

Sixth Form at
St Thomas More
Subject Guide





Welcome to St Thomas More Sixth Form

Beyond supporting our students to academic success, we want them to develop into well-rounded individuals who through our wide range of enrichment opportunities, develop into leaders within the school and wider community.

Sixth Form is the launchpad to brilliant careers and our students progress onto outstanding destinations, including Russell Group universities, prestigious apprenticeships and professional placements.

We achieve this through:

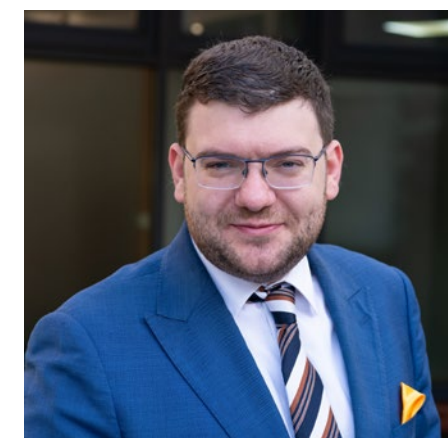
- outstanding teaching and learning led by passionate experts
- high quality pastoral support
- excellent career advice, information and guidance
- leadership and other voluntary opportunities
- personal development and well-being programme
- links with leading universities and employers

We hope you find all the guidance you need within this subject guide. For further information please scan the QR code to find a copy of our prospectus.

Please get in touch if you have questions or would like to discuss your Sixth Form journey.



Jodie Pitfield, Head of Year 12



Simon Ruggiero, Assistant Head Teacher,
Head of Sixth Form

Entry requirements

To enter the Sixth Form, students should have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, preferably including English and Maths if intending to follow a Level 3 course. Specific subjects at A Level often require special entry criteria and this information can be found on the subject pages.

There may be situations where individuals will be accepted with lower qualifications and consideration maybe given in such circumstances. Without English and Mathematics at Grade 4 or above, it is recommended that a Level 2 course should be followed for a year and this may lead onto a Level 3 course in the following year.

Subjects available:

Level 2

- English (GCSE)
- Mathematics (GCSE)

Level 3

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Art & Design (A Level) | Further Mathematics (A Level) |
| Biology (A Level) | Media Production (BTEC & A Level) |
| Business (BTEC & A Level) | Modern Foreign Languages (A Level) |
| Chemistry (A Level) | Music (A Level) |
| Drama & Theatre Studies (A Level) | Music Technology (BTEC) |
| Economics (A Level) | Philosophy & Ethics (A Level) |
| English Literature (A Level) | Physics (A Level) |
| Geography (A Level) | Politics (A Level) |
| Health & Social Care (BTEC) | Psychology (A Level) |
| History (A Level) | Sociology (A Level) |
| IT (Level 3 & A Level) | Sport (BTEC) |
| Mathematics (A Level) | |



Art & Design A Level



Course Content

Art A Level is assessed through 60% coursework and 40% externally set task. For the coursework component, pupils select their own topic to explore in depth and produce a personal body of work, which also includes a written essay. The externally set task, provided by OCR, offers a choice of five themes. Pupils have ten weeks to prepare their ideas and supporting studies before completing a final piece during a 15-hour practical assessment.

Enrichment Opportunities

During the Art A Level qualification students will benefit from gallery visits, Artists workshops, and Art school / Art university lectures.

Success

Art and Design is a demanding A Level. It requires resilience and a willingness to work through problems and reflect on work independently. A love of creativity, awareness of oneself and the surrounding world is also essential.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Art works well with a wide variety of subjects. For example, Maths and Art are required to study architecture, ICT and Art are required to study graphic design.

Exam Board

OCR

Entry Criteria

Grade 5 in GCSE Art and Design.

What might studying this course lead to?

Art and Design is favourable for any degree which requires creative / lateral thought. It could lead to careers in Media, Publishing, Fashion, Design, Research, Graphics and Technology.

