



Sixth Form Prospectus 2021-2022



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Welcome

Dear Visitor

A warm welcome to Holmer Green Senior School Sixth Form. If you apply and are successful, you will become part of our very strong A Level and BTEC provision that is unique in the area. Our uniqueness stems from the personalised tuition and support put in place for all our students and the expert teaching in place across all subject areas. This expert teaching means that HGSS6 students achieve, on average, a third of a grade more in each subject they take than they would elsewhere. As a result, HGSS6 is in the top 5% of Sixth Forms nationally.

We have strong processes in place so that each student receives detailed guidance on their next steps. Our UCAS support is exemplary and students are encouraged to aim high. HGSS6 students successfully secured university places at: Cambridge, Manchester, Exeter, St Andrews, Loughborough and Warwick to name a few. Just under 30% of our Sixth Form students went to Russell group Universities.

We recognise the ever-increasing competitiveness of the world of work and university applications. As a result, we aim to develop confidence, shape character, promote the citizenship aspect and support all our students with the strongest pastoral care possible. Our strengths are many, but in particular, I draw your attention to:

- Wednesday afternoon enrichment sessions, including: revision workshops, various sports, life-skills, culture and language skills.
- Students experiencing World Challenge, Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze to Gold), Sports Leader and Young Enterprise events.
- Expert teaching by subject specialists in all subject areas.
- Strong pastoral and career support from our Head of Sixth Form, Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Sixth Form Supervisor.
- Strong Mathematics provision, 78% A*-B (8% above the national average).
- Strong Arts provision, 100% A*-B (26% above the national average).
- Strong Psychology provision, 91% A*-B (26% above the national average).
- Strong Religious Studies provision, 100% A*-B (35% above the national average).
- Dedicated Sixth Form areas for independent study.
- Access to a partnership arrangement to further widen the range of subjects on offer.

I strongly recommend all applicants to visit our Open Event on <https://www.hgss.co.uk/> in order to get a tangible feel for our Sixth Form and our 'Work Hard, Be Kind' attitude. I wish you the best of luck in an important year and hope to meet as many of you as possible in the Sixth Form.

Ed Hillyard

Headteacher



Welcome

Holmer Green Sixth Form is a community which works together to achieve excellence for every single individual, through an environment of care, support and high aspirations. No matter where you are joining us from, you will become part of an inspiring Sixth Form; which will feel like an exciting place to learn, and where you will receive the best educational care. We challenge every student to work hard, and reach their true potential so that they can access the future that they aspire to have. We are incredibly proud of what our students achieve; and the fine young adults that they become.

Our results are excellent; over the last 4 years, our students have made progress at least in line with the top 20% of Sixth Forms nationally. We achieve these results through assessing our students regularly, and acknowledging swiftly where interventions and support are needed. Our expectations are high, and we encourage our students to aspire for their best. Students receive teaching of the highest quality; our groups are smaller than perhaps you would get in larger Sixth Forms, and we are able to provide more individual support in and out of the classroom. Many subjects offer Coursework and Theory clinics held at lunchtime and after school to provide every student with the opportunity to reaffirm their understanding. Our Sixth Form is about more than academic success. We believe the Sixth Form is a stepping stone to higher education, apprenticeships or employment and encourage students to develop the skills needed to succeed independently.

Universities and Businesses alike are looking for more than just grades and points (although they are very important!). In this highly competitive world, they are looking for people who are going to be a credit to their institution. Universities are looking for people who will get involved with University life beyond the Lecture theatre. They want people who show a real love of the subject, and who expand their experiences and knowledge of the subject beyond the classroom. At Holmer Green we offer a wide and ever-expanding range of enrichment activities to challenge and broaden our students' horizons, build their CVs and offer them life-long memories.

We do appreciate that Sixth Form working life is a big step up from GCSEs, and for some, this transition needs some support. In order to do this we have a team dedicated to overseeing students' welfare and academic progress. As well as myself we have our Second in Charge of Sixth Form and our UCAS Co-ordinator Ms. Harrison who, amongst other things oversees the UCAS Application process. We also have Mrs Martin, our Key Stage 5 Support Officer who helps students to overcome barriers to learning and is always there to listen. We have a team of Academic tutors who are there for their students if they have any issues or concerns, and who provide excellent pastoral support. If students are new to Holmer Green, we have a full Induction process, and Buddy System, as well as a programme of activities which will help you to make new friends and settle in quickly.

We pride ourselves on our range of courses; currently we offer 20 A Level courses and 9 Level 3 BTEC courses; AS Core Maths and the Extended Project Qualification. We have expanded our provision through collaborating with a neighbouring secondary school; a Partnership that benefits both cohorts. We think our Sixth Form is an excellent choice for all prospective Sixth Form students in the area.

So, finally, what do you need to do next? Well, most importantly, you need to work hard to put yourself in the best position to take these opportunities. I hope you find this Prospectus informative and that it helps you to make the best decisions for you. If, after reading it, you still have any individual questions please feel free to contact me on goldingr@holmer.org.uk Applications for Holmer Green Sixth Form close on Friday 29 January 2021.

I look forward to working with you in the future, and wish you every success in 2021.

Rachel Golding

Assistant Head Teacher: Sixth Form



A photograph of a modern building with a wooden facade. The building has multiple windows and a flat roof. The sky is clear and blue. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

A bridge to the future

At HGSS we encourage our students to think carefully about their future whether they choose university or want to move into the world of work.

In 2020, 100% of students who applied to university were successful in achieving their chosen places. Though the majority of our students made the choice to enter Higher Education, some students decided to follow alternative career paths. Some chose Apprenticeships, Internships, Management Schemes and Employment.

Student Management Team

As Head Students, we would like to take the time to welcome you to Holmer Green Sixth Form.

Holmer Green is a thriving community of teachers and students, where relationships have been built up for several years, and staff support us to achieve our best. Students who attend our Sixth form are guaranteed education that is second to none, relationships formed with teachers allow students to connect with their subject and accelerate their grades. Our students are hardworking and dedicated, but this Sixth Form is not just great for our academic achievements. Throughout Sixth Form we are lucky to be provided with many opportunities and experiences that help us develop as young adults.

The community at Holmer Green is one of caring, accepting and friendly students and teachers. External students are immediately accepted into the fold, and made to feel at home. The relationships built up between Years 12 and 13 allow for diverse and unique friendships that blossom over time during Sixth Form, and can also benefit your studies. Year 13s have the opportunity to help the younger years by becoming subject mentors, just one of the ways that students are supported throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

In addition to the welcoming community within Holmer Green Sixth Form, there are also a number of extra-curricular activities that are provided for students. These include:

- The Brilliant Scholars Club
- Sports Leaders
- First Aid training (level 3 qualification)
- Work experience and many others

These activities allow students to pursue their passions for certain hobbies and further develop their CVs and personal statements. These opportunities allow for students to investigate options for future careers and help them make informed choices.

Weekly enrichment activities for students allow them to develop a diverse skill set as well as build upon well-established relationships. Activities such as healthy cooking, yoga and MMA, allow students to develop essential skills that will prepare them for university life and the future.

In our capacity of The Sixth Form Student Management team, we have already improved Sixth Form facilities and organised some enrichment activities, such as running study skills sessions as part of Year 12's induction in order to help them better prepare for revision and private study lessons.

We hope to see you next year in our sixth form and we wish you luck for the future!

Head Students: Ollie Graham, Freya Harries, Gracie Brodie, Emily Hespe, Nathan Thomas

Cleric to the Management Team: Henry Davidson



We are committed to providing a first class Sixth Form experience at HGSS which will provide every student with the best opportunity for progressing to university or the next step towards a successful career.

Personal Development Programme

Our aim is to provide our students with a wider knowledge of the world and to prepare them for life beyond Holmer Green Senior School. The tutorial and assembly programme includes:

- Talks from different universities: Oxford University, Manchester University, Bucks New University and Buckingham University
- University loans / financial advice / student budgeting: Student Finance / Wize up Consultants
- Personal Statement Workshops given by university staff
- Presentations given by Careers Advisors and follow-up interviews
- Apprenticeship Advice: Education and Employers Taskforce / ASK / Amazing Apprenticeships
- Visits to University Open Days and trips to the UCAS Exhibition, Excel Centre, London
- Self- Awareness Seminars and interview practice (NCS)
- Road safety; 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' performance
- Motivational speakers: Marco Bertozzi, Spotify; David Dein, Arsenal Football Club; Stuart Fletcher, CEO, BUPA; Rishi Saha, Amazon; Moira Sinclair, Arts Council, Lord Hogan How
- Visits from businesses, charities and volunteer groups
- Study Skills seminars given by Elevate consultants/ recent graduates
- How to survive the first few weeks of university: Alumni students
- Anything else that students request that we can deliver!

Enrichment Programme

Our Enrichment Programme offers an extensive range of activities, some of which enable students to gain useful qualifications or improve learning, others allow expression of creative talent.

Students can take part in activities that complement their academic course options or try something different and develop new skills or improve existing ones.

Enrichment activities are useful for supporting career choices by gaining relevant experience in a particular area but also are a means of realising your potential. Students are encouraged to participate both in group situations and as individuals.

We are very proud of the input our Sixth Formers make to the school and wider community. Many students give of their time generously to numerous initiatives but at the very least, we expect every student to undertake at least one activity in each year of study.

- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- World Challenge
- Sports Leadership Award Scheme
- Mind Mentoring Scheme
- Pride Youth Network
- Model UN
- Sixth Form Student Working Party
- Student Management team



Wednesday Afternoon Enrichment

Our Wednesday enrichment sessions provide opportunities for students to develop their personal, social and independent learning skills and help prepare them for employment or progress to higher levels of study.

Students have access to a wide and rich set of experiences including sporting, cultural, well-being related, creative and entrepreneurial life-skills. Above all, these afternoons will hopefully involve a bit of fun!

In the first half term:

Year 12 undertake a compulsory programme aimed at preparing them for Sixth Form life and success, the “Sixth Form toolkit”. Sessions include work on Study Skills: Study-Sensei, Time Management, Memory Mnemonics and How to Ace Your Exams, the Sixth Form Mindset, as well as sessions on resilience and well-being.

Year 13 undertake a compulsory programme of seminars aimed at helping them to prepare for the real world, called the “Real World toolkit”. Sessions include outside speakers and business people coming in to talk about applying for employment and higher education, “First Impressions”, interview skills, skills that employers look for, Psychometric testing, assessment centres, etc.

From the beginning of Autumn Term 2 students are given the opportunity to choose from a range of half-termly activities, including:

- Self-defence classes, MMA Sports, football, badminton, table-tennis, rounders, tennis
- Fitness activities, Multi-Gym and circuits, Couch to 5K
- Wellbeing activities: Yoga and Pilates
- Dance: various disciplines
- Cooking: preparing students to cook healthy meals on a budget
- Enterprise Challenge: The Peter Jones Foundation, Tycoon Schools
- Environmental projects
- Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work
- MOOCs
- The Sixth Form Band

Academic Enrichment

We offer our students numerous experiences to open their minds to what they could achieve through Oxbridge preparation courses, the Reading University Scholars programme and the Sutton Trust Summer Schools; they attend University experiences held at Russell group Universities such as the University of Durham, Warwick, and Somerville College Oxford.

Our students take part in the Brilliant Club Scholars programme, an award-winning university access programme which supports higher ability students, particularly those with no family history of university. Through this, students work with a prestigious university, accessing one-to-one PhD tutor sessions on a super-curricular project. There is also the opportunity to participate in Model UN, debating and essay competitions.

In order to encourage those who might see higher education as being out of their reach because of funding, we have access to bursaries and grants which can support activities like trips to the UCAS Exhibition to speak to universities and apprenticeship providers first hand, travel to Open Days, and subject specific materials and equipment.



Work Experience

It is the aim of our Sixth Form to equip students with the skills to succeed in the workplace. In Year 12, students are expected to gain key employability skills while contributing to the school community. They are expected to support a teacher in a lesson each week. The subject should reflect their career goal. It is hoped that through this experience students will demonstrate leadership, negotiation skills, initiative, problem solving, resilience and many other attributes which will make them a strong candidate, desirable to any employer. In return, the student will receive a reference which will be used to contribute to UCAS or employment references.

Year 12

Here at Holmer Green Sixth Form we firmly believe in ensuring that every student leaves us in the best possible position to achieve that place at university, that higher level apprenticeship or that dream career. Obviously, a large part of this process is making sure students get the best possible grades in their chosen subjects, but this is not the whole picture.

These days, universities and employers alike are looking for far more than fabulous academic results, they are looking for a fully rounded, mature, independent, forward thinking young person who has taken the time to research and gain real experience in their chosen field and has seen first-hand what it is actually like to work in that field.

With this in mind, all Year 12 students are asked to find a week long work placement for the end of the summer term. This work placement needs to be career focussed and be able to evidence genuine interest in the student's chosen field. Previously we have had students secure placements in the Health Service, teaching, accountants, solicitors, architects, design studios, business management, with some leading to Apprenticeships or full-time employment once the student had left the Sixth Form.

