Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School



Sixth Form Options Guide

Courses starting in September 2027

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Admission to Sixth Form	4
Entry Requirements Table	5
Options Explained	7
Application Process	8
Art and Design	9
Biology	10
Chemistry	11
Computer Science	12
Economics	13
English Language	14
English Literature	15
Environmental Science	16
Extended Project Qualification*	17
Film Studies	19
French	20
Geography	22
German	23
Government and Politics	25
History	26
Mathematics	28
Mathematics (Further)	29
Mathematics In Context*	30
Music	31
Physical Education	32
Physics	33
Product Design	34
Psychology	35
Sociology	36
Spanish	37
Trinity Acting Exams*	39
Work Experience*	40
Year 13 GCE Results: Three Year Figures: A Levels	41
**Enhancement subjects*	

Introduction

Welcome to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form is a high profile part of this outstanding school, with an excellent track record of examination results and applications to competitive courses in Higher Education, alongside other academic routes, apprenticeships and alternative training pathways.

The majority of our current students and an increasing number of students from other schools join this highly successful Sixth Form at the end of Year 11.

The Sixth Form represents two pivotal years in the lives of all pupils at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School. Students are treated as individuals and also take an active role in supporting the wider school community.

All students have access to high quality guidance and support throughout their time in the Sixth Form. Mentoring conversations assist students with everything from discussions around academic progress, setting personal targets, career pathways and personal issues. The pastoral support at Queen Elizabeth's is an area of particular strength. Feedback demonstrates that students really value and enjoy the Sixth Form experience at this school.

The academic and extra-curricular opportunities on offer help ensure that students leave Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School well qualified and prepared for the broader challenges of adult life. This includes a weekly enrichment and PSHE programme, forming an integral part of their school timetable.

Choosing the correct subjects to study and excelling in them is vital for all students. We hope that the information contained within this guide, alongside the information in the online prospectus, will help students to make informed decisions about subject choices and potential career pathways available to them.

The School offers a challenging and broad range of 'A Level' options. This guide contains information about the courses available to study from September 2026. Each course description outlines entry requirements, potential Higher Education opportunities and potential careers, which we hope you will find useful. All students are expected to study a minimum of four courses, comprising three full academic subjects and one enhancement course. Students who are working at a GCSE score of 45 points or higher from their best six subjects will be considered to study four full 'A' level courses.

Mr PH Larter and Mr T Finn-Kelcey - Joint Heads of Sixth Form

Admission to the Sixth Form

Priority will be given to existing pupils transferring from Year 11 who meet the entrance criteria. Admission to the Sixth Form will be as a result of applicants accruing at least 33 points from their best six GCSE, BTEC or CNAT grades. Short course GCSEs may be included within this calculation but at half value i.e. grade 7 in RS would count as half a grade at 3.5 points. Applicants must also achieve an absolute minimum of grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and either English Language or English Literature.

Applicants must achieve at least GCSE grade 6 in subjects they wish to study at A Level, with the exception of Mathematics, where a grade 7 or higher is required. Also, for science subjects, the minimum requirement if applicants have studied Combined Science GCSE is a grade 7,6. In the case of new subjects e.g. Psychology, Economics, Government & Politics etc., please see the subject sections in this guide where you will find the specific entry requirements, or the summary of requirements on the next page.

The admission number for external candidates will be 40, but this figure may be exceeded in the event that this and the number of internal pupils transferring into Year 12 is less than the overall figure for the year group, which is 160.

Deadlines for applications are as follows;

Friday 26th February 2027

These deadlines allow students time to consider their performance in mock examinations and discuss choices with form tutors and subject teachers, which we strongly encourage. Students applying from other schools are invited to discuss their choices with our staff at any stage, particularly during our Sixth Form Open Evening and Induction events.

We strongly encourage all applicants to attend the variety of engagement events on offer to ensure that you receive the most up to date information about the application process.

**For students studying BTEC Awards that need details of grade conversions, please follow this link - https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/article/BTEC-Grade-Calculation*

Entry Requirements

Subject	Requirements
Art	6 in Art
Biology	6 in Biology OR 76 in Combined Science
Chemistry	6 in Chemistry OR 76 in Combined Science
Computer Science	6 in Computer Science
Economics	6 in Economics, if taken, a 6 in Mathematics and an average of a 6 in English Language & Literature
English Language	6 in English Language
English Literature	6 in English Literature
Environmental Science	6 in any science subject or 76 in Combined Science
Extended Project Qualification	Entry into Sixth Form has been met
Film Studies	6 in Film Studies/Media Studies OR 6 in an English GCSE
Geography	6 in Geography OR 6 in a Humanities GCSE
German	6 in German
Government & Politics	6 in Humanities/Social Science subject and an average of a grade 6 in English Language & Literature

Entry Requirements

Subject	Requirements
History	6 in History
Mathematics	7 in a Higher Tier Mathematics paper
Mathematics Further	7 in a Higher Tier Mathematics paper
Mathematics in Context	4 in Mathematics
Music	6 in Music AND Play an instrument or sing at Grade 5 or above
Physical Education	6 in Physical Education/Sport OR 2 x grade 6 in two Science GCSE's AND essential to be playing a club sport approved by exam board
Physics	6 in Physics or 76 in Combined Science AND 6 in Mathematics
Product Design	6 in a Technology subject
Psychology	6 in Psychology, if taken, a 6 in Mathematics, a 6 in Biology (or 66 in Combined Science) and an average of a 6 in English Language & Literature
Sociology	6 in Sociology, if taken, a 6 in Humanities/Social Science subject and an average of a 6 in English Language & Literature
Spanish	6 in GCSE Spanish
Trinity Acting Exams	6 in Drama OR multiple experiences of performing with a club or a production

Options explained

Five option blocks are used for timetabling purposes in the Sixth Form. The blocks are created once all Internal applications have been received and are based on all choices received at that time. If there are any issues with a student's choices we will contact them ASAP to advise them of this issue and the potential next steps.

The majority of our A Level students study three full A Levels and an enhancement course. Some students (those that meet the requirements as stated previously) will be considered to study four full A Levels. Examples of each are provided below

Student A has chosen to study Art, English Literature and German which are all two year courses with the exams at the end of Year 13. They have also chosen Extended Project Qualification which starts in November of Year 12 and is completed by November of Year 13.

Student B has chosen to study Film Studies, Geography and Product Design which are all two year courses with the exams at the end of Year 13. They have also chosen Maths in Context which is a one year course ending in exams.

Student C has chosen to study Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Economics which are all two year courses with the exams at the end of Year 13. They are not required to study an enhancement subject.

Please note

If a student chooses to study Further Mathematics, then it should be combined with 3 other full A Levels, one of which must be Mathematics. This is due to the fact that some universities for particular courses (for example, Medicine at Edinburgh) will not make offers which include both Mathematics and Further Mathematics. We would expect students doing this combination to achieve an average GCSE score of 45 points from their best six GCSE subjects to cope with the demands of the course and breadth of subjects.

Application process

Internal Applications - for students in Year 11 at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

Applications to join the Sixth Form will be made using a Google Form that will be emailed to you and posted on Google Classroom. To make it accessible long term the form will also be posted to your Google Chrome homepage which you can access whenever you open a new tab.

Once the form has been completed you will not be required to do anything more. Around term 4/term 5 of the school year we will complete the Option Blocks and can confirm with you if your chosen subjects fit into these blocks.

External Applications - for students NOT currently at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School

Applications must be made via Kent Choices (www.kentprospectus.co.uk). All contact will be made via the message function on this website but some direct emails may also be sent. If you have received a conditional offer of a place to our Sixth Form by the May deadline you will then be sent a link to the Applicaa website. Here you will be required to complete a supplementary information form. If you do not complete the form we may consider your application to be withdrawn.

Advice to Students;

- You should carefully research the course details, either online or in the course booklet before making your subject choices
- You should consider your academic suitability for and interest in subjects before making a final decision
- You should consider how subject combinations may impact on choices for Higher Education and future career decisions – additional guidance is available from the Sixth Form Office
- You must enter your choices in order of preference and must choose a full academic reserve subject as well as a compulsory enhancement course (unless you wish to study 4 full A Levels).