Business Studies A Level



Course Content

Business is a popular academic course that is firmly grounded in the reality of the dynamic business environment. Students will learn subject content alongside real business events and realities such as the global recession, cost of living, digital technology and the leadership of great entrepreneurs to bring theory to life. Students achieve good results in this subject and are taught by dedicated teachers who have a real passion for the subject. The A Level course explores the challenges and issues of starting and running a business and examines the different functional areas including Leadership, Human Resources, Finance, Marketing and Operations. The course allows students to investigate small start-up ventures, medium-sized enterprises and multinational companies, discussing the issues and strategies required at each level.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students are encouraged to take part in a range of enrichment opportunities to develop their understanding of the business world beyond the classroom. These include:

- Visits to businesses, financial institutions and universities
- Guest speakers from industry and local businesses
- Enterprise and entrepreneurship activities
- Business competitions and challenges
- Careers talks and workshops

Success

A Level Business Studies: 2025/2026 – ALPS 3 – 96% pass rate with 92% of students achieved *A–C

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Sociology, Maths, Economics, Media, IT and Psychology.

Exam Board

AQA

Entry Criteria

Minimum of five GCSEs, Grades 9-4 including a Grade 5 in Mathematics (as there is a need to interpret graphs and data, as well as performing calculations) and a Grade 5 in English.

What might studying this course lead to?

Studying A Level Business can lead to a wide range of university courses, apprenticeships and careers. Possible progression routes include:

- Business Management & Entrepreneurship
- Marketing and Digital Marketing
- Accounting and Finance
- Human Resource Management
- International Business
- Banking and Financial Services
- Retail and Operations Management
- Degree and higher apprenticeships in business-related fields

The course also develops valuable skills in decision-making, analysis, problem-solving, communication and evaluating business strategies, which are highly valued by universities and employers.

Biology A Level



Course Content

Are you fascinated by the living world and want to know how it all works, from biological molecules to organ systems, from the evolution of species to entire ecosystems? Then A Level Biology is the subject for you. Whether you are more interested in the biochemistry of proteins and enzymes, or the physiology of nervous and circulatory systems or immunology and biomedicine, This A Level will give you an in-depth introduction preparing you for higher education and career options. Biology is about developing a depth of biological knowledge, practical expertise and opportunities for wider engagement with the subject.

Enrichment Opportunities

We enter first year students into the Royal Society of Biology's national Intermediate Biology Olympiad, a chance to expand and deepen your biological knowledge and achieve a prestigious prize. We take students to biology-themed lectures and exhibitions, where students can learn about innovative research from biology experts.

Success

Many of our students go on to study Biology-related subjects such as Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biomedical Sciences and Biochemistry at Russell Group Universities. In 2022, we achieved 100% pass rate.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Health and Social Care.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel B)

Entry Criteria

Two Grade 6s in Combined Sciences or Grade 6 in Biology and Grade 5 in Mathematics.

What might studying this course lead to?

Biology is particularly valued when supporting applications for degree courses in subjects such as Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Physiotherapy, Psychology and Sports Studies.

Business Studies BTEC



Course Content

A BTEC in Business is a different way of learning about the varied and fast moving business world. It is a practical course with assignments about real business, enabling you to gain a wide understanding of the purpose of different firms, their structure, and how they need to innovate to succeed.

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate is split into 2 halves; the first 50% of the qualification is coursework and the other 50% is made up of external examinations. In Year 12, you will complete one unit of coursework (Unit 1: Exploring Business) and One external exam (Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance). In Year 13, you will complete one unit of coursework (Unit 8: Recruitment and Selection) and one external exam (Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign).

Enrichment Opportunities

Students attend a number of academic conferences to assist with examinations. IntoUniversity programme. Visit to the London Stock Exchange. Vocational Speakers and Workshops.

Success

2025/2026 – ALPS 4 (100% pass rate, with 77% achieving Merit and Distinctions grades)

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Maths, Economics, IT and Media.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

Minimum of five GCSEs, Grades 9-4. Entry Requirements = Grades 4 in Math's and English required.

What might studying this course lead to?

Studying the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business can lead to further study, apprenticeships or employment in a wide range of business-related areas.

- Possible progression routes include:
- University courses such as Business Management, Marketing, Finance, Accounting, Human Resources or International Business
- Higher and degree apprenticeships in areas such as management, banking, marketing, administration and finance
- Careers in marketing, sales, finance, HR, management, retail, customer service, entrepreneurship and business administration

The course also develops transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, research, problem-solving, organisation and decision-making, which are valued by both universities and employers.

Chemistry A Level



Course Content

Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry (Exam)

Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry (Exam)

General and Practical Principles in Chemistry (Exam)

Science Practical Endorsement (Internally assessed)

Enrichment Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to attend various external lectures and receive lots of independent work each day. Chemistry is best learnt through constant practice and repetition and students get plenty of opportunity to do this. Exam packs are produced containing every single past paper question so students will never run out of opportunities to practice.

