied IT at GCSE/BTEC then a grade 4 in GCSE English or Maths.
Course details	
<p>This qualification is designed for students who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage information and how to use data and social media in business.</p> <p>You will study the following units;</p> <p>Fundamentals of data analytics (external assessment) You will learn about gathering, storing, analysing and accessing data and the relevant legislation. You will learn about data visualisation and presentation and the jobs roles available in this field.</p> <p>Big data and machine learning (external assessment) You will learn about big data, data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). You will learn about the legal and ethical issues in data management.</p> <p>Spreadsheet data modelling (NEA) You will learn how to identify the information and data which must be gathered to solve a problem. You will also learn how to use a range of tools and techniques to design and develop solutions.</p> <p>Relational database design (NEA) You will learn how to design a relational database to meet users' needs and how to manipulate data in databases. You will learn how to test a database, carry out improvements and evaluate the design.</p> <p>Data and digital marketing (NEA) You will learn how to create digital marketing campaigns for a client. This will include using targeted marketing. You will also review how you have worked, developing the ability to be reflective about the approach you took and how you could improve your approach in the future</p>	
Assessment	
40% External examination and 60% internally assessed portfolio of evidence.	
Career options	
<p>We live in the Information Age so it is hard to see a career in which this set of knowledge and skills will not be relevant! In particular, the skills gained through studying the use of social media in business may allow you to gain direct entry to employment in this area and there are numerous University courses which will have IT as the main subject.</p>	

Mathematics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs A Sutch
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9MA0
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Course details	
<p>A level Mathematics supports the study of a wide range of other A level subjects. Physics, Chemistry, and Biology rely on good algebraic and graphical skills, statistical techniques, and the use of a range of functions including logarithms and trigonometry. In addition, Economics, Psychology, Business, Computing and Geography all benefit from students having fluent and confident numerical, algebraic, graphical, and statistical skills.</p> <p>Two thirds of the course is Core Mathematics and one third is Applied. Core Mathematics includes topics such as Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus. If you enjoy problem solving and are keen to further your experience of Pure Mathematics, you will enjoy this part of the course.</p> <p>The Applied topics give you the chance to use your mathematical skills in real-life situations. Applied is split into two sections Mechanics and Statistics each with the same weighting. Mechanics is the mathematics used to study the physical world, modelling the motion of objects and the forces acting on them. This includes moments, where the turning effect of a force is considered. Statistics involves statistical sampling, data presentation and probability, all of which follow on from topics met at GCSE, leading to the study of statistical distributions with special properties, such as the Binomial Distribution.</p> <p>Students are expected to use technology such as graphical calculators, graphing software and spreadsheets throughout the course.</p>	
Assessment	
<p>There are three two hour papers.</p> <p>Papers 1 and 2 are Pure Mathematics (Core) each paper is worth one third of the overall A level.</p> <p>Paper 3 is Statistics and Mechanics and is worth the final third of the A level.</p> <p>A calculator is allowed for all three papers and there is no coursework element.</p>	
Career options	
<p>Whatever Mathematics means to you, the breadth of applications is immense. Mathematics underpins most of science, technology and engineering and is also important in areas as diverse as business, law, nutrition, sports science and psychology. There are many opportunities to use mathematics to make a difference in society, for example through the analysis involved in medical research, developing new technology, modelling epidemics or in the study of patterns of criminal activity to identify trends.</p> <p>Many areas of employment see Mathematics A Level to be an important qualification. Higher Education courses and careers which require or strongly recommend A Level Mathematics include: Accountancy, Architecture, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Studies, ICT, Medicine, Psychology and Teaching. Mechanics has links with Sports Science as well as Physics/Engineering. Statistics fits Business/Commerce, Insurance/Actuarial work.</p>	

Further Mathematics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs A Sutch
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9MF0
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics - must also do A Level Maths

Course details

Further Maths provides a great opportunity for enthusiastic mathematicians to broaden and deepen their subject knowledge. Further Maths is essential for students hoping to do Maths degrees and highly advisable to anyone keep on pursuing STEM, especially if this is likely to be at a Russell Group university. Further Maths counts as a separate subject to Maths and **can only be taken in addition to Maths.**

Further Mathematics is 50% Pure Maths and 50% Mechanics. Topic areas studied include complex numbers, which allow the solution of a range of equations that would otherwise have no solutions, through the introduction of ‘imaginary’ numbers, and matrices which consist of grids of numbers that can be used to represent transformations and are used to solve simultaneous equations amongst many other uses. Other areas of pure mathematics are covered such as polar co-ordinates, differential equations and hyperbolic functions. In Mechanics, centres of mass and their effect on how a body moves are studied in depth, as well as circular and harmonic motion. Each of these builds on earlier topics and encourages the development of a wider understanding of the ways in which mathematical topics are interconnected.