The Sixth Form team is always available to answer any queries or give additional advice and guidance regarding Sixth Form entry. Please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Mr T Finn-Kelcey tfk@queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk
Mr P Larter phl@queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk
Ms Butterly hsb@queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk
Mr M Cowlam mzc@queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk

Art & Design

AQA Level 3
Advanced GCE

Entry
Requirements
Grade 6

Skills that will be developed

The Subject Criteria for Art require that not only practical artistic skills and abilities should be developed in any course of study, but also that the study of art and design and its various contexts should form part of any student's education. Therefore, in addition to making artefacts, students should be encouraged to reflect on their own work and on the work of others.

What will you learn?

The GCE in Art and Design has been designed to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design. Successful students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary art and design practice and be able to produce artwork that embraces a range of ideas.

The New Advanced GCE award consists of two units. Unit 1 encompasses an extended personal investigation and Unit 2 consists of an externally set exam unit.

Enrichment

Extra-curricular activities such as Public Exhibitions, Life drawing, visits to Galleries and Museums and meeting practising artists.

What happens when you have finished?

The course will encourage you to explore your creative mind and help you develop the basic skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries are looking for.

The most established route is to take an Art and Design Foundation Diploma. This is a one-year pre-degree course which prepares you for progression to Higher Education courses in Art and Design. Art and Design is a neat and compact title, though grossly inadequate for the sprawling range of jobs and careers that it encompasses. The application of this subject is limitless from painting to conceptual art, to produce design, from stained glass or sculpture to computer animation.

Biology

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6
or
Grade 76 if Combined Science is studied

Skills that will be developed

- Analytical thinking
- Problem-solving
- Practical skills
- Application of knowledge to unknown situations
- Communication and presentation skills
- Research skills

What will you learn?

The GCE course in Biology covers topics such as: risk factors for, and causes of, heart disease; genetic diseases; development of an organism; cell division and cancer; biodiversity; and natural products. Topics such as energy transfers through ecosystems; humans and the environment; immunity; maintenance of the body; and sensitivity are key topics in the second year of study. The Edexcel Biology course can be taught in either a concept-led or a context-led manner.

Enrichment

There has always been a healthy variety of extra-curricular activities in Biology including Bioquest (biology original research projects), Medsoc (advising those who wish to pursue a career in medical/healthcare/veterinary sciences), visiting speakers, visits and the Biology Olympiad. Our senior students also get involved with outreach to younger students and science based assemblies. There is also the opportunity to attend a practical lab day at the Canterbury Christchurch University carrying out DNA profiling.

What happens when you have finished?

Biology is regarded as a facilitating subject. This means that it is a requirement of a number of degree courses. Opting to study Biology at Advanced Level is likely to help keep your options open for Higher Education such that biology is a complement to any other set of A-level subjects.

With further training, you could go into a job related to Biology or one of the other sciences such as a Doctor, Nurse, Scientist or Marine Biologist. The course will also help you to develop the basic skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries are looking for.

There is no limit to the type of degree courses available included with Biology A-level. Those that enjoy Biology itself may like to investigate courses such as Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Ecology, Biochemistry, Conservation, Medicine and many more. Biology is a relevant subject for many careers in healthcare (e.g. Doctor, nurse, physiotherapist), animal care (e.g. animal nurse, vet), conservation and research (e.g. medical research). However biology and the skills associated with the A-level are widely lauded across the full range of academic subjects no matter what discipline.

Chemistry

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements

Grade 6
or
Grade 76 if Combined Science is studied

11

Skills that will be developed...

- Analytical and critical thinking
- Problem-solving and logical reasoning
- Laboratory proficiency and experimental design
- Data handling and IT skills
- Communication and teamwork
- Time management and organisation

What you will learn...

You will explore the three major disciplines of A-level Chemistry...
Physical Chemistry - This is considered the most numerical part of Chemistry, including topics such as kinetics, energetics and equilibrium.
Organic Chemistry - The chemistry of carbon-containing compounds, including the ability to synthesise complex molecules by functional group interconversion and retrosynthesis.
Inorganic Chemistry - The chemistry of the remaining elements of the periodic table, including a focus on specific groups, such as the alkaline earth metals and halogens, as well as the transition metals.
As a central science, students with a variety of interests may choose to pursue A-level Chemistry, often combining it with other scientific disciplines, or with more creative subjects such as Art.

Enrichment opportunities...

Chemistry Club (a six week after school program learning new experimental techniques)
Polymerisation and Lab Mix-Up workshops at the Community Lab, Pfizer.
RSC Olympiad and the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge competitions.
Participation in Race for Chemistry and the Schools Analyst competitions.
IRIS projects focused on the use of ionic liquids in organic synthesis.
Research and leadership opportunities in QUEST and STEM Club.

These extra-curricular activities make excellent additions to UCAS statements, helping our students' applications stand out in a very competitive arena.

Future Opportunities...

A-level Chemistry is essential for degrees such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Chemical Engineering. It is also highly recommended for many other degree courses such as Biomedical Sciences, Forensic Science, Environmental Science and Accountancy.
Studying A-level Chemistry will provide you with skills and knowledge that are highly transferable and extremely valuable to prospective employers, such as data analysis, problem-solving capability and a strong attention to detail.

Computer Science

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6

12

Skills that will be developed

This course, with its emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, scientific and engineering-based thinking, is a good foundation for understanding the future challenges that computer science can address. You will develop skills in logical, structured thinking, mathematics, efficiency and problem solving and your patience and persistence will be tested. This course is appropriate for anybody who enjoys finding the best solution to a problem.

What will you learn?

The course is not about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language. Instead the emphasis is on computational thinking. Computational thinking is a kind of reasoning used by both humans and machines. Thinking computationally is an important life skill. Computer Science is about designing new algorithms to solve new problems. Many great challenges lie in the future for Computer Scientists to solve. The specific programming language taught in the first year is yet to be confirmed. Programming club will allow you to try your hand at different programming languages. Support for lower school programming lessons will enable you to pass on your knowledge and improve your communication and explanation skills.

Pre-course Requirements

Students who have not programmed in Python before will need to complete some independent study tasks.

What happens when you have finished?

This course is designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of Computing would be beneficial – a topic high on the government agenda for education. One can study Computing and go on to a career in medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science.

Economics

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements

Grade 6
OR
Grade 6 in Mathematics and average Grade 6 from English Lang & Lit

13

Skills that will be developed

You will develop key analytical thinking, critical evaluation, and problem-solving skills by applying economic theories to real-world issues. You'll develop data interpretation, and quantitative abilities, and learn to construct clear, logical arguments in your writing. You will be encouraged to stay informed on current affairs and engage in class debates. These skills are valuable in business, finance, and public policy.

What will you learn?

You study both microeconomics and macroeconomics. In ***microeconomics***, you explore how markets work, covering demand and supply, elasticities, and various market structures (e.g., perfect competition vs. monopoly). You also examine market failure, looking at issues like externalities, public goods, and the role of government interventions (taxes, subsidies, regulations) to correct inefficiencies. Microeconomics also explores labour markets including wage determination and employment dynamics.

In ***macroeconomics***, you learn about the overall economy, focusing on key economic indicators like GDP, inflation, and unemployment. You study government policies, including fiscal policy (taxes and spending), monetary policy (interest rates), and supply-side policies to influence economic growth and stability. Topics like international trade, globalisation, exchange rates, and the role of financial markets are also explored, helping you understand broader global economic interactions and their impacts on national economies.
The A-level exams consist of three, 2-hour papers, Paper 1 (Markets and Market Failure) Paper 2 (The National and International Economy) Paper 3 (Economic Principles and Issues).

What happens when you have finished?

Economics will provide a firm foundation for the study of many courses at degree level, including finance and accountancy, management and business courses. It is highly recommended that Economics is combined with AS or A2 Mathematics to ensure the full availability of Economics courses at the degree level.

Future opportunities

Economics gives opportunities for careers in both the public and the private sector jobs include working in the civil service, local government, banking, accountancy, manufacturing and business management.

English Language

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6

Skills that will be developed

The A level course enables you to develop and apply your understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of spoken and written language. It will also develop your skills as writers by focusing just as much on the process of writing (e.g. drafting, redrafting, editing) as well as the finished product.

What will you learn?