Success

Our chemists perform extremely well year after year. Most of our students achieving places at top universities.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Biology, Physics, Mathematics.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

Grade 6 in GCSE Double or Triple Science including Chemistry, Grade 6 in GCSE Maths and a Grade 6 in GCSE English Language.

What might studying this course lead to?

Chemistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Environmental Science and Engineering as well as careers in more broadly related areas, such as the Chemical industry.

Creative Digital Media Production



Course Content

The qualification provides a coherent introduction to the study of creative digital media production. Learners develop an understanding of the media industry through analysing media representations and pitching and producing media projects such as short films, promotional videos and websites. It is designed for post-16 learners who aim to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the media industry, as part of a programme of study alongside other BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

Enrichment Opportunities

Practical workshops with external agencies, visits to broadcasting and production companies in London. Guest speakers from a variety of media companies. Building media business acumen. Developing production skills in demand in all industries such as Adobe Photoshop, and InDesign.

Success

75% of students achieved D*-D grades.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Business Studies, Art, Music, English Literature, and ICT.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel).

Entry Criteria

A minimum of a Grade 4 in English GCSE is required.

What might studying this course lead to?

Media degrees usually require Media Studies including degrees in Media, Television Production, Media Digital Arts and Film, Media and Communication. It can lead to careers in advertising, film production, social media executive and newspaper executive.

Computer Science A Level



Course Content

The course places a large emphasis on problem solving using computers. It is beneficial therefore for students to have prior programming experience using any one of the following languages (Python, VB.NET, C# or Java). In addition to this skill, students should also have good mathematical skills and be able to apply their inherent methodical and logical approach to problem solving tasks. Hence apart from Computer Science, students who have also studied Maths and Science should possess the required skillset to succeed on this course.

Enrichment Opportunities

We run classes after school for students who want to learn to code their own websites, animations, and even video games. Through this activity, you can learn the basics of multiple programming languages or become proficient in one particular language. We also offer many trips and visits as part of the curriculum enrichment to broaden students understanding and underpin the learning in the classroom.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Science and Mathematics.

Exam Board

OCR

Entry Criteria

Grade 6 or higher in English and Maths.

What might studying this course lead to?

A wide spectrum of careers is available including software development, science, web design, game development, artificial intelligence, business, data analysis and many more.



Drama & Theatre A Level



Course Content

You will study three units:

C1: Devising – in small groups you will devise a play in response to a stimulus and complete coursework to document your process. The play is performed in the style of an influential theatre practitioner.

C2: Text in Performance – a performance of two script extracts from plays to an external examiner. This includes a monologue and a duologue or group piece.

C3: Theatre Makers in Practice – an external exam in which you respond as a director and a designer to an unseen extract of script, as well as reviewing a live theatre performance.

Enrichment Opportunities

We have strong links with world famous drama schools RADA, The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and Mountview, giving our students coaching and workshop opportunities. Our students have access to a scholarship to Collage Arts and can become involved in our ongoing projects with establishments such as the National Youth Theatre, Haringey Shed and the Donmar Warehouse in Covent Garden. There are regular trips to see live theatre performances and workshops with industry professionals..

Success

Drama and Theatre A Level students exceed their potential. In 2026, 100% of our students achieved an A*-C grade.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

English Literature, History, or Media. Although Drama is looked upon favourably by many universities due to the wide range of transferable skills that will be developed.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

A minimum of a Grade 5 in English GCSE and/or Drama GCSE is required.

What might studying this course lead to?

Drama and Theatre A Level is favourable for any degree which requires creativity, collaboration and presentation skills. It can lead to careers such as Acting, Theatre Designing, Directing and Producing. It is also a popular choice for those considering Law.

Economics A Level



Course Content

Economics is a challenging, technical, theoretical and yet practical subject, and to be successful you will need to have a thorough grasp of the theory covered at A Level. However, the more you can place economic theory in real world scenarios, the better you will be able to evaluate ideas and give yourself the chance of attaining top grades. You will also personally get more out of the course if you have a good understanding of the prevailing economic climate in the UK, across Europe and in a global context. The global recession, Eurozone crisis, Brexit, Covid-19, war and cost of living means that there are always interesting and challenging articles appearing in the news for you to follow.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Business Studies, Maths, Sociology, Modern languages, Politics, History, Psychology and Geography.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students are encouraged to take part in a range of enrichment opportunities to develop their understanding of Economics beyond the classroom. These include:

- Access to UpLearn to support independent study, revision and exam preparation
- Visits to universities, financial institutions and organisations such as the Bank of England
- Guest speakers from economics, finance and business-related careers
- Economics competitions, debates and enrichment activities
- Careers talks and university preparation
- Wider reading and regular analysis of current economic news and events
- Opportunities to explore topics such as inflation, unemployment, economic growth, inequality and globalisation.

