

Saffron Walden
County High School

*A local school of
exceptional quality*

2026

**Sixth Form
Prospectus**



“

Pupils are extremely positive about their lessons. They know they are well supported, and they love the broad range of subjects that they study. As a result, pupils achieve exceptionally well.”

— Ofsted



Welcome



Amy Kennedy
Director of Sixth Form

@swchs_sixth_form

Welcome to SWCHS Sixth Form

At SWCHS, we celebrate you both as an individual and as part of a thriving community. We work together to help you achieve the best possible future, supported by strong networks, exciting opportunities, and outstanding academic guidance. We want you to feel inspired by what lies ahead and confident that SWCHS will support you in making informed, aspirational choices.

We are incredibly proud of our students and the remarkable young adults they become. Your education here will be holistic as well as academic, and you can trust in the exceptional quality of teaching and support. Our academic outcomes consistently place us in the top 10% nationally for progress, and our students go on to achieve impressive destinations—many becoming future leaders in their fields. With our support, this can be your story too.

There's so much to get involved in! With over 40 clubs and societies—ranging from competitive sports to mindfulness and debating—there truly is something for everyone. And if you don't find what you're looking for, you're encouraged to start your own group. Our musical opportunities are also exceptional, thanks to our partnership with Saffron Hall and the outstanding Music Academy programme. You might also want to join one of our student bodies—the Council, the Committee, or the Union—and perhaps even become part of the student leadership team.

We also offer a wide range of trips and social events. From our PGL trip in October, which is a fantastic way to meet new friends, to university visits, work experience, Charities Week, and subject-specific excursions—including a visit to the UN in Geneva and a ski trip—there's always something exciting happening. And of course, you'll enjoy a fabulous prom and a fun leavers' celebration in Year 13.

At SWCHS Sixth Form, we aim to create lasting memories and an unforgettable experience—not just through academic excellence, but through enriching extracurricular opportunities and meaningful connections.

We can't wait to welcome you!

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Earth Science (Geology)	34	Psychology	60
Economics	35	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics	61
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Film Studies	39	Sport	65
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A-Level

Level 3

Level 2

AS-Level

Super Curricular

Aiming to deepen students' understanding of a subject or broaden their knowledge in a particular field - these activities involve independent research, attending lectures, participating in seminars, or pursuing projects that go beyond the requirements of a typical classroom setting. Super Curricular endeavours play a crucial role in enhancing students' academic profiles. They demonstrate not only their commitment to learning; but their intellectual curiosity and passion. Universities and employers often value super curricular activities as they showcase a candidate's dedication to going above and beyond the standard requirements, and contribute to a well-rounded and intellectually vibrant educational experience.

Core Mathematics: Quantitative Reasoning (AS-Level)

Core Maths is an incredibly useful qualification to gain. It helps students make sense of the world they will meet once they leave school. Covering topics such as Tax, National Insurance, budgeting, student loans, car finance, mortgage repayments, risk analysis, spreadsheets, costings and beyond, it has a strong relevance to the real-world and the skills are specifically designed to enable young people to move on to living independently and support them in the workplace. We strongly encourage all students who are intending to join the Sixth Form at SWCHS and not studying A-Level Maths to add this option to their current choices. Core Maths is designed to be an enhancement subject so can be studied in addition to other course choices so is available to all students.

Core Maths carries the same UCAS points as an AS-Level and is studied for two hours a week over year 12 and 13. It enhances subjects such as Criminology, Psychology, Sociology, Sport's Science, History, Geography, Geology, Health and Social, Geography, Geology, Business and Economics. It is well recognised by many big Universities (Sheffield, Bath, York, Manchester and Kent are just a few of these) who look on applicants favourably with this course and even make a lower offer to students that take Core and are going on to study a degree that has a mathematical element such as analysing data and statistics or using percentages and number work. AS-Level 3 maths courses are now more in the public eye, it is also an advantage for students applying for apprenticeships and entering the workplace as it is recognised as being a more advanced level than GCSE.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Running from April in Year 12, this optional course gives students who are already achieving their target grades a chance to complete an EPQ. Designed to foster independent research skills and critical thinking, the EPQ allows students to delve into a topic of their choosing that aligns with their interests or career aspirations. Often extending beyond the curriculum, this research-based qualification provides an excellent opportunity for learners to explore their passions, develop essential academic skills, and enhance their preparedness for higher education or the workforce.

One of the key features of the EPQ is its flexibility, as students are required to produce a substantial piece of work, which can take the form of a research paper, an extended essay, or even a creative project. Throughout the process, students must demonstrate effective project management, research methodology, and critical analysis, preparing them for the demands of university-level studies. Students present their projects in an exhibition viewed by other students, parents and members of the local community.



Extra Curricular

At SWCHS Sixth Form, students benefit from exceptional facilities and enrichment opportunities, including access to Saffron Hall for music and drama performances, a 3G Astro Turf pitch, and a wide range of electives such as sport, music, drama, and debating. The vibrant arts scene features annual drama productions. Students in the Music Academy programme are offered masterclasses and European tours. Sports are available to all students, with competitive and recreational options across numerous disciplines. We have a rich programme of academic and cultural trips, for all disciplines and outdoor adventures with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

Read more about all of our opportunities at www.swchs.net



Student Achievement

“Students in the sixth form are supported exceptionally well”
— Ofsted report

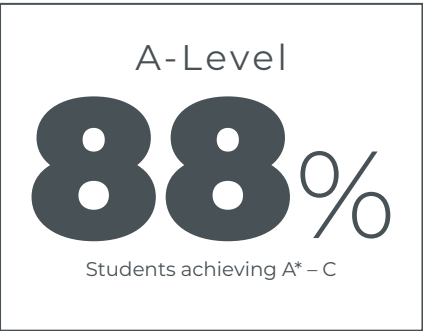
OFSTED Report

We are proud to be rated 'Outstanding' in all categories of our 2024 Ofsted report that can be read at www.swchs.net > About us > Ofsted Reports.

Academic Excellence

The progress our students make is amongst the very best, and our results reflect the hard work of students. ALPS, a measure for progress, consistently places SWCHS Sixth Form within the top 5% of schools and colleges nationally.

In 2024 thirty four percent of grades were A or A* standard, significantly higher than the national average. Over eighty percent of grades were at C grade or higher, and one hundred percent of grades were E grade or higher. For more detailed subject results, please see www.swchs.net



2024–2025 A-Level Grades:	
A*	14%
A* – A	34%
A* – B	68%
A* – C	88%
A* – D	97%
A* – E	100%

Vocational Qualifications:	
Singles	Results
D*	17%
D	48%
M	86%
P	100%
Doubles	Results
D*D*	21%
D*D	36%
DD	50%
DM	64%
MM	86%
MP	96%
PP	100%

Destinations

Total University Offers



230
confirmed offers

University Destinations



Russell Group Universities
120 students



University of Oxford
6 students



University of Cambridge
2 students

Most Popular Universities


University of East Anglia
15 students



Loughborough University
13 students



University of York
13 students



University of Exeter
12 students



Durham University
10 students

Apprenticeships Included


Schroders Degree


National Grid Degree


JP Morgan


P+A Wood Mechanic



Student Support

Tutor Team

Our Personal Tutor system is highly regarded for supporting students academically, whilst also ensuring that their pastoral needs are met. Our team of specialist tutors work closely with students throughout the year, with daily registration. Tutors communicate with teachers and parents, when appropriate, to provide the best possible support for our students.

Pastoral Support

In addition to our Personal Tutor system, our Sixth Form Collegiate Team, Study Centre Manager and our Sixth Form Collegiate Team, Study Centre Manager and Safeguarding Officer work together to provide an exceptional and inclusive environment for our students. We aim to support vulnerable students with one-to-one mentor sessions, enabling them to achieve their full potential.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Learning Support department, led by Phil Heath, helps students with SEND towards the goal of independent learning. Interventions are tailored to individual needs, and may for example include one-to-one tuition on study skills and exam preparation, or in-class support. The department also offers drop-in sessions and access to specialist TAs.

For information on exam access arrangements, please contact Georgina Drake, Exam Access Officer.

Wellbeing

We offer a Wellbeing programme to all our Year 12 students, to ensure they are informed of their rights and responsibilities and receive expert guidance on health and safety, both in and out of Sixth Form. Throughout the year, youth workers and health care professionals visit our Sixth Form to offer a bespoke programme of workshops, focusing on issues such as mental and sexual health, and abuse of drugs and alcohol.

Pastoral Hub

The Hub is a tranquil space where students can get involved in one of the many activities on offer, or receive individual support and counselling. Anna Moorhouse, Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Beth Robertson, School Counsellor and Student Support Officers are often on hand to provide a calm working environment and help students feel supported after a period of crisis or distress.

Financial Support – 16–19 Bursary

The Government have set aside funding for schools, to be allocated to young people in need of financial support, enabling them to stay on in further education or training. There are two types of bursary, the Vulnerable Student Bursary and the Discretionary Bursary.

For more information on financial support, please visit our website.



How to apply

See our admissions policy for Sixth Form at www.swchs.net

2

Open Evening

**Wednesday 22nd
October 2025**

Please visit our website at www.swchs.net for further information.

4

Guidance Discussions

In February 2026, you will be invited to discuss your application with a member of our team. Portfolios of work will be required for Digital Media, Art, and Photography subjects. Music Academy auditions will take place in Saffron Hall.

6

Induction Week

**Late June /
Early July 2026**

Induction is an important opportunity to experience Sixth Form life, attend lessons in your chosen subjects and try out other courses.

1

Course Choice

Read the online course guides for the subjects you are interested in. Check the forecast grades against each subject and select a suitable pathway.

3

Apply

Please complete the online application form on our website, at www.swchs.net

The deadline for applications is:

**Friday 12th
December 2025**

Newcomers to SWCHS will need to provide their most recent forecast grades to check eligibility for courses.

5

Conditional Offers

Conditional offers will be sent out before Easter 2026. These are based on your Guidance Discussion and eligibility for chosen courses and will be subject to course availability and timetabling. Changes to subjects can be made during Induction.

7

GCSE Results / Enrolment Day

August 2026

This is a virtual event. All applicants will need to enrol and accept their offers. Further guidance will be given nearer the time.



Induction

Sample your Sixth Form

During July, we hold a Sixth Form Induction. Over three days, you will follow a timetable of your chosen courses, attending typical lessons and getting a taster of the skills, content and style of teaching you would experience in each subject. You will also have the option to try out other lessons, with the view to changing courses if places are available.

SWCHS Sixth Form is a dynamic and inclusive body, and we hope that all students will feel welcomed into our community. Newcomers to SWCHS can take part in orientation sessions, and there will be opportunities to learn about our systems and all that we offer at SWCHS. Alongside lessons, we provide lots of activities during to showcase our amazing facilities. There is also a chance for students to meet their Form Tutor and work with friends both old and new. The Sixth Form Collegiate, current students and members of the Induction Team will be on hand to answer any questions or concerns students may have.

Induction is a crucial introduction to post-16 education, as it forms the start of Year 12 studies. Here at SWCHS, we are one of the few further education providers to offer a three-day Induction timetable. The feedback we receive from our Year 12 students is that Induction Week is an invaluable experience, fully preparing them for the next steps of their education.

“

Induction Week provided a unique chance to trial the subjects on offer in Sixth Form. It gave me confidence in my option decisions, helped me get to know my peers, and introduced me to all the incredible opportunities the Sixth Form has to offer.”

— Tim Lane



Introduction to Courses

We strongly encourage applicants to be realistic about their abilities and choose subjects where their forecast grades meet the grade criteria, and where the route of study matches learning preferences in terms of coursework and examination performance.

A-Levels

We provide a wide range of A-Levels at SWCHS Sixth Form. Applicants have a unique opportunity to start their studies on four A-Levels, dropping down to three A-Levels, if preferable, during Year 12. Assessment for A-Levels can be examination and/or coursework based. Students sit an internal exam at the end of Year 12, and their A-Level assessment in Year 13 determines the entire overall result.

Level 3 BTEC, CTEC, C&G, WJEC, AAQ Diplomas

The Level 3 Diplomas we offer qualify for points on the 'UCAS Tariff' for entry into higher education, in the same way that A-Level qualifications do. A wealth of Diploma subjects can be taken alongside A-Level courses; these Diploma subjects usually consist of around 50% coursework. Work is assessed throughout the Diploma course, which means students can keep improving and do not need to rely solely on exam results.

Level 2 CTEC, C&G Diplomas

We offer Level 2 courses in Business and Animal Care. These are one-year courses which are similar in level to GCSEs. They can be taken alongside Maths and/or English GCSE resits.

AS-Level Core Mathematics: Quantitative Reasoning

This course is ideal if you are not taking A-Level Mathematics but have an interest in studying Maths past GCSE. The course is assessed in two, 2-hour written examinations at the end of Year 13.

Maths/English GCSE resits







These are compulsory courses for all students who achieve a grade of 3 or less in their GCSEs.