The value of the employability skills adopted through this work experience cannot be underestimated.

Previously, we have had students in the House of Lords, the British Nutrition Foundation, law courts, finance, education to name just a few. All of these opportunities we believe are a vital part in making our students confident, articulate, mature citizens, highly desirable to universities and employers alike.

For those students who may be unsure as to the exact career they would like to pursue, we offer consultations with our Careers Advisor during the school day, to go through all the options available, sometimes bringing to light avenues not previously even thought of by our students.



Progression

At HGSS we encourage our students to think carefully about their future whether they choose university or want to move into the world of work.

University and Careers

HGSS is committed to providing the support and guidance necessary to ensure that every student is well informed and ambitious in their choice of course and university and we provide an extensive range of support days and foster strong links with universities to ensure the application process and transition runs as smoothly as possible.

As a relatively small Sixth Form we are extremely proud of the excellent personal support provided by our Sixth Form Leadership Team. They give patient and dedicated support throughout the application process not least with the completion of personal statements and guidance that enables our students to shine in interviews at prospective universities.



In 2020, 100% of students who applied to university were successful in achieving their chosen places. Though the majority of our students made the choice to enter higher education, some students decided to follow alternative career paths. Some chose Apprenticeships, Internships, Management Schemes and Employment.

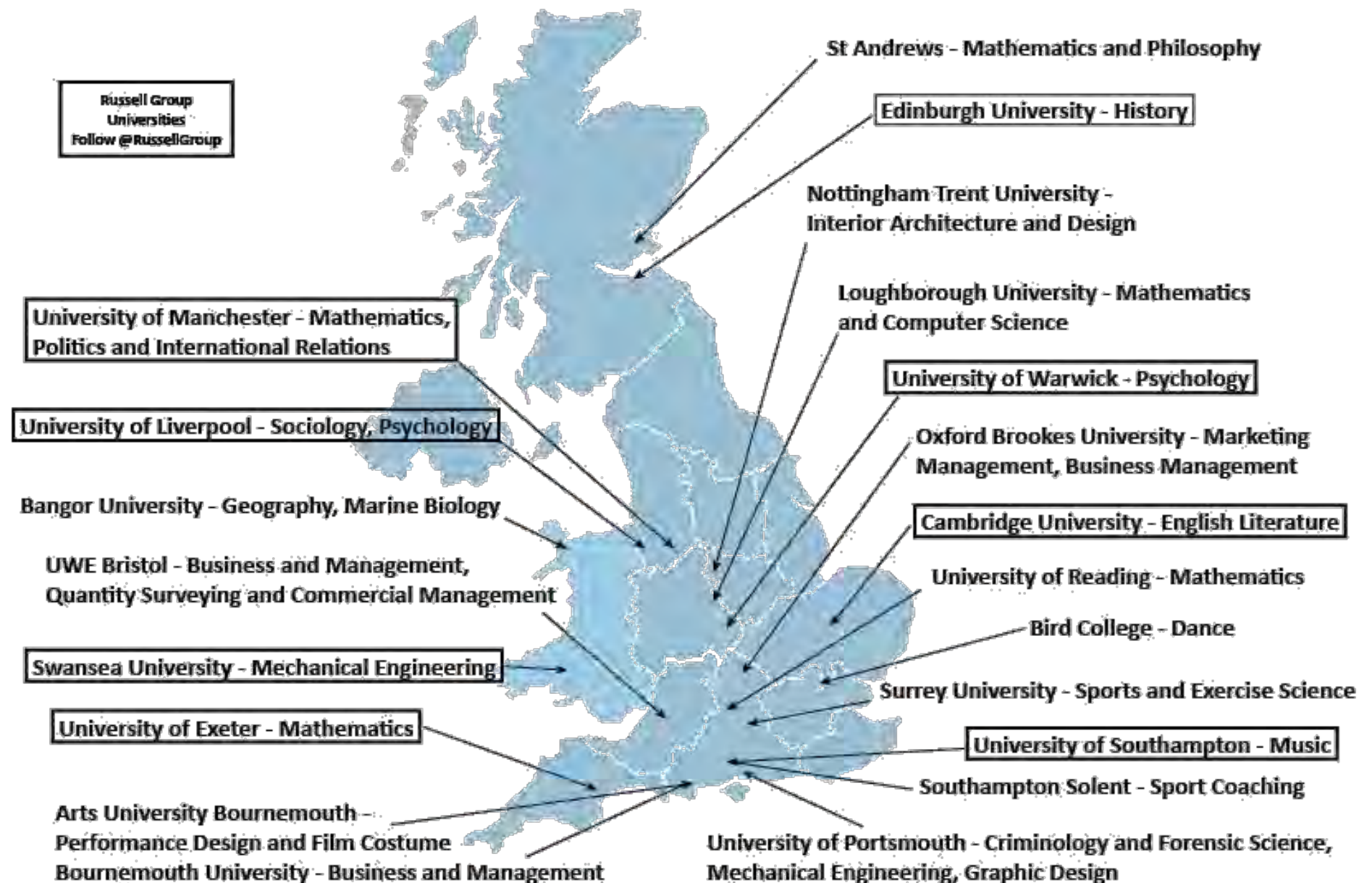


Apprenticeships

Support is also given to students who choose to pursue the Apprenticeship Route to their career. Throughout the year we host visiting speakers from various organisations to broaden their awareness of the wide range of opportunities in this area and to support them through the application process. We also have local business people conduct Interviews, to give every single student experience of an interview situation and feedback as to how to improve.



Universities attended by our class of 2020



What are STEAM Scholarships?

The HGSS STEAM Scholarships are a new and unique opportunity for students who are aiming high for a professional career. **STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths, and our Science, Technology, Art and Maths Departments are thriving at HGSS.**

Students who wish to attend HGSS Sixth Form, should apply separately, and be studying the appropriate courses for a career in the following:

- Medicine (Biology, Chemistry and Maths or Physics)
- Computer Science (Computing, Maths, Physics)
- Engineering (Maths, Chemistry, Physics)
- Architecture (Maths, Art, Physics)
- Investment Banking (Maths, Further Maths, Business or Economics)

What will the Scholarships offer me?

A Scholarship in these areas will offer you:

- Funding to cover your textbooks in all qualifying courses
- A career related mentor and
- A place on a career related internship programme or relevant work experience

The Young Professionals Internship Programmes give students an immersive experience of Medicine, Computer Science, Engineering, Architecture and Investment banking through a series of role-plays, seminars, simulations and Q&A sessions led by a group of professionals over 2 days. Attendance will give you an edge over other aspiring candidates in the race for the best jobs and a 'super-curricular' experience to add to your UCAS applications.

Students wishing to apply should:

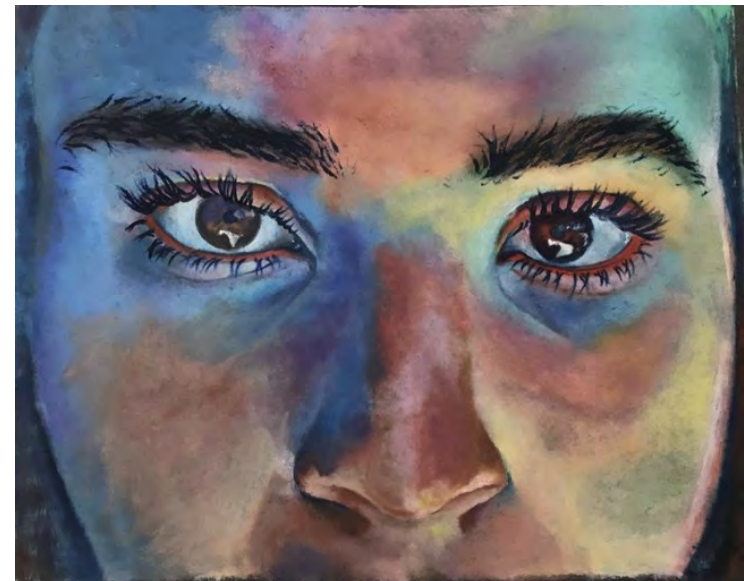
- Apply to HGSS Sixth Form using the usual procedure (please see the school website for the application form)

In addition students should:

- Be predicted to achieve the entry requirements for 3 appropriate courses for their chosen career.
- Write a letter of application expressing why they wish to pursue their chosen career and why they should be considered for the Scholarship in question.
- Attend an additional Interview with our Scholarship panel.

Scholarship applications should be addressed to Mrs Golding and sent to goldingr@holmer.org.uk, or to Holmer Green Senior School.

Applications close on Friday 14th February 2021



Where can HGSS take you?

HGSS is committed to providing the support and guidance necessary to ensure that every student is well informed and ambitious in their choice of course and university and we provide an extensive range of support days and foster strong links with universities to ensure the application process and transition runs as smoothly as possible.

As a relatively small Sixth Form we are extremely proud of the excellent personal support provided by our Sixth Form Leadership Team. They give patient and dedicated support throughout the application process not least with the completion of personal statements and guidance that enables our students to shine in interviews at prospective universities.

“There is a high level of teaching and staff help which eases the transition from GCSEs to A-Levels by making sure you always feel supported.”

Nathan Thomas Year 13



How to Apply Your Step-by-Step Guide

STEP 1

Course Choice

Look at the HGSS Sixth Form prospectus and read up on the subjects you are interested in.

Check your predicted grades against each subject and select a suitable pathway.

STEP 5

Conditional Offers

Conditional Offers will be sent out before Easter 2021

STEP 2

Open Evening

December 2020

This year, Open Evening will look a little different. Please visit our website at www.hgss.co.uk for further information

STEP 6

Induction Days

Induction days—These days are an important opportunity for you to experience Sixth Form life, try out your subject lessons and look into other courses, as well as socialise with your fellow students.

STEP 3

Apply

Please complete an application form which can be found at: www.hgss.co.uk/application-form

Deadline for applications is Friday 29 January

STEP 7

GCSE Results & Enrolment

27 August 2021

Internal students will need to attend the school on results day to officially enrol into our Sixth Form, external applicants will attend on Monday, 30 August.

STEP 4

Guidance Discussions

January 2021. You will receive an invitation to meet with a member of the Sixth Form team to discuss your application. Newcomers to HGSS will need to provide up-to-date predicted grades

See you in September!

Year 12 - Entry Requirements

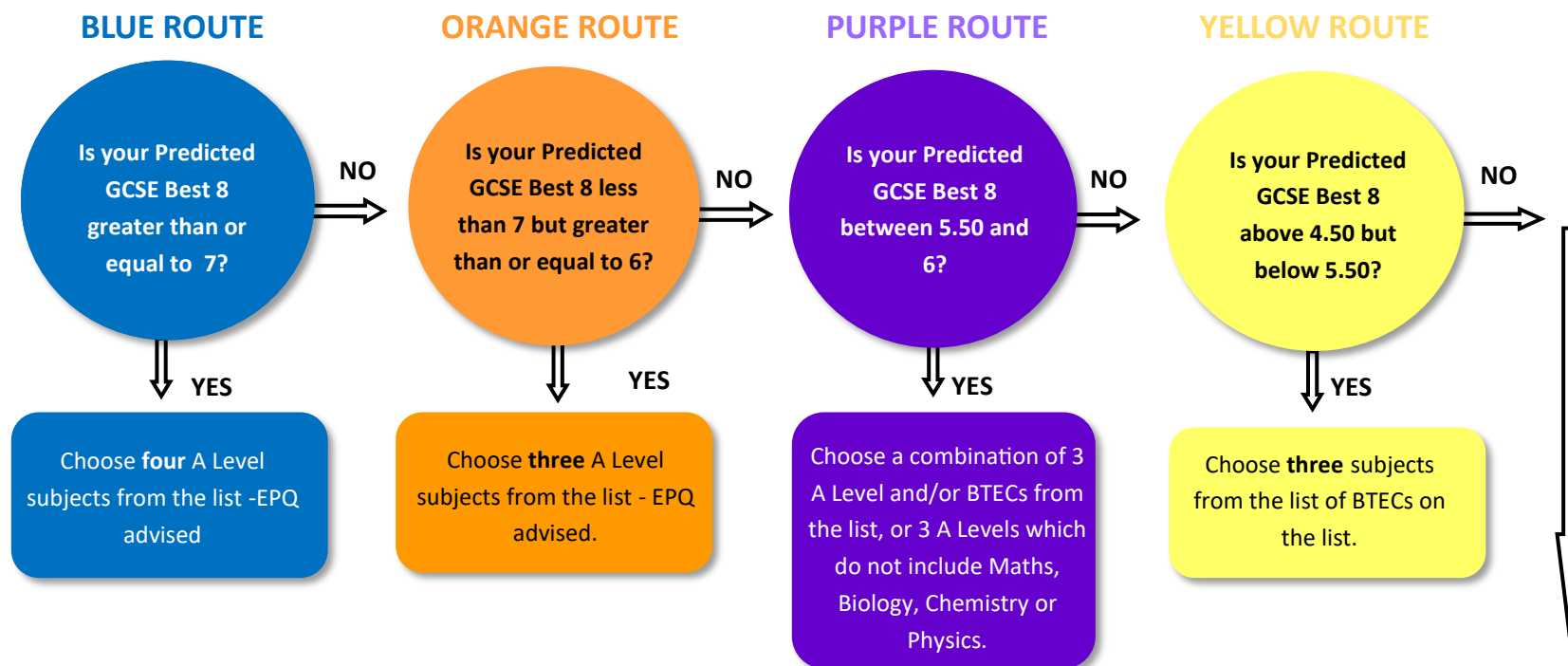
You will be required to study at least three subjects. **You will therefore need good enough grades at GCSE to access at least three of your preferred subjects.** The grade requirements for each course can be found on pages 17 and 18.