Further Maths is a difficult A Level requiring a huge commitment of time and effort. It is for those who love Maths and find learning about it interesting and rewarding.

Assessment

There are four one and a half hour papers.

- Papers 1 and 2 are Pure Mathematics (Core) each paper is worth 25%
- Papers 3 and 4 are Mechanics each paper is worth 25%

A calculator is allowed for all four papers and there is no coursework element.

Career options

If you plan to apply for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degree, you should consider taking Further Mathematics. Several of the more traditional Universities have Further Maths as a requirement to gain access to a Maths or Maths-based degree. Further Mathematics is also a fantastic qualification for those students who love Mathematics and want to devote more time to studying wider aspects of the subject.

<h1>Music</h1>	
Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Blythe
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7272
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	You must be able to demonstrate Grade 5 standard on your chosen instrument/voice and have achieved Grade 5 at GCSE Music. We strongly recommend that you receive instrumental tuition.
Course details	
<p>The AQA specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills you will have acquired studying GCSE music. Similarly to GCSE, the course is based on three main strands: Appraising music (listening), Performance and Composition, providing a balanced study of music, in which skills and understanding are developed, revisited and reinforced throughout the course.</p> <p>Subject Content Music is taught through 3 main strands:</p> <p>Appraising music Listening, analysis, and contextual understanding, covering the following topics: Western Classical tradition, including Baroque Solo Concerto, The Opera of Mozart and The Piano Music of Chopin, Brahms, and Grieg Music for Theatre Popular Music</p> <p>Performance Solo and/or ensemble performances of no less than 10 minutes. You can perform as an instrumentalist, vocalist or in music production. The minimum level of skill required is Grade 5 or equivalent.</p> <p>Composition Composition is assessed in two ways: Composition to a Brief and Free Composition</p>	
Assessment	
<p>Component 1: Appraising music (40% of A-level) Section A: Listening (56 marks), Section B: Analysis (34 marks) Section C: Essay (30 marks)</p> <p>Component 2: Performance (35% of A-level) Solo and /or ensemble performing as an instrumentalist, or vocalist and/or music production (via technology). A minimum of ten minutes of performance in total is required.</p> <p>Component 3: Composition (25% of A-level) Composition to a brief (25 marks) Free composition (25 marks) A minimum of 4 minutes 30 seconds of composition in total is required.</p>	
Career options	
<p>The A-level course provides an excellent basis for continued study at degree level. Whilst candidates often pursue a career in music, it is equally a respected and acceptable academic A-level and would provide a valuable complementary area of study when combined with other A- levels. Careers in music include those such as professional musician, music therapy, music teaching, sound technician or broadcasting.</p>	

Photography

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Donathy
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA Art & Design (Photography) A Level 7206

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Art or a student not having taken Art will be considered on the basis of a suitable portfolio of work.
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Course details

The Photography course is a two year A-Level in which you will be taught how to make informed decisions about your own creative practice and the world around you in a culture of experimentation, exploration and critical reflection.

You will learn how to use a broad range of photographic techniques influenced and inspired by the work of contemporary and traditional photographers, designers and artists. The photography tutors will expect you to investigate and reflect upon your own practice to take imaginative and creative risks in the images you produce.

You will be taught the Techniques of Production of photography, Adobe Photoshop and explore Documentary, Still Life and Abstract photography before developing a personal project. You have your own Sixth Form Studio in D10 with access to computers in which you can develop your portfolio outside of lessons. The course is designed using Microsoft OneNote and your final portfolio will be a digital Flip eBook that can be accessed online.

Each individual student will develop their own visual style influenced by the taught photographic workshops. The skills you will develop will be wide and varied with a particular focus on personal expression and developing your own style and approach. The most exciting aspect of photography is that you are capturing the world as you see it.

Assessment

At A-level for component 1 you will develop work for a personal investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme supported by written material. This will count for 60% of your total A-level marks. In component 2 you will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total A-level marks.

Career options

If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.

At the end of the A-level course you will have the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for higher education studying a wide range of Art and Design courses.