Unit 1: Language, the Individual and Society

This unit covers the basic introductory aspects of language, using a variety of spoken and written texts for study. This study will cover textual variations and representations, children's language development (0-11 years). Methods of language analysis are integrated into the activities. You will analyse texts on a number of levels such as purpose, audience, genre, grammar, lexis, phonology, semantics and pragmatics.

Unit 2: Language Diversity and Change

This unit covers the topics: Language diversity and change, Language discourses and writing skills. In this unit you are encouraged to develop your own analysis and writing skills, studying and producing writing in different genres for different audiences and purposes. For example, you may study fiction, soap opera or film scripts, information leaflets, magazine articles, texts for young children or persuasive speeches. You will evaluate such texts and write your own.

Unit 3: Language in Action (Coursework (20% of A level))

In this unit you investigate an area of language of your choice. Studies may include the language of Rap, chat shows, the Bible, graffiti, the impact of text messaging, reality television and the development of writing skills in children. Students also produce some original writing of their own.

What happens when you have finished?

As well as excellent preparation for a degree in English Language or Linguistics, former English Language students have gone on to study a wide range of subjects at degree level, including Politics and Government, Sports journalism, History, Archaeology and Media/Film studies.

Future opportunities

English Language students also have access to a wide range of career opportunities, but the subject would be particularly useful for careers in law, teaching, journalism, speech therapy, local government, advertising, publishing and retail management.

English Literature

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6

15

Skills that will be developed

The A level course enables students to develop and apply their understanding of the concepts and methods appropriate for the analysis and study of English Literature. It will also develop their ability to apply different critical theories to literature.

What will you learn?

Unit 1: Drama

This unit involves close analysis of the tragedy. Students will study a Shakespeare play, another modern dramatic text, and some critical essays.

Unit 2: Prose

In this unit, students will study and compare two texts linked by theme. Chosen texts will be from pre and post 1900 and will centre around the concept of the supernatural.

Unit 3: Poetry

Students will study a wide range of modern poetry from the published anthology, centred around named poets and/or literary traditions.

Unit 4: (Coursework (20% of A level))

Students will study two texts of their choice, develop their understanding and interest with critics, and write one critical essay on an agreed question set by them. All units will enable students to explore a wide range of texts and genres.

What happens when you have finished?

The course will also help you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries are looking for. As well as being obviously excellent preparation for a degree in English Literature, former English Literature students have gone on to study a wide range of subjects at degree level, including Politics and Government, History, Archaeology and Media/Film studies. English Literature students have access to any career opportunities, but the subject would be particularly useful for careers in law, teaching, publishing, journalism, local government and the media. Most rewarding, is an appreciation of literature and the opportunity to develop a life-long love of reading widely with a critical eye.

Environmental Science

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in any science
OR
Grade 76 in Combined Science

16

Skills that will be developed

Practical skills in planning and implementing investigations; laboratory and field.
A balanced and informed understanding of how human society manages natural systems.
The ability to interrogate information and analyse quantitative data.

What will you learn?

1. The living environment, biological resources and sustainability (50%).
   - Threats to biodiversity and wildlife conservation efforts from Antarctica to the tropics.
   - The challenges and solutions in providing food and forest resources to a growing population without damaging the planet's life support systems.

2. The physical environment, energy resources and pollution (50%)
   - Exploitation and management of minerals, soil, water and energy resources.
   - Properties of pollutants and strategies to minimise problems.

Environmental issues are explored, with the emphasis on how to find solutions through sustainable management and the use of new technology. The applied nature of the subject means that there are many opportunities to relate topics to everyday issues and current affairs in the UK and globally.

Students gain first hand experience of a variety of sampling techniques in a range of habitats. There are two final written exams, 15% of which is an assessment of practical skills. All students must complete a minimum of four days of fieldwork.

Enrichment

There will be opportunities for field trips, meeting visiting speakers and involvement with local community initiatives. Students are encouraged to join EcoQuEST and or QE's Green Group to research and develop projects beyond the syllabus.

What happens when you have finished?

The environment is being increasingly prioritised in policy and practice around the globe and is a growing concern among young people. As such Environmental Science can complement any combination of A level subjects. At A level, it is accepted as relevant science in environment related degrees including oceanography, geology, marine zoology and many more. It is also a named second or third subject for degrees from medicine to psychology, engineering and sustainable architecture.

Extended Project Qual.

OCR Level 3 Project Qualification

Entry Requirements

Entry to Sixth Form

Skills that will be developed

To devise, design, plan and manage a project selected from a choice of dissertation, design, artefact, performance or investigation and work independently. To critically select research and organise a range of resources and sources relevant to the chosen outcome and be able to use, reference and reflect upon these resources/sources. To develop and realise the chosen project outcome and project management evaluation report through logical, planned stages until their fruition, being able to meet own identified goals and deadlines and reflect upon progress. To evaluate, review and reflect upon all aspects of the project and own learning and performance. To communicate the outcome to a specified audience, reflecting on the process of doing the project and evaluating the audience feedback of their own performance.

What will you learn?

The EPQ is based on independent, university-style learning and gaining sophisticated organised time and project management skills. The EPQ can help you to gain confidence in your own abilities and develop the self-awareness to know your limitations and strengths which are vital to career success. The EPQ will help you to develop your capabilities in terms of problem solving, critical analysis, decision-making, team working and communications, as well as gaining high standards of Maths and English – all of which are highly prized by employers.

Most students attend lessons for this throughout year 12, alongside three A Level subjects. However, this is an independent qualification which can be done at any time in liaison with Mrs Longhurst, so some do choose to do this alongside four A Levels. Entry is in January or May, with the main cohort having taught lessons term 1 and term 2, then working on their projects until September with final submission in October. There is a further opportunity to submit by Easter for those who are doing the project independently without lessons.

Enrichment

Doing an Extended Project is great for building confidence and broadening horizons because you are free to be independent, creative, practical and academic. The self-fulfillment benefits are highly rewarding. You can be led by your curiosity and you can pursue and plan an idea to see how it evolves and takes shape over time. You demonstrate to yourself, your family, your teachers, universities and future employers what you can achieve on your own, showing that you have enterprise, initiative, self-motivation and impressive, competent presentation skills. Many universities ask about EPQ in interview, offer lowered entry requirements with an A in EPQ, and it also gives you examples to use in job interviews, e.g. tell us about a time you met deadlines.

Continued...

Extended Project Qual.

OCR Level 3 Project Qualification

Entry Requirements

Entry to Sixth Form

What happens when you have finished?

Universities really value the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), as it helps them to select students with a genuine commitment to their chosen subject and a head-start in the independent learning skills that Higher Education demands. These skills are transferable, not just for undergraduate and postgraduate university experience, but to the workplace, career and beyond. The EPQ formally begins in January of Year 12, allowing relevant study skills to be taught in Terms 1 and 2, and time to select and develop a topic. The EPQ is completed by the end of Year 12, which then frees-up time to devote to other "A" level subjects.

Film Studies

Eduqas Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6
OR
Grade 6 in an English

19

What will you learn?

A-level Film Studies engages students in the in-depth study of a range of different genres, movements and time periods:

- Hollywood 1930 - 1990
- American Film Since 2005
- British Film Since 1995
- Global FIlm - a study of films not in the English language
- Documentary Film
- Silent Cinema pre 1930
- Experimental Film 1960-2000
- For coursework, students are required to produce a short film (of between 4 and 5 minutes duration) or a screenplay, and write an evaluation of their work (of between 1600 and 1800 words).

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th Century and a major art form of the last one hundred years. Film Studies offers the opportunity to investigate how film works as both a medium of representation which reflects our culture and society and as an aesthetic medium.

The course has elements that focus on both analytical and creative skills. As such, students will be expected to develop their ability to study independently, whilst honing their research skills and essay writing in preparation for the final exam, as well as showing an ability to create film products.

Enrichment

Develop film production skills in different genres.

What happens when you have finished?

You could take this course with other advanced level courses such as English, to prepare for Higher Education in Film-related courses, related courses in the Arts or Humanities, or more general Higher Education courses. With further training, you could go into a job related to film and media such as a Journalist, News Reporter, TV Producer and Public Relations Officer. The course also helps you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that employers across lots of industries desire.

French

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6

Skills that will be developed

You will build on all the skills acquired at GCSE. By the end of the A level course you will have developed all four language skills; reading, speaking, listening and writing, which will enable you to study French at degree level in the UK or abroad.