How to Choose your Courses






PATHWAY 1	PATHWAY 2	PATHWAY 3	PATHWAY 4	PATHWAY 5
4 x A-LEVEL subjects	3 x A-LEVEL subjects PLUS 1 x LEVEL 3 Diplomas	2 x A-LEVEL subjects PLUS 2 x LEVEL 3 Diplomas OR 1 x A-Level subject PLUS 3 x Level 3 Diplomas	2 x A-LEVEL subjects PLUS 2 x LEVEL 3 Diplomas OR 3 x Level 3 Diplomas	Level 2 C&G/ CTEC Diplomas This is a one-year course. Students will apply to restart Year 12 on Pathways 2-4 once their Level 2 course is completed
WHAT YOU NEED...	WHAT YOU NEED...	WHAT YOU NEED...	WHAT YOU NEED...	WHAT YOU NEED...
Five or more GCSE grades at 5–9, and aiming for a minimum of 5 in English Language AND Maths	Five or more GCSE grades at 5–9, and aiming for a minimum of 5 in English Language AND Maths	Five or more GCSE grades at 4–9, and aiming for a minimum of 5 in English Language AND Maths	Five or more GCSE grades at 4–9, and aiming for a minimum of 5 in English Language AND Maths You will re-sit Maths OR English Language (if required)	Five or more GCSE grades at 3–9 You will resit GCSE Maths AND/OR English Language, as required
<p>Please note that pathways and courses are subject to government funding, which is currently under review</p> <p>Please check individual subjects for grade entry criteria</p>				

Table of Subjects by Department



Business and Computing

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
Business (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Business (if studied) and 5 in English and Maths	p24	
Computer Science (A-Level)	GCSE 7 in Maths or GCSE 6 in Maths with GCSE 7 in Computer Science (if studied)	p29	
Economics (A-Level)	GCSE 6 in Maths and 5 in English	p35	
Business (CTEC)* (Level 3 Dip.)	GCSE 4 in English and Maths	p26	
Information Technology (BTEC)* (Level 3 Dip.)	GCSE 4 in English and Maths	p46	
Business (CTEC) (Level 2 Dip.)	Minimum of 5 subjects with an average GCSE score of 3	p25	








Science

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
Applied Science (AQA)	GCSE 5/5 in Combined Science + 5 for English + 5 for Maths	p62	
Biology (A-Level)	GCSE 6 in Maths, GCSE 6 in Biology and Chemistry or 7/7 in Combined Science	p23	
Chemistry (A-Level)	GCSE 6 in Maths. GCSE 6 in Chemistry or 7/7 in Combined Science	p27	
Environmental Science	GCSE 5 in English + GCSE 4 in Maths (recommended 5) + Two grade 5s from either Combined Science and/or Geography	p38	
Physics	GCSE 7 in Maths. GCSE 6 in Physics or 7/7 in Combined Science	p57	






PE

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
Physical Education	GCSE 6 in a Science subject and preferably a 6 in PE (if studied)	p56	
Sport (BTEC)* (Level 3 Dip.)	GCSE 4 in English	p65	

Expressive Arts

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
Art, Craft & Design (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Art	p21	
Art & Textile Design (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Art or Textiles	p22	
Drama & Theatre (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Drama or English	p33	
Music (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Music, plus Grade 5 on Instrument, plus Grade 5 in Theory	p52	
Music Technology (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Music OR equivalent (e.g. Grade 6+ in an instrument or a portfolio of Music Production)	p53	
Photography (A-Level)	Application by letter, plus interview and Photographic/Art portfolio to show at interview	p55	
Art & Design (CTEC)* (Level 3 Dip.)	GCSE 4 in Art	p20	

English and Film / Media

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
English Language (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in English Literature and English Language	p36	
English Literature (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in English Literature and English Language	p37	
Film Studies (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in English Literature	p39	
Media Studies	GCSE 5 in English Language	p49	
Digital Media (CTEC) (Level 3 Dip.)	GCSE 4 in English Language + media portfolio	p32	





* If you have studied this subject at GCSE, a minimum of 4 is required.

Some courses are one year only in the first instance.. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second-year qualification.




Humanities

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
Classical Civilisation (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in History or English	p28	
Earth Science (Geology) (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Science and GCSE 5 in Geography (if studied)	p34	
Geography (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Geography (or another Humanities subject), plus 5 in English and Science	p42	
History (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in History and English	p45	
Latin (A-Level)	GCSE 6 in Latin	p47	
Philosophy (A-Level)	GCSE 6 in English, 5 in Maths and 6 in Religious Studies (if studied)	p54	
Politics (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in English plus 5 in a Humanities subject	p58	
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Religious Studies (if studied) and English	p61	
Travel & Tourism (BTEC Level 3) (Level 3 Dip.)	GCSE 4 in a Humanities subject, plus 4 in English Language	p67	



Social Sciences

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
Psychology (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in Maths, English and Science	p60	
Sociology (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in English or a Humanities subject	p63	
Criminology (WJEC Diploma) (Level 3 Dip.)	GCSE 5 in English	p31	
Health & Social Care (CTEC)* (Level 3 Dip.)	GCSE 4 in English, plus 4 recommended in Science	p44	




Mathematics

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
Further Mathematics (A-Level)	GCSE 8 in Maths	p41	
Mathematics (A-Level)	GCSE 7 in Maths	p48	
Core Mathematics: Quantitative Reasoning (AS-Level)	GCSE 4 in Maths (5 recommended)	p30	



Technology

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
Product Design (A-Level)	GCSE 5 in a Design and Technology subject, English and Maths	p59	
3D Design & Architecture (A-Level)	GCSE 6 in an Art & Design or Technology subject and 4 in English	p66	

Languages

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
French (A-Level)	GCSE 6 in French	p40	
German (A-Level)	GCSE 6 in German	p43	
Spanish (A-Level)	GCSE 6 in Spanish	p64	

Agriculture Science

Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page	More info
Animal Management (C&G) (Level 3 Dip.)	4 GCSEs at 5 or above (including English Language or Maths, and Science)	p19	
Animal Care (C&G)	Minimum of 4 subjects with an average GCSE score of 4 (including English and Maths or English and Science)	p18	

Please note that pathways and courses are subject to government funding, which is currently under review

Table of Subjects by Qualification

A-Levels

Department	A-Level Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page
Business and Computing	Business	GCSE 5 in Business (if studied) and 5 in English and Maths	p24
	Computer Science	GCSE 7 in Maths, or GCSE 6 in Maths and 7 in Computer Science	p29
	Economics	GCSE 6 in Maths and 5 in English	p35
English and Film/ Media	English Language	GCSE 5 in English Literature and English Language	p36
	English Literature	GCSE 5 in English Literature and English Language	p37
	Film Studies	GCSE 5 in English Literature	p39
	Media Studies	GCSE 5 in English Language	p49
Expressive Arts	Art, Craft & Design	GCSE 5 in Art	p21
	Art & Textile Design	GCSE 5 in Art or Textiles	p22
	Drama & Theatre	GCSE 5 in Drama or English	p33
	Music	GCSE 5 in Music, plus Grade 5 on Instrument, plus Grade 5 in Theory	p52
	Music Technology	GCSE 5 in Music or equivalent	p53
	Photography	Application by letter, plus interview and Photographic/Art portfolio to show at interview	p55
Humanities	Classical Civilisation	GCSE 5 in History or English	p28
	Earth Science (Geology)	GCSE 5 in Geography and 5 in a Science subject	p34
	Geography	GCSE 5 in Geography (or another Humanities subject), plus 5 in English and Science	p42

Department	A-Level Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page
Humanities	History	GCSE 5 in History and English	p45
	Latin	GCSE 6 in Latin	p47
	Philosophy	GCSE 6 in English, 5 in Maths and 6 in Religious Studies (if studied)	p54
	Politics	GCSE 5 in English plus 5 in a Humanities subject	p58
	Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	GCSE 5 in Religious Studies (if studied) and English	p61
Social Sciences	Psychology	GCSE 5 in Maths, English and Science	p60
	Sociology	GCSE 5 in English or a Humanities subject	p63
Languages	French	GCSE 6 in French	p40
	German	GCSE 6 in German	p43
	Spanish	GCSE 6 in Spanish	p64
Mathematics	Further Mathematics	GCSE 8 in Maths	p41
	Mathematics	GCSE 7 in Maths	p48
PE	Physical Education	GCSE 6 in a Science subject and preferably a 6 in PE (if studied)	p56
Science	Biology	GCSE 6 in Maths, GCSE 6 in Biology and Chemistry or 7/7 in Combined Science	p23
	Chemistry	GCSE 6 in Maths. GCSE 6 in Chemistry or 7/7 in Combined Science	p27
	Environmental Science	GCSE 5/5 in Combined Science, plus 5 in English	p38
	Physics	GCSE 7 in Maths. GCSE 6 in Physics or 7/7 in Combined Science	p57
Technology	Product Design	GCSE 5 in a Design and Technology subject, English and Maths	p59
	3D Design & Architecture	GCSE 6 in an Art & Design or Technology subject and 4 in English	p66



Level 3 Diplomas

Department	Type of Diploma	GCSE Grades Required	Page
Agricultural Science	Animal Management (C&G)	4 GCSEs at 5 or above (including English Language or Maths, and Science)	p19
Business and Computing	Business (CTEC)*	GCSE 4 in English and Maths	p26
	Information Technology (BTEC)*	GCSE 4 in English and Maths	p46
English and Film/Media	Digital Media (CTEC)	GCSE 4 in English Language + media portfolio	p32
Expressive Arts	Art & Design (CTEC)*	GCSE 4 in Art	p20
Social Sciences	Criminology (WJEC Diploma)	GCSE 5 in English	p31
	Health & Social Care (CTEC)*	GCSE 4 in English, plus 4 recommended in Science	p44
PE	Sport (BTEC)*	GCSE 4 in English	p65
Science	Applied Science (AQA)	GCSE 5/5 in Combined Science + 5 for English + 5 for Maths	p62
Humanities	Travel & Tourism (BTEC Level 3)	GCSE 4 in a Humanities subject, plus 4 in English Language	p67

* If you have studied this subject at GCSE, a minimum of 4 is required.

The courses above are one year only in the first instance. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second-year qualification.

AS-Level (two-year course)

Department	AS-Level Subject	GCSE Grades Required	Page
Mathematics	Core Mathematics: Quantitative Reasoning	GCSE 5 in Maths	p30

Level 2 Diplomas (one-year courses)

Department	CTEC, C&G Diplomas	GCSE Grades Required	Page
Agricultural Science	Animal Care (C&G)	Minimum of 4 subjects with an average GCSE score of 4 (including English and Maths or English and Science)	p18
Business	Business (CTEC)	Minimum of 5 subjects with an average GCSE score of 3	p25



Common Course Combinations for Degree Courses

Degree Course	Usually Required	Sometimes Required	Useful – You may want to think about these subjects...
Accountancy		Maths	Economics, Business
Architecture		Maths	Physics, Art, DT (Many courses will require Art Portfolio)
Archaeology			History, Geography, Sciences
Art History			History, Art, RS, Philosophy, Languages, Classical Civilisation, Politics
Biology	Biology		Chemistry, Physics, Maths
Business		Maths	Economics, Business
Chemistry	Chemistry	Maths	Biology, Physics
Classics		Latin or Greek	Classical Civilisation, English Literature, History
Computer Science	Maths		Computer Science, Further Maths, Physics
Creative Writing	Most courses will require a portfolio		English
Dentistry	Chemistry	Biology	Physics, Maths
Drama			English, Drama
Economics		Maths	Economics, Further Maths
Engineering (Chemical)	Maths	Chemistry, Physics	Further Maths, DT
Engineering (General)	Maths	Physics	Further Maths, DT
English	English Literature		History, RS, Philosophy, Languages, Classical Civilisation
Finance		Maths	Business, Economics
Forensic Science		Chemistry, Biology	
French		German	History, English Literature, Politics, Languages
Geography	Geography		Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Maths, Politics, Economics
Geology	Two from: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology		Geography

Degree Course	Usually Required	Sometimes Required	Useful – You may want to think about these subjects...
German		French	History, English Literature, Politics, Languages
History	History		Politics, Classical Civilisation, Languages, English Literature, Philosophy, RS
Land Management		Maths, Geography	
Law			English, History
Marketing			Business, Economics
Materials Science	Maths, Physics		Chemistry
Maths	Maths	Further Maths	Physics, Philosophy
Medicine	Chemistry	Biology	Maths, Physics
Midwifery and Nursing	Biology		Chemistry
Music	Music (some courses will allow Grade 8 in instrument or Music Theory)		History, English Literature
Nutrition	Biology	Chemistry	
Optometry	Chemistry, Biology		Physics
Pharmacy	Chemistry	Biology	Physics, Maths
Philosophy			Philosophy, RS, Classical Civilisation, Maths, History, English Literature
Physics	Physics, Maths		Further Maths, Chemistry
Physiotherapy	Biology		PE, Chemistry, Maths, Physics
Politics			Politics, History, Philosophy, RS, English, Economics
Psychology		Biology, Maths	
Spanish	Spanish		History, English Literature, Politics, Languages
Sports Science	Biology	Another Science	PE
Theology and Religious Studies			RS, Philosophy, History, English, Politics
Veterinary Science	Chemistry, Biology		Physics, Maths



Animal Care

This qualification is aimed at students who wish to work in the animal care industry or progress to further learning and/or training in this sector. This qualification builds a foundation of knowledge and the chance to practice skills used within the animal care industry. Students may progress to Level 3 qualifications in Animal Management. Alternatively, students could progress into employment or an apprenticeship. This qualification has been developed in collaboration with employers, sector experts, colleges and training providers.

Course Content

The following units are compulsory:

- 201 Maintain Animal Health and Welfare
- 202 Undertake Practical Animal Feeding
- 203 Animal accommodation
- 204 Work-related experience in land-based industries

Students follow these optional units depending on whether they are double, single, or triple students:

- 207 Contribute to the Nursing of Animals
- 205 Understand the Basic Principles of Animal Biology
- 217 Introduction for Caring for Farm Livestock

Assessment Criteria

To gain this qualification, students will complete the following assessments:

- Internally marked written assignments and practical assessments for each unit.
- A work experience portfolio

Delivery of this qualification is subject to confirmation of central funding.

City & Guilds Level 2

Subject requirements:

+ Minimum of 4 subjects with an average GCSE score of 4 (including English and Maths or English and Science)

Teacher contact:

Miss E Blakey

Are you interested in:

- A career with animals?
- Working in practical ways?
- Understanding more about farming and husbandry?

