The Piggott School

Sixth Form

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS 2027-2028

A school which inspires and encourages the highest achievement.

"The distinctiveness and effectiveness of The Piggott School as a Church of England school are outstanding."
SIAMS

"The Sixth Form is outstanding"
Ofsted





“Children love coming to school”
Ofsted

Headteacher's Welcome



"The curriculum is delivered consistently well by teachers, who are highly trained and are knowledgeable about the subjects they teach"
Ofsted

"Older pupils, including those in the Sixth Form, demonstrate an impressive commitment to their own learning, such as in the way they approach personal study and revision"
Ofsted

"Pupils who are new to the school's Sixth Form, in Year 12, describe how welcome they were made to feel"
Ofsted

It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome you to The Piggott School Sixth Form. We are an extremely successful co-educational Church of England Academy. Our senior school site is on the outskirts of Wargrave and our primary school site is in the village of Charvil. We are extremely fortunate to have outstanding facilities on each site.

Our mission is to be a school that inspires and encourages the highest achievement for each and every student.

I believe our school provides the correct balance and blend of academic challenge, personal care and enrichment that foster the holistic development of each and every student. My aim as Headteacher is to broaden your horizons and liberate your potential.

The quality of teaching and learning at our school enables us to achieve our aim to help each of you develop into the very best that you can be: to be independent in your thinking; to value lifelong learning; to be open to new ideas; to encourage respect and tolerance.

The care and guidance offered at The Piggott School Sixth Form by the outstanding staff provides a culture and ethos based on our Christian values of Respect, Dedication, Equality, Honesty, Courage and Love, that will successfully help you to develop into active citizens of tomorrow and fully prepare you for adult working life and further study.

I very much look forward to welcoming you.

Mrs Alexander, BA (Hons) NPQH
Headteacher

Welcome to The Piggott School Sixth Form

Choosing where and what to study after Year 11 can shape the course of your life. It is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Your Sixth Form education will be a personal journey of self-discovery and make you focused, independent and qualified to grasp opportunities confidently.

At The Piggott School Sixth Form we pride ourselves on providing a truly inclusive and all-round education, combining the importance of academic rigour with extensive opportunities outside the classroom, all delivered by a dedicated team of high-quality professionals. With our Sixth Form block, extensive common room and study area housing over 100 computers (exclusively for Years 12 and 13), The Piggott School Sixth Form offers that little extra to inspire you. We are also really pleased to open a brand new Sixth Form study space in the Spring of 2026 with the support of Wokingham Council.

We offer a flexible and wide range of options within our broad curriculum and our staff demonstrate a relentless commitment, empowering you to face life beyond school with confidence and enthusiasm. We have formed extensive links with local businesses, universities and voluntary groups in order to offer you the chance to equip yourselves with skills that enrich not only your experiences but also the lives of others. We engage external speakers on a weekly basis to further inspire our students and create a real sense of community locally, nationally and internationally.

Our Sixth Form has a warm atmosphere and a friendly environment in which you will be encouraged to develop. Personal tutors provide continuous pastoral support, looking after the welfare and progress of all students. Pastoral care was listed as outstanding by Ofsted.

We will help you make the right choices and place you on a programme of study, carefully considered and tailored to your individual needs. We will show you how to work to achieve the academic success that opens doors for your future. Our results speak for themselves.

We expect real academic commitment, responsible behaviour and engagement in school life. We offer an extraordinary range of opportunities and facilities and very much look forward to receiving your application.

Mr Dusterhoft
Head of Sixth Form



Mr MacLeod
Deputy Headteacher and SLT Link



Miss Reynolds
Assistant Headteacher and SLT Link



Mr Dusterhoft
Head of Sixth Form



Miss Bradshaw
Head of Year



Mr Quaile
Head of Year



Mr Demby-Wheeler
Assistant Head of Year



Miss Mey
Assistant Head of Year



Mrs Crowe
KS5 Elevate Lead



Ms Smith
Careers Advice and Guidance Lead



Mrs Pagliaro
KS5 Learning and Wellbeing Mentor



Mrs Dowse
KS5 Pastoral Support



Ms Ko
KS5 Administrator

Admissions

ADMISSION TO Sixth Form

Students wishing to join The Piggott School Sixth Form need to meet the following requirements, depending on the pathway chosen. The pathway selected is available subject to the best 8 Score* being achieved at GCSE together with individual subject requirements.

For example:

	Grade	Points
English (best)	6 (x2)	12
Mathematics	6 (x2)	12
Biology	5	5
Chemistry	6	6
Physics	7	7
History	5	5
Geography	5	5
French	8	8
Best 8 score		**60**

Route 1 – best 8 points required 47+ (including 4s in English and Maths)

Options available to students:

- BTEC Business Single Award
- Travel and Tourism
- Medical Science
- CTEC Sport

+1 A Level – if student has the subject specific entry requirements

(3 vocational or 2 vocational and 1 A Level)

Route 2 – best 8 points required 54+ (including 4s in English and Maths)

Options available to students:

- BTEC Business Single Award
- Travel and Tourism
- Medical Science
- CTEC Sport
- Criminology
- V Level Accounting and Finance

+2 A Levels – if student has the subject specific entry requirements

(3 vocational, 2 vocational and 1 A/V Level or 1 vocational and 2 A/V Levels)

Route 3 - best 8 points required 57+ (including 4s in English and Maths)

Options available to students:

3 A/V Levels – if student has the subject specific entry requirements

- BTEC Business Single Award
- Travel and Tourism
- Medical Science
- CTEC Sport
- Criminology
- V Level Accounting and Finance

*core maths available as a 4th option, if maths not selected as an A Level and candidate has a 6 in GCSE maths

Route 4 - best 8 points required 80+ (including 4s in English and Maths)

Options available to students:

4 A Levels – if student has the subject specific entry requirements

"KS5 outcomes are superb"
Ofsted

"Pupils in the Sixth Form particularly appreciate the advice and guidance they receive, including when writing university applications"
Ofsted

Applying to the Sixth Form

The link for our application form can be found on the website. We use Applicaa for all applications.

Receipt of your application will be acknowledged and you will be advised whether your application has been successful. It should be noted that subjects can only run if a sufficient number of students apply to study them. In August, following GCSE results, focused support will be available.

Sixth Form option Interviews are held in January and February and focus on suitability for courses. Parents may be invited into school for some option discussions. Offers of places will be made in March.

Code of Conduct

The Sixth Form encourages the development of autonomous study and self-discipline. All students are expected to behave in a polite and courteous manner to each other and to staff.

It is mandatory for students to wear photo ID lanyards.

In addition, students must be aware that:

- No cigarettes, e-cigarettes, matches, illegal substances or dangerous weapons are allowed in school.
- No student may leave the school premises without permission.
- Holidays are not authorised during term time, except in exceptional circumstances.
- Lost or damaged books or items of equipment must be paid for.
- The Piggott School is committed to equal opportunities with regards to respect, development, achieving potential and exercising choice.
- The school aims to provide a safe environment free from racism, sexual and religious intolerance and bullying.

Where a student is clearly failing to behave in an acceptable way appropriate support will be given. If conduct remains below expectations a formal warning will be given, and parents will be informed. Parents will then be invited to school to discuss the situation and, as a last resort, alternative opportunities outside The Piggott School will need to be explored.

Registration and Attendance

Registration takes place each morning during tutor time at 8:40. The Sixth Form has a strict attendance and punctuality policy to encourage students to take responsibility for their timekeeping and organisation.

Dress Code

The accepted form of dress in the Sixth Form is smart casual, which means that no caps/hats, flip flops or revealing clothes may be worn. Sixth Form students are not required to wear a formal uniform but are expected to dress in a reasonable and smart manner. Full details of the Sixth Form dress code can be found on our website.







Subject Entry Criteria

A Level pathway: 57+ points required

*** if taken for GCSE**

Subject	Additional Entry Requirement			Notes
		English Language	Maths	
Fine Art	Art - 6 *	-	-	
Biology	Biology - 7 Combined Sci - 7/6	6	6	
Business	Business - 6*	5	5	
Chemistry	Chemistry - 7 Combined Sci - 7/6	6	6	
Computer Science	Computer Sci - 6*	-	6	
Core Mathematics	-	-	6	AS-Y12 only. Can only be taken as a 4th option alongside 3 Level 3 courses with minimum 57+ pts
Design and Technology	DT - 6*	-	-	
Drama & Theatre Studies	Drama - 5*	6	-	
Economics	-	-	6	
English Language	English Lit - 6	6	-	
English Literature	English Lit - 6	6	-	
MFL (French, German or Spanish)	Fr/Gm/Sp 6	-	-	Native speakers may not have a GCSE- please consult HOD
Further Mathematics	-	-	8	
Geography	Geography - 6	6	6	
Government and Politics	-	6	-	
History	History - 6*	6	-	
Mathematics	-	-	7	
Media Studies	Media - 6*	6	-	
Music	Music - 6*	-	-	Regular instrumental/vocal lessons GCSE Music desirable not essential
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics	RE - 6*	6 (Lang or Lit)	-	GCSE RE desirable not essential
Photography	Art/Photography - 6*	-	-	
Physical Educaiton	PE - 6* Science - 6/6	5	-	
Physics	Physics 7 Combined Sci - 7/6	6	6	
Psychology	-	6	6	
Sociology	-	5 (Lang or Lit)	-	

54+ points required

Subject	Additional Entry Requirement			Notes
		English Language	Maths	
Criminology	-	5 (Lang or Lit)	-	
V Level Accounting and Finance	-	5	5	

Vocational pathway: 47+ points required

Subject	Additional Entry Requirement			Notes
		English Language	Maths	
Medical Science (WJEC)	Science - 5s Combined Sci - 5/5	5	5	
BTEC Travel & Tourism	-	4	4	
CTEC Sport	Science - 4s Combined Sci - 4/4	4	4	GCSE PE desirable
BTEC Single Business	Business - 5*	4	4	

UCAS Opportunities unifrog

Students at The Piggott School Sixth Form receive outstanding pastoral and academic provision alongside ample opportunity to extend their learning and develop outside the classroom.

Pastoral Care

Students in the Sixth Form are provided with the same excellent pastoral care that lower school students receive. We bridge the gap between school and adult life by working with students as individuals to become independent, resilient, and responsible members of the school and wider community.

Post-Piggott Guidance

Students receive high-quality advice and guidance to support them when making decisions for post-18 employment or study. We work closely with students to provide bespoke careers support. In Year 12 all students undertake a work experience placement and have a mock interview to provide an opportunity to ready themselves for the world of work or future study. All students receive at least one careers interview as well as daily support through the tutor programme.

Most of our students apply for university, and we guide them step by step through the UCAS process. Sixth Formers spend a full day on a university visit and the school uses Unifrog to support students in their research and applications for further study, employment, or apprenticeships.

Super-Curricular Provision

Our Personal Development and Guest Speaker programmes further support our super-curricular offer, and outside speakers are invited into school on a weekly basis to address pupils. These vary from apprenticeship providers, university admissions officers, Piggott alumni, charities, and local businesses. These talks provide opportunities to broaden student horizons and allow them to explore all future options.

Academic Opportunity

Many of our Sixth Formers take advantage of further opportunities to extend their own learning.

We offer the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) which carries UCAS points and allows pupils to develop their skills in academic writing and research.

We also have a More and Most Able co-ordinator for Key Stage 5 who supports all students applying for early entry courses at university. This includes any student applying for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine. Many students who take subjects with a significant numerical or data analysis element take advantage of our Core Mathematics course in Year 12. This course is highly regarded and supplements the other subjects a student might take.