Physics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Riding
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	OCR Physics A (H556)

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 66 achieved in Combined Science OR Grade 6 achieved in GCSE Physics (Triple) PLUS grade 6 achieved in Maths.
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Course details

The course is taught as 6 modules as detailed below:

- Module 1 – Development of practical skills in physics
- Module 2 – Foundations of physics
- Module 3 – Forces and motion
- Module 4 – Electrons, waves and photons
- Module 5 – Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Module 6 – Particles and medical physics

A level Physics will give a solid basis for further study in physics, any engineering and many other sciences as well as building skills for all problem-solving future careers.

A Level Physics complements A Level Mathematics well, with mechanics covered in both subjects.

Assessment

3 written exams at the end of Y13

- Paper 1: Modelling Physics - 2hr 15 minutes
- Paper 2: Exploring Physics – 2hr 15 minutes
- Paper 3: Unified Physics – 1 hr 30 minutes

You will complete required practicals throughout the course. The exams will test you on these practical skills. You will also receive a practical certificate if the teacher deems that your practical skills meet the pass criteria.

Career options

You will develop numerical, analytical, problem-solving and practical skills that are highly sought after by employers in many sectors as well as science and engineering.

The three major employers of career physicists are academic institutions, government laboratories, and private industry, with the largest employer being the last. Many people who are trained as physicists, however, use their skills in other parts of the economy, in particular in engineering, computing, and finance.

Product Design

Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Potts
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9DT0

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology or Level 2 Pass in Engineering. If not studied before at least one grade 4 in Maths and Physics/ Physics component of combined science.
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Course details

During year 12 year, through project work we will focus on developing your designing and making skills to a higher level, including the use of CAD/CAM as well as using more traditional graphics and workshop equipment. You will then start a challenging design and make project which will be completed in year 13 for the NEA. In addition to the practical coursework, Principles of Design and Technology will be covered. These principles are covered in the following topics:

- Topic 1: Materials
- Topic 2: Performance characteristics of materials
- Topic 3: Processes and techniques
- Topic 4: Digital technologies
- Topic 5: Factors influencing the development of products
- Topic 6: Effects of technological developments
- Topic 7: Potential hazards and risk assessment
- Topic 8: Features of manufacturing industries
- Topic 9: Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment
- Topic 10: Current legislation
- Topic 11: Information handling, modelling and forward planning
- Topic 12: Further processes and techniques.

Through your choice of major project, it is possible to specialise in a material area such as graphics or resistant materials.

Assessment

Written Exam 50% of the qualification

Taken in Year 13

Principles of Design and Technology

Course work 50% of the qualification

Completed in Year 13

Independent Design and Make project

This project is instigated by a client, negotiated with the student leading to a working prototype.

Career options

Students have gone on to study degrees in Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Motor Vehicle Design, Product Design, CAD designer, Architecture. Over the years some students have chosen to follow industry sponsored degree courses or high level apprenticeships whilst in employment e.g. Bentley (Crewe) and BAE systems.

Psychology

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Coxon
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7182

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	At least one Grade 5 in Science and Grade 4 in English <u>and</u> Maths
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Course details

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour.

The course covers all the main, traditional areas of Psychology and some more current and applied areas, as well as developing the students' understanding of Psychological research and their ability to carry out small-scale research studies.

Paper 1 - Introductory topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology.

Paper 2 - Psychology on Context: Approaches in Psychology, Research Methods and Bio-Psychology.

Paper 3 - Issues and debates in Psychology plus 3 options in Psychology chosen from the following: Relationships/Gender/Cognition and Development, plus one from Schizophrenia/Eating Behaviour/Stress and one from: Aggression/Forensic Psychology/Addiction.

Assessment

The course is assessed by 3 x 2 hour exams at the end of Year 13.

Exams include longer answer essay questions, multiple-choice questions, shorter knowledge-based questions and questions requiring the students to apply their understanding to new situations.

Career options

Previous students have gone on to a variety of University courses:

e.g. Psychology, Law, Medicine, Business, Media, Criminology, Sports and Social Sciences. It is also a useful preparation for Nursing, Social Work, Teaching and Advertising.

Psychology A level is useful for anyone considering a career where they will be working with people and can often add an extra dimension to the application of someone doing predominantly arts or the more traditional science courses.