Leading to a career in:

- Animal Management-based apprenticeships
- Apprenticeships in farming
- Study Level 3 Animal

Exam Board:

City & Guilds



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“I have always wanted to work with animals; the course made this a reality. It gave me experience of animals I never thought I could work with.”

— Amber Jackson



Animal Management

This qualification is aimed at students who may wish to work in the animal management or training industry, or progress to further learning and /or training in this sector. Career progression may include an Advanced Apprenticeship in Animal Management, or a related university degree. Students will gain a broad scientific and practical introduction to handling and caring for a range of farm, small and exotic animals, together with related work experience. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second year of the qualification.

Course Content

The following units are compulsory for single option students:

- 301- Understand and promote animal health

In addition, these units are mandatory for double option students:

- 302- Manage animal accommodation
- 304- Plan and monitor animal feeding
- 305- Understand the principles of animal biology
- 306- Undertake animal handling and safe working
- 307- Undertake and review work related experience

In addition there will be optional units, which may be adjusted to reflect the student cohort:

- 303- Understand animal anatomy and physiology
- 310- Understand and interpret animal behaviour and communication
- 311- Understand the principles of animal nursing

Assessment Criteria

To gain this qualification, students will complete the following assessments:

- Internally marked assessments for each unit both practical and theoretical
- A work experience portfolio

Please note this course is one year only in the first instance. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second year qualification.

City & Guilds
Level 3 Animal
Management
(Single, Double or Triple)

Subject requirements:

+ 4 GCSEs at 5 or above (including English Language or Maths and Science)

Teacher contact:

Miss E Blakey

Are you interested in:

- Working in more practical ways?
- Developing skills in managing animals?
- Understanding more about farming and animal husbandry?

Leading to a career in:

- Employment in the land-based sector
- Employment with animals
- Apprenticeships in farming/sciences

This subject goes well with:

- Environmental Science
- Health and Social Care
- Biology

Exam Board:

City & Guilds
Course code: 0074-03

This qualification is subject to confirmation of central funding.



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

I have loved studying animal management – it's given me so many opportunities. The balance between theory and practical lessons means you learn theory then put it into practice. Would definitely recommend."

— Emily Montgomery



Art and Design

This course introduces students to a wide range of art and design practices and is delivered in a work-related context, to allow students to develop an understanding of the art and design sector. The Introductory Diploma consists of 6-units (equivalent to one A level) and the Diploma consists of 12 units (equivalent to two A-Levels).

This course is an alternative to A level Art and would suit students who are interested in exploring a wide breadth of Art and Design processes and approaches. The Diploma course is ideal if students are fully committed to the visual arts and considering progressing within the art and design field, whether in employment or university. Students have their own space within a studio and have access to a wide range of art and design resources.

The Introductory Diploma consists of 6 units, the Subsidiary Diploma consists of 9 units and the Diploma consists of 12 units. Some of the unit themes include 'Art in Context' 'Fine Art Drawing' 'Fine Art Printmaking', 'Illustration', 'Ceramics', 'Photography', 'Developing Ideas and Realising Ideas'.

Course Content

Students will experience a wide range of media and approaches, working to briefs for fine art, craft or design outcomes. Students will develop a contextual understanding and research art and design roles to further advance portfolio work. Practical exploration is supported by written work that documents how ideas and understanding have developed.

Throughout the year, students have an opportunity to make links with practitioners through trips and completing work-related assignments. The second year will allow students to explore more personal themes and develop ideas. Students continue to develop a portfolio and follow a personalised progression programme. All students develop an understanding of presentation techniques and practice the presentation of their own work through mini exhibitions and portfolio creation. Students following the Diploma course will also be involved in organising and realising an end of year exhibition.



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

Assessment Criteria

All units are centre-assessed and moderated by OCR. The coursework units are graded as Pass, Merit and Distinction. There is no examination. Please note this course is one year only in the first instance. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second-year qualification. The Subsidiary Diploma and Diploma grading is Pass Pass, Pass Merit, Merit Merit, Distinction Merit, Distinction Distinction, Distinction* Distinction and Distinction* Distinction*. Please note, all work completed in year 12 and 13 contributes to the overall qualification.

OCR Level 3
Cambridge
Technical
Introductory
Diploma and
Diploma (Single
and Double)

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 4 in Art and 5 in Graphics/Technology
+ ONE of EACH of the following from GCSE or personal portfolios (eg in Powerpoint presentation, one image per slide); observational drawing; work showing good use of media; research piece on artist or designer; final piece of artwork or design; your favourite, most successful piece of work

Teacher contact:

Mrs Nicola Macro

Are you interested in:

- Media and materials?
- Fine art and print making?
- Graphics, illustration and design?

Leading to a career in:

- Design/Illustration
- Architecture
- Fashion

This subject goes well with:

- Product Design
- Media Studies
- Business

Exam Board:

OCR
Introductory Diploma
600/6095/5
Subsidiary Diploma
600/6097/7
Diploma 600/6151/0

"I have developed as an artist and a person during this course and developed my own style. I feel well prepared for the next steps, which for me is a Graphics course at university."

— Amelia Smith



Art, Craft and Design

This course extends the creative skills and experiences of GCSE, exploring a wide range of media, materials, artists and processes. A personal approach to skills development and the exploration of art is encouraged.

Course Content

Year 12

Component 1: Throughout the Year 12 course you will develop work for your portfolio. The course includes drawing, painting, ceramics and print making. The study of artists and illustrators enhances the development of your work. During Year 12 you create your own self-directed portfolio project, that allows you to explore and develop a wide range of work from your own chosen starting point.

Component 2: 'Non exam assessment' is an internally set exam. You choose one question and complete preparatory work in the lead-in period before your final ten-hour practical exam at the end of the course.

Year 13

A-Level (60% coursework, 40% exam)

Component 1: Consists of the 'Personal Investigation', based on a theme, concept or starting point of your choice. This will allow you to study a wide variety of media, materials, techniques and processes. You will use your understanding of artists and designers to develop your own practical work. The Personal Investigation includes a compulsory written element of 1,000 – 3,000 words.

Component 2: 'Non exam assessment' set within school. You choose one question and complete preparatory work in the lead-in period before your final ten-hour practical exam at the end of the course.

Assessment Criteria

Assessment Objective 1:

Developing ideas/using reference/ sustainment

Assessment Objective 2:

Experimentation/reflection/ technical expertise

Assessment Objective 3:

Recording/research/observations

Assessment Objective 4:

Personal response

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in Art + ONE of EACH of the following from GCSE or personal portfolios (eg in Powerpoint presentation, one image per slide): observational drawing; work showing good use of media; research piece on artist or designer; final piece of artwork or design; your favourite, most successful piece of work

Teacher contact:

Mrs C Wyman Smith

Are you interested in:

- Media and materials?
- Fine art and print making?
- 3-D design?

Leading to a career in:

- Design & Illustration
- Architecture
- Photography

This subject goes well with:

- Product Design
- Media Studies
- Business

Exam Board:

AQA
A-Level:
7201/C and 7201/X



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

You experiment with different styles and choose which one is right for you in the final piece. I have enjoyed trying out expressive techniques that I'd previously been sceptical about."

— Ellen Organ



Art and Textile Design

The Art and Textile Design course focuses on creative skills, techniques and processes associated with fine art textiles and fashion, exploring both decorative and constructed textiles.

Course Content

Year 12

Component 1: Consists of your 'Portfolio of Work', during which you will experience a wide range of approaches, including printed, dyed, embellished, stitched, and constructed textiles. You will explore specialisms associated with textile art and fashion design within your Portfolio.

Component 2: 'Non exam assessment' set within school. You choose one question and complete preparatory work in the lead-in period before your final ten-hour practical exam at the end of the course.

Assessment Criteria

Assessment Objective 1:

Developing ideas/using reference/sustainment

Assessment Objective 2:

Experimentation/reflection/technical expertise

Assessment Objective 3:

Recording/research/observations

Assessment Objective 4:

Personal response

Year 13

A-Level:
60% coursework, 40% exam

Component 1: Consists of the 'Personal Investigation', based on a theme, concept or starting point of your choice.

This will allow you to study either fine art, constructed and decorative textiles, or garment design and construction. You will use your understanding of textile artists and designers to develop your own practical work. The Personal Investigation includes a compulsory written element of 1,000–3,000 words.

Component 2: 'Externally set assignment', worth 40% of your A-Level.

The project involves a lead in period of preparatory work followed by 15-hours of 'supervised time', in which you complete your final piece at the end of the course.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in Art or Textiles + ONE of EACH of the following from GCSE or personal portfolios (eg in Powerpoint presentation, one image per slide):
observational drawing;
work showing good use of media; research piece on artist or designer; final piece of artwork or design;
your favourite, most successful piece of work

Teacher contact:

Mrs C Wyman Smith

Are you interested in:

- Textile media and materials?
- Fashion design?
- Interior design?

Leading to a career in:

- Design: Costume, Fashion and Soft Furnishings
- Stylist
- Fashion Buying

This subject goes well with:

- Product Design
- Business
- Media Studies

Exam Board:

AQA
A-Level:
7204/C and 7204/X



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

"This course is perfect if you love being creative, are passionate for textiles and are always willing to experiment and try new ideas!"

— Ellie Williams



Biology

Biology is the study of the mechanisms that underpin all living organisms. It covers the rapidly changing fields of genetics and biotechnology.

Course Content

You will study digestive, circulatory and gas exchange systems, including the role of enzymes as biological catalysts, and passive and active transport across membranes. Also, the similarities and differences in the biochemical basis and cellular organisation of living organisms are discussed. The course examines structured communities within dynamic and largely stable ecosystems through which energy and chemical elements are recycled. Students sample different communities on an Ecology residential fieldtrip. The course also looks at the response to stimuli, including the control of heart rate, transmission of nerve impulses, muscle contraction and the use of gene cloning technologies to design new industrial and medical processes.

Assessment Criteria

Students sit three modules at the end of the A-Level course. The three exams form 100% of the course assessment. Throughout the two-year course, a minimum of twelve core investigations are conducted and assessed, and the Practical Endorsement is issued to those who have completed these to a suitable standard.

Paper 1: Topics 1–4

Paper 2: Topics 5–8

Paper 3: All content including practical skills and a synoptic essay

A-Level

Subject requirements:

Minimum GCSE of 6 in Maths*, GCSE 6 in Biology* and Chemistry* or 7/7 in Combined Science
*Grade 7 recommended

Teacher contact:

Miss S Ogilvy

Are you interested in:

- The human body?
- How science contributes to modern society?
- Disease risk factors?
- Medical developments?
- Our impact on the environment?

Leading to a career in:

- Medicine
- Veterinary Science
- Biomedical Research

This subject goes well with:

- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Environmental Science

Exam Board:

AQA
A-Level: 7402



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“Brilliant teachers and resources allowed me to explore my passion for Biology. I was supported throughout, enjoying great opportunities.”

— Noah Shriever



Business

In today's world business is all around us, which makes it a constantly evolving, exciting subject. Study of Business requires a variety of skills, such as analysing, interpreting and responding to data, calculating financial ratios, and communicating your analysis and arguments. You will investigate a variety of contemporary issues, such as globalisation and how technology is changing business.

Course Content

You look at a variety of firms in different industries, starting with: What is business? Why do businesses exist? What are their aims? How do you measure their success?

You will then look at the role of managers, finding out about different styles of leadership and the way decisions are made using scientific methods and intuition. You will examine functional strategies businesses use to be successful. How can businesses change to improve their performance? You will analyse the strategic position of firms, using tools like financial ratios. You will consider external factors on businesses, such as the economy. You will see how firms choose their strategic direction, which markets to compete in and what products to offer. You will investigate how firms manage change.

Assessment Criteria

Three 2-hour examinations. You will be assessed through a mixture of multiple choice, short answer (including calculations), data response and essay questions.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in Business (if studied), and 5 in English and Maths

Teacher contact:

Mrs M Boulton

Are you interested in:

- How the economy, political decisions, social trends, and technology impact on business?
- Setting up a business of your own?
- Understanding why businesses make the decisions they do?

Leading to a career in:

- Management
- Accounting
- Financial Services
- Human Resources

This subject goes well with:

- Geography
- Economics
- Psychology

Exam Board:

AQA
A-Level: 7132



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

Interacting with and investigating business improves your understanding of the subject and equips you with valuable life skills. You'll enjoy the engaging aspect of this course!"

— Charlie Reeder



Business and Higher Project Qualification (Level 2)

This is a one-year route designed to enable students to retake their GCSEs in English, Maths or both, and to gain a Diploma in Business and the Higher Project Qualification. The Diploma in Business is assessed completely by coursework assignments and gives students an overview of the world of business. The Higher Project Qualification provides students with an opportunity to independently research and produce a project of their choice. This means they can research and develop skills in an area of their own personal interest.

Course Content

- Business Purposes
- Business Organisations
- Financial Forecasting
- People in Organisations
- Marketing Plan
- Verbal/Non-verbal Communication
- Customer Service

Students have their own room, computers and other resources and quickly develop strong relationships with teachers and other students on the course. Coursework feedback is given throughout, to update students on their progress. This is highly motivating, as are small class sizes that allow for a high degree of personal support from teaching staff. Targets are given to each student and regularly checked to ensure students keep on track.

Assessment Criteria

All units are centre assessed and externally moderated by the exam board. There are no exams. The full award and units from this qualification are graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Cambridge Technicals Level 2 Diploma & Higher Project Qualification

Subject requirements:

Minimum of 5 subjects with an average GCSE score of 3

Teacher contact:

Mrs M Boulton

Are you interested in:

- How companies are organised?
- How businesses are financed?
- Recruitment and selection of staff?

Leading to a career in:

- Accounting
- Marketing
- Sales

Exam Board:

Business OCR
Course Code:
05325

Higher Project Qualification:

AQA



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

"This wasn't my first option, however it has motivated and enabled me to get where I am today. I'm now studying three A-Levels and am predicted AAB!"