GCSE Best 8 APS and Pathways

Our Pathways system allows us to generate a personalised curriculum of subject choices for each student based on the strengths they have shown at GCSE level. By matching appropriate numbers of A Level or BTEC courses and appropriate subject choices with GCSE performance, we are able to ensure that each student entering the Sixth Form follows a programme of study which will enable them to succeed.

The APS is calculated by totaling the points a student attains from their Best 8 GCSE results and dividing by 8.

The diagram below outlines how a student's GCSE Best 8 APS determines their Year 12 curriculum package.



If your Predicted GCSE Best 8 APS is below 4.50, please discuss your options at your personal Careers Interview

How do I select my A Level or Level 3 BTEC subjects?

The jump from GCSE to A Level or Level 3 BTEC is a significant one. This applies not only to the level of understanding required, but also your capacity to work independently. From the start of Year 12, you will find a real difference in the demands placed upon you and it is important that you choose your subjects carefully.

The following should help you make an informed choice.

- Choose subjects that you know you are good at and that you are likely to get a grade 6 or above at GCSE (for A Level; some subjects vary), and grade 5 if you want to study BTECs.
- Bear in mind the demands that coursework will put upon you. Doing too many subjects that have a high percentage content of coursework and/or subjects that have substantial background reading could affect your overall performance.
- Avoid choosing more than one new subject.

If you have a specific career in mind, then speak to Mrs Golding, Miss Harrison or our Careers Advisor, Mrs Rogers, when you are making your choices.

For a good number of degree courses, universities are not too concerned which subjects you take at A Level. Your ability to meet their entry requirements is more important. The number and the correct combination of subjects could produce a better set of results. Three Bs are better than four Ds.

All Year 11 students at **Holmer Green Senior School** will have a Careers Guidance Meeting during the year to help and advise them with their Post-16 choices.

GCSE Re-sits

Students who fail to achieve a grade 4 in either GCSE English Language or Maths will be required to attend 2 re-sit lessons a week and re-sit the exam until they achieve at least a grade 4.

Students who have below a grade 3 in both of these subjects will not be considered for the Sixth Form. Please be aware that classes to support the re-sits may have to be held after school and that attendance is compulsory.

No other GCSE re-sit courses will be available.



Grade requirements

Subject		Minimum Grade Requirement (All students must achieve a grade 4 in English or Maths and a 3 in the other)	
A Levels	Art and Design	6 in Art & Design	
	Art and Design — Photography	6 in Photography	
	Art and Design—Textiles	6 in Art Textiles	
	Biology	7 in Biology or 6 in Biology and 6 in at least one other science	5 in English and 5 in Maths
	Business	6 in Business	6 in English and 6 in Maths
	Chemistry	7 in Chemistry or 6 in Chemistry and 6 in at least one other science	6 in Maths
	Design and Technology—Product Design	6 in Design and Technology	4 in Maths and 4 in English
	Drama and Theatre Studies	6 in GCSE Drama or 6 in GCSE English	
	Economics	6 in Maths	6 in English Literature and English Language
	English Literature	6 in English Literature	6 in English Language
	Further Maths	8 in Maths	
	Geography	6 in Geography	
	History	6 in History	
	Mathematics	7 in Mathematics	
	Music	6 in Music	
	Physics	7 in Physics or 6 in Physics and 6 in at least one other science	6 in Maths
	Politics	6 in English Language and English Literature	6 in History if taken
	Psychology	6 in English and 6 in Maths	6 in Science overall
	Religious Studies	6 in Religious Studies or English	
	Sociology	5 in English Language	5 in Maths

Grade Requirements

	Subject	Minimum Grade Requirement (All students must achieve a grade 4 in English or Maths and a 3 in the other)	
BTECs	BTEC Applied Science	5,5 in Science overall	4 in Maths and 4 in English
	BTEC Business	5 in English Language and English Literature	5 in Maths and 5 in Business
	BTEC Computing	6 in Computer Science GCSE	6 in Maths and 5 in English
	WJEC Food Science and Nutrition	5 in Food Technology or Level 2 Merit	
	BTEC Health and Social Care	5 GCSEs grades 9-4 including grade 5 in English Language	
	BTEC IT	Level 2 Merit in ICT or 5 in GCSE	
	BTEC Music	5 GCSEs grades 9-4 including Maths and English Language	
	BTEC Sport	5 in PE	4 in Maths and 4 in English
	BTEC Uniformed Protective Services	5 GCSEs grades 9—4 including English Language	
AS	The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	Average of 6s across GCSE subjects	
	AS Maths in Context (Applied Maths)	5 in Maths	
PLEASE NOTE: as the timetable takes shape over the next few months, we may be unable to accommodate some subject combinations. If your subject choices are affected by timetable constraints or lack of interest we will contact you so that you have time to reconsider.			





A Levels Subject Information

A Level

Head of Subject: Mrs A Hearne

Exam Board : Edexcel

Art & Design 9ADO,

Fine Art 9FAO,

3D Design 9TDO,

Graphic Communication 9GCO

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in an Art subject

Are you interested in?

Creativity, using a range of tools and techniques, hearing about a range of historical and contemporary practitioners.

Leading to a career in:

Teaching

Advertising

Film

Fashion

Graphics

Architecture

Set Design

This subject goes well with:

Any subject!

Student views

“Art will develop your conceptual ideas which opens up thought processes in other areas”.

Art and Design

Why choose A Level Art? The results are exceptional! This specification is designed to encourage candidates to explore a range of 2 or 3 dimensional approaches to their studies and extend their own ways of seeing the world. They have the opportunity to choose one or more of the following options. Multiple options can be taken as separate A level options on request.

Course content

Students will:

- Record observations, ideas, information and insights appropriate to intentions.
- Use art and design techniques to record observations, ideas, information and insights appropriate to intentions.
- Analyse and artistically evaluate art and design practice demonstrating an understanding of purpose, meaning and context.
- Use art and design to develop ideas through sustained investigations and exploration, selecting and using materials, processes and resources, identifying and interpreting relationships and analysing methods and outcomes.
- Present a personal and informed response, realising intentions and showing connections with the work of others.

Recommended general websites

Institute of International Visual Arts - www.iniva.org

British Museum—www.britishmuseum.org

Getty Museum - www.getty.edu

Museum of Modern Art New York - www.moma.org

Guggenheim Museums Worldwide - www.guggenheim.org

Crafts Council UK —www.craftscouncil.org

Photographers' Gallery—www.photonet.org.uk

Examinations

AS

Unit 1:

Coursework project (50% of AS Level)

Unit 2:

Externally set project including exam (50% AS)

A2

Unit 3:

Coursework project including written personal study (60% of A2)

Unit 4:

Externally set project including 15 hour exam (40% of full A2)



A Level

Head of Subject: Mrs V Walden
Exam Board : Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Level 6 in either Photography, Art or Textiles

Are you interested in?

Capturing the world around you, exploring and experimenting with techniques, expressing deeper concepts?

Leading to a career in:

Visual Arts
Project Management
Freelance Photography
Marketing...

This subject goes well with:

Art
Art Textiles
Art Graphics
Product Design
English Literature

Student views

"I like how the help and guidance from teachers and the vast array of available resources makes anything possible come to life in your work."

Art & Design: Photography

The results in Photography are EXCEPTIONAL! The skills that you will develop in photography will be varied. You will learn how to compose images successfully and be creative using industry packages such as Adobe Photoshop. You will investigate, research, analyse and evaluate your work and the work of others. The course will allow you to develop your skills, imagination and creativity so you can produce your own personal responses.

This course will be based on the use of digital technology. Students will use software in the development of image manipulation. A range of source material will be used in the development of ideas. Students must understand that there is a significant written element within this subject.

Course content

Year 12

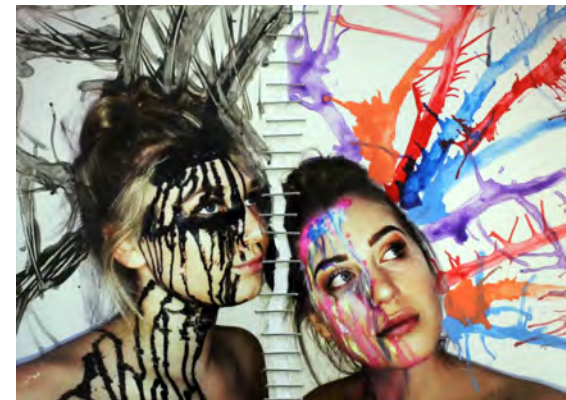
The A-Level course teaches you a wide variety of transferable skills; it will ensure that you are able to research, analyse, plan and experiment with imagery so that you can present yourself in a strong way visually. We provide an extensive workshop based starting point in order to ensure the required skills can be embedded and evidenced through all you do. As a result, you will spend the first few weeks learning and evidencing your understanding of key photographic skills including: composition, light, focus, shutter speed, Photoshop techniques and physical manipulation of imagery. Once these workshops have been completed, you will be expected to transfer all your new skills into beginning an in-depth and sustained coursework unit of your choosing.

Year 13

Throughout Year 13 you will continue to explore your chosen personal project, providing starting points for a number of investigations which will take the form of unique and interesting ideas as well as thoughtful and relevant developments. The coursework unit incorporates two linked elements: the practical work and a personal study. Students will need to submit a personal study of 1000 - 3000 words alongside your practical outcomes.

Examinations

Once the coursework is complete, students are issued with an externally set assignment (the exam element of the course). The exam paper consists of one broad-based thematic starting point (it is not a written exam). The exam unit is student led with appropriate guidance given during the preparatory period (a number of school weeks). Independence in the development of ideas is vital in ensuring success in a creative subject such as Photography. Intentions need to be realised through sustained outcomes; students will sit an unassisted timed test at the end of the preparatory period in order to complete final outcomes.



A Level

Head of Subject: Mrs A Hearne

Exam Board : Edexcel

Textile Design9 TEO

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in an Art subject

Are you interested in?

Fashion and clothing

Surface pattern

Colour and shape

Leading to a career in:

Interior Design

Fashion Design

Costume Design

Clothing Industry

Buyer for retail outfit

Textiles and Surface Design

Architecture

Photographer

Set Design

This subject goes well with:

Any subject!

Student views:

"Textiles has encouraged me to embrace a love of colour and pattern. I have also learned how to construct garments."

Art and Design: Textiles

The results in A Level Art Textiles are exceptional! This specification is designed to encourage candidates to explore a range of 2 or 3 dimensional approaches to their studies and extend their own ways of seeing the world.

Course content

Students will:

- Record observations, ideas, information and insights appropriate to intentions.
- Use art, design and textiles techniques to record observations, ideas, information and insights appropriate to intentions.
- Analyse and artistically evaluate art, design and textiles practice demonstrating an understanding of purpose, meaning and context.
- Use art, design and textiles skills to develop ideas through sustained investigations and exploration, selecting and using materials, processes and resources, identifying and interpreting relationships and analysing methods and outcomes.
- Present a personal and informed response, realising intentions and showing connections with the work of others.

Recommended general websites

Institute of International Visual Arts - www.iniva.org

British Museum—www.britishmuseum.org

Getty Museum - www.getty.edu

Museum of Modern Art New York - www.moma.org

Guggenheim Museums Worldwide - www.guggenheim.org

Crafts Council UK —www.craftscouncil.org

Photographers' V & A Museum - www.vam.ac.uk.

Gallery—www.photonet.org.uk

Examinations

AS

Unit 1:

Coursework project (50% of AS Level)

Unit 2:

Externally set project including an exam (50% AS)

A2

Unit 3:

Coursework project including written personal study (60% of A2)

Unit 4:

Externally set project including exam (40% of full A2)



A Level

Head of Subject: Dr S Cockbill
Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements:

Grade 7 in Biology **or** 6 in Biology with at least one other science at a 6. In addition grade 5 in English and grade 5 in Maths

Are you interested in?

Developing biological concepts
Using microscopes

Dissecting animal and plant systems

Learning laboratory techniques
Fieldwork

Investigating animal behaviours
Applying biological principles to personal, social, environmental and economic issues.