Student Leadership

Our Sixth Form gives all students opportunities to develop their leadership skills. The School Captains and Prefects are elected in Year 12 and are responsible for representing the school at formal functions like Open Evenings or Governors' meetings, as well as supporting lower school students through activities like mentoring and fundraising events.

Extra-Curricular Opportunity

Our extra-curricular offer continues into the Sixth Form with a wide range of clubs and societies for students to join. These include many sports clubs, music clubs, debating society, language clubs, sign language club and many more.

Making Your Choice

A Level Pathway Courses

Fine Art
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Computer Science
Core Mathematics
Design and Technology: Product Design
Drama and Theatre Studies
Economics
English Language
English Literature
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
German
Government and Politics
History
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
Photography
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Sociology
Spanish

Level 3 / V Level Vocational Pathway Courses

Accounting and Finance
Business
Criminology
Medical Science
Sport & Physical Activity
Travel & Tourism



FINE ART

Why study Fine Art?

The course has been designed to provide students with a rich platform of skills that can be transferred into many other areas of study and industry. The course is a logical progression from GCSE as the assessment objectives, structure and titles are very similar to those specified in the AQA GCSE Art and Design specification. Therefore students should ideally have studied GCSE Art and Design to Grade 6.

Aims of the course

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that employ a range of traditional and new media, processes and techniques. Knowledge of art, craft and design will be developed through research and the expansion/progression of ideas.

Career pathways

The Piggott School Art department has an excellent record of student entry into higher education. Those who have taken the subject have gone on to university to study fashion, architecture, graphic design and fine art. Career opportunities for Art graduates include film, television, conservation, theatre design, graphic design, marketing, fashion, teaching and museum education.



Subject Content

The A Level Fine Art course at The Piggott School has achieved consistently outstanding results.

It is a linear two year course, designed to help students develop practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of materials, processes and technologies.

Students are encouraged to explore a variety of media such as drawing, painting, ceramics, textiles, printmaking and installation. We pride ourselves on the diversity of work produced at The Piggott School as students are encouraged to tailor their projects to their strengths and interests.

Students will learn how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted along with developing specialist terminology and a working vocabulary.

The work is assessed on two components, a Personal Investigation (worth 60% of the overall mark) and an Externally Set Assignment (worth 40% of the overall mark).

Subject entry requirement:

Students should ideally have studied Art at GCSE to Grade 6, however art portfolios may be taken into account.



BIOLOGY

Why study Biology?

Biology, with its mixture of scientific method, problem solving, practical skills and social relevant content, provides a useful complement to the other sciences but also to arts, humanities and other mixed A levels. If you are interested in explaining how the world works through fundamental ideas and experimentation, then you could be the perfect candidate for Biology.

Aims of the course

Students will explore the complexity of living organisms and the processes that sustain life. They will study topics including cell biology, genetics, evolution, disease, biodiversity and ecosystems, developing an understanding of how biological systems function and interact. Students will develop practical scientific skills, learn to analyse and interpret data, evaluate evidence and apply their knowledge to unfamiliar contexts. They will also explore how advances in biology shape our understanding of the world.

Your final mark will be based on three exams you take at the end of two years of study. You will also complete a Practical Endorsement Certificate which will be awarded separately.

Career pathways

It is an essential requirement for entry into life science studies, whether that is Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or Botanical Science. The course will also give you a firm understanding of problem-solving skills, which are crucial for many careers.



Subject Content

A broad range of subject matter and investigations are covered by the course. These are split into the modules below:

Modules 1-6 with Practical Endorsement.

Module 1: Development of practical skills in Biology

- Practical skills assessed in a written examination
- Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2: Foundations in Biology

- Cell structure
- Biological molecules
- Nucleotides and nucleic acids
- Enzymes
- Biological membranes
- Cell division, cell diversity and cellular organisation

Module 3: Exchange and Transport

- Exchange surfaces
- Transport in animals
- Transport in plants

Module 4: Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease

- Communicable diseases, disease prevention and
- the immune system
- Biodiversity
- Classification and evolution

Module 5: Communication, Homeostasis and Energy

- Communication and homeostasis
- Excretion
- Neuronal communication
- Hormonal communication
- Plant and animal responses
- Photosynthesis
- Respiration

Module 6: Genetics, Evolution and Ecosystems

- Cellular control
- Patterns of inheritance
- Manipulating genomes
- Cloning and biotechnology
- Ecosystems
- Populations and sustainability

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum course requirements are GCSE Combined Science Grade 7/6 or a Grade 7 in Biology.

GCSE English Language Grade 6 and GCSE Maths Grade 6.



BUSINESS

Why study Business?

Business encourages independent consideration and critical debate and analysis. It promotes thoughtful deliberation of the world around us, including contemporary business issues. Students will apply theory to real-life business situations, including research and group projects. Business lessons involve much discussion and problem solving for various scenarios. Teachers use innovative techniques, real-life experience and technology to help enthuse students and make lessons student-centred and interesting. Students should have an enquiring mind, ask questions and be able to solve problems and evaluate a range of ideas.

We encourage students to engage in lessons, rise to challenges, take risks and have fun!

Aims of the course

Business is a very popular A Level. Students are introduced to the challenges and issues of starting a business and explore the key functions of business. They will use problem solving to make decisions on these functions and how they interlink with each other. Students will learn about leadership and management before considering strategy, change management and how factors affect businesses. They will explore responses to these and find/develop methods to achieve objectives. Students use real-world examples to aid their understanding.

Career pathways

Business students take a variety of subjects as it complements a wide range. Popular combinations include Geography, Maths, Psychology, Languages, English and the arts.

A Level Business students gain much insight into the business world. It is therefore beneficial for almost any career. The independent and analytical thought process prepares students well for university. Business students often read Management, Finance or Economics, but the skills gained will help with a plethora of courses.



Subject Content

All three exams are synoptic, covering all content. Assessment is a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, data response and essays. The three units are:

1. What is business? Managing marketing and finance
   a) Business and objectives
   b) Forms of business and stakeholders
   c) Marketing management
   d) Financial management

2. Managing people and operations
   a) People management
   b) Operations management
   c) Managing business culture

3. Business and society, business and the external environment, and business strategy
   a) Business and society
   b) Business and the external environment
   c) Strategy
   d) Change

Students will develop knowledge and critical understanding of the way businesses are organised internally and in the local, national and international environment, developing management skills in an enjoyable subject.

Subject entry requirement:

You will need to achieve Grade 6 in GCSE Business or Grade 5 in both GCSE Maths and GCSE English Language (if you have not taken GCSE Business).



CHEMISTRY

Why study Chemistry?

For pupils interested in understanding the world around us at a molecular level through experimentation. There is also an opportunity to develop skills in problem solving, numeracy and team work as well as developing a broad scientific knowledge.

Aims of the course

Students will explore the fundamental principles of chemistry and how they explain the behaviour of matter and the reactions that take place around us. They will study topics including atomic structure, bonding, energetics, rates of reaction, organic chemistry and equilibria, developing an understanding of how chemical processes work and interact. Students will develop practical laboratory skills, learn to analyse and interpret experimental data, evaluate evidence and apply their knowledge to unfamiliar contexts. They will also explore how chemistry contributes to scientific advances and addresses real-world challenges.

Your final mark will be based on three exams you do at the end of two years of study. You will also complete a Practical Endorsement Certificate which will be awarded separately.

Career pathways

Analytical chemist, forensic scientist, pharmacology, research scientist and environmental consultant.





Subject Content

Modules 1 – Development of practical skills in chemistry

- Practical skills assessed in a written examination
- Practical skills assessed in the practical endorsement

Module 2 – Foundations in chemistry

- Atoms, compounds, molecules and equations
- Amount of substance
- Acid - base and redox reactions
- Electrons, bonding and structure

Module 3 – Periodic table and energy

- The periodic table and periodicity
- Group 2 and the halogens
- Qualitative analysis
- Enthalpy changes
- Reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative)

Module 4 – Core organic chemistry

- Basic concepts
- Hydrocarbons
- Alcohols and haloalkanes
- Organic synthesis
- Analytical techniques (IR and MS)

Module 5 – Physical chemistry and transition elements

- Reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative)
- pH and buffers
- Enthalpy, entropy and free energy
- Redox and electrode potentials
- Transition elements

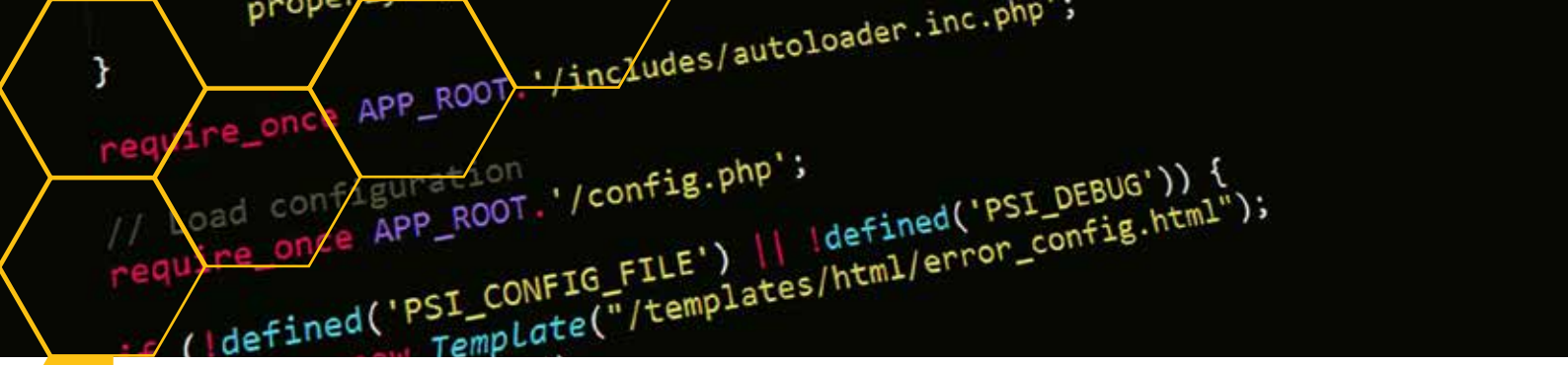
Module 6 – Organic chemistry and analysis

- Aromatic compounds
- Carbonyl compounds
- Carboxylic acids and esters
- Nitrogen compounds
- Polymers
- Organic synthesis
- Chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR)

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum course requirements are GCSE Combined Science Grade 7/6 or a Grade 7 in Chemistry.

GCSE English Language Grade 6 and GCSE Maths Grade 6.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Why study Computer Science?

In a world where the number of jobs requiring skills such as software development, network management, business intelligence, data management and cyber security, is ever increasing, there is an acute shortage of candidates with these much sought-after skills.

The A Level Computer Science curriculum is designed with exactly this in mind. Created using input from esteemed institutions including Cambridge University and Imperial College, the course is aimed at enabling students to gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of both computing theory and programming. Key skills taught include designing and programming applications, computational/algorithmic thinking and problem solving, networking and security, operating systems, data structures and databases.

Additionally, it allows students to experience first-hand what life in the industry would be like through a very hands-on project unit where students have the opportunity to visit the whole software development lifecycle and become advanced programmers in a language of their choice, ranging from Python to OOP languages like Java, C++, C#, Processing etc.

Feedback from past students suggests that the course is highly recommended for students aiming to study for a degree in Engineering or Computer Science or to secure an apprenticeship in the software/IT industry. It gives them a great deal of prior knowledge which proves very useful in their further education and employment.