What will you learn?

- Aspects of French-speaking Society
  (the changing nature of family, cyber society, the place of voluntary work)
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
  (cultural heritage; contemporary music; cinema)
- Current issues in French-speaking society
  (positive features of a diverse society; life for the marginalised; how criminals are treated)
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
  (the right to vote and political commitment; demonstrations and strikes; politics and immigration)
- One novel (Delphine de Vigan's No et moi)
- One film (La Haine)
- Individual research project

Enrichment

Participation in residential trip to France. An opportunity to be a Senior Student with leadership responsibilities.

Exam

This qualification is linear. All exams are taken at the end of the course with no access to a dictionary during the assessments.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing: 2 hours 30 minutes. 100 marks. 50% of A-level

- All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French (30 marks listening. **50 marks** reading)

- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks). Translation into French; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

Paper 2: Writing exam: 2 hours. 90 marks. 20% of A-level

- 2 x 300 word essay on one text and one film.

Paper 3: Speaking. Oral exam: 16-18 minutes. 60 marks. 30% of A-level

- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Individual research project: Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks)

French continued

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6

What happens when you have finished?

This course will enable you to continue French into Higher Education and pursue a course at a French university
and/or work in France or another French-speaking country. French at A level is a highly regarded academic subject by universities, even if you choose a course which does not involve French.
Over the duration of the course you will develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of different industries are looking for, especially in the travel and tourism sector, journalism, international politics, NGOs and in multinational companies.
Students go on to a wide range of degree courses ranging from French, European Studies, new languages such as Italian, Japanese, Russian or Chinese, to courses including a language element such as Law with French, or Physics with a study year in France or a French-speaking country.

Future opportunities

Opportunities are varied, ranging from teaching, translating, European affairs, journalism to work in TV/radio. You could work in the foreign office or international companies.
Increasingly a modern foreign language at A level is seen as useful and in high demand by employers as globalisation increases.

Geography

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6
OR
Grade 6 in a Humanities subject

22

Skills that will be developed:

- Contemporary geographical knowledge applied to real world contexts.
- Developing extended written responses to reach a supported and evidenced judgement.
- Analysing numerical data, graphs and tables as well as qualitative sources such as maps and photographs.
- Ability to consider and evaluate a range of perspectives from different stakeholders.
- Fieldwork, practical skills and statistical skills.
- Organisation and time management.

What will you learn?

Paper 1 Physical Geography (30%)
Includes the following topics:

- Tectonic Processes and Hazards
- Coastal Landscapes and Change
- The Water Cycle & Water Insecurity
- The Carbon Cycle & Energy Security

Paper 2 Human Geography (30%)
Includes the following topics

- Globalisation
- Regenerating Places
- Superpowers
- Health, Human Rights & Intervention

Paper 3 A Synoptic Examination (20%)
The specification contains three synoptic themes:

- Players
- Attitudes and actions
- Futures and uncertainties.

This paper will be based on a geographical issue within a place-based context that links to the three synoptic themes. A resource booklet will contain information about the geographical issue. All questions in the examination draw on knowledge and understanding from compulsory content from different parts of the course (tectonics, the water cycle, the carbon cycle, globalisation and superpowers).

Coursework: Independent Investigation (20%)

- The Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) is an exciting opportunity to carry out your own independent geographical investigation. You will choose a question that interests you, collect your own data through fieldwork, and use geographical theories and research to analyse your findings. Your chosen focus needs to be related to the topics that we study (see above). Previous NEAs have examined the impact of regeneration projects on local areas including Margate, Folkestone and Canterbury, the 'health' of local high streets and the effectiveness of coastal management schemes. You will develop valuable skills in research, data collection, statistical analysis, critical thinking and report writing. The NEA allows you to take ownership of your learning, develop independence and apply the knowledge and skills gained throughout your A-level Geography course.
- The NEA is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Geography continued

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6
OR
Grade 6 in a Humanities subject

What other A levels work well with Geography?

The Edexcel A-level Geography compliments a range of other subjects, particularly Biology, Economics, Sociology and Politics. Biology complements Geography through the study of ecosystems, biodiversity, climate change and the impact of human activity on the natural environment. Economics links closely with human geography, especially when exploring globalisation, development and inequality. There are strong links too with Politics and Sociology through topics such as global governance, health and human rights, geopoltics and the role of governments in managing environmental issues. Studying Geography alongside these subjects helps develop a contemporary understanding of how physical processes, human behaviour, economic systems and political decisions interact to shape the world we live in.

Enrichment

Fieldwork is a compulsory part of the A level. As part of this course you will undertake four fieldwork days where you will be taught and have the opportunity to practise coastal and urban fieldwork skills that you will need for the Independent Investigation (the coursework element). This year we are planning to visit the Dorset coastline to conduct coastal fieldwork in Swanage and urban fieldwork in Boscombe.

Entry Requirements

You must achieve a grade 6 or higher at GCSE in this subject. If the subject is not offered at GCSE then a grade 6 in a GCSE Humanities subject is required.

What happens when you have finished?

In studying A Level Geography you will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, data analysis, independent research and communication skills, preparing you for further study and a variety of career pathways. Geography can lead to opportunities in areas such as environmental management, sustainability, urban planning, teaching, business, data analysis, tourism and government. It also provides an excellent foundation for university courses in Geography and many other subjects.

The course also helps you to develop the basic skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across a range of industries are looking for.

Future opportunities

Degree courses include Human Geography (BA), Physical Geography (BSc), Geology, Environmental Science Leisure and Tourism. Careers for Geographers fall into a very wide range of areas including Environmental Services, the Scientific Civil Service, Cartography, Surveying and planning, Teaching and the tourist industry.

German

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6

Skills that will be developed

You will build on the skills acquired at GCSE. By the end of the course you will have developed the reading, speaking, listening and writing skills which will enable you to study in a German speaking country. You will gain greater insight into German speaking culture and society. You will find it enhances your job prospects and facilitates foreign travel.

What will you learn?

Aspects of German-speaking society:

- The changing state of the family
- The digital world
- Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television

Multiculturalism in German-speaking society:

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Political and artistic culture:

- Festivals and traditions
- Art and architecture
- Cultural life in Berlin, past and present

Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world:

- German and the European Union
- Politics and youth
- German reunification and its consequences

Set text - “Der Besuch der alten Dame” by Friedrich Dürrenmatt·
Film - “Lola rennt”

Enrichment

Trip to Berlin.
An opportunity to be a Senior Student with leadership responsibilities.
Competitions, webinars, translation exchange

German continued

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6

Exam

This qualification is linear. All exams are taken at the end of the course with no access to a dictionary during the assessments.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing: 2 hours 30 minutes. 100 marks. 50% of A-level

- Aspects of German-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world
- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society
- Aspects of political life in German-speaking society

All questions are in German, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in German (30 marks listening. 70 marks reading)
Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks). Translation into German; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)

.

Paper 2: Writing exam: 2 hours. 80 marks. 20% of A-level
2 x 300 word essay. One text and one film from the set list.

Paper 3: Speaking. Oral exam: 16-18 minutes. 60 marks. 30% of A-level

- Individual research project: Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks)
- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).

What happens when you have finished?

German is widely acknowledged by universities as a highly academic course, particularly by the Russell group of universities and will therefore stand you in good stead if you decide to apply to a university in this group. You can decide to continue studying German at degree level or combine the language with your choice of hundreds of degree courses from a range of disciplines. You may wish to study German with a science, mathematics or engineering degree or in one of the humanities subjects. You may wish to study German with a foreign language which is new to you, such as Russian, Chinese or Arabic. During your degree, it will usually be possible for you to study at a German university or work in Germany as an assistant or within industry for six months to a year, which will greatly increase your fluency in the language.

Future opportunities

Opportunities are varied, ranging from teaching, translating, European affairs, journalism to work in TV/radio. You could work in the foreign office or international companies. Increasingly a language at A level is seen as useful and in high demand by employers as globalisation increases.

Govermment & Politics

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in a humanities subject and average Grade 6 from English Lang & Lit

Skills that will be developed

You will develop an understanding of how our country works, how decisions are made and of the behaviour of people in relation to elections, ideas and power. You will begin to examine philosophical concepts such as rationalism and liberty, ideologies such as Liberalism, Conservatism and Socialism. You will develop skills of research, written analysis and debate.