Leading to a career in:

Medicine, Veterinary fields and pharmacy, Biomedical sciences, Forensics, Agriculture and Animal care, Food technology, Health and Social care, Research, Epidemiology

This subject goes well with:

Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Psychology, Geography, PE, Art

Student Views

"Biology teaches me how everything works in life."

Biology

Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? Being such a broad topic, you're bound to find a specific area of interest, plus it opens the door to a fantastic range of interesting careers.

A Level Biology gives you essential information and understanding on key biological concepts, and inspires their application to the world at large, as well as in the lab. Students will also consider the moral, social, and cultural issues surrounding some of the applications of biology. An emphasis on the development of communication and study skills will help prepare students for involvement in everyday scientific issues and give skills essential in the world of work. A Level Biology, although a challenging subject, is rightly recognised for its academic achievement by both employees and higher education establishments.

Course content

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms and the environment
4. Genetics and diversity
5. Energy and biological systems
6. Organisms response to their environment
7. Genetics and Evolution
8. Genetic technology

Practical work runs throughout the course; minimum 12 required practicals

On consultation it is possible to study a 1 year AS-level in Biology, completing topics 1-4 only

Examinations

A Level

A linear course with all exams taken at the end of Year 13

Paper 1: Topics 1 - 4, including relevant practical skills (35%, 2 hours)

Paper 2: Topics 5 – 8, including relevant practical skills (35%, 2 hours)

Paper 3: Topics 1 - 8, including relevant practical skills, plus critical analysis of given experimental data and a 25 mark synoptic essay (30%, 2 hours)

Students will be examined internally at the end of Year 12

AS Level

All exams taken at the end of Year 12

Paper 1: 10 marks: comprehension question (50%, 1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: 10 marks: extended response questions (50%, 1 hour 30 minutes)

Papers 1 and 2: Topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills, 65 marks, short answer questions

Pass/Fail Practical endorsement for Biology – this is continuous throughout Year 12 and Year 13 and is teacher assessed.



A Level

Head of Subject: Mrs Sabharwal
Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements

English, Maths and Business at GCSE grade 6 and above

Are you interested in?

How businesses operate
Marketing strategies of companies
Understanding finances
Understanding the fundamentals of setting up and running a business

Leading to a career in:

Accountant, HRM manager, Marketing manager, Logistics director, Entrepreneur, retail, HR and banking

This subject goes well with:

Economics
Maths
Psychology
ICT

Student views

"It's a subject which is beneficial for future life as it helps with skills and gives ideas about applications of business techniques."

Business

As a Department we encourage students to achieve their potential through an engaging curriculum. Our vision is to develop real world, enterprising, and employability skills for tomorrow's leaders and to prepare our students for an ever changing and challenging business environment. We believe students values and enthusiasm is as important as the skills and knowledge they develop, therefore we have carefully selected a curriculum which interests and challenges our students by applying their learning to real business organisations and real-time business news. We provide an environment for all students to be entrepreneurial, independent learners, confident presenters and strong team players with a sound understanding of the world in which they live.

Our lessons are designed to inspire and challenge our students to value diversity, be open-minded, develop teamwork skills, take risks and develop their financial awareness. We are passionate about students developing their entrepreneurial skills and their understanding of the world that we live in.

Course content

Year 12

Theme 1: Marketing and People

Meeting customer needs, the market, marketing mix and strategy, managing people, entrepreneurs and leaders.

Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

Raising finance, financial planning, managing finance, resource management, external influences.

Year 13

Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy

Business objectives and strategy, business growth, decision-making techniques, influences on business decisions, assessing competitiveness, managing change

Theme 4: Global Business

Globalisation, global markets and business expansion, global marketing

Global industries and companies

Examinations

Paper 1: Marketing, People and Global Businesses

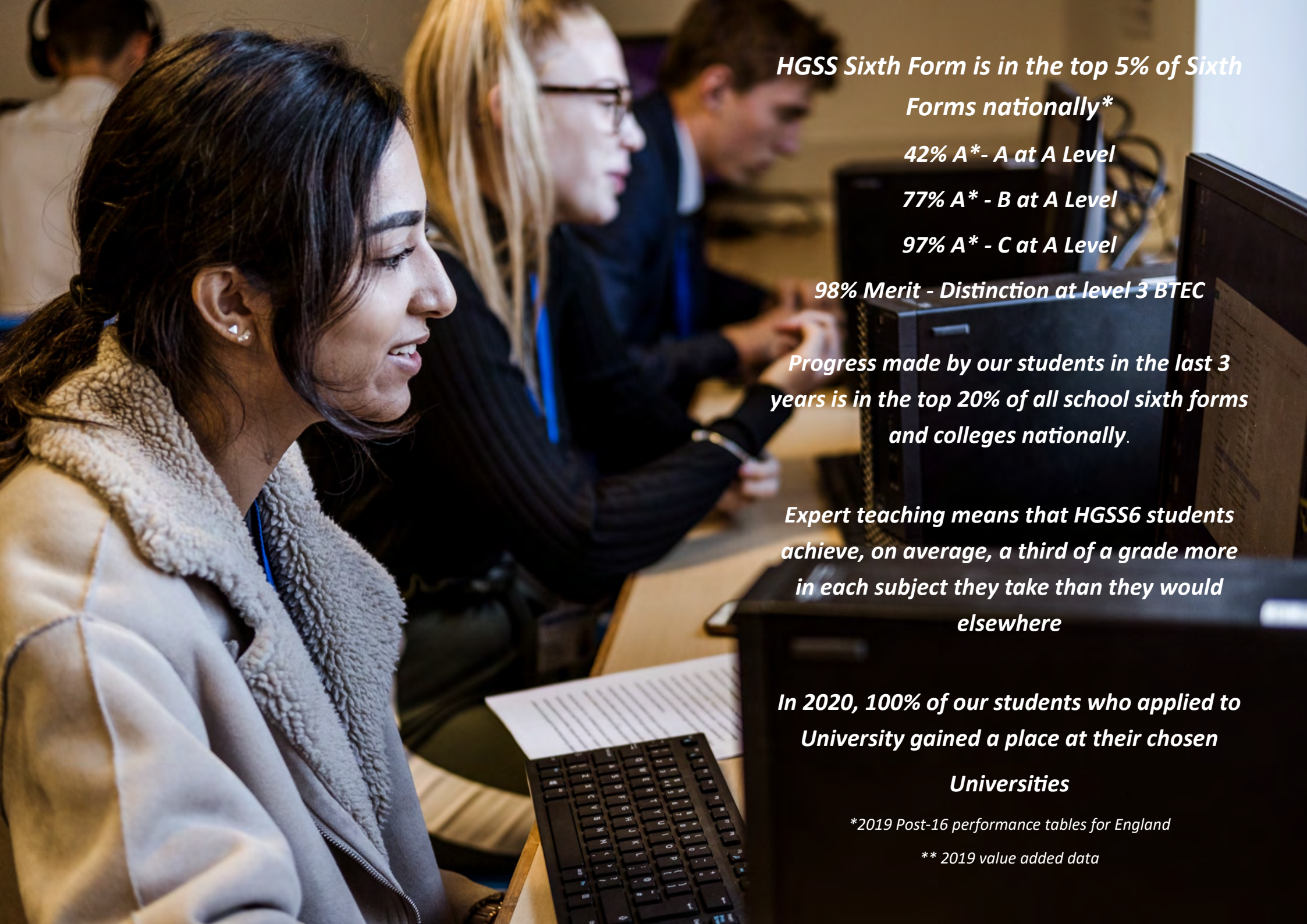
35% of the total qualification. Paper 1 will assess marketing, people and global businesses. Questions will be drawn from Themes 1 and 4, and from local, national and global contexts.

Paper 2: Business Activities, Decisions and Strategy

35% of the total qualification. Paper 2 will assess business finance and operations, business decisions and strategy. Questions will be drawn from Themes 2 and 3, and from local, national and global contexts.

Paper 3: Investigating Business in a Competitive Environment

30% of total qualification. Questions will be drawn from local, national and global contexts. Sections A and B each comprise one data response question broken down into a number of parts, including one extended open-response question.

A photograph of three students in a computer lab. In the foreground, a young woman with dark hair, wearing a grey jacket with a white fur collar, is looking at a computer monitor and smiling. Behind her, a young man with blonde hair and glasses is also looking at a monitor. In the background, another student is partially visible. The lab has wooden desks and multiple computer monitors.

HGSS Sixth Form is in the top 5% of Sixth Forms nationally*

42% A* - A at A Level

77% A* - B at A Level

97% A* - C at A Level

98% Merit - Distinction at level 3 BTEC

Progress made by our students in the last 3 years is in the top 20% of all school sixth forms and colleges nationally.

Expert teaching means that HGSS6 students achieve, on average, a third of a grade more in each subject they take than they would elsewhere

In 2020, 100% of our students who applied to University gained a place at their chosen Universities

**2019 Post-16 performance tables for England*

*** 2019 value added data*

A Level

Head of Subject: Dr S Cockbill
Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 in Chemistry or 6 in Chemistry with at least one other science at a 6. In addition, grade 6 in Maths

Are you interested in?

Developing chemistry through an experimental approach; Developing imaginative and critical thought; Applying chemical principles to personal, social, environmental and economic issues.

Leading to a career in:

Chemistry, Chemical Manufacture Research and Development, Agriculture, Biochemistry, Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Science, Food Science, Forensic Science, Veterinary Science, Geology, Metallurgy, Water Management, Public Service, Education, Sales, Marketing, Accountancy

This subject goes well with:

Biology, Physics, Maths, Psychology, Geography, Technology, IT, Business

Student views "I enjoy how each topic is linked to the previous incorporating all elements of Chemistry."

Chemistry

Having an A-level Chemistry qualification is rather like having an open flight ticket to any destination in the world - it gives you great choice. It introduces you to important chemical concepts in a fun, exciting and practical way. It also supplies you with a real world application for the processes which you can carry forward with you to university or employment.

An important part of the course is working with others as an effective team and communicating findings clearly so you can solve problems together. Practical skills underpin much of the course and you will be developing these to make you more confident, methodical and analytical in a lab. The Chemistry course is challenging and therefore highly valued in the outside world. A student who is prepared to work hard will achieve a good grade.

Course content

Unit 1 Physical Chemistry

Physical chemistry covers atoms, chemical bonding, and the kinetics and thermodynamics of chemical reactions.

Unit 2 Inorganic Chemistry

Here we look at the groups of the periodic table, how the elements react and their properties.

Unit 3 Organic Chemistry

In this unit we look at alkanes, alkenes, alcohols and more. We also look at how to analyse and make different compounds in a lab.

Practical work runs throughout the course; minimum 12 required practicals.

On consultation it is possible to study a 1 year AS-level in Chemistry, completing Y1 content in physical, Inorganic and organic topics

Examinations

A Level

Linear with all exams taken at the end of Year 13

Paper 1: Physical and Inorganic including practical skills
(35%, 2 hours)

Paper 2: Physical and Organic including practical skills
(35%, 2 hours)

Paper 3: All topics, critical analysis of given experimental data and a 30 mark multiple choice
(30%, 2 hours)

Students will be examined internally at the end of Year 12

AS Level

All exams taken at the end of Year 12

Paper 1: Physical and Inorganic including practical skills and 15 mark multiple choice (50%, 1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: Physical and Organic including practical skills and 15 mark multiple choice (50%, 1 hour 30 minutes)

Pass/Fail Practical endorsement for Biology – this is continuous throughout Year 12 and Year 13 and is teacher assessed.



A Level

Head of Subject: Mrs R Golding
Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

6 in Design & Technology and 4 in Maths and English Language

Are you interested in?

Practical Making Skills
Using CAD software
Traditional drawing techniques
Working Properties of materials
The relationship between design and Manufacturing

Leading to a career in:

Industrial Design
Product Design
Engineering
Carpentry
Furniture Design
Architecture
Set Design

This subject goes well with:

Art,
Mathematics
Physics,
Chemistry

Student Views

“I enjoy Product Design as it broadens my horizons and will help me on the way to a career in Design.”

D&T: Product Design

Product Design allows students to experience the design and manufacture of innovative and personalised products. You will solve real-life design problems and research and model your ideas in tasks linked to the real world of commercial design.

You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put your learning into practice by producing products of your choice.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Course content

Year 12

This year promotes creativity, teaches core knowledge and encourages a commercial design approach to your work. You are taught key communication and presentation skills, advanced drawing techniques and learn to use CAD programs, workshop tools and equipment. Various projects are undertaken that will develop these core skills.

Year 13

You will undertake a substantial design, make and evaluate project.

Non-exam assessment (NEA) Design portfolio and final prototype

Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge
Substantial design and make task 45 hours
100 marks, 50% of A Level

Examinations

Paper 1: Technical principles

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 120 marks, 30% of A Level
- Mixture of short and extended response: no more than 12 marks per question

Paper 2: Designing and Making principles

- Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- 80 marks
- 20% of A Level

Section A: Mixture of short answer, Product Analysis and extended response questions based on visual stimulus of product(s)

Section B: Commercial Manufacture — mixture of short and extended response questions.