Aims of the course

Computer Science is about developing logic and problem solving skills. It includes programming, computational thinking and computer systems and architecture.

Career pathways

Classically, a great combination with mathematics and the sciences, the application of this very versatile subject now extends into all domains be it, business, media or humanities so it can benefit students with a variety of interests.

Typical roles in this area include: software developer, games developer, web developer, solutions / enterprise architect, database administrator, computer systems analyst, IT consultant, computer network architect / manager, information security analyst, data manager, data scientist, cyber security professional.



Subject Content

This will include:

- The characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

Students will also choose a computing problem to work through according to the guidance in the specification.

- Analysis of the problem
- Design of the solution
- Developing the solution
- Evaluation

Examination papers include:

- Computing Systems
- Algorithms and Programming
- Programming coursework project



Subject entry requirement:

Students should have taken GCSE Computer Science and achieved a Grade 6 or above.

Students from a non-computing background can only take the course if they have a Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics or Grade 6 in GCSE Physics, and some level of programming experience, desirably in languages such as Python, Java, C++ or C#, as programming is nearly 60% of the course.



CORE MATHEMATICS

Why study Core Mathematics?

Studying Core Mathematics helps students to develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills. This supports Sixth Form courses with a significant numerical or data analysis element including Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Business Studies and Economics.

The Core Maths course will be taught over one year. The specification name is Level 3 Mathematical Studies (AQA). It is equivalent in size and UCAS points to AS level.

Aims of the course

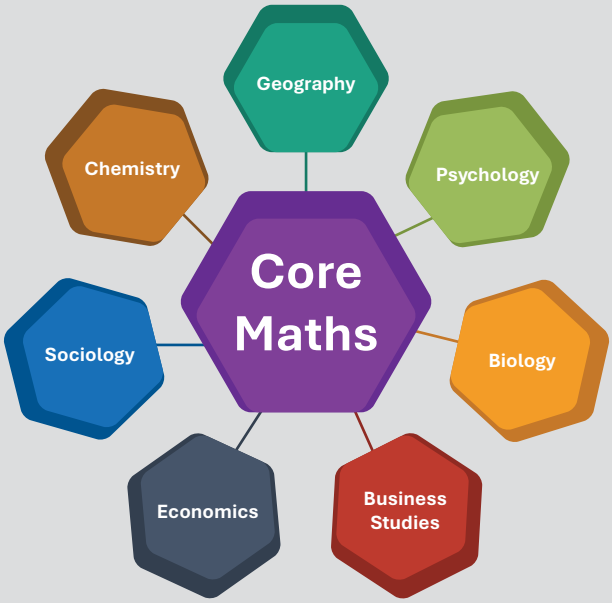
This qualification will consolidate students' mathematical understanding, build their confidence and competence in applying mathematical techniques to solve a range of problems and introduce them to new techniques and concepts that will prepare them for further study and future employment within a broad range of academic, professional and technical fields. Mathematical Studies aims to prepare students for the mathematical demands of higher education and work where there is a distinct mathematical or statistical element, but where the mathematical demands do not stretch to a requirement for A Level Mathematics.

Career pathways

Core Mathematics is also valuable preparation for the quantitative skills which students will need for many degree courses, particularly subjects such as Psychology, business-related courses, sports and social sciences and those natural science courses which do not require AS/A Level Mathematics.

Subject Content

Core Mathematics can only be studied alongside three Level 3 courses. The minimum entry requirement is GCSE Mathematics Grade 6.



Subject entry requirement:

Core Mathematics can only be studied alongside three other Level 3 courses. The minimum entry requirement is GCSE Mathematics Grade 6.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

Why study Design and Technology: Product Design?

Design and Technology is ideal for students who like to solve real world problems, think creatively and design and make products. This inspiring and thought-provoking qualification will give you the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers or continue to higher education.

Aims of the course

Students will explore the principles of product design and develop an understanding of how materials, manufacturing processes and emerging technologies influence the products we use. They will investigate topics including material properties, digital technologies, sustainable design and industrial manufacturing, considering the needs of users and the wider impact of design decisions. Students will develop their creativity and technical skills, learning to research, design, model and manufacture innovative solutions to real-world problems. They will also develop the ability to evaluate products, analyse design decisions and refine their own ideas through practical experimentation.

Design and Technology: Product Design is a two year, linear course.

The Edexcel A Level in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for you to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products. It is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject that encourages you to use your creativity and imagination.

The course structure: 50% written examination (Maths and Science contribute 15%) and 50% non-examined assessment (NEA) which is a design, make and evaluate project.

Career pathways

Product design, engineering, architecture, UX (user experience) & UI (User Interface) design, graphic design, digital design, interior design, advertising.



Subject Content

You will undertake a substantial design, make and evaluate project (NEA) that demonstrates your ability to initiate, sustain and manage the iterative processes of designing, making, testing, refining, improving and evaluating, in response to a design brief of your choice and the needs and wants of a user, client or market.

You will apply knowledge and understanding of a wide range of materials and processes used in product design and manufacture. You will develop an understanding of contemporary industrial and commercial practices applied to designing and manufacturing products and appreciate the risks involved. You will gain a good working knowledge of health and safety procedures and relevant legislation.

You will study the use of ICT and systems and control, including modern manufacturing processes and systems, and you will understand how these might be applied in the design and manufacture of products.

Designers from the past provide inspiration for present and future designing; you will explore the important contribution that key historic movements and figures have had on modern design thinking.

It is important that you develop an awareness of wider issues in Design and Technology; that design and technological activities can have a profound impact on the environment and on society and that these, together with sustainability, are key features of design and manufacturing practice.

You should take every opportunity to integrate and apply your understanding and knowledge from other subject areas, with a particular focus on Science and Mathematics as these are an important part of designing and developing products.

Subject entry requirement:

Students should ideally have studied D&T at GCSE and achieved at least a grade 6. If you have not studied GCSE D&T but are interested in studying Product Design at A Level please talk to the Head of Department.



DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

Why study Drama and Theatre Studies?

Taking Drama and Theatre not only opens the doors for those who wish to be involved in the world of theatre, it also develops the life skills that employers are looking for: an ability to plan, negotiate, work with others and compromise, explore strengths, develop self-confidence and enhance ability to communicate clearly.

Aims of the course

- Develop confident, skilled and creative performers and theatre-makers.
- Explore theatrical styles, practitioners and performance conventions.
- Interpret and analyse play texts and live theatre.
- Create imaginative and original devised performances.
- Develop collaborative, practical and evaluative skills.
- Build independence, creativity and confidence in theatre.

Career pathways

A qualification in Drama and Theatre can be used as a gateway to any performance–based further qualification, or Theatre Studies at University level. It can be used as part of your course to broaden your studies and can lead to a career in the Performing Arts. In addition, it complements degrees in Media, Law, and English, as well as being helpful with teaching qualifications and communications work. Students who study Drama and Theatre at A Level may wish to seek careers in the arts, media or marketing.



Subject Content

Year 12

Component 1: Exploration & Performance
(internally assessed/externally moderated)
A study of one performance text, chosen by the centre, in light of a practitioner, of which a devised piece will emerge from; Monologue & Duologue opportunities and written evidence to support – Portfolio (analysis and evaluation). 60%

Component 2: Theatre Makers in Practice
(externally assessed - written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes)
Three examination questions: based on the study of one play text, and one play in performance (live performance). 40%

Year 13

Component 1: Devising
(internally assessed/externally moderated)
A study of one performance text, chosen by the centre, in light of a practitioner, of which a devised piece will emerge from; written evidence to support – Portfolio (analysis and evaluation). 40%

Component 2: Text in Performance
(externally assessed - visiting examiner)
A study of two performance texts for performance, one chosen by the centre as a group piece, and one by the students as a monologue or duologue. 20%

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice
(externally assessed - written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes)
Four examination questions: based on the study of two set play texts and one play in performance (live performance). 40%

Subject entry requirement:

Grade 5 in GCSE Drama and/or a Grade 6 in English Language.



ECONOMICS

Why study Economics?

The course is for anyone who is interested in the wider world around them and how it works. An interest in the news will be very helpful.

Lessons are a blend of applying complex models, relevant articles and involved discussion and debate, as well as group activities and research. Teachers make this technical subject easier and have a real passion for it. Economics requires strong mathematical skills, an inquisitive mind and a high level of analysis. We hope students find Economics engaging, challenging and thought-provoking, and that it provides them with essential skills but most of all that, it is enjoyable.

Economics requires a curiosity to find answers and an interest in the world around you. Economics has consistently high student numbers and excellent results.

Aims of the course

Economics is an extremely successful and fast-growing A Level. It is a traditional and well-respected subject, yet is also dynamic and applicable to modern life. The economy is consistently the most popular news headline and students will therefore investigate this. A feature of our lessons is discussion and debate about current economic issues. Students really absorb themselves in Economics as it is such an engaging subject.

Career pathways

The subject matches very well with most other A Level courses (Mathematics, Psychology, Geography, English, Science and many others) as you learn a variety of skills. The careers that students choose after studying Economics are wide ranging.

A snapshot of some of the careers include: accountant, consultant, analyst, banking, enterprise, management. Economists at The Piggott School perform highly and have gone on to study courses at Russell Group universities.



Subject Content

Assessment is a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, data response and essay questions.
Topics:

Individuals, firms, markets and market failure (microeconomics)

1. Economic methodology and the economic problem
2. Individual economic decision making
3. Price determination in a competitive market
4. Production, costs and revenue
5. Perfect competition, imperfectly competitive markets and monopoly
6. The labour market
7. The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
8. The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets

The national and international economy (macroeconomics)

9. The measurement of macroeconomic performance
10. How the macroeconomy works: the circular flow of income, AD/AS analysis, and related concepts
11. Economic performance
12. Financial markets and monetary policy
13. Fiscal policy and supply-side policies
14. The international economy

Economic problems are all around us in the world. Economics looks at issues arising from these everyday problems as well as global topics and debates.

Subject entry requirement:
Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Why study English Language?

This is a 2 year linear course leading to a full A Level. English Language is for you if you have a natural curiosity about language and a passion for argument and debate. English Language at A Level involves analysing, investigating and evaluating a wide variety of texts from 1600 to the present day; this includes studying how children develop language skills. You will also be a keen writer and enjoy experimenting with different genres and forms. If you are fascinated by language then English Language A Level is the course for you.

In an increasingly competitive world where effective communication is essential, an A Level qualification in English Language is invaluable. Future careers include: journalism, media, marketing, advertising, public relations, publishing, teaching, law, HR and personnel management.

Aims of the course

The English Language A Level offers students the opportunities to develop their subject expertise through creative and critical engagement with a wide range of texts and discourses. As well as analysing and evaluating different discourse types, students will have the opportunity to create their own and reflect on the process used to do so.

Career pathways

There are many career paths linked to the study of English Language, including linguistics, forensics, law, government, publishing, teaching, journalism, advertising, marketing and PR.



Subject Content

Unit 1: Language, the Individual and Society

Section A – Textual Variations and Representations

In this unit you will explore different text types and understand how to apply methods of language analysis to explore audience, purpose, genre, mode and representation.

Section B - Children's Language Development

In this unit you will explore how children develop their spoken and written skills.

Unit 2: Language, Diversity and Change

Section A – Diversity and Change.

In this unit you will explore how language changes over time and according to different social, occupational, ethnic and gender groups (including global English).

Section B – Language Discourses

In this unit you will explore how texts are produced to convey views and opinions about language issues.