— Olivia Day



Business (Level 3)

Business is a real-world subject. Whatever your choice of career, you need to understand the decisions businesses make. Cambridge Technicals contain a large coursework component. They are a recognised pathway into higher education and employment, combining well with a variety of other subjects. The course can be taken either as a 5 unit Extended Certificate (equivalent to one A-Level) or a 10 unit Diploma (equivalent to two A-Levels).

Course Content

Mandatory for the 5 and 10 Unit course:

The Business Environment

Topics include: functional areas; ownership; stakeholders; business plans; organisational structures; financial information and the external influences on business

Working in Business

Protocols, documents and methods of communication when working within a business

Customers and Communication

Influences on customer behaviour and communication in business

Marketing and Market Research

How to conduct market research and target customers

Principles of Project Management

Project planning; internal and external factors that impact on the process

Diploma students also take the following units:

- Business Decisions
- Marketing Strategy
- Marketing Campaign
- Change Management
- Delivering a Business Project

Assessment Criteria

Extended Certificate
(One A-Level):
50% Coursework; 50% Exam

Diploma (Two A-Levels): 67%
Coursework; 33% Exam

The qualifications are graded using a Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* method (the UCAS points for a Distinction* are the same as an A* at A-Level)

Please note this course is one year only in the first instance. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second-year qualification.

Cambridge Technicals Level 3 (Single and Double)

Subject requirements:

- + GCSE 4 in English and Maths
- + GCSE 4 in Business (if studied)

Teacher contact:

Mrs M Boulton

Are you interested in:

- Understanding the environment in which businesses operate?
- Strategic business decisions?
- Influences on customer behaviour?

Leading to a career in:

- Retail Management
- Financial Services
- Accountancy

This subject goes well with:

- Media Studies
- Information Technology
- Geography

Exam Board:

OCR
Course Codes:
Extended Certificate
05835
Diploma 05837



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

"I enjoy learning and doing group work with my classmates, because friendships have been created and we can now help each other, which is great."

— Kyla Etheridge



Chemistry

Chemistry is called the 'central science' because it connects the sciences together and is essential for a variety of career paths. There are many jobs involving Chemistry, but even if you are looking in another field, the analytical and problem-solving skills you gain through the study of Chemistry are in high demand. Our course is designed to stretch and challenge all students; valuable transferable practical, analytical, evaluative and communication skills will be developed.

Course Content

Year 12

Students study the principles of physical, inorganic and organic chemistry and explore these through experimental work. Students study the relationships between atomic structure, chemical reactivity and patterns in the Periodic Table. Students also study the energetics and kinetics that govern chemical reactions. This leads to an introduction to organic chemistry, looking at groups of profitable chemicals, making models and constructing mechanisms.

Year 13

Students develop the Year 12 concepts further, looking in physical chemistry at thermodynamics, pH and fuel cells. Organic chemistry includes the study of aromatic compounds, proteins and DNA and spectroscopic techniques. Inorganic chemistry looks at transition metals, complex metal ions and anti-cancer drugs.

Practical endorsement component (awarded separately from A-Level):

A minimum of 12 practicals, completed and written up to an appropriate standard.

Assessment Criteria

A-Level: 100% examination. Three 2-hour written exams covering the whole two-year course, including practical skills, containing long, short and multiple choice questions.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

Minimum GCSE of 6 in Maths*, GCSE 6 in Chemistry* or 7/7 in Combined Science
*Grade 7 recommended

Teacher contact:

Miss C Lucas

Are you interested in:

- Practical chemistry?
- Applications of science?
- Problem solving?

Leading to a career in:

- Chemistry and related subjects
- Chemical Engineering
- Medicine and related fields

This subject goes well with:

- Biology
- Physics
- Mathematics

Exam Board:

AQA
A-Level: 7405



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“It's one thing to be told by the textbook that a reagent will react in a certain way, but being able to perform that experiment in real life makes it all the more interesting.”

— Adrian Ramirez-Valdez



Classical Civilisation

Classical Civilisation is the study of the fascinating history, culture and literature of both the Ancient Greeks and the Romans. Delve into *The Iliad* and *The Aeneid*, great epics full of war, heroes, love and loss; study Augustus' creation of an imperial image in a fundamentally anti-monarchical society; explore the ancient Athenians' world-famous democracy, a foundation stone of Western culture. All of these have had a profound impact on our world today. Students will develop key skills, such as careful analysis and evaluation through examination of ancient texts, art and archaeological evidence.

Course Content

Year 12

The World of the Hero: Homer's *Iliad*
Culture and the Arts: Imperial Image

Year 13

The World of the Hero: Virgil's *Aeneid*
Beliefs and Ideas: Democracy and the Athenians

Assessment Criteria

The A-Level is assessed through 100% examination.

Year 12

Internal examinations will take place to assess knowledge and understanding.

A-Level:

The World of the Hero (*Iliad* and *Aeneid*)
2 hours 20 minutes – 40% of A-Level

Culture and the Arts: Imperial Image 1 hour 45 minutes – 30% of A-Level
Democracy and the Athenians 1 hour 45 minutes – 30% of A-Level

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in History or English

Teacher contact:

Mrs C. Wheeldon

Are you interested in:

- History?
- Literature?
- Politics?

Leading to a career in:

- Law
- Civil Service
- Archaeology and Museums

This subject goes well with:

- Latin
- History
- English Literature

Exam Board:

OCR
Course Codes:
H408/11
H408/22
H408/34



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“The course covers a range of topics, such as classical literature, history and politics. You find out about the foundations of our society and its influence on our culture today.”

— George Jossaume



Computer Science

The emphasis of this course is on abstract thinking, general problem solving and algorithmic and mathematical reasoning. The course develops students' computational problem-solving ability. Students will also develop a range of skills, including high and low-level programming languages, network topologies, communication and Boolean algebra.

Course Content

The course covers the following aspects of Computer Science:

1. Fundamentals of programming
2. Fundamentals of data structures
3. Fundamentals of algorithms
4. Theory of computation
5. Fundamentals of data representation
6. Fundamentals of computer system
7. Fundamentals of computer organisation and architecture
8. Consequences of uses of computing
9. Fundamentals of communication and networking
10. Fundamentals of databases
11. Big Data
12. Fundamentals of functional programming
13. Systematic approach to problem solving

Assessment Criteria

Paper 1: A 2-hour 30 minutes exam, covering topics 1–4 above (40% of A-Level)

Paper 2: A 2-hour 30 minutes exam, covering topics 5–13 above (40% of A-Level)

Coursework –
A practical programming project of own choosing (20% of A-Level)

A-Level

Subject requirements:

GCSE 7 in Maths or
GCSE 6 in Maths with
GCSE 7 in Computer
Science (if studied)

Teacher contact:

Ms J Symonds

Are you interested in:

- Computer programming?
- How the Internet works?
- Solving problems?

Leading to a career in:

- Science
- Engineering
- Software Development

This subject goes well with:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Economics

Exam Board:

AQA
Course Code:
7517



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

The course helped me control my lights, TV and sound system from Alexa and Siri. I enjoyed working with Engineering and Maths students to build and program a drone."

— Billy Bromell



Core Mathematics: Quantitative Reasoning

Core Mathematics is an exciting Mathematics qualification. It is the Maths you need to move on to independent living, as you think about leaving home and getting a job. Core Mathematics makes you more mathematically aware, more employable and less susceptible to the mathematical pitfalls of life. This course is ideal if you enjoy Maths (but are not taking the A-Level), and will support your other A-Level studies. It is widely welcomed by many universities, with some altering entry requirements for those with a high grade in this qualification. You can choose Core Maths alongside three or four other subjects.

Course Content

Core Maths builds on and extends GCSE Mathematics, with a sharper focus on problem-solving skills. Topics covered include Student Loans, Buying a Car, Managing Finances, Insurance, Medical Risk, Estimation, Business Planning and Spreadsheets. The skills taught support mathematical knowledge that is required in other A-Level subjects. Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Business, PE, History and Music.

The course covers:

- Statistics and algebra
- Probability and estimation
- Data analysis and modelling
- Sequences and growth
- Financial planning and management
- Collaborative problem-solving approaches and techniques
- Using technology and spreadsheets

Assessment Criteria

The course is assessed in two, 2-hour written examinations at the end of Year 12.

AS-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 4 in Maths
(5 recommended)

Teacher contact:

Miss S Barker

Are you interested in:

- Personal finance, eg budgeting, tax returns, interest, credit and loans?
- Analysing and evaluating data?
- Financial calculations and business modelling?

Leading to a career in:

- Finance
- Cyber Intelligence
- Criminology

This subject goes well with:

All subjects

Exam Board:

OCR

Unit code: H866



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“Core Maths helped me gain an understanding of real-world maths and got me a lower offer to study languages at Bath University.”

— Ellie Cameron



Criminology

Criminology is the study of crime and criminals. This applied qualification will give you the opportunity to study different types of crime, why people commit crime, how the criminal justice sector works, and how policies can be implemented to try and reduce crime.

Course Content

Year 12 (Certificate)

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime

Students develop an understanding of different types of crime, influences on perceptions of crime, and why some crimes are unreported. Students create their own campaign for change to raise awareness of unreported crimes.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories

Students gain an understanding of why people commit crime and how criminological theories impact policy making and the criminal justice system.

Year 13 (Diploma)

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom

Students acquire an understanding of the criminal justice system and the various organisations within it. Students learn about the legal process when investigating a crime (from crime scene to court room).

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment (synoptic)

Students acquire an understanding of agencies of social control within the criminal justice system, as well as models of punishment in England and Wales and how effective they are.

Assessment Criteria

Unit 1 and Unit 3 are assessed internally through controlled assessment (50%)

Unit 2 and Unit 4 are assessed externally through examination (50%)

Please note this course is one year only in the first instance. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second-year qualification.

Level 3 Diploma

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in English

Teacher contact:

Miss K Sogi

Are you interested in:

- Crime in our society?
- Criminal behaviour and deviance?
- Why and how we punish people?

Leading to a career in:

- Police service
- Probation service
- Prison service

This subject goes well with:

- Sociology
- Psychology
- Politics

We advise against taking Criminology, Psychology and Sociology together, as it narrows academic scope.

Exam Board:

WJEC

- Level 3 Applied Certificate in Criminology: 601/6249/1
- Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology: 601/6248/X



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

"I enjoy learning about theories of criminality, linking them to real world examples, and looking at the psychological mindset of famous criminals and their victims."

— Finn Mangan



Digital Media

This Level 3 Digital Media course is the equivalent to one A-Level. With a strong emphasis on independence, you will develop confidence in working with your peers and in building industry connections.

Focusing on independence, initiative and creativity, you will have an opportunity for hands-on learning through the production of audio-visual products. You will also develop skills and confidence in building connections with professionals in the media sector. The Extended Certificate course develops an understanding of how a range of media products are made, from concept to realisation.

You will also learn how to work effectively in a production team. Cambridge Technicals provide a strong base for progression to university, apprenticeships or work, and are recognised for UCAS tariff points.

Course Content

Cambridge Technicals in Digital Media helps students develop the knowledge and practical skills required in the digital media industry. Students gain hands-on experience of the production process, developing their ideas from planning, through editing and post-production, to final presentation.

Assessment Criteria

Extended Certificate: 50% coursework and 50% exam

Please note this course is one year only in the first instance. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second-year qualification.

**Cambridge
Technicals Level 3**
Extended
Certificate or
Diploma

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 4 in English Language + ONE of the following: creative writing piece (eg screenwriting); essay on a media text; film or TV review; audio-visual production (eg short film); print-based production (eg advert or poster); graphic design piece (eg album cover); web-based design or blog

Teacher contact:

Mr Ian Culley-Morgan

Are you interested in:

- Making your own content?
- Film/TV
- Sound Design?

Leading to a career in:

- Journalism
- Teaching

This subject goes well with:

- English Language
- Business
- Film Studies

Exam Board:

OCR



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“If you want confidence in life, the Digital Media course is the path. It gives you skills to communicate, create and produce.”
— Ester Rade



Drama and Theatre

A-Level Drama and Theatre offers a highly practical and challenging course of study, which fully prepares students for Higher Education. The specification is designed to promote an excellent balance between practical theatre making and the theoretical understanding of drama and theatre. In all performance assessments, students can be assessed on either acting or design.

Course Content

Year 12

Component 1: Performance Workshop

Students will study a text set by the exam board, and will then create a piece of theatre, where they reinterpret the original script using the ideas of a theatre practitioner, in order to make it relevant for a contemporary audience. Students will also produce a creative log, which documents the choices made during the rehearsal process. Assessed in the Spring Term.

Component 3: Text in Performance

Practical exploration and research of Component 3 texts in preparation for the exam in Year 13.

Year 13

Component 2: Text in Action

Students create, develop and perform two pieces of theatre based on a given stimulus and produce an evaluation of their work. Assessed in the Spring Term.

Component 3: Text in Performance

Sections A and B: Two exam questions, based on two texts, pre- and post-1956.

Section C: A series of exam questions based on a specified extract of text. Assessed in the Summer Term.

Assessment Criteria

Component 1:

Internally examined;
20% of qualification

Component 2:

Externally examined;
40% of qualification

Component 3:

2 hour 30 minutes written exam;
40% of qualification

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in Drama or English

Teacher contact:

Mrs Mandy McIlwaine

Are you interested in:

- Performance?
- Close textual analysis?
- Learning about how plays are structured?

Leading to a career in:

- Performance
- Scriptwriting
- Production Design

This subject goes well with:

- English Literature & Language
- History
- Politics

Exam Board:

Eduqas
A-Level: A690QS



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

Studying Drama and Theatre A Level has been an incredibly rewarding experience. This course has not only enhanced my performance skills but also developed my confidence, critical thinking and passion for script analysis."