What will you learn?

The Year 12 course introduces concepts of democracy and participation by looking at elections, political parties and pressure groups. It also examines the major institutions of the British Government and how they operate (unit 1). The course examines the nature of political ideologies and concepts such as freedom, authority and justice (unit 2). In the final unit, we study Global Politics. This introduces you to International Relations, topics such as War and Conflict, the role of the United Nations, NATO,, and other major international institutions such as the IMF, World Bank and G7/8 and G20. We will examine power politics at the international level, and also issues such as Human Rights and the Environment.

Unit 1 British Politics
Unit 2- Political Ideologies
Unit 3- Global Politics

Enrichment

You will have opportunities to look at current affairs through television, newspapers and the internet. You will have a chance to learn through discussion, debate and research. You will gain a perspective on how our society works with an understanding of the nature of power. You will have opportunities to question fundamentals of society, develop your own views and to justify them with hard evidence.

What happens when you have finished?

Government and Politics could lead to a wide range of careers. You could go into a job related to Government and Politics such as working for the Civil Service within areas such as diplomacy, defence, justice, housing, tax, education and other areas of government. You could also become a member of parliament, or work for one as a political advisor. Careers in lobbying or pressure groups are also a good option. The course will also help you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries are looking for, especially in the government related sectors. This is a good A level to get you into the legal profession or into journalism.

Degrees are available in International Politics, Politics, PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics), HSPS (Human, Social & Political Sciences), Strategic Studies, War and Peace Studies and Government. Politics related degrees can lead to careers in business, politics, the law, teaching and journalism as well as a range of managerial and professional careers.

History

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6

Why study History?

As the American writer, William Faulkner, once commented, "The past is never dead; it's not even past." Studying History is not about trying to memorise dry facts about dead people and half-forgotten events of yester-year. It is about exploring the footsteps of our ancestors in order to light a lantern for our present and future. History gives us wisdom. It exposes how horrifically things can unravel when lessons from the past are not heeded. It inspires us to be brave and to persevere - whatever the cost may be. Individuals have and therefore can make 'a difference'. For a more prosaic answer to the question above you could say that by studying History you are sharpening many intellectual skills (analysis, evaluation, communication, prioritisation, trend-spotting, scrutiny of evidence, research etc.) that the 21st century workplace is crying out for. For a more emotive answer to the question - it's bloomin' fascinating and will keep a curious mind captivated from start to end.

The structure of the course; AQA (A-Level) History has three components.
Components 1 and 2 make up 80% of the overall mark and are assessed by written examination. Component 3 makes up the final 20% of the overall mark and is a historical investigation (coursework) where students write a 4,500 word essay covering a period of at least 100 years.

What will you explore?

Component 1 Historical Themes in Breadth - The British Empire, c1857-1967

At its territorial peak the British Empire consisted of 120 overseas colonies. From Canada to New Zealand and from the Falkland Islands to Hong Kong the British flag fluttered over so much space that some said 'the sun never set' upon it. Opinions about this empire were both varied at the time and remain split to this day. Whilst the empire brought significant gains to Britain it was not always a welcome presence for those who lived inside the colonies. Equally, not all British people celebrated the empire and not all indigenous people resented it. Welcome, therefore, to a truly fascinating topic to get your teeth into! This course will focus on issues such as why the empire grew and collapsed, what drove imperial policy, how economic factors influenced expansion, how British culture was impacted, how indigenous peoples (such as the Banti and Mau Mau) responded to rule from London and the role of key individuals (such as Gandhi and Rhodes) and groups at that time.

Component 2 Historical Depth Study - America: A Nation Divided, c1845-1877

The great African American campaigner (and once slave) Frederick Douglass wrote, in 1878, that, "The Civil War was not a mere display of brute courage and endurance ... it was fought in dead earnest for something beyond the battlefield."
This component searches for what that 'something' was by exploring three beguiling questions:
1) What caused the Northern and Southern states of the USA to tear apart and suffer four years of bloody civil war?
2) How did President Lincoln win that conflict and vanquish the Confederates?
3) How successfully was America glued back together again in the years after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House?
In attempting to address these questions students will be taken back to an era when slavery was not only a norm across the Southern states but also something that many people were prepared to fight and die to preserve - even if they didn't own slaves themselves!

History continued

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6

It was a time when courageous men and women took flight from their plantations in the dead of night and exploited the underground railroad to escape to the free lands of the north - or got caught in the act. Many of these successful fugitives eventually came to take up arms against their former masters when war came in 1861.
From the notorious Dred Scott decision in the Supreme Court to African Americans being voted into Congress as representatives and from the famed Battle of Gettysburg to the infamous murder of a President this course promises to keep students on the edge of their seats from start to finish.

Component 3 Historical Investigation (Coursework Essay) - **Tudor Rebellions, 1485 - 1569**
Students also have the opportunity to research and write an extended essay on what was truly causing people in the Early Modern era to risk rising up against their Tudor rulers and their ministers.
Students will pursue independent research throughout Year 12 in order to enable them to spend Terms 5 and 6 formulating their argument and selecting primary sources and historians's interpretations to support it.
Time for writing this 4,500 word piece will also occur during this window of time and we tend to find that most students enjoy the challenge and feeling of pride and accomplishment that this opportunity provides. Whilst this is an independent pursuit we would emphasise that a great deal of guidance and support will always be at hand from well experienced teachers.

Enrichment
A variety of experiences including individual research, whole class discussion and online lectures. The history teachers here are always looking out for opportunities to call in experts who are willing to speak to students and respond to questions. Recommendations for relevant documentaries, novels, podcasts and movies will also be provided.

What happens when you finish?
Students interested in reading History, Law, English, Journalism, International Relations, American Studies, Politics, Archaeology or Education will find that A Level History will provide a very convenient pathway. However, there are students at university studying almost every degree that you can think of that studied History at A Level.
Students who specialise in History at university go into all sorts of careers because of the skills that the subject provides. Whilst many people go into journalism, the legal profession, teaching, research, politics and the civil service many others pursue job opportunities in the army, police, social work, accountancy, advertising, PR, publishing, banking and many other fields.
However, whether you decide to go to university or not ... please, be aware that there is a risk that you will have picked up a bug that may last you a lifetime.
Those who fall in love with History rarely want the relationship to ever end. And, thanks to movies, novels, podcasts, academic books and online courses it never has to.

Mathematics

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 7

Skills that will be developed

ICT Skills, (e.g. Excel spreadsheet skills, Geogebra), independent learning skills, problem solving.

What will you learn?

Algebra and functions; Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane; Sequences and series; Differentiation; Integration; Trigonometry; Exponentials and logarithms; Differentiation; Integration; Vectors

A variety of statistical techniques and applications of mathematics to mechanics problems.

Enrichment

Students are offered the opportunity to attend Mathematics lectures and to attend master classes at the University of Kent as well as taking part in local and national competitions such as the Senior Maths Challenge.

What happens when you have finished?

What other learning could you do: You could take this course with other advanced level courses to prepare for Higher Education in areas of Mathematics, related areas such as Engineering, Economics, Physics or more general Higher Education courses. With further training, you could go into a job related to Mathematics such as an Accountant, Economist, Operational Researcher, Engineer, Financial Adviser or Teacher. Other careers such as Computer game design, Biomedical careers and Logistics will also benefit from increased mathematical knowledge and the associated skills of logical problem solving. Students intending to study subjects such as Psychology with a high level of statistical analysis will also find a Maths A-level useful and well received by university admissions tutors. A good result in Mathematics at A level is very highly regarded in academic and professional circles and is often an entry requirement to many university courses.

Future opportunities

Mathematics A-level is recommended for students intending to study Economics, Accountancy and other financial degrees, Engineering, Physics and Computer Science. Students intending to study subjects such as Psychology with a high level of statistical analysis will also find a Maths A-level useful and well regarded by university admissions tutors.

Mathematics Further

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 7 in Mathematics

29

What is Further Mathematics?

Universities say “Students who have taken Further Maths are much better prepared for university study of any degree programme which has a similar mathematical content, including mathematics, engineering and economics.”