Unit 3: Language in Action (Non-exam assessment)

You will carry out research into an area of language of personal interest and produce an accompanying piece of original writing.

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum requirement is Grade 6 in both English Language and Literature at GCSE.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Why study English Literature?

This is a two year course leading to a full A Level with all exams taking place in June. During the course you will study a variety of texts and explore the relationships that exist between them and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. English Literature at A Level encourages students to develop their interest in and enjoyment of English literature through reading widely, critically and independently across centuries, genre and gender.

The course is best suited to those students who have an interest in, and a capacity for, analytical reading. There is a lot of reading required for this course so it is important you enjoy it!

Aims of the course

The English Literature A Level is designed to build on skills learnt at Key Stages 3 and 4, and to give students the opportunity to begin engaging with texts through historicist and literary perspectives. The course explores a wide range of texts spanning a wide range of time periods which students will study texts both singly and comparatively by theme. Students will also have the opportunity to study their own text choices as part of their non-exam assessment.

Career pathways

There are many career paths linked to the study of English Literature, including publishing, journalism, teaching, copyrighting, librarianship, archiving advertising, marketing and PR.



Subject Content

In the first year you will study 'Love Through The Ages', exploring prose, poetry and drama produced across different time periods and in different contexts. As well as a requirement to read widely, you will closely study Shakespeare's 'Othello', F Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby' and AQA's Anthology of pre-1900 Love Poetry. In addition, you will begin preparing the non-exam assessed component of the qualification – a 2500 word independent critical study in which you will compare two texts, at least one of which must have been written pre-1900.

In the second year of the A Level you will study 'Texts in Shared Contexts', Option A, focusing on 'WW1 and its Aftermath'. You will explore literature arising out of WW1 and reflect upon the full impact of war that reverberates up to the present day. This option allows you to consider the impact on combatants, non-combatants and subsequent generations as well as its social, political, personal and literary legacies.

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum requirement is Grade 6 in both English Literature and Language at GCSE.



FRENCH

Why study French?

A Level French is a great option for anyone who is curious about language, wants to pursue a career in an international company, study a joint honours degree at university or simply immerse themselves in the culture of France and other French-speaking countries. Studying French at A Level not only improves your language skills, but it also provides you with an insight into society and culture. You will study a range of topics covering cultural, social and historical aspects of France and Francophone countries, while refining the language skills you have already gained at GCSE. You will also have the opportunity to take part in a work experience placement in a primary school in France as part of our annual cultural visit. With our world becoming more globalised by the day, the ability to speak another language can really improve your future prospects and open up many doors in your career and academic life.

Aims of the course

The course will develop language skills acquired at GCSE level and ultimately allow students to become fluent speakers in French in a variety of situations. In addition, it will give a social and cultural snapshot of life in France and French speaking areas.

Students will develop their grammatical awareness, improve their accuracy and expand their vocabulary. This will enable them to speak and write about a range of more sophisticated topic areas that go far beyond the GCSE syllabus.

Career pathways

Teaching, translation/interpretation, travel & tourism sector, foreign service and other international careers.



Subject Content

Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Translation
Paper 2: Written response to literary works
Paper 3: Speaking

Themes:

3.1.1 Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends (Year 12)

- The changing nature of family
- The 'cyber-society'
- The place of voluntary work

3.1.2 Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues (Year 13)

- Positive features of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated

3.2.1 Artistic culture in the French-speaking world (Year 12)

- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary francophone music
- Cinema: the 7th art form

3.2.2 Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world (Year 13)

- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?
- Politics and immigration

Literary Themes

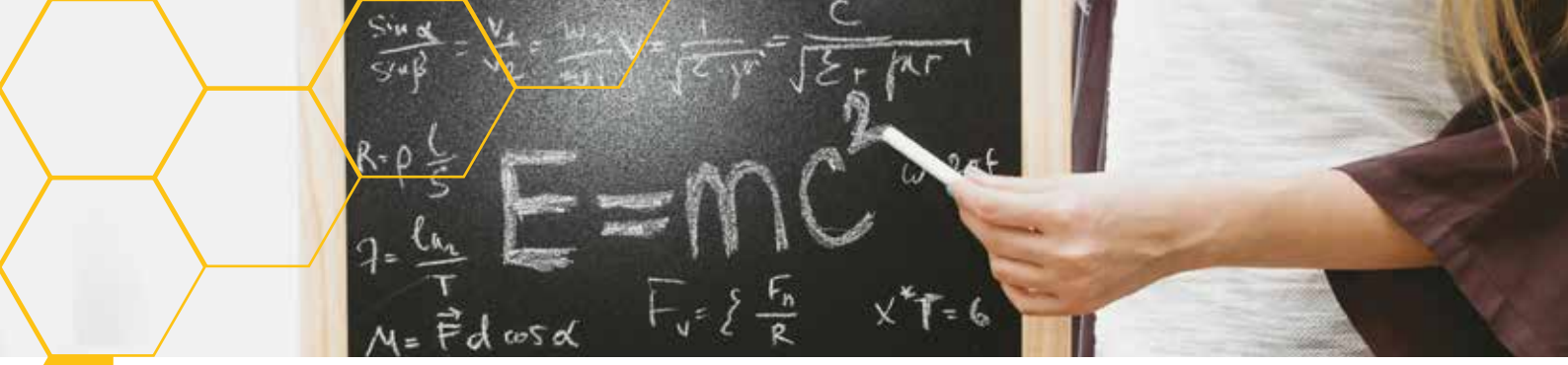
We will study a film and a novel set in the Francophone world.

Independent research project (IRP)

Students undertake independent research on a topic of their choice, which will be assessed during the oral examination.

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum requirement is a Grade 6 in GCSE French.



FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Why study Further Mathematics?

Further Mathematics is a second A Level that can be taken in addition to Mathematics. It provides a great opportunity for talented and enthusiastic mathematicians to broaden and deepen their mathematical knowledge beyond that studied as part of their Mathematics A Level.

Students should seek guidance from staff in the Mathematics department about their likely suitability for Further Mathematics.

Aims of the course

If you are interested in taking either a Mathematics degree or a future course with a high mathematical content such as a science, technology or engineering degree, you may find Further Mathematics A Level useful.

Career pathways

Professional mathematician, data analyst, engineer or research scientist.



Subject Content

By studying Further Mathematics you will encounter the following topics that are not included in your Mathematics A Level:

- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations

You will also meet additional aspects of the following topics introduced in your Mathematics A Level:

- Further proof including proof by induction
- Further algebra and functions including Maclaurin series, summation of series and roots of quartic equations
- Further calculus including improper integrals with an infinite interval of integration and statistical applications of integration such as finding the mean of a function
- Further coverage of vectors including vector forms for the equation of lines and planes and applications of the scalar product

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum entry requirement for students to take A Level Further Mathematics is a grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics.



GEOGRAPHY

Why study Geography?

Geography is a diverse and dynamic subject and the A Level course covers a wide variety of topics. You will learn and use a variety of transferable skills throughout the course. These include: collecting, analysing and interpreting data; communicating findings in different ways, and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers, universities and colleges as valuable.

Aims of the course

During the first year, you will cover four main topics: Water and Carbon Cycles, Global Systems and Global Governance, Coastal Systems and Landscapes, and Changing Places. In your second year, you will cover the final two topics: Hazards and Contemporary Urban Environments.

You will also complete a geographical investigation: Coastal Systems and Landscapes, Contemporary Urban Environments and Global Systems and Governance. You will also complete a geographical investigation and write up that will be worth 20% of your final grade. At the end of the year you will sit two 2 ½ hour exams that will test your knowledge of the six topics covered over the two years.

Career pathways

Geography combines well with almost all other A Level subjects. Taken with sciences like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Geography supports applications for almost any science-based university course like Engineering, Psychology, Environmental Sciences, Oceanography and Geology. Taken with subjects like English, French, History or Economics, Geography supports an equally wide range of university courses such as Business, Law, Media, Politics and Philosophy.



Subject entry requirement:

In order to study the Geography A Level course you will need a minimum of a Grade 6 in GCSE Geography, and a Grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths.

Subject Content

Water and Carbon Cycles

This section of the specification focuses on the major stores of water and carbon at or near the Earth's surface and the dynamic relationships associated with them. These are major elements in the natural environment and understanding them is fundamental to many aspects of physical geography.

Coastal Systems and Landscapes

This section of our specification focuses on coastal zones that are dynamic environments in which landscapes develop by the interaction of winds, waves, currents and terrestrial and marine sediments. Student engagement with subject content will foster an informed appreciation of the beauty and diversity of coasts and their importance as human habitats.

Hazards

This section focuses on the lithosphere and the atmosphere that regularly present natural hazards to human populations, often in dramatic and sometimes catastrophic fashion. By exploring the origin and nature of these hazards and the various ways in which people respond to them, students are able to engage with many dimensions of the relationships between people and the environments they occupy.

Global Systems and Governance

This section focuses on globalisation – the economic, political and social changes associated with technological and other driving forces that have been a key feature of global economy and society in recent decades.

Changing Places

This section of the specification focuses on people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them, all of which are of fundamental importance in their lives.

Contemporary Urban Environments

This section focuses on urban growth and change that present significant environmental and social challenges for human populations. The section examines these processes and challenges, and the issues associated with them, in particular the potential for environmental sustainability and social cohesion.



GERMAN

Why study German?

Students with a curiosity about German language and the life and culture in German-speaking countries.

German A Level will offer students, who possess a curiosity for language, a pathway to a vast number of potential careers. Taught in a small group, you will study a range of topics covering cultural, historical and social aspects of German society, while also refining and building on the skills gained at GCSE. You will also be provided with an opportunity to take part in a work experience placement in a primary school or nursery in Germany as part of our biennial cultural visit. Due to the small numbers of students who attain German A Level, you will significantly increase your own personal profile with any prospective university or future employer – who knows the doors that this will open?

Aims of the course

To develop language skills acquired at GCSE and ultimately to allow students to become fluent speakers of German in a variety of situations. In addition, the course will give a social and cultural snapshot of life in Germany and German-speaking areas.

Students will develop their grammatical awareness, improve their accuracy and expand their vocabulary. This will enable them to speak and write about a range of more sophisticated topic areas that go far beyond the GCSE syllabus.

Career pathways

German offers you the opportunity to complement many other subjects as well as opening a cultural window to a variety of careers. It is a versatile life skill but more specific careers where it is of benefit include teaching, translation/interpreting, travel and tourism, working in the Foreign Services and other international careers.



Subject Content

Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Translation
Paper 2: Written response to literary works
Paper 3: Speaking

Themes for Year 12: Aspects of German-speaking society

- 12.1 - The changing nature of family
- 12.2 - The digital world
- 12.3 - Youth culture: fashion, music and TV

Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

- 12.4 - Festivals and traditions
- 12.5 - Art and architecture
- 12.6 - The cultural life of Berlin: then and now

Themes for Year 13: Aspects of German-speaking society: current issues

- 13.1 - Immigration
- 13.2 - Integration
- 13.3 - Racism

Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world

- 13.4 - Germany and the European Union
- 13.5 - Politics and youth
- 13.6 - German reunification and its consequences

Literary Themes

We will study a film and a novel set in the German-speaking world.

Independent research project (IRP)

Students undertake independent research on a topic of their choice, which will be assessed during the oral examination.

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum grade requirement for A Level is a Grade 6 at GCSE German.



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Why study Government and Politics?