Success

2025/2026 – ALPS 3 - 100% pass rate, with 84.1% achieving C+, 56.8% achieving B+, and 6.8% achieving A+.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

Minimum of five GCSEs Grades 9-5, including a grade 5 in Maths and English.

What might studying this course lead to?

Economics A Level is favourable for any degree which requires numerical and analytical thought. Careers in Economics are as diverse as they come, with job roles covering everything from

- Finance and Banking
- Accounting
- Business and Management
- Politics and International Relations
- Law
- Data Analysis
- Public Policy
- Investment and Financial Services

The course develops strong analytical, numerical, problem-solving and evaluative skills, which are highly valued by universities and employers across a wide range of industries.

Geography A Level



Course Content

Geography is a demanding A Level. It requires students to be curious about the world and to think critically about the ways in which the environment and people are interconnected. Geography is vital to understanding and tackling the rapidly changing social and environmental challenges of our times. Students should be avid readers and have a natural interest in current affairs, politics and sustainability.

Enrichment Opportunities

Residential fieldwork trips are an integral part of Geography in both years of the course, bringing many elements of the subject to life and being a key requirement for the Independent Investigation in Year 13. Shorter day trips to conferences and workshops also highlight the increasingly important role Geography plays in today's world.

Success

Geography results are consistently excellent with consecutive years of 100% A* - C. We have seen many students go on to study Geography at University, particular successes including places at Durham University and London School of Economics (LSE).

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Geography requires a broad range of skills and is therefore well paired with any of the science or social science subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Economics, Sociology, History, and Business.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

A minimum of a Grade 6 in Geography GCSE.

What might studying this course lead to?

Geography is looked on favourably by courses such as Environmental Sciences and Economics, as well as courses like Law and Accounting. Many universities offer Geography as a joint honours degree, allowing you to study it in combination with another subject. This may lead to careers in Town and Transport Planning, Land and Water Management, Environmental Consultancy, Development Policy, Tourism or Recreation, as well as Law, Finance and Administration.

English Literature A Level



Course Content

Paper 1: Drama

Shakespeare and a Modern Play. We study *Hamlet* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Paper 2: Prose

Prose *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte and *Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf.

Paper 3:

Unseen Poetry and Pre 1900. We study a collection of modern poems and compare to an unseen poem. We also study Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath*.

Coursework:

We study either Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber* or Ian McEwan's *Atonement* which students compare to a novel of their choice.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students can benefit from regular trips to bring studied texts to life: A visit to Howarth to experience the setting Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, visits to the Globe and Stratford upon Avon to watch *Hamlet*, exhibitions at the British Library in relation to Chaucer and evenings of spoken word and poetry performances in central London. Various conferences, linked with Oxford University, throughout the course based on studied texts.

Success

Our English A Level department boasts some outstanding results in recent years with our ALPS score remaining consistent.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

History, Politics, French, Economics, Sociology, Psychology.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel) 9ETO

Entry Criteria

Grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

What might studying this course lead to?

Any essay based subject will look favourably on English A Level as it is proof that you can read complex texts and write well. Degrees might include History, Sociology, Philosophy or International Relations.



Health & Social Care BTEC



Course Content

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care is a course for students with an interest in the work of the Health and Social Care sectors. Health and Social Care provides an insight into how humans develop over the six key life stages (from birth to death). Within each life stage, students explore the key aspects of development (physical, intellectual, emotional and social development). Students explore how different factors and life events can affect individuals and what jobs in the sector help to provide support.

The topics covered include:

Two Exam Units (Assessed externally)

- Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development
- Unit 2 - Human Health and Biology

Two Coursework Units:

Unit 3 - Principles of Health and Social Practice

Unit 5 - Promoting Health Education

Entry Criteria

A minimum of a Grade 4 in English GCSE. Students ideally would have a Level 2 BTEC in H+SC to at least a Merit standard.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students complete a five-day work placement in July. There are also speakers in the H+SC sector who visit e.g. Paediatrician, Midwife and Care Manager.

Success

100% Pass Rate

Which other courses does this combine well with?