A Level

Head of Subject: Mr Creffield
Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements:

Either a 6 in GCSE Drama or 6 in a GCSE English with interest and experience in Theatre

Are you interested in?

Acting & Directing Theatre
Preparing Production
Script Analysis
Research Skills

Leading to a career in:

Acting
Directing
Teaching
Managing
Law
Presenting
Event Coordinating

This subject goes well with:

English Literature
Music
Art & Design
Psychology

Drama and Theatre Studies

This course inspires students to become independent theatre makers with the skills they need to go on to higher education, whether that is to study a course in Drama and Theatre or another subject. This qualification emphasises practical creativity alongside research and theoretical understanding.

Students learn through experience, seeing theatre and making theatre for themselves. Students are introduced to a wide range of theatrical styles and contexts as they explore plays practically, devise and work on performances.

Students choose to develop as a:

- performer
- designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets)
- director
- combination of these.

Course Content

Year 12

Component 2: Creating original Drama (30% of A Level)

Process and performance of devised drama.
Working notebook (40 marks)
Devised performance (20 marks)

Year 13

Component 3: Making Theatre (30% of A Level)

A practical exploration and interpretation of three extracts (Extracts 1, 2 and 3), each taken from a different play. The performance of Extract 3 is assessed

by an examiner and must show aspects of one chosen practitioner's methodology.

Performance of Extract 3 (40 marks)

Reflective report (20 marks)

Examinations

Component 1: Drama and Theatre (40% of A Level)

A three-hour written exam.

Section A: one question (from a choice) on *A Servant & Two Masters* by Goldoni (25 marks)

Section B: one two part question on a given extract from a *Metamorphosis* by Steve Berkoff (25 marks)

Section C: one question on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (30 marks)



A Level

Head of Subject: Mrs Sabharwal

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements:

6 in English literature and language, 6 in Maths

Are you interested in?

How markets operate
How the world economies run
Current economic issues
How money works in the country

Leading to a career in:

Economist, Financial risk analyst,
Data analyst, Financial planner,
Accountant, Economic researcher,
Financial consultant, Investment analyst

This subject goes well with:

Business, Maths, Psychology

Student views

"It is an interesting subject which helps us understand the economy of the country and other countries. It is vital information to help in the current climate."

Economics

Economics takes a specialised look at the financial markets and the strategic behaviour of firms and governments. Economics A-Level is designed to encourage you to develop an understanding of current economic issues, problems and institutions that affect everyday life. After studying economics, you will be able to apply economic concepts and theories in a range of contexts and appreciate their value and limitations in explaining real world phenomena. You will then be able to analyse, explain and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the market economy and the role of government within it.

As a student of economics you will gain a highly marketable set of skills which will enable you to undertake further study across a range of disciplines. We believe in this department it is a vital subject to study which helps keep up to date with the current climate and trends, also looking ahead of what are the possible outcomes giving students a step in advance.

Course Content

Year 12

This specification will enable candidates to develop an understanding of, and an insight into, micro and macroeconomics. There are two units:

Theme 1: Markets and Market Failure. In this unit you will explore the economic problem and the allocation and production of resources. It examines the issue of market failure and assesses government intervention in the market.

Theme 2: The National Economy. This unit teaches how the

macro economy works including AD/AS analysis, the circular flow of income, and related concepts. You will review economic performance and macroeconomic policy.

Year 13

Candidates develop the micro and macroeconomics already learnt in the first year, considering economic concepts and theories in greater depth and recognising the values and limitations of economic models. There are two units:

Theme 3: Business Economics and the Distribution of Income

You will study a range of market structures, both competitive and concentrated and their effect on consumers and society. The unit also explores objectives, costs and revenues experienced by the firm, labour markets and the role of government intervention in the market.

Theme 4: The National and International Economy

In this unit you will analyse macro-economic indicators, whilst exploring how the national economy is managed. You will also explore the International Economy.

Examinations

Paper 1: 35% of total grade, this looks at markets and business behaviour. Paper 1 will assess microeconomics and questions will be drawn from theme 1 and 3.

Paper 2: 35% of total grade, this looks at the nation and global economy. Paper 2 will assess macroeconomics and questions will be drawn from themes 2 and 4.

Paper 3: 30% of total grade will look at both micro and macro economics. Paper 3 will assess content across all four themes.

Students are required to apply their knowledge and understanding, make connections and transfer higher-order skills across all four themes.

A Level

Head of Subject: Mrs S Towers
Exam Board : Edexcel

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in English Language and English Literature

Are you interested in?

Reading
Society
History
Film and theatre

Leading to a career in:

Journalism
Writing
Teaching
Law
Public Relations
Politics
Marketing

This subject goes well with:

Religious Studies
Psychology
History
Politics
Sociology

Student views

"I really like English because it has given me key skills that I can use at university such as writing essays and analysis."

English Literature

A-Level English Literature is an exciting and challenging course. We cover a broad range of prose, drama and poetry including literary greats such as Hamlet and Frankenstein. We are incredibly passionate about Literature and teach units to suit our own expertise. Ideas and issues in Literature are timeless and we enjoy bringing current affairs and debates in society into our lessons.

Students are expected to read widely around the subject and be confident to discuss texts in class. Our lessons are heavily based around discussion and students are expected to write essays on a weekly basis as part of their self-study. In addition to the texts we study in class, we also set additional reading to complement the main units of work. We aim to deliver an inspiring curriculum that will teach our students to be thinkers, and critical readers as well as developing a knowledge of society and what it means to be human.

Course content

Year 12:

Component 1: Drama A Streetcar Named Desire

Component 2: Comparative Prose The Handmaid's Tale and Frankenstein

Component 3: Poems of the Decade a comparison of one prepared poem and an unseen poem

Component 4: Coursework- free choice- a comparison of two texts of your choice. 4000 essay

Year 13:

Component 1: Hamlet

Component 3: Romantic Poetry an essay about Romanticism using two poems from the collection.

Revision

Examinations

Component 1:

Hamlet and A Streetcar Named Desire

Component 2:

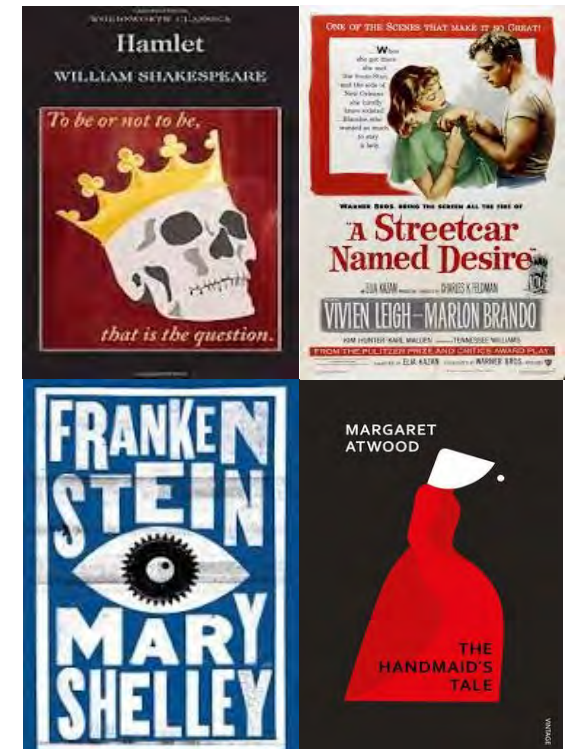
The Handmaid's Tale and Frankenstein (comparative)

Component 3:

Romantic Poetry and Poems of the Decade

Component 4:

Coursework-comparative unit.



A level Further Mathematics

Head of Subject: Mr J Ortega
(KS5 Maths Coordinator)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Entry Requirements:

Grade 8 Maths GCSE

Are you interested in?

Mathematics degree, Pure Sciences, high level engineering, statistics, business, computing, economics, accountancy...

Leading to a career in:

Actuarial Science, Aeronautical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering / Architecture, Economist, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Banking, Teaching
Law, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy

This subject goes well with:

Physics, Design technology, Chemistry, Computing, Psychology, Sociology, Economics and Business Studies

Further Maths

This course is suitable for those students who would like to significantly deepen and broaden their knowledge of mathematics. Students will need to be passionate about the subject and have the ability to work independently. A Further Maths qualification enables students to understand mathematics and mathematical processes in ways that promote confidence, foster enjoyment and provide a strong foundation for progress to further study.

The course connects all the different areas of mathematics to other fields of study and allows the student to be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work. A qualification in Further Maths is highly valued as an indicator of intellectual ability, and unquestionably for mathematically related degrees at top universities.

Course Content

Year 12

Pure Mathematics 1 and 2

Algebraic techniques, 2-D Geometry, Graph Sketching, Sequences and an Introduction to Calculus. Vectors, Statistics and Mechanics. Trigonometry, Logs and Exponentials, Binomial Expansion and Geometrics Sequences and Series. Functions, Numerical Methods, Differentiation, Proofs and Further Trigonometry. Exponential and logarithms, Vectors. Advanced Trigonometry, Algebra and Calculus, Numerical Methods, Sequence and Series.

Statistics and Mechanics 1 and 2

Statistical sampling, Data presentation and

interpretation, Probability, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Law. Further probability of significance testing. Kinematics, Forces, Moments.

Year 13

Core Mathematics 1 and 2

Proof, Complex numbers, Matrices, Further algebra and functions, Further calculus, Further vectors, Polar coordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations
Options are subject to staff availability.

Students will be directed towards their strengths:

- Further Pure Mathematics 1 and 2
- Further Statistics 1 and 2
- Further Mechanics 1 and 2
- Decision Mathematics 1 and 2

Examinations

2 Core Pure Mathematics Papers (25% each paper)

2 Options Papers (25% each paper)

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3 options	Paper 4 options
Core Pure Mathematics 1	Core Pure Mathematics 2	3A: Further Pure Mathematics 1	4A: Further Pure Mathematics 2
			4B: Further Statistics 1
			4C: Further Mechanics 1
			4D: Decision Mathematics 1
		3B: Further Statistics 1	4C: Further Mechanics 1
			4D: Decision Mathematics 1
			4E: Further Statistics 2
		3C: Further Mechanics 1	4D: Decision Mathematics 1
			4F: Further Mechanics 2
		3D: Decision Mathematics 1	4G: Decision Mathematics 2

A Level

Head of Subject: Miss C Lewin
Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Geography

Are you interested in?

Globalisation, Governments,
Development, Coasts, Tectonic
Hazards, Identity and Place

Leading to a career in:

Environmental management,
Urban Planning, Engineering,
Teaching, Global Relations
Tourism, Politics

This subject goes well with:

Sciences, Psychology, Business,
History, Politics, Maths,
Technology

Student views

“Geography has made me think about global issues and people’s lived experiences in a way that has really opened my eyes to the world around us, I have started to think so much more about our role as the next generation.”

Geography

The new A Level specification will excite students’ minds, challenge perceptions and stimulate their investigative and analytical skills. Whilst new units have been added to reflect the world today, you’ll see it’s retained themes linked to many of the topics you enjoyed and studied at GCSE, including Hazards and Urban Development.

The course has been designed to include up to date case studies and debate topics in the UK and in the wider world. Content enables students to learn both physical and human topics consecutively to progress through the course and mean that both elements can be assessed equally across the 2 years of study.

All of this will help you to become a true ‘Geographer’ and gain the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm sought by higher education and employers in the future.

Course Content

Year 12

Human Geography

Changing Places and Contemporary Urban Environments

Physical Geography

Water and Carbon Cycles and Coasts

NEA

Planning, introduction and methods

Year 13

Human Geography

Global Systems and Governance

Physical Geography

Hazards

NEA

Data collection, write up and final submission

Examinations

Paper 1

Section A: Water and Carbon Cycles

Section B: Coastal Systems

Section C: Hazards

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 120 marks,
40% of A-Level

Paper 2

Section A: Global Systems and Governance

Section B: Changing Places

Section C: Contemporary Urban Environments

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 120 marks,
40% of A-Level

NEA: 3000-4000 word independent investigation, 60 marks,
20% of A-Level



A Level

Head of Subject :

Miss K Harrison

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in History

Are you interested in?

Investigating and finding things out about the past

Forming your own opinions and debating ideas

Challenging yourself to work hard, completing wider reading to find evidence to back up your ideas

Completing a piece of work on a topic entirely of your choosing.

Leading to a career in:

Archaeology, Journalism, Media, Law, Museum Curation, Politics, Teaching

This subject goes well with:

Art (Art History), English, Geography, Politics, RS

Student views

"I like history as it provides an understanding of events and figures and the impacts they had on society which I find engaging and often relevant to current situations."

History

History is a multi-faceted subject which will develop not only your knowledge and understanding of the past, but also your transferable skills. You should opt for this subject if you find it interesting, and have an appreciation for past societies and civilisations. We will support you to learn how to research effectively, analyse information to identify strengths and weaknesses, reach critical and substantiated judgements.