Lively, relevant, controversial - there are many ways to describe A Level Politics. There's no denying that it's one of the most interesting and engaging qualifications you can choose. Covering news and current affairs from the UK and US, it helps you understand how the UK is run and develops research, written communication and debate skills. It also helps grow your confidence.

Aims of the course

Studying A Level Politics will enable you to develop a wide range of transferable skills including comprehending and interpreting political information; critically analysing and evaluating political ideas; and constructing arguments and explanations leading to reasoned conclusions.

Career pathways

Politics combines well with a range of other A Levels, particularly History, Economics, Sociology and Geography. It's ideal if you're considering studying international relations, politics, sociology, ethics, advertising, law or journalism at university and is highly regarded by employers in industries including politics, international organisations, the media, government and the civil service.



Subject Content

The course followed is that offered by AQA. Students study three units, each of which is assessed by a 2 hour exam.

Paper 1: Government and Politics of the UK covers 10 key areas including the role of Parliament, Prime Minister and Cabinet; the judiciary; devolution; elections; political parties and pressure groups.

Paper 2: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics covers areas such as Congress, President and the Supreme Court; elections; political parties; pressure groups and civil rights. Students also learn how to compare aspects of UK and US politics using three theoretical approaches.

Paper 3: Political ideas covers the main ideologies of liberalism, socialism and conservatism with an additional one chosen from the following: nationalism, feminism, multiculturalism, anarchism and ecologism.

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum grade requirement is a Grade 6 in English Language.



HISTORY

Why study History?

History is a highly respected A Level, valued by universities and an excellent preparation for future study of not only History but also subjects like Law, English and even Medicine. You will have the opportunity to develop critical and reflective thinking and an understanding of the importance of historical awareness in explaining contemporary issues.

Aims of the course

A Level History is a two-year course. We aim to help students:

- Develop a strong understanding of key historical events and individuals.
- Question and evaluate historical sources and interpretations.
- Build confidence in forming and expressing their own arguments.
- Develop independent research and analytical skills.
- Understand how the past has shaped the world we live in today.

Students will develop a genuine interest in the past, think for themselves and become confident in challenging different viewpoints.

The A Level is assessed through three exams of between one and two hours long and a 3000-4000 word coursework essay, which accounts for 20% of the overall mark.

Career pathways

History works well with a variety of other subjects such as English, Geography, Government and Politics but can also be combined with Maths and science-based subjects to provide a more rounded educational experience. The skills developed are applicable to a wide range of future careers including law and journalism.



Subject Content

There are four components to the History A Level.

British Period Study: Britain 1951-1997

An investigation of social, political and economic change in Britain with an in-depth enquiry in to the role played by Churchill in the immediately preceding period of 1930-51.

African Kingdoms c.1400-1800

An opportunity to study a more unusual topic. The development of four kingdoms is studied: Songhay, Kongo, Benin and Oyo and Dahomey. Students look at how these kingdoms flourished economically, politically and socially and investigate the increasing problems that they faced as European colonisation threatened.

Civil Rights in the USA

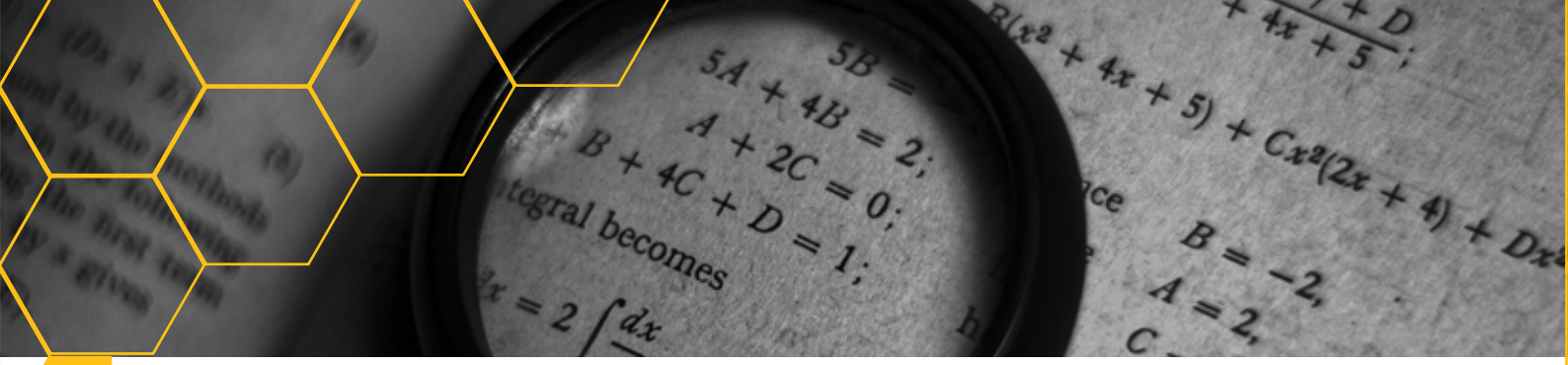
A thematic investigation into the development of civil rights for four key groups: women, black Americans, Native Americans and workers. Students study the factors bringing about or hindering change and also investigate the validity of different historical interpretations of key events and personalities such as Malcolm X.

Coursework essay

Students carry out a personal investigation on a History topic of their choice, frame their own question and use a variety of source material in order to make a judgement.

Subject entry requirement:

Students should ideally have studied History at GCSE and achieved at least a Grade 6. Students without a GCSE in History will be considered provided they have achieved at least Grade 6 in GCSE English Language.



MATHEMATICS

Why study Mathematics?

A Level Mathematics will give students the opportunity to further develop the mathematical skills and techniques learned at GCSE as well as introducing many new mathematical concepts and their applications.

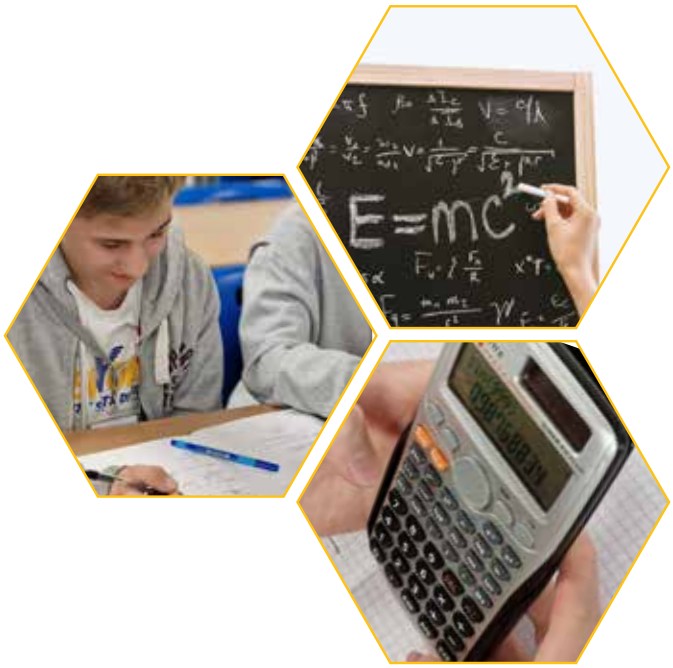
The study of mathematics is also fundamental for many higher education courses and can lead to an immense range of careers including those in science and technology, engineering, medicine, business and management, finance and accountancy, computing, law, architecture, sports science, nutrition and psychology.

Aims of the course

Students will develop key employability skills such as problem-solving, logical reasoning, communication and resilience. Studying Mathematics will also support the study of a wide range of other A Level courses including Biology, Chemistry, Business Studies, Economics, Geography, Physics and Psychology.

Career pathways

Actuary, accountant, stockbroker, engineer, software tester and research scientist, to name but a few.



Subject Content

The mathematics you will study covers the three broad areas: Pure Mathematics, Statistics and Mechanics.

Pure Mathematics

You will study many of the methods and techniques which underpin the study of all other areas of mathematics, including

- Proof
- Algebra
- Functions
- Coordinate Geometry
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation and integration
- Numerical methods
- Vectors

Statistics

Statistics involves studying large data sets to reach conclusions about the world around us. You will study the topics

- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Statistical hypothesis testing

Mechanics

Mechanics involves the modelling of the world around us, the motion of objects and the forces acting on them. You will study the topics

- Mechanical quantities and units
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's Laws
- Moments

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum entry requirement for students to take A Level Mathematics is a grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.

Students should seek guidance from staff in the Mathematics department about their likely suitability for this course.



MEDIA STUDIES

Why study media?

Media offers students the opportunity to explore in detail the things in which they are most engaged and which are increasingly important to them: news, advertising, social media and the multinational conglomerates behind those products. Widely known among media teachers as 'cynicism studies', this course encourages our students to question and challenge the world about them and develop the skills to do this in thoughtful, mature ways.

Media students develop skills which are immediately valuable to future employers: the hardware and software they use in their coursework is exactly the same as is used in many professional media organisations around the world.

The A Level brings with it a requirement for students to have some experience in the subject at GCSE. Although we do make exceptions for students with very good English grades, students will find the transition to A Level more accessible if they have already studied the subject and have a grounding in the theoretical framework.

Aims of the course

Media Studies A Level from Eduqas introduces students to a range of media forms, some of which are part of their everyday lives – film and social media – and others which are less so, such as magazines and radio. For the first time, there are set products to be studied and these come from an exciting range of forms, genres and time periods. The intention is that students will be able to apply some challenging media theories and use extensive terminology to write critically about the set products and more.

The course is assessed through a piece of practical coursework (30% of the A Level) and two exam papers. All of these are taken at the end of Year 13.

Career pathways

Media graduates go on to work in film and television production, journalism, marketing and advertising and in all aspects of business and industry where critical thinking is applied.



Subject Content

Possible career pathways

Media studies combines well with a broad range of subjects, particularly English (Language or Literature), Photography, Psychology and Sociology. Successful students enjoy a wide choice of career pathways such as film/TV production, journalism, marketing and advertising and photography/graphic design.

Subject Content

Students embarking on the Media Studies A Level from Eduqas will enjoy exploring a wide range of media forms, including television, radio, newspapers, film marketing and online. There are now several set texts to be studied and these come from an exciting range of forms, styles and time periods.

Students should be prepared to develop their skills in filming, photography and editing as well as writing analytical and opinionated essays. A propensity to debate a range of topics with their classmates is also an advantage.

The course is assessed through a piece of practical coursework (30% of the A Level) and two exam papers. All of these are taken at the end of Year 13.

Subject entry requirement:

Students should ideally have a minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Media Studies and GCSE English Language Grade 6.



MUSIC

Why study Music?

If you are passionate about music and want to learn more about its history and the theory surrounding it, as well as engaging in musical composition and performance, then this course is for you. Furthermore, if you are thinking of pursuing a career in music, whether it be teaching, performing, composing, producing or writing about music, then you should certainly consider taking this A Level. Even if you just wish to perform music, studying Music A Level will give you a solid grounding for exploring differing musical styles and genres, as well as giving you the opportunity to hone and perfect your existing skills.

Aims of the course

This is a two-year course, with most coursework completed in the second year (ie the year of certification). Assessment includes:

1. Appraising music: exam paper with listening and written questions using excerpts of music. You will study a variety of set works. (40%/120 marks)
2. Music performance: a minimum of 10 minutes music on an instrument/s and/or voice. This can be solo and/or ensemble. (35%/50 marks)
3. Composition: create one composition to a set brief – Bach chorales (25 marks); free composition (25 marks). A minimum of four and a half minutes of music in total is required. (25%/50 marks)

Career pathways

Music A Level is an ideal starting point for anyone wishing to study Music at degree level and/or go to a Music college. Popular career choices include teaching and performing, but there are many other pathways to follow which include music therapy, music journalism, sound engineering and theatre-based professions.