English, Sociology, Psychology, History, Geography, Philosophy & Ethics and Business.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

What might studying this course lead to?

BTEC Health and Social Care is favourable for any degree which requires a social care or medical background. It can lead to a career in teaching, social work, midwifery, occupational therapy, paramedic and many others in the NHS.

History A Level



Course Content

Paper 1: In search of the American Dream: the USA, c.1917–96.

Paper 2: India, c1914–48: the road to Independence.

Paper 3: Poverty, Public health and growth of Government 1780–1939.

Paper 4: Independent coursework assignment (you have the freedom to choose your own topic).

Entry Criteria

Grade 6 or above in GCSE History. Candidates will be considered if they did not take GCSE History but gained at least a Grade 6 in English.

Enrichment Opportunities

Successful historians usually have a broad range of skills. These include an ability to analyse various types of cultural artefacts and sources, challenge presumptions, identify causal links and trends, conduct independent research, and presenting your ideas in well ordered and supported arguments. We support your learning through a number of lecture days and activities outside the classroom to bring your learning to life.

Success

100% pass rate; (33% A* - A; 100% A-C) last year students secured top grades and went on to study History at several outstanding universities including Cambridge. The coursework from the last few years has shown an amazing level of personal research and investigation into fascinating topics such as the impact of diamonds in the Sierra Leone conflict and the role of Polish collaborators in the Nazi Holocaust.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

History requires a broad range of skills and is therefore well paired with any of the science or social science subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Economics, Sociology, Geography, and Business.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel) – Route F

What might studying this course lead to?

History A Level is favourable for any degree course which requires analytical thinking and offers a chance to express a judgement or opinion. History leads to a wide range of possible careers, including: Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations, Journalism and Media, Research and Heritage, Teaching, Law, Business, and Public service.

Mathematics / Further Mathematics



Course Content

You will study a mixture of pure maths, mechanics and statistics units in both courses. You cannot choose Further Maths without studying Maths but you can choose Maths without Further Maths! We are following the Pearson (Edexcel) syllabus for both courses.

Enrichment Opportunities

During previous years, teachers and their classes have been invited to attend seminars and lectures.

Success

100% pass grades at A Level.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Physics, Chemistry, Maths, Computer Science, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, and Business.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

A minimum of a Grade 7 in Maths GCSE is required in order to study Maths at A Level. Preferably a Grade 8 in Maths for the Further Maths course. Resilience and willingness to work is important.

What might studying this course lead to?

Maths A Level is favourable for any degree, which requires logical thought. It can lead to careers in Engineering, Finance, Accounting, Teaching Maths and Computer Engineering.



Information Technology Cambridge Technical



Course Content

The OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma is designed for learners studying to prepare for employment in the IT sector. Especially Those who want to progress into IT-related apprenticeships and gain a Level 3 qualification to support further study in Further Education (FE) or to progress to Higher Education (HE) in IT.

Learners could progress onto a Level 4 apprenticeship such as Network Engineer or Software Developer or into employment in the IT sector in areas such as technical support, digital technologies, application development or data analysis.

Enrichment Opportunities

We run lunchtime clubs including homework sessions and the Computing Club. We also offer many trips and visits as part of the curriculum enrichment to broaden students understanding and underpin the learning in the classroom.

Success

All students completed the course and went to the university of their choice.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Business, Maths and Media.

Exam Board

OCR

Entry Criteria

Minimum of Grade 4s in GCSE Computer Science or ICT and a Grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics. Preferably all students will have some ICT background at Key Stage 4.

What might studying this course lead to?

Learners could progress onto a Level 4 apprenticeship such as Network Engineer or Software Developer or into employment in the IT sector in areas such as technical support, digital technologies, application development or data analysis and many others.

Media Studies A Level



Course Content

Our A Level in Media Studies encourages students to study media in an academic context and apply the knowledge and understanding gained to their own media productions. They develop critical thinking skills as they study the media in both global and historical contexts.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to attend events at the British Film Institute, production workshops with external agencies and production studios.

Success

Over 30% achieved a grade A–B with over 86% achieving A–C grades.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Drama, English, Music, Art, Sociology, History and Business Studies.

Exam Board

OCR

Entry Criteria

A minimum of a Grade 5 at English GCSE.

What might studying this course lead to?

Media degrees usually require Media Studies including degrees in Media, Television Production, Media Digital Arts and Film, Media and Communication. It can lead to careers in advertising, film production, social media executive and newspaper executive.