Skills that will be developed

- ICT Skills
- Graphing calculator skills
- Excel spreadsheet skills
- Graphing software skills
- Independent learning skills
- Written and Verbal Presentation Skills

What will you learn?

Series; Complex Numbers; Numerical solutions of equations; Coordinate systems; Matrix algebra; Proof.
Additional applications of mathematics to mechanics, statistics.

Enrichment

Students are encouraged to participate in master classes and workshops as well as competitions. We recommend a range of wider reading and discussion of various topics beyond the exam board specification, often tailored to the individual interests of the students in the group.

What happens when you have finished?

Further Maths broadens and deepens the Maths covered in A Level Maths. It develops your mathematical ability and introduces you to new topics such as matrices and complex numbers, which are vital for maths rich degrees in areas such as the sciences, engineering, and statistics as well as computing.

Please note

If a student chooses to study Further Mathematics, then it should be combined with 3 other full A Levels, including Mathematics. This is due to the fact that some universities for particular courses (for example, Medicine at Edinburgh) will not make offers which include both Mathematics and Further Mathematics. We would expect students doing this combination to achieve an average GCSE score of 45 points from their best 6 GCSE’s in order to cope with the demands of the course and breadth of subjects.

Mathematics in Context

Edexcel Level 3 Core Mathematics

Entry Requirements
Grade 4 in Mathematics

30

This course is designed for students who achieve a 9 to 4 in GCSE Mathematics, but who choose not to continue the subject to A level Mathematics (*you cannot choose Mathematics in Context if also choosing Mathematics full A Level). It is an accredited course, equivalent in size to an AS qualification and is part of the UCAS tariff. Many A levels do not require students to study A level Mathematics but nevertheless have some mathematical component to the course. This engaging and relevant qualification will improve your mathematical knowledge and show you how to apply it in real-world contexts.

This course runs for one year with as many scheduled lessons as full A-Level courses. The final exam is in May / June of Year 12 and you will receive your grade before starting Year 13. It can be useful to have this grade secured when making applications for post-18 study, especially if your desired course has some quantitative content.

Skills that will be developed

- preparation for the mathematics requirements of a number of higher education courses
- developing students' understanding and their ability to apply mathematics in a range of contexts
- learners will be equipped to apply for employment or higher apprenticeships in a wide range of industry sectors, professional training or university.
- learners will consolidate mathematical techniques that can be directly applied to real-life contexts.
- learners will develop their understanding of mathematical techniques to support a range of A-level courses, such as Biology, Psychology and Geography.

What will you learn?

- Use a range of mathematical methods and techniques, including using contemporary calculator technology and knowledge and use of a spreadsheet, to find solutions to problems.
- Use a variety of mathematical and statistical approaches to represent and analyse problems.
- Generate and apply mathematical solutions to non-routine questions and problems taking creative approaches where appropriate, and test and evaluate answers and conclusions.
- Topic areas will cover a wide range including Social Media, Society, Sport, Finance, creative arts, Health, Economy, Travel, Environment, Disasters, Engineering.

Example: Society

This topic looks at society and social trends. Social trends explain the behaviour of people. They relate to social and cultural values and practices within a society and are relevant to all members of that society. Students need to be able to use and apply standard statistical techniques to compare and analyse data. They should be able to compare distributions through appropriate graphical representations as well as use, apply and interpret linear regression. Students should be able to understand and interpret risk. They should be able to use calculators and spreadsheets effectively to support their calculations. Examples of trends which are impacting on society at present include: the distribution of entrants to HE by previous educational institution; changes in type of house ownership, various measures of inequality and how they correlate, Data based on the recent history of the proportional take up of consumer durables can form the basis of student investigations.

Music

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6 and singing or playing an instrument at Grade 5

Our A Level curriculum offers a holistic view of music history and theory, exploring iconic artists from Bach to Beyoncé and Mozart to Miles Davis.

The course builds on GCSE foundations and is divided into three core components:

- **Performing Music (35% Coursework): A performance portfolio lasting a minimum of 10 minutes (solo, ensemble, or a mix of both), made up of separately recorded pieces.** Pupils will have plenty of opportunities to perform during the A Level course to support their development, both as a soloist and as a part of an ensemble, and are expected to participate in a school group or choir to further this.
- **Composing Music (25% Coursework): Students will write two compositions totaling at least four and a half minutes - one in response to an exam board brief, and one free composition in a style of their choice.** Pupils will continue to develop compositional skills through a range of compositional tasks and assignments. Each composition is a long term project which involves regular drafts and 1-on-1 feedback. The focus of A Level composition is learning how to develop, extending and manipulate musical ideas, and composing music that is musically convincing.
- **Appraising Music (40% Exam): A listening and written exam testing analytical skills and contextual understanding.** Pupils will build on their knowledge base from GCSE Music, as well as developing analytical skills through both listening and formal analysis. Students will study area of study 1, plus two more topics from areas of study 2-6.
    1. Western Classical Tradition 1650–1910 (compulsory)
        A) Baroque Solo Concerto
        B) Operas of Mozart
        C) Romantic Piano Music
    2. Pop Music
    3. Music for Media
    4. Music for Theatre
    5. Jazz
    6. Contemporary Traditional Music
    7. Art Music since 1910

Life in QE Music

Our vibrant department offers performance opportunities for everyone. Students can perform in casual settings like our popular lunchtime gigs, Summer Fete, and the local Hop Festival, as well as our formal concert series of the annual Carol Service, Chamber Concert, and Summer Concert.

We share our passion for music with the wider community primarily through our outreach work with local primary schools. This includes hosting Key Stage 2 Carol Concerts and our fantastic primary school choir day, QE Vox, as well being contacted to play for local events and functions.

To support our students' individual musical journeys, we have a brilliant team of peripatetic teachers who visit the school throughout the week to deliver private, one-to-one instrumental and vocal lessons.

Physical Education

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or two Grade 6s in Science AND playing an approved sport regularly

Skills that will be developed

Students are required to:

- develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport to improve performance
- understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance
- understand the key socio-cultural factors that influence people's involvement in physical activity and sport
- understand the role of technology in physical activity and sport
- refine their ability to perform effectively in physical activity and sport by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance
- understand the contribution which physical activity makes to health and fitness
- improve as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with curious and enquiring minds.

What will you learn?

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation • Applied anatomy and physiology • Skill acquisition • Sport and society
Exam 2 hours. 35%

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance • Exercise physiology and biomechanics • Sports psychology • Sport and society & technology in sport
Exam 2 hours. 35%

Non-Examined Assessment: Practical performance • Skills performed as a player/performer or coach, as well as a written analysis of performance
Internal assessment, external moderation. 30%

What happens when you have finished?

What other learning could you do: You could take this course with other advanced level courses such as Science to prepare for Higher Education in areas of Sport Studies, Recreation, Exercise and Science or more general Higher Education courses.

Future opportunities

With further training you could go into a job related to Physical Education such as a Physiotherapist, Teacher, Exercise or Fitness Trainer.

The course will also help you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries are looking for, especially in the sporting sectors.

Physics

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 or Grade 76 in Combined Science AND Grade 6 in Mathematics

The Physics course allows for study by concept-led and context-led approaches and we will be using a combination of both approaches in order to give students a good general foundation in the principles that form the basis of our understanding of the universe.

Skills that will be developed

Numeracy, Communication, ICT, Improving own learning and performance, Problem solving, Working with others, Practical skills, Skills related to 'How Science works'

What will you learn?

Unit 1:
Working as a Physicist
Mechanics
Electric Circuits
Further Mechanics
Electric and Magnetic Fields
Nuclear and Particle Physics

Unit 2:
Materials
Waves and Particle Nature of Light
Thermodynamics
Space
Nuclear Radiation
Gravitational Fields
Oscillations

There will be examinations on each of these units, as well as an overarching examination that brings all the topics covered together. Students will also be assessed separately for a 'Science Practical Endorsement'. The Endorsement will not contribute to the overall grade for this qualification, but the result will be recorded on the student's certificate.

Enrichment opportunities

As an A-level physicist you will be entered for the British physics Olympiad AS challenge in year 12 and the main competition in year 13. A chance to show off your problem solving skills and essential training ground for physical sciences at top universities. You would also be expected to work beyond the syllabus, in a research group as part of the Queen Elizabeth's Science and Technology Society, QuEST, or being involved with mentoring younger students during support or enrichment sessions. We have numerous trips and visiting speakers, including to CERN, and partnership projects with universities and industry.