— Samuel Allan



Earth Science (Geology)

Geology is the earth's story, discovering the powerful processes that have helped to shape its mountains, oceans, life and climate over billions of years. In Geology, we strive to make visible these processes through analysing what they have left behind, the rocks, fossils and landscapes. The course covers the theories of plate tectonics, geohazards and rock formation, some of the fundamental principles of geology. From this, we also explore the fossil record to uncover the evolution of life on earth, discover how climate change has transformed our world and delve into the economic geology of hydrogeology, mineral exploration and hydrocarbons. This is a course for anyone interested in our earth's deep history and is fundamental to develop the tools and knowledge to best tackle the challenges of its future.

Course Content

The A-Level includes the following components:

- Development of practical skills in Earth Science, including laboratory and fieldwork investigations
- Minerals and rocks
- Fossils and time
- The structure of the Earth
- Plate tectonics, geological structures and geohazards
- Mining geology
- Engineering geology
- Quaternary Geology

Fieldwork

Geology is a practical course, offering opportunities to explore the subject outside the classroom.

We offer a one-day fieldtrip to Hunstanton in Year 12, and a residential visit to the Dorset Jurassic Coast in Year 13.

Assessment Criteria

The full A-Level course is assessed at the end of Year 13 by three synoptic examinations, totalling 6 hours. These include a range of question types, such as multiple choice, short answer and extended response answers.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in Science and GCSE 5 in Geography (if studied)

Teacher contact:

Mr C McConnaughie

Are you interested in:

- Evolution of life on Earth?
- Plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes?
- The causes and effects of climate change?

Leading to a career in:

- Natural Hazard Management
- Mining
- Engineering Geology

This subject goes well with:

- Geography
- Environmental Science
- Chemistry

Exam Board:

WJEC



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“Geology explores the physical aspect of Geography, providing an insight into how past events and processes might influence the future.”

— Kristian Rogers



Economics

Technically, Economics is the study of how the forces of demand and supply allocate scarce resources, for consumers, firms and at national level. In practice, it includes all sorts of real issues, such as a tax on sugar, a minimum price for alcohol, the best way of reducing unemployment, whether income tax should be raised or cut and the impact of emerging markets such as India and Nigeria.

Students should both be able to write fluent essays and have a good grasp of numeracy. Quantitative skills are an essential aspect of the course, for example calculating and understanding ratios, fractions, percentages, index numbers, averages and graphs.

Course Content

Students will be introduced to the reasons why prices change, why markets don't always work and how and why governments then intervene, not always for the better! We also look at topics such as inflation, unemployment, international trade and economic growth, as well as discussing government policies such as taxation, keeping the economy growing and the Bank of England's role in setting interest rates.

As your understanding deepens, we will consider the application of economic concepts to the world economy, the behaviour of firms, and the labour market. You will discuss topics such as monopoly power, wage inequality, and bigger concerns such as inflation, the influence of China, developing economies, sustainability, globalisation, the EU and the Euro, as well as looking at the UK financial sector. All of this is in the context of differing approaches to policy making.

Assessment Criteria

100% examination, comprising multiple choice, data response and essay questions.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 6 in Maths and 5 in English

Teacher contact:

Mr Nate Weersing

Are you interested in:

- Worldwide poverty and inequality?
- Current affairs and politics?
- Mathematical reasoning?

Leading to a career in:

- Financial Services
- Economic Analysis
- Politics

This subject goes well with:

- Mathematics
- History
- Geography

Exam Board:

EDUQAS

- A-Level: A520QSL
- Component 1 – A520U10
- Component 2 – A520U20
- Component 3 – A520U30



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“Enjoyable, transferable skills to all other subjects and increasingly important in the world. It has helped me to understand real world economic events.”

— Anonymous
(Student Survey '25)



English Language

English Language challenges students both to analyse texts and to write their own. In doing so, they develop their own original writing skills and the ability to analyse both written and spoken language varieties. Students are also encouraged to collect their own research data for highly rewarding individual projects.

Course Content

The first examined unit, 'Exploring Language', assesses students' ability to analyse 'real-world' texts – looking in detail at their lexical and grammatical choices in relation to contextual factors. Students will learn how to identify patterns in texts and to explore their effects on readers. This unit also involves students writing about topical language issues, such as how technology impacts on language, or how gender influences speech. Students also learn to compare and contrast texts from different non-fiction genres – including spoken transcripts featuring different accents and dialects.

The second unit, 'Dimension of Linguistic Variation', leads to students investigating how children acquire language, how language is used in the media and how language has changed over the course of time. This analytical unit is also examined externally.

The coursework unit, 'Independent Language Research' is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore a topic of their own choice through their own collection of linguistic data. Topics might range from 'The Language of Barack Obama' to 'The Language of American Sitcoms'. This is a rewarding and motivating experience for students, as they transcribe and then analyse their own data. The project is accompanied by a piece of creative writing that students produce, which turns the investigation into something more mainstream; it tests students' ability to distil the detail of their investigation into core features and findings.

Assessment Criteria

The A-Level is assessed through 80% examination and 20% coursework.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in both English Literature and English Language

Teacher contact:

Mr P Wilson

Are you interested in:

- Analysing texts?
- Exploring the effective use of language?
- Learning about grammar and its usage?

Leading to a career in:

- Journalism and the Media
- Publishing
- Legal Profession

This subject goes well with:

- English Literature
- History
- Psychology

Exam Board:

OCR
Course Code:
H470



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

"I loved studying English and the structure of language at GCSE, but didn't want to focus on literature. English Language is a brilliant option, expertly taught."

— Adam Hunter



English Literature

The OCR English Literature course is academically challenging, highly rewarding and extremely popular. Students follow a lively and varied programme of study, with opportunities to read and discuss a wide range of texts, issues and authors.

Course Content

During your A-Level course, you will study a range of genres across different periods.

The first examined unit, entitled 'Drama and Poetry Pre-1900' involves the study of a Shakespeare play and the comparative study of drama and poetry produced pre-1900. Not only will students broaden their horizons in terms of the texts that they have read before, but they will learn the vital importance of the contexts surrounding these texts.

The second unit, 'Comparative and Contextual Study' invites students to become experts in a specific period or genre of literature (such as American Fiction or The Gothic). In this unit, they will prepare to answer questions on key 'set texts' as well as an 'unseen' passage in their specialist topic area. They will also explore new ways of interpreting literature, such as Marxist and Feminist readings of texts.

The coursework unit of A-Level study is a fabulous opportunity for students to improve their close analysis skills, as well as their appreciation of 21st Century literature.

Assessment Criteria

The A-Level is assessed through 80% examination and 20% coursework.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in both English Literature and English Language

Teacher contact:

Mr P Wilson

Are you interested in:

- Reading widely?
- Developing your analytical skills and essay writing?
- Analysing Shakespeare?

Leading to a career in:

- Journalism
- Publishing
- Legal Professions

This subject goes well with:

- History
- English Language
- Drama and Theatre

Exam Board:

OCR
Course Code:
H472



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

Not only is the course diverse, but you explore a variety of interpretations within each text, reconsidering initial impressions through class discussions and critical reading."

— Florence Wolter



Environmental Science

Environmental Science is a highly relevant science option, ideal for anyone concerned with environmental issues, systems thinking and sustainability. Students who enjoy a multi-disciplinary approach to learning and have a keen interest in sustainability will find this subject engaging and thought provoking. Scientific research is a fundamental part of Environmental Science; good research skills are needed for collecting representative data to formulate reliable conclusions. Students acquire a range of field work skills, scientific knowledge and understanding, developing the ability to work with others. Students also gain an appreciation of work in the environmental sector, allowing for progression into further education, employment, or training.

Course Content

Two teachers teach the course to Year 12 and Year 13, with nine lessons per fortnight.

Topics include:

1. Biological environment
2. Physical environment
3. Energy resources
4. Biological resources
5. Pollution
6. Sustainability

Assessment Criteria

All topics are mandatory. Two three-hour external exams at the end of the two-year course.

Year 12

The physical and biological environments are covered with an internal exam at the end of the first year. Students are also required to complete 2–4 days of field work throughout the year.

Year 13

The remaining topics are covered in the second year.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

GCSE 5 in English
+ GCSE 4 in Maths
(recommended 5) +
Two grade 5s from
either Combined
Science and/or
Geography

Teacher contact:

Mrs D Chadwick

Are you interested in:

- Learning more about climate change?
- Researching the biological environment?
- Undertaking field work?

Leading to a career in:

- Zoology and Conservation
- Hydrology
- Environmental Design and Green Technology

This subject goes well with:

- Geography
- Earth Science
- Biology

Exam Board:

AQA



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“We learn how we can benefit from sustainable energy, discovering how the environment is affected by various issues, and how our generation can fix it.”

— Lucy Williams



Film Studies

Film Studies explores the dominant art form of the 20th Century. Jean-Luc Godard said, 'Film is life 24 frames per second.' We study that. You have an opportunity to develop a detailed knowledge and appreciation of how film makes meaning and generates responses. The course allows you to experience aspects of practical film making, including cinematography, editing and sound design, whilst encouraging appreciation of Hollywood cinema, silent film, experimental cinema, and key historical movements.

Course Content

Film Studies provides you with the opportunity to develop your appreciation of the cinematic art form. You will study independent and mainstream films from America, Britain and Europe, including topics on Hollywood 1930 – 1990, American film since 2005 and British film since 1995. You will also study global cinema, documentary, experimental film, and silent cinema. There will be opportunities for you to explore filmmaking and screenwriting, with an emphasis on how films are designed, shot and edited.

Component 1 (Exam is 35% of the qualification)

Section A consists of a comparison of Classical and New Hollywood, including films such as 'Some like it Hot' and 'One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest'.

Section B is a study US Independent & mainstream film, with a focus on films such as 'Joker' and 'Get Out'.

Section C explores British Cinema since 1990, and includes a study of narrative and ideology within 'This is England' and 'We Need to Talk about Kevin'. In Year 13.

Component 2 explores a range of films from around the world, as well as silent cinema, experimental cinema and documentaries. Coursework (30% of the qualification) provides opportunities for short-filmmaking or scriptwriting and evaluative analysis.

Assessment Criteria

70% of the course is examination assessed and 30% is coursework

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in English Literature

Teacher contact:

Mr I Culley-Morgan

Are you interested in:

- Film?
- Documentaries?
- Cinematography?

Leading to a career in:

- Media
- Journalism
- Teaching

This subject goes well with:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Photography

Exam Board:

WJEC/Eduqas



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

"I have really enjoyed the mixture of theoretical and practical work, and the skills I have gained are invaluable. I hope to study Film at university."

— Katie Langton



French

The course develops your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, as well as your general knowledge of the countries where the language is spoken. You will develop these skills through researching and discussing topics in written and spoken language.

Course Content

Two teachers teach the course to Year 12 and Year 13, with nine lessons per fortnight. You will also have an hour of speaking a fortnight with our French Foreign Language Assistant.

Year 12

We cover the following topics:

- Family
- Education
- Work
- Music
- Media
- Festivals

You will also study a French film ('Intouchables' dir. Olivier Nakache & Éric Toledano).

The oral exam consists of a response to a stimulus card on two of the topics you have studied.

Year 13

We cover the following topics:

- Immigration
- France in WW2—the Occupation, the Vichy regime and the Resistance
- You will also study a French book ('L'Étranger' by Albert Camus).

The oral exam consists of an independent research project on a topic of your choice and a response to a stimulus card on two of the topics you have studied.

Assessment Criteria

The A-Level is assessed through 30% Speaking, 40% Reading and Listening, 30% Writing and Translation.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 6 in French

Teacher contact:

Mr J Sleightholm

Are you interested in:

- How language works?
- Living or working abroad?
- Social and cultural issues?

Leading to a career in:

- International Business
- Interpreting and Translating
- International Relations and Diplomatic Work

This subject goes well with:

- History
- Economics
- English Literature

Exam Board:

Edexcel
French (9FR0)



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“Studying French allows you to formulate and communicate your opinions of current issues. Language learning sets you apart from other students, as it is such a lifelong, valuable skill.”

— Daisy Alcoe



A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 8 in Maths

Teacher contact:

N Chamberlain

Are you interested in:

- How real-life situations are modelled with Mathematics?
- How decisions are made based on statistics?
- Computer programming?

Leading to a career in:

- Computing
- Medicine
- Statistical Research

This subject goes well with:

- Physics
- Biology
- Computer Science

Exam Board:

MEI B
(Examined through OCR)

Further Mathematics

The Further Mathematics course covers both A-Level Mathematics and A-Level Further Mathematics. It extends the understanding gained in A-Level Mathematics to higher levels, as well as exploring new topics, such as imaginary numbers. It is advantageous to students considering studying Mathematics at university. Also, students wishing to study Physics or Engineering will benefit from meeting the Mathematics they might need at this stage of their education. Students who select A-Level Further Mathematics as one of their choices should not select A-Level Mathematics as well, as A-Level Mathematics is incorporated into the Further Mathematics course. Please note that A-Level Further Mathematics counts as a double subject (two A-Levels).

Course Content

Year 12

The course will introduce topics that are not covered in the regular Mathematics A-Level, with an emphasis on logical deduction, constructing mathematical arguments and proof. New content here will include complex numbers and matrices, as well as proof by induction. The course will also introduce new statistical processes.

Year 13

In Year 13, some ideas met in Year 12 are extended. This includes further complex numbers and matrices. New integration techniques are also taught here. In addition, the modelling techniques used in the statistics and mechanics section of the Maths A-Level are refined and extended, and new ideas fundamental to undergraduate Mathematics are explored.

Assessment Criteria

All content is assessed at the end of the course in four written examinations, in addition to the three examinations for A-Level Maths. There is no coursework element.