Spanish

Teacher in charge of subject	Miss Howlett
Type of qualification	A level
Exam board and subject code	AQA Spanish 7692
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in GCSE Spanish on a higher tier paper
Course details	
<p>You will continue to study the language through the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will develop your knowledge of society and culture, past and present, of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. You will develop your opinions and be able to justify them on a wide range of topics. You will also explore the world of Spanish literature and films.</p> <p>All Sixth Form language students work within small groups. We aim to provide you with a wide range of opportunities, by using magazines, newspapers, videos, songs, the internet, our state of the art multi-media language lab, cartoons and other authentic materials.</p>	
Assessment	
Speaking Examination 30% Listening, reading and translation (Written paper) 50% Critical and analytical response in writing (Written paper) 20%	
Career options	
<p>‘Te comes al mundo’. Employers are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of employing staff with language skills. Potential employers will often want you to combine your language skills with another subject area. The choice of University courses offering such opportunities is incredible: you can combine language study with a vast range of other subject areas including science, maths, business and the Arts.</p> <p>Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and by speaking the tongue, you are able to more closely work with people in Europe, as well as those in the US and South America. Your language skills can help to give you an advantage in a competitive job market and give you access to a higher salary.</p> <p>Students interested in Primary Education will also reap the benefits of studying a foreign language as the demand for teachers of MFL is constantly increasing.</p>	

Sport

Teacher in charge of subject	Mr Bennett
Type of qualification	Cambridge Technical Level 3 – Sport and Physical Activity
Exam board and subject code	OCR 601/7094/3

Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 4 in GCSE PE or Pass in Level 2 OCR. If not studied previously a grade 4 in Science.
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Course details

The course is equivalent of 1 A-level and will be studied over two years. The course includes both theoretical and practical elements which students will find challenging but enjoyable.

Mandatory Units:

Unit 1: Body systems and the effects of physical activity (exam)
Unit 2: Sports Coaching and activity leadership
Unit 3: Sports organisation and development (exam)

Optional Units:

Unit 10: Biomechanics and movement analysis
Unit 19: Sports Psychology

It is an excellent course which sport-minded students will love!

Assessment

Mandatory units 1 and 3 will be externally assessed. Unit 1 will be a 70 mark 1 ½ hour examination and will take place in year 12. Unit 3 will be a 60 mark 1 hour examination and will take place in year 13. Both unit examinations can be resat in the following examination window in either January or June.

Unit 3, and the other optional units, will be internally assessed by the class teacher. This assessment will take place in the form of assignments, presentations, portfolios and reports.

Career options

Universities recognise the value of this qualification for careers:

- Teaching
- Sport Development
- Sport Coaching
- Sport Science
- Sport & Leisure Management

Statistics

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Sutch
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Type of qualification	A level
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Exam board and subject code	Edexcel 9ST0
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Entry requirements

Specific subject requirement	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths
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Course details

This course will help students to develop the skills of statistical enquiry and practise the underpinning statistical calculations and interpretation using real-world data and authentic contexts. Our approach supports skills development for progression to a range of other subjects and develops and awareness of statistics beyond the classroom.

- Paper 1: Numerical measures, graphs and diagrams, probability & distributions, correlation, and linear regression.
- Paper 2: Hypotheses testing, contingency tables, one and two sample non-parametric tests, experimental design, sampling, confidence intervals, goodness of fit, analysis of variance and effect size.
- Paper 3: Questions may be set on any of the topics within the specification, including the statistical enquiry cycle.

The emphasis of the course is on using and applying statistics; appropriate interpretation of contexts and the outcomes of statistical procedures will be required—it is a qualification that enables students to apply themselves and gives them the logical, problem-solving and numerical skills to succeed in their chosen pathway.

Assessment

The course is assessed by three two hour exams at the end of the second year. There is no coursework.

Paper 1: 2 hours (Probability & Data)

Paper 2: 2 hours (Statistical Inference)

Paper 3: 2 hours (Statistics in Practise)

Career options

Using and understanding data is becoming increasingly important in many areas of study and employment. Understanding statistics is a crucial skill, and this specification aims to give students the tools needed to help them to prepare for higher education and the work place.

A Level Statistics might appeal to the student seeking to pursue the study of a numerate post-16 subject but not wishing to study pure mathematics. It is desirable for careers linked to medicine, research, law, environmental management, humanities, business, finance and economics.

EPQ

Teacher in charge of subject	Mrs Brookshaw
Type of qualification	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – additional qualification equivalent to an AS level (1/2 A level)
Exam board and subject code	AQA 7993
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Optional for all students to add to their other programmes of study

Course details

Why study the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)?