Subject Content

Appraising

This component develops your listening and appraising skills through the study of music across a variety of styles and genres. The content is grouped into Area of Study 1: Western classical tradition 1650-1910, plus two further areas of study. You will have the opportunity to reflect on, analyse and evaluate music in aural and written form. You will need to use your knowledge and understanding of musical elements, context and language to make critical judgements about the repertoire and context of music within the areas of study. These critical judgements will require the use of specific music vocabulary associated with a particular style or genre. You will also be taught to relate your learning to other pieces in a similar style or genre.

Performing

You will be given the opportunity to rehearse and refine performances with your voice or your chosen instrument, developing technical control, expression and interpretative skills. This component encourages you to develop creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, critical awareness, self-confidence, self-motivation and your own musical interests and skills.

You will make music individually and/or in groups, and be expected to participate in school events. Although it is not a prerequisite for taking this A Level, the exam board gives credit for work that is Grade 7 or higher.

Composing

In this component you will learn more of the processes involved in creating music through developing the technical and expressive skills needed by a composer. You will be encouraged to explore a range of compositional starting points, investigating various techniques for developing and manipulating ideas before turning these into completed pieces of music. You will also explore the skills needed to compose for different musical forces.

Subject entry requirement:

It is a requirement of the A Level course that you are already at Grade 6 standard in Music and that you are having regular instrumental or vocal lessons with a private music tutor. It is desirable, but not essential, to have taken GCSE Music.



PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS

Why study Religious Studies?

Fascinating and enlightening, A Level Religious Studies is an excellent subject choice. Not only will you develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of world religions, philosophy and ethics but you will also gain many valuable transferable skills along the way. The A Level syllabus combines the in-depth study of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics with the study of Christianity and the development of thought within it.

In the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics component, areas of study include the application of ethical theories to ontemporary issues including abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and embryonic research. The philosophical element looks at a variety of fascinating topics, including the nature of the mind, body and soul, arguments for and against the existence of God, and the problem of evil.

Students will study Christianity as part of the second component. Topics of study will include Christian teaching and interpretations of wisdom and authority, the self, death and the afterlife, gender and sexuality and expressions of religious identity.

Aims of the course

A Level Religious Studies is a highly engaging subject, and you can expect classes to involve a considerable amount of discussion and debate. To get the most out of the subject, you must be willing to participate in these discussions, both sharing your own ideas and listening and respecting the views of others. You will develop skills of critical evaluation and analysis, which you will practice within these discussions and in essay writing.

Career pathways

Students will gain critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers – particularly in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration and the media.





Subject Content

A Level Religious Studies is assessed through the OCR exam board

What's assessed:

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion:

- Ancient Greek Philosophy
- Nature of Soul, Mind and Body
- Arguments for God
- Religious Experiences
- Problem of evil

Component 2: Religion and Ethics:

- Normative ethical theories
- Application of ethical theories
- Idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics

Component 3: Development of Christian Theology:

- Human Nature
- Death and Afterlife
- Jesus Christ
- Christian moral principles and action
- Feminism, Gender and Society

How it's assessed

- 3 x 2 hour Exams

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum entry requirement for students is a GCSE Grade 6 in English Language or Literature. It is desirable but not essential to have taken GCSE Religious Studies.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Why study Photography?

Photography A Level has been designed to provide students with a rich platform of skills that can be transferred into many other areas of industry and study. The course is a logical progression from GCSE Art and Design or Photography as the assessment objectives, structure and titles are very similar to those specified in the AQA GCSE Art and Design specification.

Aims of the course

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that employ a range of traditional and new photographic media, techniques and processes.

The course will help students to develop independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating their own ideas, their own intentions and their own personal outcomes.

Career pathways

The Piggott School Photography department has an excellent record of student entry into higher education. Career opportunities for Photography graduates include marketing, publishing, film, television, graphic design, fashion and teaching as well as more traditional photography.



Subject Content

The A Level Photography course at The Piggott School has achieved consistently outstanding results.

It is a linear two year course designed to help students develop practical and theoretical knowledge as well as developing their aesthetic, intellectual and creative skills.

Students will be taught how to use their cameras effectively both in the studio and on location so that they can record their experiences and observations in a visual form.

Students will be encouraged to research a wide variety of artists and photographers, both contemporary and historic, along with a variety of styles and genres.

The work is assessed on two components: a Personal Investigation worth 60% of the overall mark and an Externally Set Assignment worth 40% of the overall mark.

Subject entry requirement:

If a student has studied GCSE Art and Design or Photography, they should have achieved a Grade 6. It is also worth noting that students will need their own DSLR camera if taking this subject.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why study Physical Education?

The A Level Physical Education course encourages students to immerse themselves in the world of sports and PE with the chance to perform or coach a sport and delve into the how and why of physical activity. Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to sport and exercise science. This complete grounding in the subject provides a fantastic base from which to build when they move on to higher education or employment.

The Physical Education A Level is fully linear and assessment of a student's knowledge and understanding of the whole course takes place at the end of two years of study.

Aims of the course

The course will provide students with an in-depth knowledge of sport and exercise science.

Career pathways

Physiotherapy, nutritionist, personal trainer, sports management, sports analyst, sports reporter and teacher.



Subject Content

Physiological Factors Affecting Performance

This group of topics focuses on key systems of the human body involved in movement and physical activity. Candidates will develop their knowledge and understanding of the changes within these body systems prior to exercise, during exercise of differing intensities, and during recovery.

Psychological Factors Affecting Performance

This focuses on the psychological factors affecting physical activities and sports, including: models and theories that affect learning and performance in physical activities; how different methods of training and feedback work and why their effectiveness differs from person to person; group dynamics and the effects of leadership and stress on performers.

Socio-cultural and Contemporary Issues

During this topic students will learn the sociological and contemporary factors that influence and affect physical activity and sport for both the audience and the performer and how sport affects society. All of the components above are assessed through an examination based assessment.

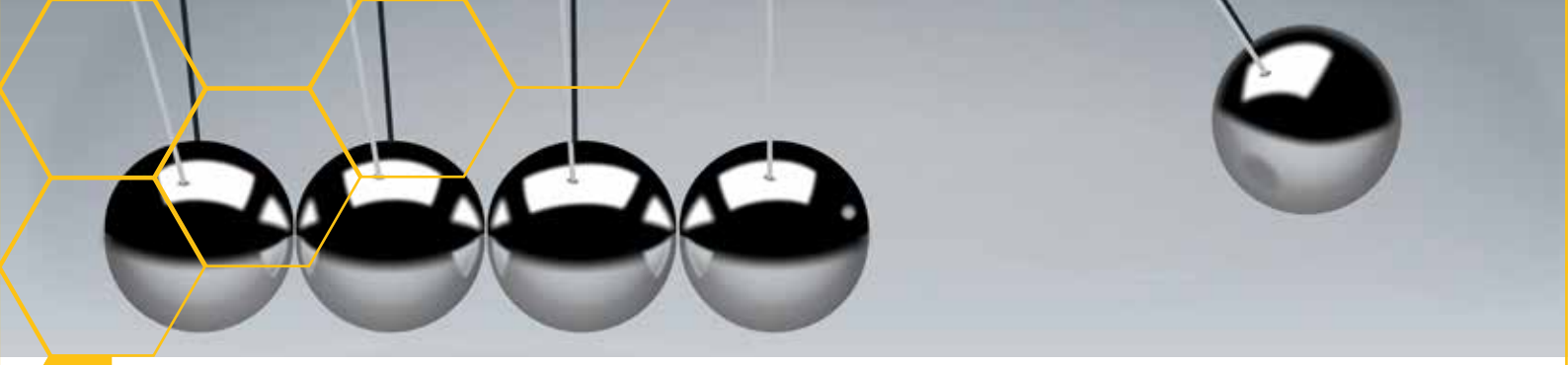
Performance within Physical Education

Part 1: Performance Assessment, pupils are marked practically either as a coach or performer in a sport.

Part 2: The Evaluation and Analysis of Performance consists of the student verbally analysing a sporting performance.

Subject entry requirement:

Students should have ideally studied Physical Education at GCSE and achieved at least a grade 6. Students should have a minimum grade 6/6 in GCSE Combined Science or 6 in each individual science. Students should have a grade 5 in English Language.



PHYSICS

Why study Physics?

This course is for students who enjoy problem solving, who want to understand how things work, and who want to learn skills to enable them to apply knowledge to wider phenomena. The Physics learnt in these two years will give you a fantastic insight into how the world works. It requires motivation, a little imagination and a questioning nature to truly get to grips with the underlying concept.

Aims of the course

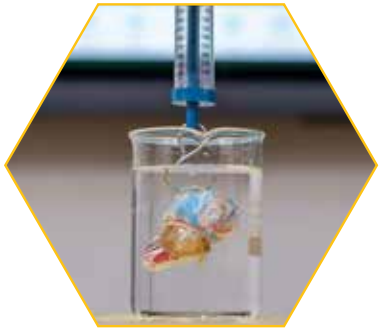
This is a two year course aiming to develop an enthusiasm and interest in Physics and to highlight to learners the different directions that A Level Physics can take. The course is split into many topics so there is always something of interest for everyone.

The content will be assessed over three exams at the end of the two year course. Two exams will be worth 37% each and a final synoptic exam will be worth 26%. Students will also be expected to complete a practical endorsement as the two years progress that refines and consolidates practical skills.

Career pathways

Aeronautical engineer, research scientist, astronomer, airline pilot, air traffic controller and architect.





Subject Content

The course aims to stimulate and sustain students' interest in, and enjoyment of, physics. As you progress through the course, you will build on your knowledge of the laws of physics, applying your understanding to areas from subatomic particles to the entire universe. Physics will train your brain to think beyond boundaries. You will explain how technology works as well as looking at ways to save the planet. You will learn to expand your imaginative and problem solving skills to solve practical issues in the laboratory as well as trying to explain how the world works.

Topics covered include:

Motion, forces, moments, energy, materials, pressure, electricity, waves, quantum, electromagnetism, apacitors, radioactivity, astrophysics, X-rays, oscillations, MRIs, ideal gases and many more.

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

Practical skills are assessed as the course progresses and are connected to the content. Each practical is written up and the skills are assessed. The experiment could also make up an exam question.

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum course requirements are GCSE Combined Science Grade 7/6 or a Grade 7 in Physics.

GCSE English Language Grade 6 and GCSE Maths Grade 6.



PSYCHOLOGY

Why study Psychology?

A Level Psychology is the ideal subject for students who possess curiosity and philosophical scepticism, and an interest in research into the science behind our human experience.

Aims of the course

The course aims to develop critical thinking, research skills and instil an understanding of theories of human behaviour and how science works in this field.

Career pathways

As Psychology is both a scientific and essay based subject, it is complemented by a range of subjects: with Sciences and Maths, or with English, Humanities Business and Economics. Psychology can enhance careers in marketing, industry, personnel, the media, counselling and social work, or it can be pursued as a career in itself. Careers within Psychology are as varied as the subject itself. These range from becoming a forensic or sports Psychologist to becoming an occupational or clinical Psychologist, in which you can achieve chartered status with the British Psychological Society.



Subject Content

Psychology students are required to learn compulsory and optional content, examined in three, two-hour papers.

Compulsory content covers: Social Influence; Memory; Attachment; Psychopathology; Approaches in Psychology; Biopsychology; Research methods; and Issues and Debates in Psychology.