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

Further mathematicians are taught together, allowing us to work at a faster pace with like-minded people. This creates a cohesive and supportive atmosphere."

— Rosie Chen



Geography

Geography is the study of the world around us and the human impact upon it. It considers the physical and human influences that shape and style our world. The course offers the opportunity to exercise and develop geographical skills, including observation, measurement, and geospatial mapping skills, through a range of case studies and fieldwork.

Course Content

Year 12

- Water and Carbon Cycles
- Coastal Landscapes
- Population and the Environment
- Changing Places
- Geographical Skills

Year 13

- Natural Hazards
- Global Systems and Global Governance
- Geographical Fieldwork Investigation (NEA)

To meet the demands of the specification and support the NEA, four days of fieldwork will be undertaken during Year 12. This will involve a day at Audley End to carry out investigations into water and carbon cycles, a coastal investigation at Hunstanton beach and two days in Saffron Walden/Cambridge to investigate changing places. The aim of these days is to give students the opportunity to undertake essential skills in data collection for their NEA.

Assessment Criteria

Year 12: An internal examination will take place to assess knowledge and understanding.

A-Level: 80% examination with two 90-minute exams, one on physical and one on human geography, each worth 40% of the full A-Level.

There will then be a 4,000-word geographical fieldwork investigation, contributing to 20% of the full A-Level.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

Minimum of GCSE 5 in Geography and Maths strongly recommended, (or another Humanities subject, if Geography not studied at GCSE), and 5 in English and Science

Teacher contact:

Miss S Makepeace and
Ms E Smyth

Are you interested in:

- The challenges facing the environment?
- Understanding the concept of place?
- The pressures and opportunities of populations?

Leading to a career in:

- Conservation
- Travel and Tourism
- Meteorology and Climatology

This subject goes well with:

- Earth Science (Geology)
- Economics
- Environmental Science

Exam Board:

AQA
A-Level: 7037



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“In light of disasters such as the European migration crisis and climate change, Geography is both relevant and interesting to study at A-Level.”

— Thomas O'Brien

German

The course develops your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as your general knowledge of the country where the language is spoken. You will develop these skills through researching and discussing topics in written and spoken language.

Course Content

Two teachers teach the course to Year 12 and Year 13, with nine lessons per fortnight. You will also have an hour of speaking a fortnight with our German Foreign Language Assistant.

Year 12

We cover the following topics:

- Environment
- Education
- Work
- Music
- Media
- Festivals

You will also study a German film ('Goodbye, Lenin!' dir. Wolfgang Becker).

The oral exam consists of a response to a stimulus card.

Year 13

We cover the following topics:

- Immigration
- The Reunification of Germany – life in the DDR before reunification, key events leading up to reunification, life after reunification
- You will also study a German novel ('Der Vorleser' by Bernhard Schlink).

The oral exam consists of an independent research project on a topic of your choice and a response to a stimulus card on two of the other topics you have studied.

Assessment Criteria

The A-Level is assessed through 30% Speaking, 40% Reading and Listening, 30% Writing and Translation.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 6 in German

Teacher contact:

Miss Claire Hall

Are you interested in:

- How language works?
- Living or working abroad?
- Studying the literature and films of foreign cultures?

Leading to a career in:

- International Business
- Interpreting and Translating
- International Relations and Diplomatic Work

This subject goes well with:

- History
- English Literature
- Politics

Exam Board:

Edexcel
German (9GN0)



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

"I really enjoy the enthusiasm in the classroom, and everyone is eager to learn. The teachers are very kind and understanding, especially when dealing with harder topics."

— Joanna Czarnocka



Health and Social Care

This course introduces knowledge needed by practitioners in the Health, Early Years Education and Social Care sectors. Students explore settings and services, analyse how these meet the needs of client groups, and analyse how legislation protects the rights of vulnerable groups. Students also discuss current social problems and learn how historic cases have helped inform modern provision.

Course Content

Year 12

- Unit 1 Human lifespan and development (Exam)
- Unit 4 Health, policy and wellbeing (Coursework)

Year 13

- Unit 2 Human biology and health (Exam)
- Unit 3 Principles of Health (Coursework)

Assessment Criteria

2 internally assessed units and 2 external exams over 2 years. Exams and coursework in January and May.

Each unit is graded at a Pass, Merit or Distinction. Points from each unit are combined for the overall grade.

Level 3 Extended Certificate (AAQ BTEC)

Subject requirements:

- + GCSE 4 in English
- + 4 recommended in Science
- + 4 in Health & Social Care (if studied at GCSE)

Teacher contact:

Nicola Thompson

Are you interested in:

- Who is responsible for the quality of care in public services?
- The importance of individual needs and choice in care provision?
- Supporting people to live with long-term conditions?

Leading to a career in:

- Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Early Years Teaching

This subject goes well with:

- Sociology
- Criminology
- Sport

Exam Board:

Pearson (610/3964/0)



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO

"I have gained theoretical understanding and the ability to analyse the UK's healthcare system, making me well equipped to confidently pursue a career in nursing."

— Tilly Macgiffin



History

History challenges students to analyse the cause and consequences of significant historical events and developments over time. It also assesses a student's ability to evaluate primary source material and claims made by historians. You will have the opportunity to engage deeply with historical developments and debates and to carry out your own investigations.

Course Content

The following units are studied:

Unit 1 Breadth Study: Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1964

Year 12: Tsarism in crisis and the Russian Revolutions. 1855 – 1917

Year 13: The establishment of the Communist dictatorship under Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev. 1917 – 1964

Unit 2 Depth Study: The Wars of the Roses, 1450 – 1499

Year 12: The fall of the House of Lancaster. 1450 – 1471

Year 13: The fall of the House of York. 1471 – 1499

Unit 3 Independent Investigation

c.100-year investigation of Imperial, Weimar and Nazi Germany. c.1848 – c.1945, focussing on one of the following topics:

- Developments in the status of women
- Anti-Semitism
- The development of nationalism

OR c.100-year investigation on inequality experienced by African Americans and the advancement of civil rights in the period c.1865-c.1965

OR another topic of choice (subject to approval)

Assessment Criteria

Year 12

Internal examinations will take place to assess knowledge and understanding.

Year 13

Unit 1: Examination of 2 hours 30 minutes (40%)

Unit 2: Examination of 2 hours 30 minutes (40%)

Unit 3: Coursework (20%)

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in History and English

Teacher contact:

Mrs J Hesketh

Are you interested in:

- Analysing information?
- Discussion and debate?
- Research?

Leading to a career in:

- Law
- Management Consultancy
- Business

This subject goes well with:

- English Literature
- Politics
- Economics

Exam Board:

AQA

A-Level: 7042



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

There is an enormous range of topics, which keeps you interested. You learn about history from different perspectives, and question the causes and consequences of events."

— Chris Bogg



Information Technology

The Single Award course for Information Technology consists of four units and is equivalent to an A-Level at the end of Year 13. It is also possible to achieve a Certificate in IT at the end of Year 12. This is equivalent to half an A-Level and carries UCAS points, making it a great option as a fourth subject.

Course Content

Year 12

You will study the two following units during Year 12:

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information

During this unit you will learn how to normalise data and build database systems using Microsoft Access.

Unit 3: Social Media in Business

You will look at different applications and how businesses use them for promotion and customer service. You will carry out a social media campaign and analyse how effective it was. There are opportunities to work with real clients, which is a great experience.

Year 13

During Year 13 you will study:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems

This unit covers fundamentals of computing, cyber security, laws surrounding computing, how computers work.

Unit 6: Website Development

You will learn the principles surrounding interface design, and factors affecting website performance. You will gain skills to build interactive webpages, learning basic HTML, JavaScript and CSS. You will create web pages, putting these skills into practice.

Assessment Criteria

The assessment includes a range of teacher marked coursework assignments, exam board set tasks, and written exams.

Please note this course is one year only in the first instance. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second-year qualification.

BTEC Level 3 (Single)

Subject requirements:

- + GCSE 4 in English and Maths
- + 4 in Computer Studies (if studied at GCSE)

Teacher contact:

Ms J Symonds

Are you interested in:

- Website development?
- Management of data?
- Understanding the use of cloud technologies?

Leading to a career in:

- Business
- Games Design
- Website Design

This subject goes well with:

- Business
- Media Studies
- Digital Media

Exam Board:

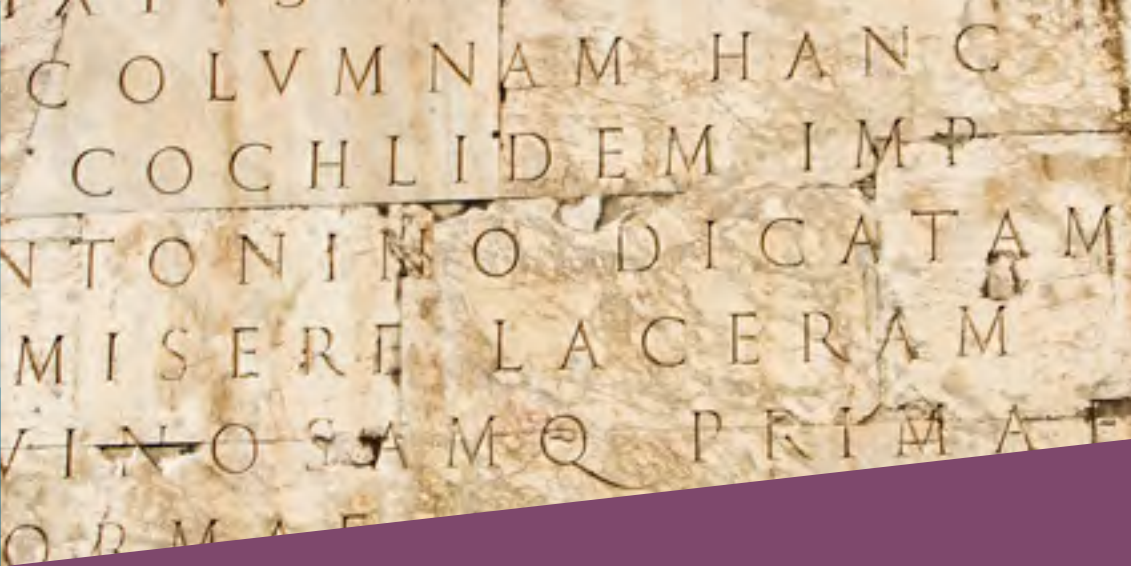
Edexcel
A-Level (Single):
BTEC National Level 3
Extended Certificate



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

I enjoyed constructing a database and learning about normalising data. We discussed information collected about users on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter."

— Will Morrow



Latin

Roman literature has been an inspiration for over 2000 years: Shakespeare and Dante would not be the same without Ovid and Virgil; modern orators still draw on the rhetoric of Cicero. The Latin A-Level gives you the unique opportunity to read and appreciate these amazing pieces of literature in their original language, so that you can fully grasp the skill with which these texts were crafted. We read a range of Latin authors for unseen translation and as literary texts: we will delve into the epics, poetry, politics, culture and history of the fascinating Roman world.

Latin is an academically rigorous subject which is why it is so highly regarded by both universities and a wide range of professions.

Course Content

You will greatly expand your knowledge of the Latin language. This will develop important transferable skills - keen analysis, problem solving, lateral thinking and attention to detail – and enrich your English vocabulary. You will also study a range of set authors for the literature papers.

Year 12

- Translation and prose composition (writing Latin sentences)
- The set texts for study will be:
- Nepos, Life of Hannibal, 1-13
- Virgil, Aeneid Book 4, lines 1-128, 529-629

Year 13

- Translation (Livy and Ovid) and prose composition
- Apuleius, Metamorphoses, Book VI, 7-21 and selection in English or Cicero, pro Roscio Amerino (selected chapters in Latin and English)
- Virgil, Aeneid Book 4, lines 259-396, 416-503 and English: Virgil, Aeneid 1 lines 613-722 and rest of Book 4

Assessment Criteria

The A-Level is assessed through 100% examination.

Year 12

Internal examinations will take place to assess knowledge and understanding.

A-Level

- Unseen Translation (one prose and one verse text): 1 hour 45 minutes – 33% of A-Level
- Prose Composition or Comprehension: 1 hour 15 minutes – 17% of total A-Level
- Prose Literature: 2-hours – 25% of A-Level
- Verse Literature: 2-hours – 25% of A-Level

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 6 in Latin

Teacher contact:

Mrs C Wheeldon

Are you interested in:

- The Ancient World?
- Languages (ancient and modern)?
- Problem solving and close analysis?

Leading to a career in:

- Law
- Politics
- Journalism

This subject goes well with:

- Classical Civilisation
- Modern Foreign Languages
- English Literature

Exam Board:

OCR
A-Level: H443



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“I have really enjoyed studying Latin. I now appreciate the influence Roman language and culture has had, from Maths to Modern Languages and Literature.”

— Gracie Adam



Mathematics

Mathematics has developed over time as a means of solving problems and as an academic discipline to be studied for its own sake. Mathematics can stimulate moments of pleasure and wonder, when you solve a problem for the first time, discover a more elegant solution, or notice hidden connections. It is important not just to understand how, but also why we spend so much of our time delving into the depths of Mathematics.

Course Content

Year 12

The course consists of a mixture of Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. The Pure units are made up of Algebra, Sequences and Series, Calculus, Coordinate Geometry, Trigonometry and Exponentials and Logarithms. The applied units include new statistical techniques and modelling of physical systems.

Year 13

In Year 13, we explore some of the Pure topics of Year 12 in greater depth. We start to investigate the fundamental rules of Calculus, such as the Chain Rule and Product Rule. Also, new topics such as Vectors and Numerical Methods are introduced. Students spend time developing more sophisticated techniques in Applied Statistics and Mechanics. We complicate our methods for our applied areas, to make them more representative of the real-life situations we are trying to model. This is a big step up from Year 12, but one which our students thoroughly enjoy.