Course Content

Year 12

In Year 12 we study two units consecutively – The Early Tudors 1485 – 1558 and Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963. We investigate the social, political, economic, religious and military situations within England during the reigns of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I, and consider the stability of the monarchy, civil unrest and whether or not there was a 'Mid-Tudor' Crisis by analysing primary and contemporary sources and evaluating them for their reliability and utility. You will also explore life in post-First World War Germany, and the impact of this on German citizens and politics before analysing the truth behind the era of the 'Golden Twenties' and the descent into World War Two. The aftermath of this and the beginnings of the Cold War through the division of Germany will also be studied.

Year 13

We dedicate Year 13 to the final examined unit of work – The Renaissance c.1400 - c.1600, to your NEA and to revision. The Renaissance course explores the origins of the movement, considering the climate in which the Renaissance evolved. It is more than just art history; we assess the political and

military situations in Europe at the time, as well as conducting case studies into life in Renaissance Italy, France and the Netherlands. This unit links incredibly well with the Early Tudors Unit from Year 12, as we consider the roles the counter-parts to the English monarchy played in developing the Renaissance, as well as the impact that the Break with Rome had on religion at the time.

The Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) is a 4000 word essay, written on a topic of your choosing. Using primary sources and historians interpretations which you will research independently, this essay is marked out of 40, and worth 20% of your A-level History course.

Examinations

Paper 1: The Early Tudors 1485 – 1558

1 hour 30 minute written exam containing a mixture of essay and source questions

50 marks worth 25% of the A-level

Paper 2: Democracy and Dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963

1 hour written exam containing short and long essay question

30 marks worth 15% of the A-level

Paper 3: The Renaissance c.1400-c.1600

2 hour 30 minute written exam containing a mixture of essay and interpretation questions

80 marks worth 40% of the A-level

“Students who attend our Sixth form are guaranteed an education that is second to none, relationships formed with teachers allow students to connect with their subject and accelerate their grades.”

Student Management Team



A Level

Head of Subject:

Mr J Ortega (KS5 Maths Coordinator)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Entry Requirements:

Grade 7 Maths

Are you interested in?

Sciences, engineering, statistics, business, computing, economics, accountancy...

Leading to a career in:

Actuarial Science, Aeronautical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering / Architecture, Economist, Electrical/Electronic, Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Banking, Teaching, Law, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy

This subject goes well with:

Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing, Geography, Psychology, Sociology and Business Studies

Student Views

"The satisfaction of problem solving fuels my desire to learn and further my skills."

Maths

Mathematics is a stimulating and rewarding subject. At Holmer Green Senior School we aim to consolidate the students' understanding of mathematics and develop their confidence to tackle higher level problems. The course will also aim to develop students' ability to reason mathematically and give them a firm foundation for further study in a wide range of subjects.

The course is a mixture of theoretical and applied mathematics, building on skills acquired at GCSE. While students are encouraged to develop their general problem-solving skills, there is a particular emphasis on algebra and a variety of applied skills.

Course Content

Year 12

Pure Mathematics 1

Algebraic techniques, 2-D Geometry, Graph Sketching, Sequences and an Introduction to Calculus.

Vectors, Statistics and Mechanics.

Trigonometry, Logs and Exponentials, Binomial Expansion and Geometrics Sequences and Series.

Statistics and Mechanics 1

Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Law.

Year 13

Pure Mathematics 2

Functions, Numerical Methods, Differentiation, Proofs and Further Trigonometry. Exponential and logarithms, Vectors.

Advanced Trigonometry, Algebra and Calculus, Numerical Methods, Sequence and Series.

Statistics and Mechanics 2

Further probability of significance testing. Kinematics, Forces, Moments.

Examinations

2 Pure Mathematics Papers (2/3)

1 Applied Mathematics Paper (Statistics and Mechanics) (1/3)



A Level

Head of Subject:

Mrs E Ginger

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements

GCSE Music Grade 6+

Leading to a career in:

Music Therapist

Music Producer

Music Teacher

This subject goes well with:

Art

English

Religious Studies

History

Maths

Student views

“The music content has made me expand my playlist, I have gained a wide knowledge of lots of different types of music & thoroughly enjoyed it”

Music

A level Music students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

Content

The course is split into 3 main elements – Performance, Composition & Listening.

Vocal music

- J. S. Bach, Cantata, Ein feste Burg
- Mozart, The Magic Flute
- Vaughan Williams, On Wenlock Edge

Instrumental music

- Vivaldi, Concerto in D minor, Op. 3 No. 11
- Clara Wieck-Schumann, Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17: movement 1
- Berlioz, Symphonie Fantastique

Film Music

- Danny Elfman, Batman Returns
- Rachel Portman, The Duchess
- Bernard Herrmann, Psycho

Pop music and Jazz

- Courtney Pine, Back in the Day
- Kate Bush, Hounds of Love
- Beatles, Revolver

Fusion

- Debussy, Estampes
- Familia Valera Miranda, Caña Quema

- Anoushka Shankar, Breathing Under Water

New Directions

- Cage, Three Dances for Two Prepared Pianos
- Kaija Saariaho, Petals for Violoncello and Live Electronics
- Stravinsky, The Rite of Spring

Examinations

Performance

8 minute live performance (it can be solo or ensemble or a mix of both)

Composition

1 composition set to a brief by the exam board (40 marks) & 1 Bach Chorale (20 Marks)

Exam

3 listening questions, 1 dictation question, 2 essay questions 2 hour exam.



A Level

Head of Subject: Dr S Cockbill

Exam Board: AQA

Entry Requirements

Grade 7 in Physics or a 6 in Physics with at least one other science at a 6. In addition, minimum grade 6 in Maths.

Are you interested in?

Developing Physics through an experimental approach; developing imaginative and critical thought; interested in understanding physics, how it has developed and is used in society; applying Physical principles to personal, social, environmental and economic issues

Leading to a career in:

Physics, Quantum Mechanics, Nuclear science, Aeronautics, Astronomy, Cosmology, Biomedical Sciences, Forensics Research, Engineering, Software Development, Accountancy, Investment Banking, Chemistry, Oceanography, Seismology

This subject goes well with:

Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Psychology, Geography, Business, Music, IT

Physics

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

The course aims to develop essential knowledge and developing enquiry based learning. It is not necessary for students to study A-level Maths in order to be successful at A-level Physics, but students must be confident mathematicians. A-level Mathematics strongly supports A-level Physics and students intending to study Physics or Engineering at university must also take mathematics A-level.

Course content

- Skills in physics
- Particles and radiation
- Waves and optics
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity
- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields
- Nuclear physics
- Plus one option module, usually astrophysics

Practical work runs throughout the course; minimum 12 required practicals.

On consultation it is possible to study a 1 year AS-level in Physics, completing topics 1-5 only

Examinations

A Level

This is a linear A-level with all exams taken at the end of Year 13

Paper 1: Topics 1-5, periodic motion, relevant practical skills (34%, 2 hours)

Paper 2: Topics 6–8, including relevant practical skills (34%, 2 hours)

Paper 1 and 2 include a 25 mark multiple choice section

Paper 3 Section A: Practical data analysis, drawn from whole course

Paper 3 Section B: Option (Total for paper 3 = 32%, 2 hours)

Students will be examined internally at the end of Year 12

AS Level

AS Level - All exams taken at the end of y12

Paper 1: Topics 1-5, relevant practical skills (50%, 1.5hours)

Paper 2 Section A: practical skills and data analysis

Paper 2 Section B: Topics 1-5

Section C: 30 multiple choice questions

Total paper 2: 50%, 1.5hours

Pass/Fail Practical endorsement for Physics – this is continuous throughout Y12 and Y13 and is teacher assessed.

Student Views: Learning about the rules and laws which govern our universe is extremely interesting”
Jacob Y13

A Level

Head of Subject : Miss K Harrison

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements

6 in English Language

6 in English Literature

6 in History if taken

Are you interested in?

Understanding current affairs

Learning more about how the world works

Formulating an opinion and debating your ideas

Leading to a career in:

Business, Charity work,

Journalism / Media, Law, Politics

Public Services, Teaching

This subject goes well with:

Business

Economics

English

Geography

Politics

RS

Student Views

“Studying Politics allows me to develop opinions on issues that truly matter and to learn how to debate them.”

Politics

Politics is as pervasive in society as the air we breath. A qualification in Politics is studying the fundamentals of human nature, how we relate to each other, and how societies have been built and evolved over time.

You will gain an appreciation of how current affairs, local and global developments have an impact on our every day lives. This prepares you for many forms of employment and future study, as you will gain analytical and practical skills, including the ability to conduct academic research, data analysis and the opportunity to improve your oral and written communication. Politics is often seen as being the art of negotiation and persuasion – and you will definitely hone these skills during this course!

Course Content

Year 12

Year 12 is dedicated to understanding UK Government and Politics. In order to do this, we will be investigating the history of democracy and current participation levels in Politics, ranging from public engagement in elections at all levels to engagement with protests. Students will study the main and minor political parties in the UK, and the role of the media in politics. Further topics include the UK constitution, and the powers of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government. Additionally, we explore the political ideologies of Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism and Anarchism, interpreting the works of Key Thinkers such as John Locke, Thomas Hobbes and Karl Marx.

Year 13

In Year 13, we apply what has been learnt in Year 12 and

Partnership Subject HGSS

compare to the US system of government. We compare the powers of the Prime Minister to the powers of the President, the UK and US constitutions, electoral systems and political parties and the role of the Supreme Courts in both countries. Revision is therefore naturally embedded into this process through the comparative nature of this course.

Examinations

Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Ideologies

2 hour written exam containing a mixture of essay and source questions.

84 marks worth 33% of the A-level

Paper 2: UK Government and Non-Core Ideologies (Anarchism)

2 hour written exam containing short and long essay question

84 marks worth 33% of the A-level

Paper 3: Comparative Politics US option

2 hour written exam containing a mixture of essay and source questions.

84 marks worth 33% of the A-level



A Level

Head of Subject: Mrs L Cookson

Exam Board : AQA

Entry Requirements

Minimum of 6 in English, 6 in Maths and 6 in Science overall

Are you interested in?

Why people behave the way they do

Exploring theories to explain behaviour

The scientific processes involved in measuring behaviour

Leading to a career in:

Chartered Psychologist
Therapy (Occupational, Art, Drama, Paediatric, Educational and others)

Business & Marketing

Management

Nursing

Police, Prisons

Sports & Exercise

This subject goes well with:

English, Maths, History, Politics, Sociology, Business, PE, Science, Philosophy

Student views

“Psychology has really helped me to understand other peoples’ behaviour and my own.”

Psychology

Psychology is the study of the human mind and behaviour. Psychologists study and design experiments to find out what is normal human behaviour and then carry out research into abnormal behaviour. They use the information learnt to address social and personal problems.

You will investigate a range of topics covering many aspects of human behaviour including eye witness testimony, the effects of institutionalisation on attachment bonds, biological explanations of criminal behaviour and the cultural bias in diagnosing pathological disorders. The course offers a broad range of topics that lead well into Higher Education and further study of the subject.

Course content

Year 12

Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues in relation to the specified Paper 1 & 2 content:

- apply psychological knowledge and understanding of the specified Paper 1 & 2 content in a range of contexts
- analyse, interpret and evaluate psychological concepts, theories, research studies and research methods in relation to the specified Paper 1 content
- evaluate therapies and treatments including in terms of their appropriateness and effectiveness
- Paper 1 & 2 content includes Social Psychology, Memory, Developmental Psychology (attachments), Psychopathology, Approaches and Research Methods

Year 13

Skills gained in year 1 will continued to be enhanced in year 2 by extending Research Methods comprehension and introducing statistical analysis. Students are required to conduct a small scale piece of research on a subject of choice. Extended topics for exploration include Forensics, Aggression and Schizophrenia which will stretch written skills of evaluation and analysis.

Examinations

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology, including Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, and Psychopathology. The written paper lasts 2 hours and makes up 33.3% of the total A2 marks. Each section includes multiple choice, short answer and extended writing. The exam has 96 marks in total.

Paper 2: Psychology in context, including Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, and Research Methods. The written paper lasts 2 hours and makes up 33.3% of the total A2 marks. Each section includes multiple choice, short answer and extended writing. The exam has 96 marks in total.

Paper 3: Issues and debates in psychology, Gender, Forensic Psychology, and Schizophrenia. The written paper lasts 2 hours and makes up 33.3% of the total A2 marks. Each section includes multiple choice, short answer and extended writing. The exam has 96 marks in total.



A Level

Head of Subject:

Miss. J Kirkpatrick

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in RS or 6 in English Literature

Are you interested in?