Optional content includes Schizophrenia and Addiction.

All examination papers gain 96 marks each and cover 33% of the course equally. Students are examined through multiple choice, short, and extended questions. Paper 1 covers Topics in Psychology (Social Influence, Memory, Attachment and Psychopathology) whilst Paper 2 covers Psychology in Context (Biopsychology, Research Methods and Approaches in Psychology). Paper 3 covers the compulsory content of Issues and Debates in Psychology and the optional units.

The course also includes research methods, worth 20-25% of the final grade and a GCSE mathematics element applied to topics worth 10%, together accounting for 25-35% of the total grade.

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures (AO1).
- Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, processes, techniques and procedures in a theoretical and practical context when handling qualitative and quantitative data (AO2).
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate scientific information, ideas and evidence, including in relation to: making judgments and reach conclusions; develop and refine practical design and procedures (AO3).

Subject entry requirement:

You will need at least a Grade 6 in both GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths.



SOCIOLOGY

Why study Sociology?

This course is for anyone with an interest in society and the world in which we live. Sociology is a respected A Level which can lead to further study at university in a number of fields.

Aims of the course

- Understand socialisation, culture, and identity. Students will analyse how norms, values, and social institutions shape individual and group identities across class, gender, ethnicity, and age.
- Evaluate sociological theories and perspectives. Learners will compare consensus, conflict, and social action theories to explain how society operates and changes over time.
- Master sociological research methods. Students will design, conduct, and critically assess quantitative and qualitative research methods, considering practical, ethical, and theoretical issues.
- Analyse patterns of social inequality. Learners will investigate the causes and impacts of social stratification and inequality in the contemporary UK, linking theoretical explanations to empirical evidence.
- Explore globalisation and the digital social world. Students will examine how digital communication and global interconnectedness transform social relationships, culture, and power dynamics.
- Develop critical thinking and synoptic essay skills. Learners will construct balanced, evidence-based arguments that apply sociological concepts to contemporary real-world debates, such as crime, education, or religion.

Career pathways

Some of our sociology students go on to take degrees in sociology or a related field such as criminology or education. Sociology A Level is also considered good preparation and an acceptable entrance qualification for other courses at degree level.

Sociology provides a range of skills that can be used in many different graduate careers including journalism, law, PR, marketing, publishing, social research, politics, teaching, social work and nursing. It is also a useful subject for those not wishing to go to university and wanting to follow careers in the police, armed forces, civil service and working with the elderly or children.



Subject Content

The A Level course is made up of three units, each of which is examined. The units are equally weighted, and each unit is worth 70 of the total 210 available marks. Each of the exams are 90 minutes in length.

Introducing socialisation, culture and identity

This unit introduces learners to the key themes of socialisation, culture and identity and develops these themes through a study of the media. The unit aims to develop skills that enable individuals to focus on their personal identity, roles and responsibilities within society and develop a lifelong interest in social issues.

Researching and understanding social inequalities

This unit explores the methods of sociological enquiry and develops knowledge and understanding of contemporary social processes and social change in the context of social inequality and difference. This unit aims to foster the development of critical and reflective thinking with a respect for social diversity in terms of social class, gender, ethnicity and age. It develops links between the nature of sociological thought and methods of sociological enquiry.

Debates in contemporary society - Globalisation and the digital social world

This unit engages learners in theoretical debates and how these relate to contemporary global society. The unit aims to develop knowledge and understanding of social processes and social change. Contemporary and global debates are introduced through a compulsory topic of 'Globalisation and the digital social world' in section A, whilst section B explores them in more depth from a detailed study of crime and deviance.

Subject entry requirement:

Entry requirements are a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.



SPANISH

Why study Spanish?

Academic students with a curiosity about Spanish language and the life and culture in Hispanic countries.

Aims of the course

A Level Spanish is much more than just a language course. In addition to becoming fluent speakers of the language, over the two years, students will develop their understanding and passion in a number of other areas. They will study a contemporary film, a novel from Nobel Prize winning author, Gabriel García Marquez, find out about regions of Spain, immerse themselves in cultural areas such as gastronomy, idols, sports and societal changes whilst undertaking a walk through the history of one of the most culturally rich countries in Europe. Within these lessons, students will also advance their grammatical awareness and accuracy to tackle all scenarios and expand their vocabulary to be able to speak about a range of more sophisticated topic areas which go far beyond the GCSE syllabus.

Career pathways

Spanish can be the perfect companion to all other subjects opening a cultural window to any further careers. It is a versatile life skill to take with you into the world, whatever you choose to do. However, specific careers include teaching, translation/interpreting, travel and tourism, Foreign Service and other international careers. Former Piggott A Level students have pursued studies and careers in business, marketing, teaching and many more.



Subject Content

Paper 1: Listening, Reading, Translation (Spanish – English, English to Spanish) (200 marks)

Paper 2: Written response to literary works (80 marks)

Paper 3: Speaking (120 marks)

Themes for Y12: Aspects of Hispanic society

- 12.1 – Traditional and modern values
- 12.2 – The 'Cyber-Society
- 12.3 – Sexual Equality

Artistic culture in Spanish World

- 12.4 – Influence of idols
- 12.5 – Regional identity in Spain
- 12.6 – Cultural heritage

Themes for Y13: Multiculturalism in Hispanic Culture

- 13.1 – Immigration
- 13.2 – Racism
- 13.3 – Integration

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world

- 13.4 – Teenagers of today, citizens of tomorrow
- 13.5 – Monarchies and dictatorships
- 13.6 – Popular movements

Literary Themes

We will study the Guillermo del Toro film 'Laberinto del Fauno' and study the Gabriel García Márquez novel 'Crónica de una muerte anunciada'

Independent research project (IRP)

Students undertake an independent research project on a topic of their choice, which will be assessed during the oral examination.

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum entry requirement is a Grade 6 at GCSE Spanish.



Vocational – BUSINESS

Why study BTEC Business?

Business BTEC Level 3 is an extremely popular course at The Piggott School. The BTEC Business course is rigorous, technical, student focused and comparable to an A Level. The course is set up so that students gain an insight into a breadth of business functions such as marketing, finance, human resources and operations with the ability to explore them in depth. Students will learn about entrepreneurship and management of business; all topics have a practical approach.

Aims of the course

The course is for students who want to learn about business, enjoy talking about the real world outside of school, and for those who want to acquire and use a wide range of skills.

Business involves individuals and groups working together to apply what they have been taught to real business scenarios. Students will analyse and problem solve for businesses in a variety of scenarios. Research skills and the ability to demonstrate understanding are very important, as are communication skills, since assessment includes not just coursework and exams but reports, presentations and projects.

We encourage students to engage in lessons, rise to challenges, take risks and have fun!

Career pathways

Students who choose Business take a variety of subjects as it complements a wide range. Popular combinations include Geography, Maths, Psychology, Languages, English and creative subjects. BTEC Level 3 also works well with other courses, such as Art, Photography, Travel & Tourism and Sport.

BTEC Level 3 Business helps to develop a whole host of skills that are applicable to a wide range of careers, including any in business, working with people or technology. Many students progress to apprenticeships in areas including marketing and human resources. BTEC Level 3 is widely accepted by universities, and will help students work towards studying degrees such as Business, Management and any involving research. It will also develop skills in working independently, in groups and in the real world.

Subject Content

There is a range of assessment in BTEC Level 3 Business to enable students to show an array of skills and to develop these to access the grades they want to achieve. Students are assessed internally (i) coursework, set task (s) controlled assessment and in an exam (e).

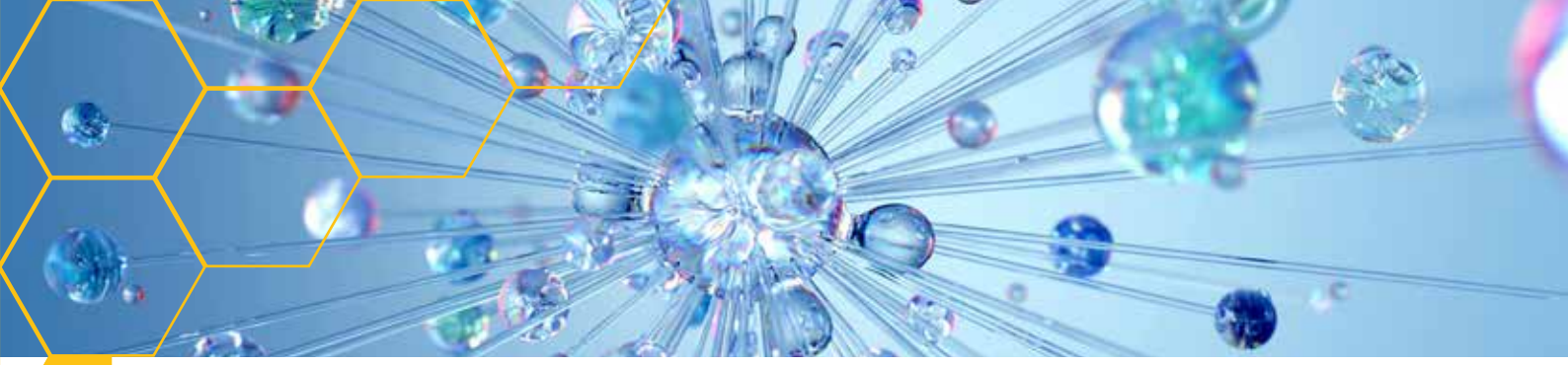
The units taught are:

Extended certificate (single, one A Level)	
1	Exploring Business (i)
2	Developing a Marketing Campaign (s)
3	Personal and Business Finance (e)
8	Recruitment and Selection Process (i)

Students will apply what they have been taught to real world businesses, using individual and group research skills, and present the work in a variety of ways.



Subject entry requirement:
The minimum entry requirements are a Grade 5 in GCSE Business or Grade 4 in both GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths (if you have not taken GCSE Business).



Vocational – MEDICAL SCIENCE

Why study Medical Science?

This new Post 16 course started in September 2025 and is an Extended Certificate vocational Science qualification, studied throughout Year 12 and 13 and equivalent to one A Level in UMS points.

Aims of the course

Medical Science can be used to complement two other A Level or Level 3 choices and obtain a qualification which enables students to access the Healthcare or Science sectors in the future.

Career pathways

It is also an appropriate course for learners who specifically want to progress into the fields of Nursing, Physiotherapy, Biomedical Sciences, Paramedic Sciences, Sports Sciences and Pharmacology to name a few.



Subject Content

The course consists of six mandatory units, of which three are coursework units and three are external exam units, and therefore, is suitable for learners who prefer a larger coursework element within their qualification than is present within the current A Level Sciences. The external exam units include topics such as Human Health and Disease, Clinical Laboratory Techniques, and Medical Case Studies; and the coursework units include Physiological Measurement Techniques, Medical Science Research Methods, and Medicines and Treatment of Disease.

These units all encompass precise practical work within the laboratory in addition to content based scientific theory, which is mainly Biology. As this course is designed for learners entering Medical Science, students are expected to understand and analyse a multitude of diagnostic tests used in the medical industry to diagnose, monitor, and treat health and disease.

Subject entry requirement:

To study Medical Science you will need a grade 5/5 in Combined Science or a 5 in individual sciences. You will also need a grade 5 in English Language and Maths.



Vocational – SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Why study CTEC Sport & Physical Activity?

The course will meet the needs of those aspiring to a career in sport (coaching, sports therapy, sports nutrition and conditioning fotheyr example) and the health and leisure industry. The course not only serves as a route to full-time employment within sports related fields, it is also a proven progression route to higher education.