Modern Foreign Languages

Course Content

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation

Spanish:

- Film: *Volver* by *Pedro Almodóvar*

- Book: *El Coronel no tiene quien le escriba* by *Gabriel Garcia Marquez*

French:

- Film: *Intouchables* by *Éric Toledano and Olivier Nakache*

- Book: *L'Étranger* by *Albert Camus*

Paper 3: Speaking

- Independent Research project

Enrichment Opportunities

- Plays in Spanish and French performed by visiting theatre companies

- Trips to France and Spain

- Study days at university

Success

There is a 100% pass rate in French and Spanish at A level. Many students have gone onto study Languages at popular universities. Several of our language students have taken the opportunity to return to the MFL department as Foreign Language Assistants or as Student Ambassadors.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Languages are well paired with Arts, Business, Media and Science.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

A minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE French/Spanish plus a Grade 6 in English Language is required in order to study French/Spanish at A Level. In addition, all students must sit a baseline test based on holiday homework. The course requires an excellent understanding of grammatical concepts following on from those needed to attain a Grade 7–9 at GCSE.

What might studying this course lead to?

A MFL A Level is favourable for any degree which requires essay writing. A MFL degree can lead to teaching, interpreting, translating or law.

Music Technology BTEC

Course Content

Music Technology is a practical course which requires an understanding of, and capability in using technology. It is a subject that requires creative thinking and effective team-working skills. Students become specialised in the study of Digital Audio Workstations. All work is done extensively on Logic Pro X and students will develop specialised technology skills.

Six units over two years: DAW production, Music for Sound and Media, Creative synthesis and sampling, Remixing and Reworking, Mixing and Mastering techniques.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students develop theoretical and practical skills using Logic Pro X software. In the past students have benefited from workshops from top industry professionals.

Opportunities to perform throughout the year and collaborate on projects with other students (e.g. in Media) also exist.

Success

100% pass rate in 2022 with Distinction* to Pass grades.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Humanities, languages, drama, art and media. Music goes well with most subjects due the practical, creative and analytical nature of the course.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

Either a GCSE in Music or BTEC Level 2 in Music Technology.

What might studying this course lead to?

A degree in Music Technology can lead to careers as a Sound Engineer, Musician, Music Programmer, Stage Technician.



Music A Level

Course Content

One written paper (40%) and two non-examined components. Performance is externally assessed by a visiting examiner and composition is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Performance Specialism: Performance 35%, Composition 35%

Composition Specialism: Composition 35%, Performance 25%

Enrichment Opportunities

Students have a broad range of skills, ranging from composing, performing and analysing music. In the past students have benefited from composition workshops and have attended a variety of performances at the Royal Opera House and the Royal Festival Hall.

Success

In 2022, 100% of students achieved A*–C grades.

Every year some of our students go on to study music at higher education with destinations including King's College London, Sheffield University and Newcastle University.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Humanities, Languages, Art.

Exam Board

Eduqas

Entry Criteria

A minimum of a Grade 5 in Music GCSE. You should also have been playing a musical instrument for at least three years and currently be having instrumental lessons.

What might studying this course lead to?

Music A Level is favourable for any degree which requires creative / lateral thought. A Music degree can lead to a career as a Music teacher, professional musician, music administrator, sound engineer and music producer.



Philosophy & Ethics A Level

Course Content

Philosophy and Ethics is an academic discipline that encourages a rigorous study of philosophy, religion and ethics and then applies it to the wider world. Students will need to adopt an enquiring and critical approach to the study of religion. They will also be encouraged to reflect on and develop their own values in the light of the study they have done therefore they need to be independent learners and avid readers.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students attend a number of academic conferences. Last year this included the Candle Conference hosted by philosopher Peter Vardy, as well as an inter-school conference held at our sister school, Bishop Douglass.

Success

Last year, one quarter of our students achieved an A or A* grade. A number of students have progressed to study Philosophy and Theology at top third universities including Manchester and Warwick.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Politics, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, English Literature and History.

Exam Board

OCR

Entry Criteria

Grade 5 in English Literature and Religious Studies.

What might studying this course lead to?

Philosophy and Ethics is highly regarded by universities and employers as it proves that you are able to think, discuss and evaluate. It is excellent preparation and is looked favourably on for a degree in the Humanities. Philosophy and Ethics prepares students for the following careers: Law, Journalism, Publishing, Education, the Media and Politics.