The EPQ enables you to explore a topic in depth, or to be creative, in ways that take you beyond or outside of your A Level studies. It is designed to sit alongside your other subjects. By taking this qualification you develop the sorts of independent learning skills that universities value. It must not cover topics you will be examined on for your A Levels (but can, of course, be totally unrelated to them). Extended project is offered in Year 12 as a fourth qualification to complement students studies for their first year, submitting their project in the first week of the summer term.

What can I choose to do?

The choices are limitless, no two projects are the same. You will spend the initial period discussing your ideas and making the right choice for you. Your project will end up as one of the following:

- An extended essay of 5,000 words
- An artefact (e.g. piece of art, music, a short film, creative writing, a performance) supported by a report of at least 1,000 words.

Examples of previous A / A* submissions being:

- Is there a gender bias in the diagnosis of anti-social personality disorder (APD)?
- Production of an art installation to raise awareness of climate change.
- Does the moon influence people's mood?
- Are anti-depressants overprescribed in 2023?
- Could artificial intelligence spell the end for humankind?

Assessment

100% coursework assessed via EPQ product, Production Log and Presentation

Career options

The EPQ is valued by a broad range of universities who may reduce their offer for high grades EPQs or include them in a points based offer. Universities differ in whether or not they will include the EPQ as part of any offer they make to a student, but you students can draw upon their Extended Project in their personal statement and at interview to provide evidence of enthusiasm for their chosen subject.



Teacher in charge of subject	This course is delivered by LLS – A trusted partner who specialise in 16-19 sports education and careers development.
Type of qualification	BTEC Extended Diploma – equivalent to up to 3 A Levels.
Exam board and subject code	603/0459/5
Entry requirements	
Specific subject requirement	Applicants require five GCSEs at 9-4 grades, plus Maths and English at a minimum of grade 4. Exceptions may apply if a grade 3 at Maths or English is gained. Applicants will also need to be successful at interview with LLS as a limited number of places are available.
Course details	
<p>Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Anatomy & Physiology • The Physiology of Fitness • Assessing Risk in Sport • Fitness Training and Programming • Sports Coaching • Sports Development • Fitness Testing for Sports and Exercise • Practical Team Sports • Practical Individual Sports <p>Year 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Nutrition • Current Issues in Sport • Organising Sports Events • Instructing Physical Activity and Exercise • Psychology for Sports Performance • Sports Injuries • Analysis of Sports Performance • Rules, Regulations and Officiating Sport • Work Experience in Sport 	
Assessment	
You will be assessed throughout the course in several different ways. These will be written assignments, presentations, production of videos and practical observations.	
Career options	
LLS is a combined academic and practical course which gives students a wide and varied understanding of the sports industry. Completing the LLS course gives you a pathway to many career options in the sports industry. Students can access university, scholarships and apprenticeships, full time sports jobs which involves travelling abroad. Popular career pathways from the course are Coaching, Teaching, Physiotherapy, Personal Training and Professional Athletes.	

Alsager Sixth Form College

Traineeships

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Brookshaw / Mrs Casewell

Entry Requirements:

Although there are no formal entry requirements, entry to this programme is by interview to ensure suitability.

What is a Traineeship?

A Traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that is focused on giving young people the skills and experience that employers are looking for. At its core are work preparation training with a BTEC in Work Skills, GCSE English and Maths GCSE lessons for those who need it, and a high quality work experience placement.

Is a traineeship right for me?

Traineeships are an ideal opportunity for young people who are motivated to get a job but who lack the skills and experience that employers are looking for.

In addition to requiring work skills you will probably not have achieved a 4 or above in GCSE English and or Maths.

Course Details:

Four lessons per fortnight per resit subject (exam resit entry in November and May.) Four lessons of BTEC work skills and up to four days work experience per fortnight.

What are the benefits of a Traineeship?

- A Traineeship will put you in a better position to compete for an apprenticeship or vocational based college course.
- The opportunity to build your CV and get vital experience with local companies.
- Improving your English and Maths skills will boost your chances of getting a job, as well as improving your long term prospects and earning potential over your lifetime.
- Employers are at the centre of Traineeships to ensure they give you the skills you need to secure a job and succeed in employment.
- At the end of the work experience placement you'll get a job interview with the company if a role becomes available or a reference and an exit interview.
- Students will receive careers guidance and information on apprenticeships and job opportunities throughout the course.

Career options:

On completion of the one year course, students are equipped with the work skills and qualifications to enable them to apply and ideally secure an apprenticeship in their chosen work area. Or if they wish they can apply to progress onto CTEC, BTEC or A level courses within our Sixth Form providing they meet the course specific entry requirements.