Aims of the course

Students will study six different units of work over the two year course which include:

- Body systems and the effects of physical activity
- Sports organisation and development
- Physical activity for specific groups
- Sports coaching and activity leadership
- Practical skills in sport and physical activity
- Nutrition and diet for sport

Students will be assessed in a number of ways including extended work projects and unit exams.

Career pathways

Fitness instructor
Sports therapy
Sports development office
Sports coaching
Sports nutrition



Subject Content

Sport is currently one of the fastest growing industries in the UK and offers a huge range of professions in a variety of different areas. These can be from a grassroots level all the way through to an international level, and can focus on improving students' own or other athletes' performance through coaching, fitness training, technology, psychology or nutrition. The Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity can provide students with a range of transferable skills and knowledge areas. They are an ideal foundation for students entering the workplace because of the combination of a theoretical background that's reinforced with practical learning and assessment.

The Cambridge Technical in Sport and Physical Activity has been developed to prepare students for the challenges they will face in higher education or employment. Designed in collaboration with experts spanning the sports industry, the Cambridge Technicals in Sport and Physical Activity focuses on the skills, knowledge and industry understanding that today's universities and employers demand. Students will develop professional and social skills through interaction with performers, clients and team mates, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin these skills. When it comes to progression or employment, students will understand the variety of opportunities available to them, and the roles and responsibilities of businesses and organisations within the sports sector. This will give them a clear idea about where they might like to take their career and what progression routes they would like to follow.

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum entry requirements are Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Mathematics. A grade 4/4 in a GCSE Combined Science qualification or a 4 in each individual science is required. In addition you should have ideally studied GCSE PE.



Vocational – TRAVEL & TOURISM

Why study Travel & Tourism?

The travel and tourism sector employs approximately 1.67 million people directly, with 16% of these under the age of 25. It is a growing industry with jobs ranging from tourist guides, hotel managers, and travel agents to sales consultants and marketing designers. On the Travel and Tourism course students will learn through a range of activities based in the classroom. These activities include producing written reports, guidance documents, role plays, presentations and possibly work experience.

Aims of the course

This is a two year course and the qualification is broadly equivalent to one GCE A Level. This course is suitable for all students who have an interest in travel and tourism. On successful completion of a BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate, students may progress into employment or continue their study in Travel & Tourism at a higher level.

The course is assessed through two external examinations at the end of year one ('The World of Travel & Tourism' and 'Global Destinations') and two internally assessed units throughout year two ('Marketing in Travel & Tourism' and 'Visitor Attractions'). Evidence for internally assessed units is collected through a range of diverse activities including research projects, written reports, oral presentations and role plays.

Career pathways

Tour manager, tourism office, event organiser, hotel manager, marketing executive and outdoor education manager.



Subject Content

This qualification includes three mandatory units covering the following content areas:

- The travel and tourism industry – the travel and tourism industry in the UK is growing and is of major importance to the economy. Students will develop the skills needed to examine, interpret and analyse a variety of statistics that measure the importance of tourism to the UK.
- Different types of destinations and their importance – students will investigate the features and appeal of global destinations.
- Customer service – students will explore and apply ways of managing internal and external customer experience to support organisational success and develop their customer service skills.

Students will also select one optional unit to support their progression to travel and tourism and other courses in Higher Education.

Subject entry requirement:

The minimum entry requirement is a Grade 4 in GCSE English and Mathematics.



Level 3 – CRIMINOLOGY

Why study Level 3 Criminology?

Criminology is an exciting and contemporary subject that explores the world of crime, criminal behaviour and the justice system. This Level 3 qualification blends academic study with applied learning, giving students a deep understanding of how crime is defined, investigated, explained and prevented.

Students will examine real cases, analyse different types of crime, and evaluate how laws are made and enforced. The course develops confident, critical thinkers who can apply criminological theories to real-world situations and understand the social impact of crime on individuals and communities.

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate and Diploma in Criminology is ideal for learners interested in careers in policing, forensic science, law, psychology, social work, probation, and the wider criminal justice sector. It also provides a strong foundation for further study at university. The course structure is 50% written examination and 50% internal controlled assessment (non-examined assessment). Students will need to have secured a grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

This qualification combines controlled assessments with external examinations, offering a balanced and accessible route into one of the UK's most relevant and fast-growing fields of study.

Aims of the course

What students will study:

- Changing awareness of crime
- Criminological theories and explanations
- Crime scene to courtroom: the criminal justice process
- Crime and punishment: social control and rehabilitation

Skills gained:

- Analytical and evaluative thinking
- Research and investigation
- Application of theory to real cases
- Understanding of legal processes and justice

Career pathways

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate and Diploma in Criminology is ideal for learners interested in careers in policing, forensic science, law, psychology, social work, probation, and the wider criminal justice sector. It also provides a strong foundation for further study at university. The course structure is 50% written examination and 50% internal controlled assessment (non-examined assessment).

Subject Content

The WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate and Diploma in Criminology consists of four mandatory units covering the causes of crime, public awareness, the criminal justice system, and punishment.

- **Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime**
  Core Focus: How different types of crime are perceived, why some crimes go unreported, and how campaigns are used to change public opinion or law.
  Assessment: Internal controlled assessment

- **Unit 2: Criminological Theories**
  Core Focus: Theoretical explanations for why people commit crime.
  Assessment: External examination.

- **Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom**
  Core Focus: How evidence is collected, processed, and used in a criminal trial.
  Assessment: Internal controlled assessment.

- **Unit 4: Crime and Punishment**
  Core Focus: The structure of the criminal justice system and the effectiveness of punishment.
  Assessment: External examination



Subject entry requirement:

The minimum entry requirement is a Grade 5 at GCSE English.



V LEVEL – ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Why study V Level Accounting and Finance?

All organisations face choices about money, whether it is how to spend it or how to increase profits. Available for the first time in September 2027, the V Level in Accounting and Finance is an exciting new qualification that will give students the financial knowledge and practical experience to understand how those choices are made.

The course uses a mixed approach to learning and practical assessment, which means that in addition to gaining insight into influences on financial decisions such as budgeting, financial risk and ethics, students will get hands-on experience applying what they learn to a range of varied business scenarios. Students will also learn how the digital world has transformed financial decision making, exploring areas such as cyber-security and the opportunities and risks associated with Artificial Intelligence. This makes the course fully up-to-date and relevant for work and future study in today's world.

The minimum entry requirements are a Grade 5 in both GCSE Maths and GCSE English Language.

Aims of the course

In this course students will explore how organisations place financial information at the very heart of their decision making, whether that's understanding overall performance and improvement areas, or identifying the key pillars for strategic planning. Using real-world case studies, students will become skilled in probing into what the numbers are telling them - developing the ability to spot trends, identify potential actions, and evaluate the strengths of these different options to reach reasoned conclusions. Working in a supportive environment where students are encouraged to question the data, they'll develop the confidence to challenge organisational decisions and build skills in communicating their recommendations clearly and impactfully.

Career pathways

Whether our students are hoping to go on to university or interested in an apprenticeship, this course is specifically designed to equip them with the analytical, numerical and communication skills that they need to pursue a career in accounting, finance, business management, economics or banking and financial services. The Accounting and Finance V Level is the same size as one A Level, so students can combine it with other V Levels or A Levels to create a learning programme specifically suited to their longer-term career aspirations or plans for future study.

Subject Content

Students will develop applied knowledge of the following accounting and finance topics:

- Financial statements and performance
- Ratio analysis – such as profit margins and liquidity
- Budgeting
- Costs
- Contribution and break-even
- Investment decision making: Payback and Rate of Return
- Accounting concepts and principles
- Financial risk and organisational priorities
- Ethics, governance and regulation
- Digital finance, cyber security and use of Artificial Intelligence
- Presenting financial information to different audiences

Students will be exposed to a range of organisational contexts, including small businesses, large multinationals, not-for-profit organisations and the public sector. They'll also gain experience using spreadsheets and specialist accounting software.

Assessment is 40% external assessment (exams) and 60% practical assessment.



Subject entry requirement:

The minimum entry requirement is a Grade 5 in GCSE English and Mathematics.



RAMS RUGBY PARTNERSHIP

RAMS RUGBY PARTNERSHIP

Rams RFC are delighted to have formed a strong partnership with The Piggott School. Traditionally its pupils have played their club rugby at Rams, and the proximity of the school to the club alongside the school's excellent academic and behavioural standards make it a logical choice as the club's official education partner.

Rams player coaches are able to supplement a strong existing extra-curricular rugby programme with specialist after school coaching for the Year 10 and 11 sides. The Sixth Form rugby students, who play for Rams Colts and Rams Academy are supported with additional Strength and Conditioning sessions, specialist coaching and one-to one support as part of their academic and rugby programme.

RAMS
RUGBY





MORE AND MOST ABLE

MORE AND MOST ABLE

At The Piggott School, we are committed to empowering every student to aim high, fulfil their potential and develop the confidence, knowledge and skills they need to succeed. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum that offers our most able students extensive opportunities to excel academically, artistically and in sport.

Our teachers draw upon their expertise and in-depth subject knowledge to design lessons that promote mastery, extend thinking, and provide appropriate levels of challenge. We encourage students to be ambitious in their learning, develop intellectual curiosity, and take pride in their achievements.

Our commitment to aspiration extends beyond the classroom through our tailored Key Stage 5 'Excel' programmes. Together with access to our Super Curriculum activities for both students and parents, these initiatives empower learners to explore subjects beyond the syllabus, deepen their academic passions, and gain the confidence, knowledge, and skills to achieve their highest ambitions.

A wide range of enrichment opportunities—including clubs, educational visits, competitions, sports leagues and guest speakers—further broaden students' experiences and enrich their learning beyond the classroom.
At Key Stage 5, identification is through an average GCSE point score of 7.5 or above for 'More Able' and an average point score of 8 or above for 'Most Able' and/or through teachers' predictions of A*/A across all subjects.

The 'Excel' programme is designed to support ambitious 'Most Able' sixth form students who are aiming for exceptional A Level grades, many of whom aspire to study highly competitive courses at leading universities including Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and other prestigious degree pathways.

The programme provides students with tailored guidance and opportunities to strengthen their academic profile, develop confidence and prepare successfully for competitive application processes. Support includes personalised mentoring, career guidance, advice on university applications, interview preparation, alongside support for entrance examinations. The students are encouraged to engage in Super Curricular activities to deepen their subject knowledge beyond the classroom and develop the critical thinking skills required to excel in Further and Higher Education. The programme also offers guidance on summer schools, work experience placements and enrichment opportunities that help students stand out in competitive applications.





Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Level 3 Extended Project is an A Level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students' abilities beyond the A Level syllabus and prepare them for university or their future career.

- it can be taken as an extension of other Level 3 qualifications or vocational qualifications
- it's worth half an A Level (max 28 UCAS points)
- it's recognised by universities and employers
- many universities make lower A Level offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.
By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision-making of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) students:

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

Projects are overseen by project supervisors who guide their students through the process.

In 2026, 100% of the Year 13 students who entered the EPQ gained an A/A* grade.



Every Child | Every Lesson | Every Day



The Piggott School

Address: Twyford Road, Wargrave, Berkshire RG10 8DS
Tel: **0118 940 2357** Fax: **0118 940 4892**

Email: 6thFormAdmissions@piggottschool.org
Website: **www.piggottschool.org**

Instagram: the_piggottschool

Mrs R Alexander, BA (Hons) NPQH
Headteacher