Physics A Level



Course Content

Physics is about understanding how things work from first principles. Physics strengthens your problem solving skills and your ability to reason using mathematics — two qualities employers are always seeking! Physics teaches students how to break down complex problems, and develops the skills needed for a variety of careers including science, technology, engineering and finance.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students and staff attend academic conferences and lectures given by some of the top names in the field, including Particle Physicist, Lisa Randall and Astronaut, Tim Peake. Students also have the opportunity to attend our biennial trip to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, Switzerland.

Success

Students perform very well with some being accepted to study Physics at Oxford and UCL in previous years. This academic year we achieved a 100% pass rate, with 50% A*-B.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Maths, Chemistry, Biology, Further Maths, Computer Science.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

Two Grade 6s in Combined Science or Grade 6 in Physics and a Grade 5 in Mathematics.

What might studying this course lead to?

Physics is a subject that is highly regarded by universities and employers, as students with this qualification have proven that they can reason logically, analyse problems and apply mathematics to find solutions. It is excellent preparation for any degree in Engineering or Physics. Careers frequently followed by Physics students include Engineering, Medicine, Aviation, Architecture, Finance, Journalism, Education and Law.



Psychology A Level



Course Content

Paper 1: Memory, Social Influence, Attachment, Psychopathology, Research Methods.

Paper 2: Approaches, Biopsychology, Research Methods.

Paper 3: Gender, Forensic Psychology, Issues and Debates, Schizophrenia.

Enrichment Opportunities

Successful Psychologists usually have a diverse range of skills. These include an ability to understand current research and theoretical concepts, challenge evidence and investigative methodology, explain modern phenomena using key scientific principles, develop links across the psychology spectrum, and conduct independent research and present ideas in well ordered and accurate essays. Learning is also delivered through a number of lecture days, workshops and activities outside the classroom to stir student intrigue.

Success

Last year's results:
87.5% A*-C
3 x A* candidates
One student went on to study Experimental Psychology at Oxford.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Mathematics, English and Science.

Exam Board:

AQA

Entry Criteria:

Two Grade 5s in Combined Sciences, Grade 6 in English and Grade 5 in Mathematics.

What might studying this course lead to?

Psychology A Level is favourable for any degree course which requires investigative thinking and offers a chance to study modern human behaviour. Psychology leads to a wide range of possible careers including: Clinical Psychologist, Occupational Psychologist, Media, Human Resources, Educational Psychologist, Researcher, Social Worker, Advertising and Teaching.

Politics A Level



Course Content

Students begin the course with a study of UK Politics, looking at democracy and participation, political parties, voting behaviour and the media. Students also study the core political ideas of socialism, liberalism and conservatism. Component 2 is UK Government, including the constitution, Parliament, the PM and executive, and the relationship between branches of government. Students will also study the non-core political idea of feminism. Component 3 is a comparative study looking at politics in the USA. Students will study the US Constitution and federalism, US Congress, Presidency, the Supreme Court and civil rights, democracy and participation in the USA.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students have opportunities to engage with current issues and with politicians through the attendance of national conferences and events, as well as visits to places of political importance, including the Houses of Parliament and the Welsh Parliament. We regularly have visits with politicians, including Q&A sessions with local representatives. Students of A Level Politics take an active role in the political life of the school, running and supporting elections in the school that mirror those taking place in our wider society.

Success

The STM Politics Department has achieved ALPS 1 or ALPS 2 for the previous three years, demonstrating that students achieve exceptional results, placing them among the highest achieving Politics students in the country. Students who study Politics go on to study Politics and related courses such as International Relations, History and Law at universities across the country, including Russell Group institutions.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

History, Economics, Sociology, Philosophy and Ethics.

Exam Board

Pearson (Edexcel)

Entry Criteria

Grade 6 in English Literature and Grade 6 in an additional essay based subject.

What might studying this course lead to?

Politics opens many doors for you. Working for government organisations such as the Home Office or Foreign Office, or in local government are common for people who study Politics at university. Journalism, cybersecurity, PR, marketing, law, and human rights work are all common for people with a background in politics.

Sociology A Level



Course Content

The Sociology curriculum helps students to learn about the changes that are taking place within key institutions in society. Sociology develops students' cultural capital as it promotes engagement with a wide range of issues that go beyond a student's day-to-day experiences. Current affairs on family, crime and education are regularly discussed and debated on during lessons. Students foster critical and reflective thinking and gain a respect for social diversity.