What happens when you have finished? Opting to study Physics at A level will enable you to study a wide variety of subjects in Higher Education - indeed graduates of physics and materials science are amongst the highest paid graduates (if that's what is important to you) given how many go into energy, engineering, consulting and financial services. Physics is hugely beneficial for a whole range of careers, from the arts to law, film, media and literature as well as music - and of course, science-based industries. The course will also help you develop the critical thinking skills, mathematical fluency, conceptual understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries and sectors are looking for.

Product Design

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6 in a creative subject

34

Skills that will be developed

Design Technology is a practical and valuable subject. It enables young people to actively contribute to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of themselves, their community and their nation. It teaches how to take risks and so become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable. Students develop a critical understanding of the impact of design and technology on daily life and the wider world. Additionally, it provides excellent opportunities for students to develop and apply value judgements of an aesthetic, economic, moral, social, and technical nature both in their own designing and when evaluating the work of others.

What will you learn?

During year 12 students will develop a range of skills in design and manufacturing alongside all relevant theory needed for the exam. Year 13 will consist of one independent design and make task (Component 2), where students will work with industry experts, and one exam which covers the principles of Design Technology.

Component 1 – Exam 2 ½ hour exam -120 marks (50% of qualification)

Topics

- Performance characteristics of materials
- Factors influencing the development of products
- Potential hazards and risk assessing
- Features of manufacturing industries
- Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment
- Information handling, modelling and forward planning
- Further processes and techniques
- Materials
- Digital technologies
- Current legislations
- Processes and techniques

Component 2 - Coursework (50% of qualification)

Independent design and make task

Enrichment

Trips (where possible) to the Design Museum, New Designers Exhibition, lectures, local industry as well as an annual residential trip to Amsterdam in year 12. Students are encouraged to study the subject outside the classroom environment following the world of design through social media, design publications and news. The department encourages students to enter competitions at local, regional, national and international level with great success, boosting the students' personal statements and real world experience.

What happens when you have finished?

A high percentage of our Product Design students continue into a career in design and engineering. There are over 600 degree and other FE courses available. Careers include: product design, industrial design, architecture, graphic design, media design, multimedia design, CAD/CAM engineers, transport design, animation, and many others – it's an exciting, fast moving and growing industry.

Psychology

Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6 in Biology and Mathematics AND average Grade 6 from English Lang & Lit

Skills that will be developed

Psychology will enable you to develop the ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate research methodology, statistics and theories at a sophisticated, academic level.
Psychology will enable you to construct and evaluate informed verbal and written arguments in a critical, reflective manner. Psychology will enable you to develop highly effective and impressive essay skills for examination assessment. Psychology will enable you to develop sophisticated critical thinking skills with clear lines of cogent argument, and these skills are transferable to other disciplines.

What will you learn?

Compulsory content

1. Social Psychology - Obedience and Prejudice
2. Cognitive Psychology - Memory
3. Biological Psychology - Aggression
4. Learning Theories - Phobias
5. Clinical Psychology - Classification Systems, Schizophrenia and Unipolar Depression
6. Research Methods, Issues and Debates

Option - as a year group, we will select 1 from:

- Criminal Psychology
- Child Psychology
- Health Psychology

Enrichment

There will be opportunities to use your psychological insights in for instance, the Debating Society, and General Studies and Critical Thinking as Year 13 options. These will enable you to confidently and competently further develop and use your informed skills of argumentation and reasoning.

What happens when you have finished?

Psychology is one of the most popular degree courses in this country and world-wide and almost every university offers a plethora of psychology degrees from which to choose. It can be studied on its own, combined or joint with other degree courses; or it can be studied as a specialism such as Social Psychology or Neuro-Psychology. It is a sound preparation for many university degree courses which require an ability to think and write coherent, informed arguments for essays, practical write-ups and dissertations. It can be combined with other social sciences (Sociology, Economics and/or Anthropology) or with the Humanities (Geography, History, Philosophy and/or Religion) or Natural Sciences (Chemistry, Physics and/or Biology). Psychology is also integrated within many other degrees such as medicine, law, politics, journalism, PPP and languages. Professional postgraduate degrees can be studied specialising for a career in such as: Occupational, Educational, Forensic, Clinical, Counselling, Sports and Child Psychology.

Sociology

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements
Grade 6 in a humanities subject AND average Grade 6 from English Lang & Lit

36

Skills that will be developed

Sociology' is the 'science of society'. Sociology attempts to bring a systematic understanding to our knowledge of what goes on around us - locally, nationally and even internationally. Using a variety of models and theories and applying recognised research methods the Sociologist sets off to try and understand our human condition a little better. We spend most of our time studying what sociologists have found out and how their conclusions are debated, argued and disagreed with by other people who may have other ideas and see things quite differently.

What will you learn?

Paper 1- The Sociology of Education with Theory & Methods
Paper 2- Topics in Sociology- Families and Households Global Development
Paper 3- Crime & Deviance with Theory & Methods

Enrichment

There will be opportunities for you to use your sociological insights, for instance, in the Debating Society. These will enable you to confidently further develop and use your informed skills of argumentation and reasoning. You will be given the opportunity to plan and deliver sociological presentations to the younger pupils in the school. You will be expected to take part in the annual BSA (British Sociological Association) essay competition.

What happens when you have finished?

Sociology is a popular degree course on its own or combined or joint with other degree courses.
"A" level Sociology is a sound preparation for many other university degree courses which require an ability to think and write coherent, informed arguments for essays and dissertations. It can be combined with other social sciences (Psychology, Economics and/or Anthropology) or with the humanities (History, Geography, Philosophy and/or Religion) which provide you with a plethora of occupations linked to working with people, leadership and management. Employers look for social and interpersonal skills of communication, knowledge, articulation and empathy, especially in the health, welfare and social care sectors, as well as in human resources. Careers in business and management, social work, social services, human resource management, counselling, journalism, politics, PR work, probation service, community work, criminal justice system, local government, civil service, teaching, research are all possibilities if you achieve a qualification in this subject.

Spanish

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements Grade 6

Skills that will be developed

You will build on the core language skills of reading, speaking, listening and writing acquired at GCSE. By the end of the A Level course you will also have developed a wide range of valuable transferable skills, such as summarising, presenting and analysing information. Together with an enriched understanding of life in Spanish speaking countries, these skills will equip you to study Spanish at degree level in the UK or abroad and increase your employment potential.

What will you learn?

Aspects of Hispanic Society (modern and traditional values; cyberspace; equal rights)
Artistic culture in the Hispanic world (modern day idols; Spanish regional identity; cultural and artistic heritage)
Multiculturalism in Hispanic society (immigration; racism; integration)
Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world (today's youth, tomorrow's citizens; monarchies, republics and dictatorships; popular movements)

Either two books or one book and a film from the set texts below;

Set books

García Márquez Crónica de una muerte anunciada
Esquivel Como agua para chocolate
Lorca La Casa de Bernarda Alba
Zafón La sombra del viento
Allende La casa de los espíritus
*Sender Réquiem por un campesino español
Bécquer Rimas y Leyendas
Fernán-Gómez Las bicicletas son para el verano
Rivas El lápiz del carpintero
García Márquez El coronel no tiene a quien le escribe

Set films

Volver
*El laberinto del fauno
Ocho apellidos vascos
María, llena eres de gracia
El bola
Las 13 rosas

Exam

This qualification is linear and all exams are taken at the end of the course. No access to dictionaries.

Paper 1:

Listening, Reading and Writing: 2 hours 30 minutes. 100 marks. 50% of A-level

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society

All questions are in Spanish, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in Spanish (30 marks listening. 70 marks reading)

Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).
Translation into Spanish; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

Spanish continued

AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE

Entry Requirements Grade 6

Paper 2:
Writing exam: 2 hours. 80 marks. 20% of A-level
2 x 300 word essays based on one text and one film from the set list.

Paper 3:
Speaking. Oral exam: 16-18 minutes. 60 marks. 30% of A-level

- Individual research project: Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks)
- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).

Enrichment
An opportunity to be a Senior Student with leadership responsibilities. Cultural excursions as available (eg. museums, galleries, cinema, flamenco shows etc..)