Assessment Criteria

All content is assessed at the end of Year 13 in three written examinations.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 7 in Maths

Teacher contact:

N Chamberlain

Are you interested in:

- How decisions are made based on statistics?
- Computer programming?
- Mathematics for its own sake?

Leading to a career in:

- Finance and Economics
- Computing
- Medicine
- Architecture
- Statistical Research

This subject goes well with:

- Physics
- Biology
- Computer Science

Exam Board:

MEI B
(Examined through OCR)



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“The teachers care about your progress and make learning as fun as possible. They always take time out of their day to help you excel.”

— Joe Stride



Media Studies

Media Studies is 'the ability to create, use, analyse and understand media products, within the context of their audiences and institutions.' There will be opportunities to produce your own media products, such as music videos and print artefacts, as informed by your knowledge and understanding. There will be an emphasis on how media texts represent and position audiences. You will analyse a variety of media texts, including independent and mainstream, as well as media texts produced before 1970.

Course Content

The course covers a variety of topics, including:

- Advertising & Music Video (unseen extract)
- News in the Online Age
- Media in the Global Age

You will be required to produce a cross-media product in response to a set brief, combining audio-visual and print-based work.

Component 1 (Exam is 35% of the qualification)

Section A: Knowledge and understanding of Media language and representation, partly in response to an unseen text.

Section B: Focus on Media industries, including Film, Advertising, Newspapers, Radio and Video Games.

Component 2 (Exam is 35% of the qualification)

Media Forms and Products, with a focus on TV in the Global Age, Magazines and Media in the Online Age.

Coursework (30% of the qualification)

Work on a cross-media production, based on a set brief.

Assessment Criteria

70% of the course is examination assessed and 30% is coursework.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in English Language

Teacher contact:

Mr I Culley-Morgan

Are you interested in:

- Media?
- Print media?
- Online content?

Leading to a career in:

- Film
- Radio
- Television

This subject goes well with:

- English Language
- Photography
- Film Studies

Exam Board:

WJEC



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

"This course gives you the freedom to be creative with practical work. I have come to appreciate the media industry from an entirely new perspective."

— Emily Purkiss





Requirements:

+ Grade 6 Merit instrument or voice

Only open to those taking Music A-Level

Applicants will be required to perform as part of an audition and interview process.

Music Academy

Musicians joining the SWCHS Sixth Form have the unique opportunity to apply to join our Music Academy. This is an exciting programme of enrichment carefully coordinated by Miss C Law (Director of Music) and Mr E Reed (teacher of Music and Music Technology). The programme is advanced yet inclusive, covering classical, jazz and folk idioms. The programme runs alongside normal studies and Music Academy students enjoy a weekly timetabled session which does not conflict with curriculum lessons.

Course Content

The course is designed for musicians of Grade 6 standard and above. Weekly classes focus on performance, practice, analytical and sight reading skills. The programme provides regular performance opportunities on the Saffron Hall stage and also in local venues such as St Mary's church and Audley End House. A Music Academy focus is collaboration and the cohort work together in developing accompanying and chamber music skills along with composing and conducting. Focussing on the skills and interest of the students, they lead exciting outreach projects in local primary schools and are encouraged to promote their solo recitals and ensemble performances.

Saffron Hall is not only one of the best concert venues in the country, boasting a programme to rival any, but it also has a keen interest in supporting and promoting music education. Working with the Saffron Hall Learning and Participation team, we provide opportunities and facilities for young musicians studying at SWCHS that are unrivalled in Eastern England. During their time in the Music Academy, students take part in masterclasses delivered by world class performers. Our students benefit from working with visiting artists such as Nicola Bendetti, Jess Gillam and

Robert Hollingworth. In recent years they have performed alongside NYJO, LPO, The English Concert Orchestra and Iestyn Davies.

Our Post-16 Music Academy attracts some of the best student musicians from a wide geographical area. Academicians are welcomed to both a regional centre of excellence for music education and a school that sets the highest of academic standards. While most applicants will naturally want to follow the A-Level Music route, this is not a prerequisite, as we recognise that at this stage, some talented musicians prefer to further develop their musical skills and experience, while studying for a career in another discipline.

What is expected from Academy students?

- Be a regular member of one or more Senior Ensembles
- To be fully immersed in community music and project based activities
- Participate in the Masterclass programme
- Take part in concerts, recitals and festivals
- Make a sustained contribution to the wider SWCHS musical community
- Generally, seek to maximise the opportunities offered, including those from Saffron Hall Learning and Participation



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO

“The collaborative spirit of the Music Academy takes music outside the practice room onto Saffron Hall's world-class stage. With exceptional masterclasses and two years of free concert tickets, every musician's need for full immersion is satisfied.”

— Ben Somers-Heslam



Music

Music is a subject with numerous transferable skills, popular with universities and employers alike. On this course you will compose, perform and analyse music to broaden your understanding of how music works. There are a great variety of performance. Students may also apply for our Music Academy and follow a special programme alongside their normal studies; a weekly timetabled Academy session covers all instruments and voices in Classical and other idioms.

Course Content

Eduqas Music covers a wide variety of styles.

Year 12

In Year 12 we will build on our composing and performing skills from GCSE and start learning about the development of the symphony through the study of two set works. We will learn about the compositional devices of the Western Classical Tradition and how to integrate these into our own compositions in increasingly creative and sophisticated ways. We will also be studying the development of Jazz music from early Ragtime and Dixieland through to Bebop and Cool Jazz.

Year 13

In Year 13 we will study two set twentieth-century set works and explore a wide variety of modern and contemporary music through analysis and practical workshops.

Assessment Criteria

Year 13 assessments are undertaken as follows:

Performing and Composing (60% combined)

You can adjust the balance of both components to suit your strengths and interests: one must be 35% and the other 25% of the qualification. Candidates may perform solo or as part of an ensemble for either 6 or 10 minutes, and submit either two or three compositions across a range of genres.

Appraising (40%)

Assessed in one listening exam comprising of questions on our set works as well as unseen extracts.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in Music
+ Grade 5 on an Instrument + Grade 5 in Theory

Teacher contact:

Miss C Law

Are you interested in:

- Performance?
- Composition?
- Analysis?

Leading to a career in:

- Performance
- Teaching
- Music Production and Management

This subject goes well with:

All subjects

Exam Board:

WJEC
Eduqas A660QS



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

"I'm really enjoying this course as it's great to meet like-minded people. Also, the smaller class size allows for more 'one-on-one' tuition."

— Luke Lawlor



Music Technology

Edexcel Music Technology is a challenging and exciting specification, designed to introduce you to the skills and knowledge you need to work in the music industry. This new specification places an emphasis on the practical techniques, both creative and technical, of working with music technology, as well as covering historical development and helping you master the underlying theory.

Course Content

You will study recording and production techniques, the principles of sound and audio technology, and the development of recording technology. Both Year 12 and Year 13 complete the following components:

1. Recording (20%)
2. Composition (20%)
3. Listening and Analysing (25%)
4. Producing and Analysing (35%)

Assessment Criteria

In Year 13, there are two 'non-examined assessment' projects and two exams.

Non-Examined Assessment

You will produce a high-quality audio recording in our studio in Saffron Hall, as well composing an original piece of music using synthesis and sampling techniques in our iMac suite.

Exams

The first exam focuses on listening skills, including identifying and commenting on the choices made by the producers and technicians of unfamiliar recordings. The second exam is practical: you will edit and manipulate audio and MIDI files, demonstrating your mastery of the software.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in Music or equivalent (eg Grade 6+ in an instrument; Music Technology or Music Production qualification; demonstrable Music Production skills)

Teacher contact:

Mr E Reed

Are you interested in:

- Music technology?
- Composing music?
- Recording techniques?

Leading to a career in:

- Media composing
- Music production
- Recording engineering

This subject goes well with:

- Music
- Maths
- Physics

Exam Board:

Edexcel
A-Level: 9MT0



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“Easy access to Saffron Hall provides a great opportunity for practical experience, and builds solid foundations on which to develop skills.”

— Ashton Fox



Philosophy

Philosophy means the love of wisdom. It is the activity of seeking out truth regarding ultimate questions on life. In Philosophy we consider how others have answered these questions. We assess their answers, before making judgements about the most likely solutions to some of the big questions of existence.

Course Content

Year 12

There are two compulsory units focussing on two of the biggest foundational ideas in Philosophy and introducing the skills of logical analysis.

Section A: Epistemology asks the question: 'What can we know?' This includes how we acquire knowledge, the relationship between truth, belief and justification, and whether we can ever be certain of anything.

Section B: Moral Philosophy asks the question: 'What is the good?' It examines whether moral truths can even be known. We consider the meaning of ethical language like 'good' and 'evil'; the philosophical approaches of Kant, Aristotle and Bentham; and contemporary moral debates.

Year 13

Two further compulsory units focussing on metaphysics, which asks us to consider the nature of existence.

Section C: Metaphysics of God asks the questions: 'What do we mean by God?' and 'Does God exist?'

We consider arguments that attempt to use reason to prove God's existence, including the ontological argument and cosmological argument, as well as considering what religious language means.

Section D: Metaphysics of Mind asks the question: 'What is the connection between our mental states and our physical body?'

Considering key scholars like Descartes, we consider if we can know other people have the same experience as us, if the mind is connected to the brain, and whether we can talk meaningfully about mental states.

Assessment Criteria

A-Level: Two 3-hour exams

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 6 in English, 5 in Maths and 6 in Religious Studies (if studied)

Teacher contact:

Miss E Carne & Mrs A Popple

Are you interested in:

- What you can be certain of?
- Does anything else exist?
- What does it mean to be good?

Leading to a career in:

- Law
- Journalism
- Education

This subject goes well with:

- History
- Mathematics
- Psychology

Exam Board:

AQA
A-Level: 7172



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

Philosophy challenges me to think critically more than any other subject in studying, which makes for very enjoyable and in depth lessons. It's super interesting to study ideas from a wide range of different periods and analyse each of their approaches to finding truth: no two are the same"

— Joe Saward



Photography

Photography is an artistic and technical subject that develops your creativity and practical skills. It helps you to expand your imaginative capacity and technical knowledge; the course will challenge your intellectual and analytical ability. Year 12 runs as a foundation year to build knowledge and skills, with the A-Level following on in Year 13. Across the two years, there are a total of four components of work. Students produce a portfolio of coursework material, which exemplifies work carried out during the A-Level course. Students will also sit a controlled test in both Year 12 and 13.

Course Content

Year 12

Component 1: Coursework 'Portfolio' (September to February) – analogue and digital processes.

Component 2: Internally set assignment, preparatory work from February onwards, plus a ten-hour examination.

Year 13

During the A-Level course you will undertake a 'Personal Investigation' that allows you to explore in depth a theme, concept or idea of your choice, including a compulsory 1,000 – 3,000 word written assignment.

Component 1: 60% of total A-Level – Personal Investigation (September – February)

Component 2: 40% of total A-Level – A-Level externally set assignment, preparatory work from February onwards, plus a fifteen-hour examination.

Assessment Criteria

Assessment Objective 1:

Developing ideas/using reference/ sustainment

Assessment Objective 2:

Experimentation/reflection/ technical expertise

Assessment Objective 3:

Recording/ research/ observations

Assessment Objective 4: Personal response

A-Level

Subject requirements:

- + Application by Letter (see Sixth Form area of SWCHS website),
- + Interview with any existing Photographic work/Art Portfolio to show at interview

Teacher contact:

Miss S Adams

Are you interested in:

- Using a 35mm film camera and digital SLR?
- Using a darkroom?
- Photoshop digital skills?

Leading to a career in:

- Commercial Photography
- Art Direction/ Digital Media
- Digital Manipulation

This subject goes well with:

- Media Studies
- Film Studies
- Art and Design

Exam Board:

AQA Endorsed
A-Level:
7206/C and 7206/X



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

Photography has made me more confident in my work and developed my analytical skills. Working independently, whilst still guided, has allowed individual expression throughout the course."

— Caitlin Baker



Physical Education

This course covers a diverse range of topics. You will discover how the body works, learn about the health benefits of physical activity and how performance can be enhanced, analysed and monitored. You will study sport psychology, nutrition, injury prevention and management, and the sports industry.

Sport and Fitness is a fast-growing business. Whether your goal is working for a football club, becoming a personal trainer, or training to be a physiotherapist, there are multiple career opportunities. PE goes well with other subjects; for a career in PE, you might also consider taking Biology or Psychology.

Course Content

Year 12

Factors affecting participation in sport

Section A: Applied physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition and sport psychology

Section C: Sport and society

Year 13

Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B: Sport psychology

Section C: Sport, society and technology in sport

Assessment Criteria

The A-Level Physical Education is 70% theory and 30% non-exam assessment (practical performance), of which 15% is based on students assessed in the role of player/performer or coach, and 15% is analysis and evaluation of performance.

Practical/Coaching Examination:

A combination of multiple choice, short and extended questions.

Activities for assessment: Boxing, Football, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Canoeing, Cricket, Cycling, Dance, Diving, Golf, Gymnastics, Handball, Hockey, Equestrian, Kayaking, Lacrosse, Netball, Rock Climbing, Rowing, Rugby, Skiing, Snowboarding, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Trampolining, Volleyball.

Students are assessed as a player or coach in the full-sided version of one activity (15%) Written/verbal analysis of performance (15%).

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 6 in a Science subject and preferably a 6 in PE (if studied)

Teacher contact:

Mrs Katy Motson

Are you interested in:

- Sport in all its forms?
- Analysing and improving performance?
- Performing practically?