Students will study five key areas of society:

- Education
- Families and Households
- Stratification
- Crime and Deviance
- Research and Theoretical perspectives

Enrichment Opportunities

Visit to the Old Bailey. Tutor2u Grade Boosting Workshop

Success

100% pass rate ranging with 92% achieving an A-C at AS

Which other courses does this combine well with?

English, History, Politics, Philosophy and Ethics, Media, Health and Social Care.

Exam Board

AQA

Entry Criteria

A minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE English is required in order to study Sociology at A Level.

What might studying this course lead to?

Sociology A Level is favourable for any degree which requires the ability to evaluate and critique existing theories. It may lead to a career in Law, Civil Service, Social Work, Criminal Justice System, Teaching, Politics, Youth Worker, Social Researcher.



PE A Level



Course Content

Physiological Factors Affecting Performance

Anatomy and physiology
Exercise physiology and training
Biomechanics and movement analysis

Psychological Factors Affecting Performance

Motivation, confidence, and arousal
Skill acquisition and learning
Group dynamics and leadership in sport

Socio-Cultural and Contemporary Issues

The evolution of sport in society
Ethics, technology, and commercialisation
Global sporting events and their impact

Performance in Physical Education (Practical)

Performance in one chosen sport (as player or coach)
Evaluation and analysis of performance (EAPI)

Assessment

Year 70% Exam-based: Three written papers covering physiology, psychology, and socio-cultural studies.
30% Non-exam assessment: Practical performance + written performance analysis

Success

This year we are taking on our first cohort of A level PE students.

Entry Criteria

6 + in GCSE PE and 5 in any Science (preferably Biology)

What might studying this course lead to?

Sports Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Biomechanics, Personal Trainer, Sports Scientist, PE Teacher, Sports Coach, Physiotherapist.

Exam board

OCR

Sport Clubs and Opportunities in Sixth Form

We have a broad range of clubs in school including sixth form fitness clubs, Jiu Jitsu club, football, volleyball, and netball. Last year our sixth form football team competed in Middlesex Cup, London Cup and the Catholic Schools Football League. At every opportunity we enter our teams into leagues and competitions as we believe in the importance of the experiences in creating well rounded students. We also encourage the development of young leaders in sixth form coaching teams. This year we have had sixth form coaches in dance, netball, football and rugby. Our sixth form is warm and friendly with a ‘campus’, family feeling. Our sports facilities are vast and we continuously welcome requests of new teams and clubs to support the wellbeing of our sixth form cohort. Our sixth form sports committee arranged two new events last year: a charity football match and a vibrant sports day which was a fantastic way to end the year.

Sport BTEC



Course Content

This is a fantastic two-year course that requires students to have a broad range of knowledge covering many disciplines, including Anatomy and Physiology, Health and Fitness, and contemporary issues. Students must be able to work independently and as part of the

group and be able to meet demanding deadlines to submit the coursework.

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology (exam)

Unit 2: Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (exam)

Unit 3: Professional Development in the Sports Industry (coursework)

Unit 5: Application of Fitness Testing (coursework)

Enrichment Opportunities

Year 12 and 13 students take part in a range of sporting opportunities, from coaching young pupils, to attending sporting fixtures and inspiring Sporting Universities. Last Year our Year12 cohort attended Loughborough University Inspire Minds Day, in which they got to try out different Sport Science Modules that they would take at University.

Success

100% D*-P in BTEC Level 3 Sport with 50% achieving a M-D.

Entry Criteria

Pass in Level 2 BTEC.

Which other courses does this combine well with?

Psychology, Social Sciences, Health and Social Care.

Exam board

Pearson

What might studying this course lead to?

Biomechanics, Physiologist, Personal Trainer, Sports Scientist, PE Teacher, Sports Coach, Physiotherapist.

Core PE



In Year 12 and 13, students take part in one hour compulsory PE time. This is guided by student choice. Students choose a personality pathway, which links their personality with their perception of sport. For example, students may enjoy physical activity that is competitive or social. Once they have decided their groups they are grouped with students with like-minded ideas on activity.

The groups will then choose one activity over the course of 6 lessons. Teachers will give them the opportunity to take part in the physical activity in the way that meets their needs. Students’ efforts will be rewarded with trips, for example to Go Ape Adventure Ropes Course. Students also enjoy a Sixth Form Sports Day in the summer where they play against their teachers.





STM

Sixth Form

LIMITLESS

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