What happens when you have finished?
This course will enable you to continue Spanish into Higher Education and having a language A Level is regarded by universities as a useful qualification, whether you continue with the language or not, due to the skills you will acquire.
With additional training you could have a job related to Spanish or Languages such as a teacher or a translator, or you could even study or work in Spain or a Spanish speaking country.
Over the duration of the course you will develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of different industries are looking for, especially in the travel and tourism sector and in Multinational Companies.
Students go on to a wide range of degree courses ranging from Spanish, European Studies, new languages such as Italian, Russian or Chinese, to courses including a language element such as Law with Spanish, or Physics with a study year in Spain or a Spanish speaking country.

Future opportunities
Opportunities are varied, ranging from teaching, translating, European affairs, international law to work in journalism, TV or radio. You could work in the foreign office or international companies. A language at A Level or above is considered a real asset by employers as globalisation increases.

Trinity Acting Exams

Drama Grade in Acting

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in Drama or multiple experiences of performing

39

Skills that will be developed

Drama conservatoire Trinity have recently released their Acting exams into a digital format. These are similar to instrumental music exams, with Grades 1 - 8 for solo, paired or group exams lasting between 23 - 25 minutes in length. These exams are purely focused on students' acting ability and understanding of dramatic intentions in performance which follows on from their Scripted component at GCSE.

The skills gained are highly transferable such as:

- Public Speaking
- Reflection and critical thinking skills
- Confidence
- Verbal and non-verbal communication

Furthermore, by working towards these exams, a range of other skills not assessed directly are developed that are highly valued: self-motivation, ability to learn and adjust, working to deadlines, organisational skills and flexibility.

What will you learn?

- The lessons to prepare for this exam will include:
- Developing and sustaining a character in performance
- Physical skills and utilising performance space
- Elocution and RP vocal techniques
- Wide range of contrasting styles and genre of plays [including Shakespeare]
- Character development and interpretation

Enrichment

Students will be expected to partake in the Kent Festival of Speech and Drama which is held in Canterbury around May each year. This is excellent preparation for the exams and allows them to gain insight [and win potential prizes] from an independent adjudicator and peers from outside the QE community.

Exam

For Grade 8, students are required to perform 3 contrasting extracts from scripts off by heart [max 15 minutes], re-perform one extract with a modification and then respond to questions about their programme. The exams are recorded without a public audience internally, then uploaded and examined externally. Students are also expected to use minimal costume, props and set with no lights or sound as the focus should be solely on the actors ability.

Future Opportunities

The skills learned during the exams will be useful for a variety of fields that require public speaking e.g. Law, Teaching, Acting or Coaching. UCAS Points are also available, ranging from 30 for a Grade 8 Distinction to 8 for a Grade 6 Pass.

Work Experience

Young people are able to undertake work experience as part of their work related learning entitlement throughout Key Stage 5. Work experience also makes an important contribution to a range of qualifications, particularly those associated with medicine. There are two days of compulsory work experience in February of year 12. However students may also undertake work experience as a formalised part of their timetable.

The Benefits of Work Experience

- Work experience is primarily about developing skills, particularly employability skills.
  https://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/sk/top-ten-skills.htm
- Employers regularly comment that the more experience of the workplace students can undertake, the greater chance they have of achieving employment in their desired career.
- Gaining some work experience can help students make informed choices about their future career path.
- It's important to know and understand what the working environment is going to be like.
- Gaining work experience is a great opportunity to make contacts whether for future jobs or for future clients.
- Employers often comment that having an understanding and experience of business acumen and commercial awareness will put students head and shoulders above the competition. Work experience is one of the main ways this can be gained.

Students will be expected to work closely with the Sixth Form Team to source and organise good quality, relevant work experience which they can do around timetabled lessons.

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School 2024-2026

YEAR 13 GCE RESULTS: THREE-YEAR FIGURES: A LEVELS

		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total		A*/B %	U %
Art & Design	2024	4	2	6	4	1	0	0	17		71	0
	2025	1	5	3	3	2	0	0	14		64	0
	2026	9	1	6	2	0	0	0	18		89	0
Biology	2024	4	5	6	6	2	7	1	31		48	3
	2025	4	8	9	*5*	4	0	1	31		68	3
	2026	2	8	3	4	3	2	0	22		59	0
Chemistry	2024	1	4	6	5	2	1	0	19		58	0
	2025	1	6	4	*2*	2	0	0	15		73	0
	2026	2	5	4	3	4	1	0	19		58	0
Computer Science	2024	1	3	6	1	1	2	0	14		71	0
	2025	2	4	1	*1*	5	0	0	13		54	0
	2026	2	5	0	5	1	0	0	13		54	0
D & T Product Design	2024	1	2	2	7	0	0	0	12		42	0
	2025	0	3	4	*5*	0	1	0	13		54	0
	2026	3	2	4	4	1	1	0	15		60	0

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School 2024-2026
YEAR 13 GCE RESULTS: THREE-YEAR FIGURES: A LEVELS

		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total		A*/B %	U %
Economics	2024	2	10	13	2	1	1	0	29		86	0
	2025	3	5	5	*1*	1	0	1	16		81	6
	2026	2	7	8	3	0	0	0	20		85	0
English Language	2024	1	0	1	7	3	0	0	12		17	0
	2025	1	1	7	3	3	2	0	17		53	0
	2026	3	4	8	4	1	1	0	21		71	0
English Literature	2024	2	3	7	9	1	0	1	23		52	4
	2025	1	6	8	7	0	1	0	23		65	0
	2026	2	4	11	4	4	0	0	25		68	0
Environmental Science	2025	1	0	6	*4*	2	0	0	13		54	0
	2026	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	6		17	0
French	2024	1	2	5	0	0	1	0	9		89	0
	2025	1	2	5	0	0	1	0	9		89	0
	2026	1	5	5	3	1	0	0	15		73	0
Geography	2024	3	2	7	7	2	0	0	21		57	0
	2025	1	3	5	*5*	5	1	0	20		45	0
	2026	2	5	7	*8*	1	1	0	24		58	0
German	2024	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	8		88	0
	2025	0	2	1	*1*	1	0	0	5		60	0

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School 2024-2026
YEAR 13 GCE RESULTS: THREE-YEAR FIGURES: A LEVELS

		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total		A*/B %	U %
Government & Politics	2024	1	7	5	4	6	1	0	24		54	0
	2025	0	7	5	*3*	2	0	0	17		71	0
	2026	7	7	5	2	0	0	0	21		90	0
History	2024	1	3	9	6	1	3	0	23		57	0
	2025	0	4	4	*8*	4	1	0	21		38	0
	2026	5	7	11	3	2	0	0	28		82	0
Mathematics	2024	8	9	10	5	7	2	0	41		66	0
	2025	7	9	9	*6*	3	1	0	35		71	0
	2026	9	8	9	6	5	1	1	39		67	3
Mathematics Further	2024	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	10		80	0
	2025	1	4	0	*0*	0	1	0	6		83	0
	2026	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	8		100	0
Film Studies	2024	0	2	5	2	0	0	0	9		78	0
	2025	0	5	11	*3*	0	0	0	19		84	0
	2026	2	10	9	3	0	0	0	24		88	0
Physics	2024	2	5	7	2	3	1	1	21		67	5
	2025	0	4	5	*9*	4	5	1	28		32	4
	2026	3	5	7	1	6	2	1	25		60	4

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School 2024-2026
YEAR 13 GCE RESULTS: THREE-YEAR FIGURES: A LEVELS

		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total		A*/B %	U %
Psychology	2024	3	5	4	9	1	0	0	22		55	0
	2025	4	8	3	*5*	2	0	0	22		68	0
	2026	4	5	8	3	0	0	0	20		85	0
Sociology	2024	1	4	10	6	3	1	0	25		60	0
	2025	2	7	9	*3*	4	4	0	29		62	0
	2026	3	9	1	0	0	0	0	13		100	0
Spanish	2025	0	2	0	*2*	0	0	0	4		50	0
	2026	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	8		50	0
Sport/PE Studies	2024	0	3	5	8	2	0	0	18		44	0
	2025	1	2	2	*5*	3	2	0	15		33	0
	2026	1	2	4	5	5	0	1	18		39	6