Debating Business Ethics;
Feminism; asking deeper bigger questions about existence and the world

Leading to a career in:

Education, Teaching; Law; Politics;
Commerce, Finance and Industry;
Journalism, Media; Police; advice worker; archivist; Charity fundraiser; Counsellor and social services; civil services; Community development; editorial work; Youth Worker

This subject goes well with:

History, Politics, English
Psychology, Sociology and many more

Student views:

“Religious Studies has allowed me to open my mind and broaden my horizons. It has allowed me to question the world in a way that no other a level does.”

Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics)

If you are simply thinking that an A Level in RS will help you to become a RS teacher or a Priest... you are mistaken. A Level RS provides rigorous study that is relatable to the wider world we all live in. You will learn to develop an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to your studies which can then be applied to other areas of study.

The course is one third Philosophy, another Ethics and lastly Religion in a historical and contemporary setting. Covering a wide range of topics from the problem of Evil in the world in Philosophy to doing what ever makes the majority happy at the expense of the minority in Ethics. Can we live our lives like this? Why or why not? These kinds of bigger questions are hotly debated and have created the basis of our society today. If you have an enquiring mind and like to debate the bigger questions this is the subject for you.

Course Content

Year 12

Paper 1: Philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering. Exploration of philosophical language and thought through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, illustrated in issues or debates in philosophy of religion.

Topics include: Ancient Philosophical influences, soul, mind and body, arguments for the existence of God based on observation, arguments for the existence of God based on

reason, religious experience, The problem of evil and the nature and attributes of God.

Paper 2: The study of ethical language and thought, with exploration of key concepts and the works of influential thinkers.

Ethical theory will also be applied to issues of importance; namely euthanasia, business ethics and sexual ethics.

Topics include: Natural law, Situation Ethics, Kantian Ethics, Utilitarianism, Applied Ethics on the topics of Euthanasia and Business Ethics, Conscience and Sexual Ethics.

Year 13

Completion of the philosophy and Ethics papers with the topics of: Religious Language and Meta-ethical Theories.

PAPER 3: Exploration of a religious belief, values and teachings and practices that shape religious identity, as well as sources of wisdom and authority.

Also central are the ways in which religious traditions have developed over time, and religious responses to challenges and significant contemporary social issues.

Topics include: Augustine's Teaching on human nature, Death and the Afterlife, Knowledge of God's existence, The person of Jesus, Christian Moral Principles/Action, Religious Pluralism and theology/Society, Gender in Theology/Society, Challenge of Secularism and Liberation Theology/Marxism

Examinations

Three papers (Philosophy/Ethics/Developments in Christian Thought)

2 hours each all equal in value (33.3%)

A Level

Head of Subject:

Mrs L Cookson

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in English Language and 5 in Maths

Are you interested in?

The impact of digital forms of communication on social relations
Inequality in society
Patterns and trends in relation to social class
Critical theories such as Feminism and Marxism

Leading to a career in:

Politics
Criminal Justice
Business
Education

This subject goes well with:

English
Psychology
History

Sociology

Sociology gives anyone with an interest in social issues, social justice, and current affairs the opportunity to gain a valuable understanding and insight into how society works. You are encouraged to think critically and analytically, and to make informed judgments and arguments based on evidence and theories.

The study of Sociology provides a valuable insight into social factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, education and social class and how they affect society and life chances. You will develop an increased awareness and understanding of the world you live in and role you play in it.

Course Content

Year 12

- Introducing socialisation, culture and identity
- Families and relationships
- Research methods
- Researching social inequalities
- Understanding social inequalities

Year 13

- Globalisation and the digital social world
- Debates explored through a detailed study of crime and deviance

Examinations

The A Level in Sociology is a linear qualification with 100% external assessment. This qualification consists of three examined components.

Paper 1: Socialisation, culture and identity, 1 hour 30 minutes written paper (30% of grade)

Paper 2: Researching and understanding social inequalities, 2 hours 15 minutes written paper (35% of grade)

Paper 3: Debates in contemporary society, 2 hours 15 minutes written paper (35% of grade)



BTECs

Subject Information



BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Head of Subject: Dr S Cockbill

Exam Board: Pearson

Entry Requirements

At least 5,5 in Science overall,
grade 4 English and 4 in Maths

Are you interested in?

Developing your knowledge across
all three sciences; using
microscopes, lasers and other
specialist equipment; dissecting
animal and plant systems; learning
laboratory techniques; applying
scientific principles to personal,
social, environmental and
economic issues

Leading to a career in:

Biomedical sciences, Technicians
and researchers, Hospital
laboratory work, Forensics,
Agriculture and Animal care, Food
Technology, Health and Social Care
BTEC Science is particularly
suitable for progression onto
vocational, science based degree
programmes such as Nursing or
Applied Science.

This subject goes well with:

Maths, Psychology, Geography, PE,
Art

Applied Science

BTEC Level 3 qualifications are designed to provide highly specialist work-related qualifications in a range of vocational sectors. They give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment. The two year course is a nationally recognised qualification equivalent to 1 A* - E grade at A Level.

The teaching for the course will involve a mixture of teaching, practical work, personal research, group research, discussion, and visits to local businesses. The course consists of an even mix of biology, chemistry, and physics topics. In the first year of study students will complete two mandatory units. BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Applied Science can be gained at the end of the year pending their successful completion. In the second year students will go on to complete a further two optional units, successful completion of which will result in achievement of Edexcel BTEC Level 3 extended certificate in Applied Science.

Course content

Year 1

Unit 1 Principles and applications of Science

This is the written exam element of the course covering the core principles of science — biology, chemistry and physics.

Unit 2 Practical scientific procedures and techniques

This is a written assignment based on the main principles of working in a science lab.

Unit 3 Scientific Investigation Skills

This is a practical set by the exam board. Students having to plan, carry out and write up the experiment.

Optional Unit

We are able to choose a wide range of optional units. This is done in consultation with the students. This year we are doing Human Regulation & Reproduction.

Examinations

Unit 1: 3 exams in the summer term of year 1

Biology exam (45 mins)

Physics exam (45 mins)

Chemistry exam (45 mins)

Unit 2:

Internally assessed course work

Unit 3:

A practical exam and a written exam paper – marked externally

Optional Unit:

Internally assessed course work

Student Views: "I enjoy BTEC Science as it combines my favorite subjects with a practical side" Jess Year 13



BTEC Extended Certificate

Head of Subject:

Mrs Sabharwal

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in English Literature and Language, 5 in Maths, 5 in Business

Are you interested in?

Learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business-related subjects.

Leading to a career in:

Accountancy, HR Manager, Marketing Manager, Logistics Director, Entrepreneur, Retail, HR and Banking, Recruitment and Sales.

This subject goes well with:

ICT, Media Studies, Geography

Student views

"BTEC business is interesting because it gives a first hand experience of real life business experiences."

Business

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

Course Content

Unit 1 – Exploring a Business

Explore the features of different businesses and analyse what makes them successful, Investigate how businesses are organised, examine the environment in which businesses operate, examine business markets, Investigate the role and contribution of innovation and enterprise to business success.

Unit 2– Developing a Marketing Campaign

Gain an understanding of how a marketing campaign is developed, exploring different stages of the process.

Unit 3– Personal and Business Finance

Personal finance involves the understanding of why money is important and how managing your money can help prevent the future financial difficulties. The business finance aspects of the unit introduce you to accounting terminology, the purpose and importance of business accounts and the different sources of finance available to businesses.

Unit 8 – Recruitment and Selection

Recruiting the right people is essential to the success of a

business. It is important that the processes and procedures involved in recruitment and selection meet the needs of the business and comply with current regulations. You will learn that successful recruitment is key to maintaining the success of a business, as people are often considered to be the most valued resource. You will explore the various selection tools and the enhanced use of technology in this area.

Examinations

4 units of which 3 are mandatory 1 is optional.

2 units are internally assessed through controlled assessments.

2 units are externally assessed via exams.



BTEC Extended Certificate

Head of Subject: Miss F Kiss

Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

GCSE Computer Science, grade 6
English and 6 in Maths

Are you interested in?

Programming
Problem solving
Practical & technical skills
Logical thinking

Leading to a career in:

Software developer
Cyber security
Network manager
Game development
Data Analyst
Systems engineer
IT Consultant

This subject goes well with:

Maths
Physics
Business

Student Views

"It is a course that enables you to have hands on experience, after all technology is part of our future, and we need to decide how it can impact and shape our world."

Computing

If you have a keen interest in Computing and want to gain the fundamental knowledge and skills in the Computing sector, with a view to progress onto a wide range of higher education courses then BTEC Level 3 Computing is the right course for you. It is a nationally recognised qualification, which will prepare you for many careers and further study at degree level and beyond.

You will study the principles of Computer Science, various programming languages and the fundamentals of Computer Systems. Alongside this you will also be studying IT Systems Security and Encryption and how to ensure a computer system is kept secure. We will also investigate the computer games industry and its impact on technologic and social trends which will enable you to design and develop a computer game to meet the user requirements. You need to have a keen interest in computing and evidence of completion of using a programming language is essential.

Course Content

There are three mandatory units;

- The principles of Computer Science
- The fundamentals of Computer Systems
- IT Systems security and Encryption

And one option unit which is selected by the subject teacher. They may include:

- Human-computer interaction
- Computer games development
- Mobile apps development

- Digital graphics and animation
- Website development
- Managing and supporting Systems

Examinations

You will be assessed through four units of work:

- Two units are externally assessed through a written examination.
- Two units are internally assessed through coursework.

Teachers can provide some guidance on coursework which ensures the students maintains a high standard in order to achieve a mark to their ability. Students will be able to manage their own time in regard to completion around the hand in dates set by their subject teacher. Grades are given from a pass, merit or distinction for each piece of work and the cumulative points earned for all units will then influence the overall grade awarded to the student on completion of all four units.



WJEC Diploma

Head of Subject:

Mrs K Randhawa

Exam Board: WJEC

Entry Requirements

Merit in Food Science & Nutrition

Are you interested in?

Nutrition, Food Science, practical skills, Medicine

Leading to a career in:

Product Development, Nutritionist, Care Industry, Environmental health, Teaching, Social Work, Medicine, Nutritional Science, Food Retail and Manufacture

This subject goes well with:

P.E.

Geography

Chemistry

Biology

BTEC Science

Student views

"The practical elements of the course are really enjoyable."

Food Science & Nutrition

Partnership Subject HGSS

Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition qualification allows students to gain a wealth of knowledge about the food and nutrition industry. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the relationship between the human body and food as well as advanced practical skills for cooking and preparing food.

The qualification has been designed around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning. There is a strong emphasis on practical work, making this an ideal choice for students who prefer to learn by doing. The qualification mirrors many work activities in the food and nutrition industry and facilitates learning in a range of contexts.

Course Content and Examinations

Unit 1: Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups (Compulsory)

Internally assessed project: The purpose of the internal assessment is for learners to develop an understanding of the nutritional needs of specific target groups and plan and cook complex dishes to meet their nutritional needs.

External examination:

90 minute examination plus 15 minutes reading time
Three sections on each paper:

Section A: short answer questions

Section B: extended answer questions

Section C: relates to a case study

Unit 2: Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat – external written exam (Compulsory)

It is an eight hour timed, supervised assessment which will involve the learner in bringing together and making connections between the knowledge, understanding and skills learned throughout the unit and applying these by responding to information provided in a scenario. The scenario will relate to a food safety situation. It will require learners to analyse the information and make judgements regarding the potential food safety risk

Unit 4: Current Issues in Food Science & Nutrition

This is an internally assessed project



BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Entry Requirements

At least 5 GCSE grades 9-4 including grade 5 in English Language

Are you interested in?

Health Sector
Social Care
Child Care

Leading to a career in:

Statutory, private and voluntary provision of care services

This subject goes well with:

Student views

"I enjoy Health and Social Care because it helps me to care about and understand people."

Health & Social Care

Partnership Subject SWR

Do you want to help people? Do you want to be an active role in society? Do you want a head start in any management roles? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions then come and do Level 3 Health and Social Care with us.

This course is purpose built for students who wish to pursue a career in the Health sector, the Social Care sector or Child Care. We cover a range of topics including, working in H&SC, including the skills and attributes needed to work in the sector; the impact of self-image and perception on a person's life and the sociological perspectives that help us to understand life, each other and society.

During this course you will learn many skills that are so easily transferable to interview situations, management positions and the working world in general. These include presentation, communication and being a good self-manager. If you have a passion for learning about how the Health and Care sectors are influenced by a range of factors and you are caring and self-motivated, then this is the ideal course for you.

Course Content

Units cover a wide range of Health and Social Care topics.

Mandatory Units:

Human Lifespan Development - Year 1 Exam

Working in Health & Social Care - Year 2 Exam

Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs - Year 1 Coursework

One Optional Unit:

Sociological Perspective in Health and Social Care - Year 2 Coursework

Progression

The Health and Social Care sector encompasses staff involved in direct care, as well as specialists such as Health Scientists, Technicians, Support Staff, Supervisors and Managers. There are employment opportunities in the statutory, private and voluntary provision of care services.