Enrichment Opportunities

At Alsager Sixth Form we fully promote a positive approach to taking the opportunities that are available for students to engage in. These activities also support the development of personal attributes and characteristics. As well as simply being enjoyable these can also provide the evidence that future employers and universities are looking for in a potential applicant. Below is a summary of some of the enrichment activities that students at Alsager Sixth Form engage in:

SportSocs (Sports and Societies)

The Alsager Sixth Form fortnightly society programme allowing for participation in a range of different activities, including sports, Future Medics, debate, music, crafting, baking and many other worthy activities students would like to complete with like-minded souls in their society. Societies are formed at the start of the year with students signing up to the society of their choice.

Guest Speaker Talks

A fortnightly programme of guest speakers, exposing students to a vast range of academic and cultural experiences.

Student leadership

Our Head Student Team are a pivotal part of the evolution of the sixth form and that the voice of the student body is heard and utilised in our goal to ensure every aspect of the sixth form is outstanding. Attached to the roles of Head and Deputy Head students are specific responsibility in the areas of: Community, Charity, Diversity & Wellbeing, Sixth Form Experience and Sixth Form Media and Communications. In Year 12 students can be a representative of their tutor group, attending regular meetings led by the Head Student Team.

Mentoring/tutoring

As part of the sixth form tutor programme students are offered the opportunity to support students from Alsager School, either in the role of a subject tutor – aiding their understanding of a subject, or as a mentor – providing guidance as an older role model for younger students. All students receive full training for these roles to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to ensure mentoring/ tutoring partnerships are successful and maintain appropriate boundaries.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

A life-changing experience. An opportunity to have fun with friends. A chance to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement, respected by employers.

Volunteering

As part of our ongoing work with the community Alsager Sixth Form is actively seeking opportunities for students to volunteer in the local community. An example of this is our partnership with the charity 'Friends for Leisure' – an organisation that helps disabled children and young people in Cheshire East enjoy friendship and leisure time.

Future Planning and Destinations Support

We pride ourselves at Alsager Sixth Form on providing the very best guidance and support for students in researching into and applying for their post sixth form destination. Below is a summary of the key milestones of support and events provided throughout a student's time at sixth form, however we endeavour to continue to support students beyond their time at sixth form and encourage students to contact us for any further help with destinations application even when they have left.

Please find below details of some of the additional benefits Alsager Sixth Form students receive to support time securing aspirational destinations.

Unifrog



Unifrog is our 'one-stop' careers and destinations support platform that students use throughout their time at sixth form. In spite of its name Unifrog provides an equal level of support for students not wishing to go to university and who are looking to secure apprenticeship or employment opportunities. Unifrog serves a multitude of functions, from students exploring options for future careers, researching the university and apprenticeship that interest them to building and refining the materials they will use in their applications such as Personal Statements or CVs.

UCAS Hub



The UCAS Hub provides tool to help with exploring subjects, considering apprenticeships, shortlisting university options, and writing a killer personal statement or CV. When students come to submitting their actual university application this is also done through UCAS Hub and we would therefore recommend students setting up an account (with their personal email address) early on in Year 12.

HE+



HE+ provides a comprehensive programme of information, advice and guidance through sessions and study skills support in order to help ensure students make both a successful application and also a successful transition to highly selective universities, such as those in the Russell Group.

Apprenticeship and Employment Guidance

As a sixth form we are committed to ensuring students looking to progress onto apprenticeships and employment opportunities receive a full programme of support. This includes weekly group workshops to learn about where and how to search for opportunities, write CV's, and letters for applications, interview skills, mock interviews and individual CEIAG meetings.

Application Timeline

10th October 2024	Online Applications Open
29th November 2024	Deadline for submission of course choices which informs the design of the options grid. Applications received after this date will not be able to influence the design of the options grid or timetable.
February 2025	Advice and Guidance conversations with all applicants and their parents, initial choices confirmed or amended as required.
March 2025	Applicants to receive conditional offer letters detailing grade requirements for their chosen courses.
June 2025	Sixth Form transition day. Opportunity to complete lessons and information sessions to prepare students for life as a sixth form student. An information session will be provided to share information with parents/carers at this same time.
22nd August 2025	Publication of GCSE results. Enrolment of students and advice and guidance conversations with applicants as required.
3rd Sept 2025	First day of term

NB: Although the initial submission deadline is 29th November 2024, we accept new applications until 30th September 2025.