BTEC Level 3 extended certificate in Health and Social Care is designed to provide progression to a University Degree in an appropriate vocational discipline or for those working in the sector, to the BTEC Higher National Qualifications (HNCs and HNDs), Foundation Degrees or to employment.



BTEC Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Entry Requirements

At least five GCSEs Grade 9 - 4 including English and Maths, be able to sing or play an instrument competently

Are you interested in?

How the music sector works; improving your performance skills; music theory

Leading to a career in:

Music industry
Performance
Composing

This subject goes well with:

Drama and Theatre Studies
English
Business

Music

Partnership Subject SWR

Why study music? Not only do you become more intelligent when playing an instrument, you also maintain good physical health, mental health and well-being due to music's relaxing and anti-aging benefits. With the BTEC course we provide you will not only learn music theory and performance skills but you will acquire an entire understanding of how the music industry works and the career opportunities within it. The UK Music Industry is a global leader worth a record £4.5 Billion and is growing year on year. With that comes more and more opportunities that you could be a part of.

Learners wishing to study the BTEC Extended Certificate in Music need to be able to sing or play an instrument competently and with confidence and enrolment in peripatetic lessons to supplement their learning is essential. Students need to be aware that they will be required to perform in various contexts throughout the course. A basic understanding of Music Theory and a study of GCSE or BTEC Music Level 2 at 'Merit' or above is an advantage but not essential. Commitment and enthusiasm are essential and the importance of meeting deadlines is vital.

Course Content

This course is equivalent to one A-Level with four units of which three are mandatory and two are external. Mandatory content 83%. External assessment 58%. The four units, 360 Guided Learning Hours (GLH), that make up the BTEC Extended Certificate in Music have been developed to give learners experience of working in the music industry. Learners will gain

experience not only of industry related tasks but will also be provided with an insight into the various means of employment within the music industry, such as composing and performing. The broad basis of study for the music sector has a focus on performance, personal instrumental technique development, music theory and professional practice.

Throughout the two year course, learners study 4 units.

These give opportunities to:

- Gain an understanding of world music through practical performance-led tasks
- Organize and participate in large scale concerts
- Experience life as a musician and composer in the music industry and the demands and creativity that these roles require
- Develop instrumental or vocal skills both as a soloist and as an ensemble

All units require learners to work to a timeline and deliver a final product. The Music Department has specialist equipment for the production of both live concerts and recording. BTEC Students will be given the opportunity to use this equipment during lessons and also in assisting and producing live or recorded events.

Progression

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Music can lead to further study in music in further or higher education. Several past students have progressed to university music courses or have embarked on careers within the Music Industry.

BTEC Extended Certificate

Head of Subject: Miss F Kiss
Exam Board: OCR

Entry Requirements

Level 2 Merit in ICT or 5 in GCSE ICT

Are you interested in?

Understanding how technology impacts the world; Digital technology; Accounting; Obtaining real world ICT skills that can be used in future careers

Leading to a career in:

Software Developer
Cyber Security
Network Manager
Game development
Data Analyst
Systems Engineer
IT Consultant

This subject goes well with:

Maths
Physics
Business

Student views

"It is a course that enables you to have hands on experience, after all technology is part of our future, and we need to decide how it can impact and shape our world."

IT

If you are interested in the studying of how to create IT systems to manage and share information with a view to progress onto a wide range of higher education courses then BTEC Level 3 Information Technology is the right course for you. It is a nationally recognised qualification, which will prepare you for many careers and further study at degree level and beyond.

You will study the field of Information Technology which involves the use of computers in industry, commerce, the arts and elsewhere. You will be looking at the systems architecture, human factors, project management and the general ability to use computers. This will involve studying the relationship between hardware and software, the managing and communicating of information as well as how social media is used within the Business world. You need to have a keen interest in Information Technology and how it can be used within the world of Business. Ideally having studied an IT or ICT qualification at GCSE is of benefit but not essential.

Course Content

There are three mandatory units:

- Information Technology Systems
- Creating Systems to Manage Information
- Using Social Media in Business

And one option unit which is selected by the subject teacher. This may include:

- Data Modelling
- Website Development

Examinations

You will be assessed through four units of work:

- One unit is externally assessed through a written examination.
- One unit is externally assessed through a practical examination.
- Two units are internally assessed through coursework.

Teachers can provide some guidance on coursework which ensures the students maintains a high standard in order to achieve a mark to their ability. Students will be able to manage their own time in regard to completion around the hand in dates set by their subject teacher. Grades are given from a pass, merit or distinction for each piece of work and the cumulative points earned for all units will then influence the overall grade awarded to the student on completion of all four units.



BTEC Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Entry Requirements

You should have an interest in the uniformed or non-uniformed public services. You must have at least five GCSEs Grade 9 - 4 including English Language.

Are you interested in?

Criminology
Public Services

Leading to a career in:

Police, Army, Fire Service, Nursing, RAF, Security and Border Control and many more.

This subject goes well with:

Sport BTEC
Applied Science BTEC

Uniformed Protective Services

This course develops leadership and teamwork skills required by the uniformed protective services industry. If you are interested in joining the 'Blue Light' or Armed Forces, Prison Service, security organisations or HM Customs, our motivational protective services programme will prepare you for a range of career paths. The BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Uniformed Protective Services is designed to give learners the knowledge, skills and understanding needed for progression into employment or further education.

You will develop knowledge of leadership styles and an understanding of teams and teamwork activities within the public services. You will also gain the skills needed to communicate with and lead teams. You will examine a range of theories that underpin behaviour and how they are applied in the uniformed protective services. You will explore how authority is used to benefit both the individual and society.

During the Criminology Unit you will study the theories of the causes of criminal behaviour and any other contributory factors that may lead to criminally and antisocial behaviour. You will also explore the various methods of crime prevention in England and Wales. You will research the different possible careers and the associated job roles in the protective services. The course allows you to take part in application and interview assessment activities for a selected career pathway.

Course Content

The BTEC Level 3 in Uniformed Protective Services is a 60 credit and 360 GLH qualification, which is broadly equivalent

to one A-Level. It includes two mandatory units and two optional units. Three units are internally assessed with one externally assessed exam in Year 12.

Partnership Subject SWR

Mandatory Units

- Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services - Exam
- Teamwork, Leadership and Communication in the Uniformed Protective Services

Selected 'Optional' Units

- Introduction to Criminology
- Professional Development in the Uniformed Protective Services

Progression

Students may consider direct entry into other employment or onto university with students going on to study subjects including Police Studies, Law, Sociology, Criminology and Psychology at Universities such as Brunel, Kent, Leicester, Manchester, Plymouth, Reading and Southampton.



BTEC Extended Certificate

Head of Subject : Mr R Ellis
Exam Board : Edexcel

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE PE and 4 in Maths and English

Are you interested in?

Anatomy and physiology, exercise science, careers in sport, fitness testing and designing training programmes

Leading to a career in:

Sports coaching, sports development, teaching, exercise physiology, sports medicine, any sports degree at university

This subject goes well with:

Biology
BTEC Science
WJEC Food Science and Nutrition
Health and Social Care

Student views

"An enjoyable and interesting subject, with both theory and practical based lessons."

Sport

This qualification is designed to develop the key knowledge, understanding and practical skills essential within the sports industry. The course incorporates a variety of both practical and theory teaching methods to enhance your learning and understanding.

The style of assessment is a real strength of the course, being a combination of coursework and exam based assessments, allowing students to reach their full potential. There is a diverse range of assessment methods used including: written assignments, group work, laboratory reports, presentations and practical tests.

Course Content

Year 12

Both written exam units are completed in this year.

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology focuses on the skeletal, muscular, respiratory and cardiodascular systems.

Unit 2: Fitness training and programming for Health, Sport and Well-being requires creating training programmes after analysing a performer's needs.

Year 13

Both coursework units are completed in this year.

Unit 3 is concerned with researching careers in the sports' industry and learning the skills required to gain these types of jobs.

Unit 5 uses advanced fitness testing to analyse and improve performance.

Examinations

Both in Year 12

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology

Written exam 1 hour 30 minutes (30% of BTEC)
A combination of short answer questions.

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-Being

Written exam 2 hours 30 minutes with 4 hours preparation time based on pre-release material (30% of BTEC).



AS Levels

Subject Information



AS Level

Head of Subject: Miss K Harrison

Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry Requirements:

Average of 6s across GCSE subjects

Are you interested in?

Improving your transferable skills in organisation and communication;
learning how to research effectively
Going above and beyond the curriculum to show dedication to your subject

Leading to a career in:

Any industry related to the topic of your choosing!

This subject goes well with:

Anything and everything!

EPQ should only be taken as a 4th subject.

EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the standard A-level syllabus and prepare for university and their future career by providing them with transferable skills which can be applied to any area of study or expertise.

The EPQ is a Level 3 qualification, and can be completed in areas of study which are related to their other chosen subjects, going beyond their curriculum, or can be completed on a completely stand-alone area of interest or activity. The project title will be chosen and developed by the student, and appropriated by the centre. The course does require a significant amount of commitment, and can earn students up to seventy additional UCAS points.

Course Content

Year 12

Delivery of the EPQ takes place in Year 12, and will begin with taught sessions in order to provide students with the necessary skills required in order to be successful in their project. These sessions include how to conduct academic research, how to manage your time and how to reference accurately to ensure you avoid plagiarism. It will also involve extended autonomous work by the learner, requiring 120 guided learning hours in total.

Learners are required to:

- Choose an area of interest and select a relevant mentor to support them through the process
- Draft a title and aims for their project for formal approval by the centre
- Plan, research and complete the project, which will take the form of either a Dissertation, Investigation, Performance or Artefact

- Deliver an evaluative presentation to a specified audience
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

Examinations

There is no examination for EPQ. Students are assessed on how they progress throughout the project, focussing on their ability to plan, manage and evaluate their work, as well as the final outcome of their project.

The areas of assessment are as follows:

- Managing the project
- Using independent research
- Developing and realising their project
- Reviewing and evaluating their project

This is internally assessed, and sent to the exam board for moderation.



AS Level 3 Certificate

Head of Subject:

Mr J Ortega (KS5 Maths Coordinator)

Exam Board:

Pearson Edexcel AS level

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 Maths

Are you interested in?

Psychology, statistics, business, computing, economics, accountancy...

Leading to a career in:

Accountancy
Insurance
General Management
Local government
Economist
Psychologist
Teaching

This subject goes well with:

Biology, Geography, Psychology, Sociology, Arts, Music, PE and Business Studies

Maths in Context

Mathematics in Context is a course intended for students who are keen to extend their GCSE Maths skills for a future study or work, but are not planning on taking Mathematics at A level. If you are planning to study subjects such as Science, Geography, Business, Economics or Psychology at A level, or a vocational qualification, or are planning to take an apprenticeship or move into employment, **Mathematics in Context** will be useful to help refine and develop your maths skills.

Mathematics in Context is different from GCSE Maths. During your studies, you will look at how to use and apply Maths in many different situations. You will read articles that involve interpreting data and mathematical information, all from relevant and interesting sources. At the end of the two-year course, you will be awarded a Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context, similar to an AS. The qualification is also recognised in UCAS points.

Course Content

The content has been carefully selected to support the mathematical needs of a range of AS, A Level and BTEC Level 3 qualifications, and to provide a progression from GCSE Mathematics. The four content strands are: Applications of Statistics, Probability, Linear programming, Sequences and Growth.

Year 12

Edexcel Level 3 Maths in Context (Unit 1 to 7)

Plot graphs, ratios, geometric sequences, golden ratio, iteration, linear sequences, Spearman's rank, log function, Fibonacci sequence, sum of convergent

series, linear graph, sum of Nth-terms, percentages, Venn diagrams, probability tree diagram, standard deviation, log functions.

Year 13

Edexcel Level 3 Maths in Context (Unit 8 to 12)

Probability, formula, interest, quadratic graph, Venn diagrams, histogram, sum of series, scatter graph, calculate averages, speed velocity, moving averages, PMCC, interest, percentage, quadratic sequences, differentiation, quadratic graph, quadratic sequences, regression line.

Examinations

Paper 1 Comprehension (40%)

Paper 2 Applications (60%)



Key dates:

Final Applications: **Friday 29 January 2021**

Final STEAM Scholarship Applications: **Friday 14 February 2021**

Internal Applicant Meetings begin: **Week commencing 23 February 2021**

External Applicant Meetings begin: **Week commencing 8 March 2021**

Offers of Sixth Form places: **Week commencing 29 March 2020**

Sixth Form Induction Days: **TBC**

GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment for Internal students: **Thursday 26 August 2021**

Sixth Form Enrolment for External Students: **Monday 30th August**

First Day of Autumn Term: **Friday 3 September 2021 - (to be confirmed)**

How to find us:

Directions

Holmer Green Senior School is located just north of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, in the village Holmer Green. The school is about 15 minutes from junction 3 of the M40, approximately half way between London and Oxford.





“Work Hard, Be Kind”



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Headteacher: Ed Hillyard**