Leading to a career in:

- Sport Science
- Physiotherapy
- Personal Trainer

This subject goes well with:

- Biology
- Psychology
- Business

Exam Board:

AQA

A-Level: 7582



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

I chose A-Level PE because of the diversity of the course' Lucy Dangerfield, 'It gives you an insight into how elite athletes perform consistently well through the physiology to skill acquisition' Noah Vintiner and 'It is very helpful for me as it links well to other subjects such as Biology and Psychology therefore it gives you endless options and opportunities for the future"

— Ben Roberts



Physics

Physics asks ‘why’ relentlessly. Physicists do not accept things at face value; they insist on digging deeper, uncovering the real fundamentals of Science, and when we say the fundamentals, we mean nothing less than the frontiers of human understanding. Physicists relish the questions that cannot be answered easily. We scrutinise the very small (as witnessed by the experiments at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland), and we grapple with incomprehensible scale as we painstakingly map the universe itself. This curiosity has led to huge technological advances that continue to radically change our lives — mobile phones, 3D medical scanning, the Internet...

Course Content

The course covers a wide field of Physics topics, including quantum behaviour, fields, nuclear physics, astrophysics, thermodynamics and motion analysis. While the course has no coursework element, with the assessment being 100% examined, practical work is still core to our teaching. Students are given a teacher-assessed endorsement of their practical skills and their knowledge of mandatory experiments from the specification is tested in their exams. Mathematical questions make up at least 40% of the A-Level assessment, so choosing Physics and Maths together is a very strong option choice.

Assessment Criteria

Students take two internal papers at the end of Year 12, covering all the year’s material. At the end of Year 13, students take three papers that cover the full content of the two year course. These three papers provide the full A-Level grade.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 7 in Maths.
GCSE 6 in Physics
or 7/7 in Combined
Science

Teacher contact:

Mr C Holman

Are you interested in:

- Fundamental questions?
- Intellectual challenge?
- Experimental work?

Leading to a career in:

- Physics
- Medicine
- Engineering

This subject goes well with:

- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Computer Science

Exam Board:

OCR Physics A
A-Level: H556



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“Physics was my last option, but the course is so stimulating it is now my favourite subject. I am looking to study it at University.”

— Tom Farmer



Politics

On this course, you will study the workings of government and political culture in the United Kingdom and the United States. You will situate these core topics in the wider global context. You will also study political ideas such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism and nationalism. The course analyses current events, issues, controversies and scandals in conjunction with political theory and historical developments. Every day, Downing Street and the White House, Parliament and Congress, Fleet Street and Wall Street will raise important issues for debate.

Course Content

Unit 1: Government and Politics of the UK

The nature and sources of the British Constitution

The structure and role of Parliament

The Prime Minister and Cabinet

The judiciary

Devolution

Democracy and participation

Elections and referendums

Political parties

Pressure groups

The European Union

Unit 2: Government and Politics of the USA and Comparative Politics

- The legislative branch of government: Congress
- The executive branch of government: President
- The judicial branch of government
- The electoral process and direct democracy
- Political parties
- Pressure groups
- Civil rights

Students will use the above theoretical approaches to analyse key similarities and differences between the USA and UK, and evaluate the extent to which they explain these similarities and differences.

Unit 3: Ideologies

- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Nationalism

Assessment Criteria

100% examination for A-Level

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in English and 5 in a Humanities subject

Teacher contact:

Mrs J Hesketh

Are you interested in:

- Law?
- Civil Service?
- Local Government?

Leading to a career in:

- Finance
- Media
- International Relations

This subject goes well with:

- History
- Geography
- Economics

Exam Board:

AQA



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

Exploring current affairs and their significance in the wider political context leads to greater understanding and generates thoughtful discussions and debates."

— Callum Parris



Product Design

The course begins with a mix of design, practical and theory-based tasks, building a strong foundation in key areas such as design thinking, materials & manufacturing processes. Throughout the course, CAD (Computer-Aided Design) and CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacture) are used to support digital design and modelling, reflecting current industry practice.

Course Content

A key part of the course is the Independent Design and Make Project, which involves identifying a real-world problem and designing a unique solution for an authentic client. This is a chance to explore creative ideas and apply the full design process from start to finish.

The project includes research, sketching, testing, prototyping & refinement, leading to a final product supported by a detailed portfolio.

Once the project is complete, the focus shifts to preparation for the written examination.

Throughout the course, a wide range of transferable skills are developed, including problem solving, critical thinking, design communication & project management. All of which are highly valued in creative and technical industries.

Assessment Criteria

Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (50% of the qualification)

Students cover core theory throughout the course. The exam is at the end of Year 13.

Component 2: Independent Design and Make Project, 50% of the qualification. This component allows flexibility to choose a personalised area of focus. Coursework starts at the end of Year 12 and is assessed at the end of Year 13.

Project structure:

Section 1: Investigation skills, research & specification writing.

Section 2: Concept creation, development process & final design visualisations.

Section 3: Production planning & Manufacturing technique/skills.

Section 4: Evaluative and Analytical skills

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in a Design & Technology subject, English & Maths

Teacher contact:

Mr J Duddy

Are you interested in:

- Developing practical engineering, metal and traditional woodwork skills?
- Applying mathematical and scientific principles in a practical way?
- Using CAD software?

Leading to a career in:

- Structural Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Industrial Design

This subject goes well with:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry

Exam Board:

Edexcel
9DT0/01 + 9DT0/02



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

“I enjoy using CAD programmes such as SketchUp and Photoshop the most. They are used when we are able to create ideas and start to design things ourselves.”

— Oscar Wilson-Toy



Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. Studying Psychology at A-Level involves learning about theories of the human mind and behaviour, then evaluating these using research evidence. It also includes understanding research methods and approaches in Psychology.

Course Content

Year 12

- Memory – how memory works, why forgetting occurs and issues with memory
- Attachment – why children form attachments and what happens when they don't
- Approaches in Psychology – how different approaches assume human behaviour can be explained using specific key concepts
- Biopsychology – an introduction to biological factors that affect behaviour
- Social Influence – why some people do or don't conform and obey in different social situations and how social change takes place
- Clinical Psychology and Mental Health – definitions in the field of mental health, approaches to explain and treat mental health disorders

Year 13

- Issues, debates and approaches in Psychology (nature and nurture, free will, determinism, socially sensitive research, culture and gender bias, reductionism, holism, idiographic and nomothetic approaches to research)
- Biopsychology – localisation of function, plasticity and functional recovery, brain scanning techniques
- Research Methods – inferential statistical tests
- Gender – biological, cognitive and social learning explanations for gender development, atypical sex chromosome patterns and gender dysphoria
- Schizophrenia – clinical symptoms, approaches used to explain and treat schizophrenia
- Aggression – explanations of aggression, institutional aggression and media influences on aggression

Assessment Criteria

100% exam. No coursework.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in Maths, English and Science (Preference: Biology)

Teacher contact:

Miss K Sogi

Are you interested in:

- The relationship between mind and body?
- Individual differences and mental disorders?
- The scientific study of the human being?
- The role of memory in learning?

Leading to a career in:

- Personnel or Social Work
- Counselling, Health or Medicine
- Forensic Psychology or Police

This subject goes well with:

- Biology
- Sociology
- Health and Social Care
- Physical Education

We advise against taking Criminology, Psychology and Sociology together, as it narrows academic scope.

Exam Board:

AQA



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO



We learn about a variety of topics and how they apply to real life. The subject is unique – I always look forward to each lesson.”

— Amelie Maris



Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

This course is designed to enable learners to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, a study of religion and its place in the wider world. Teaching reflects the Christian tradition and its influence of Western society. We look at both classical and contemporary developments in Christian thought and consider some of the most pressing debates in Christian Theology, Ethical Studies and Philosophy of Religion.

Course Content

Year 12

Paper 1: Study of Religion – Christianity

We consider questions about the nature of the Christian God, Jesus as a religious and social influencer, and how Christians demonstrate their faith.

Paper 2: Philosophy of Religion

We consider arguments for and against a belief in God, including the cosmological argument and the problem of evil. We then discuss the nature of religious experiences.

Paper 3: Religion and Ethics

We consider religious and non-religious approaches to ethics and apply them to contemporary issues, such as Euthanasia, animal experimentation and polyamory.

Year 13

Paper 1: Study of Religion – Christianity

We consider contemporary issues in Christianity, including responses to poverty and injustice as well as the changing role of Christianity in Britain today.

Paper 2: Philosophy of Religion

We consider if religious language can have meaning, whether miracles prove the existence of God, and psychological views of religion including Freud and Jung.

Paper 3: Religion and Ethics

We look at the meaning of ethical words such as 'good' and 'bad', examine in depth recent developments in ethical thought, and consider issues of immigration and the death penalty.

Assessment Criteria

100% examination at A-Level.
Three 2-hour exams.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in Religious Studies (if studied) and English

Teacher contact:

Miss E Carne &
Mrs A Popple

Are you interested in:

- The role of ethics and religion in contemporary issues?
- Why there are conflicting views on morality?
- Whether we have the right to end human life?

Leading to a career in:

- Education
- Law
- Politics and Government

This subject goes well with:

- Politics
- English Literature
- Psychology

Exam Board:

Eduqas
A-Level: 601/8700/1



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

What appeals to me the most about RPE is the depth of study. We critically examine religious concepts in different contexts, providing new perspectives on faith in the modern world."

— Eve O'Neill

Science (Applied)

This course provides students with a broad understanding of vocationally-related sciences. It is suitable alongside other A-Level sciences or Level 3 vocational qualifications.

Students develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific principles, as well as practical skills recognized by higher education institutions and employers. Students acquire transferable skills, such as problem solving, research and communication. The qualification is equal to one GCE A-Level. It provides a sound basis for progression to a range of science-based Higher Education courses. The qualification also maintains and supports recognized standards demanded for science education and training to meet the requirements of many employers in the science sector.

Course Content

Teachers from each specialism teach the course to Year 12 and Year 13, with nine lessons per fortnight.

Units covered:

1. Key Concepts in Science
2. Experimental Techniques
3. Science in the Modern World
4. Human Body
5. Investigating Science
6. Microbiology

Assessment Criteria

All subjects are mandatory and are completed over two years.

Year 12

Units 1, 2 and 3. Assessment consists of an exam covering basic scientific principles, six full experimental reports and an exam using a pre-released case study as stimulus.

Year 13

Units 4, 5 and 6. Assessment consists of an exam on the Human Body and practical assignments and reports on Investigations in Science.

Please note this course is one year only in the first instance. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second-year qualification.

Level 3
Certificate
and Extended
Certificate

Subject requirements:

GCSE 5/5 in Combined
Science + 5 for English
+ 5 for Maths

Teacher contact:

Mrs D Chadwick

Are you interested in:

- Doing experiments?
- How science is used in the real world?
- Laboratory work?

Leading to a career in:

- Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare
- Medical and Laboratory technician
- Sports Science

This subject goes well with:

- Health and Social Care
- Physical Education
- Environmental Science

Exam Board:

AQA Science (Applied)



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

The subject is really interesting. The application of the subject to real life is great and the coursework aspect means there is less pressure at exam time."

— Joe Kirby



Sociology

Sociology focuses on the relationship between individuals and the society in which they live. It encourages an investigation and understanding of cultural and identity issues found within modern society. In addition, it includes a study of research findings and evaluation of sociological research methods.

Course Content

Year 12

Families and Households: Focuses on family structure, government policy, the nature of childhood, demographic changes and their impact on the family.

Education: Areas include the role and purpose of education, reasons for differential achievement, the significance of educational policy changes and an understanding of research methods.

Year 13

Beliefs in Society: Includes the relationship between religious belief, social change and stability, links between different social groups and spiritual organisations and the extent of secularisation.

Crime and Deviance: Areas include social groups and crime rates, theories of crime, crime control and punishment, theory and methods.

Assessment Criteria

100% exam. No coursework

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 5 in English or Humanities subject

Teacher contact:

Miss K Sogi

Are you interested in:

- Current affairs?
- Diversity and difference?
- Understanding society?

Leading to a career in:

- Social Work
- Police
- Criminology
- Journalism
- Teaching

This subject goes well with:

- Politics
- Criminology
- Psychology

We advise against taking Criminology, Psychology and Sociology together, as it narrows academic scope.

Exam Board:

AQA
A-Level: 7192



SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO

It's great having topics that are so different but can be linked together synoptically in many ways. Discussions in sociology are always so interesting."

— Isabel Clare



Spanish

This course develops your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as your general knowledge of the countries where Spanish is spoken. You will develop these skills through researching and discussing topics in written and spoken language.

Course Content

Two teachers teach the course to Year 12 and Year 13, with nine lessons per fortnight. You will also have an hour of speaking a fortnight with our Spanish Foreign Language Assistant.

You will have an hour of speaking a fortnight with our Spanish Foreign Language Assistant.

Year 12

We cover the following topics:

- Family
- Tourism
- Work
- Music
- Media
- Festivals

You will also study a Spanish film ('Volver' dir. Pedro Almodóvar).

The oral exam consists of a response to a stimulus card on two of the topics you have studied.

Year 13

We cover the following topics:

- Immigration
- Franco and the Civil War; the transition from dictatorship to democracy

You will also study a Spanish play ('La Casa de Bernarda Alba' by Federico García Lorca).

The oral exam consists of an independent research project on a topic of your choice and a response to a stimulus card on two of the topics you have studied.

Assessment Criteria

The A-Level is assessed through 30% Speaking, 40% Reading and Listening, 30% Writing and Translation.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 6 in Spanish

Teacher contact:

Ms S Hargett

Are you interested in:

- Living or working abroad?
- Social and cultural issues?
- Studying the literature and films of foreign cultures?

Leading to a career in:

- International Business and Finance
- Travel and Tourism
- Working for NGOs
- Law including international law
- International relations and diplomacy

This subject goes well with:

- History
- Economics
- English Literature

Exam Board:

Edexcel
Spanish (9SP0)



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FOR MORE
INFO

One of my favourite parts of Spanish A-Level is the range of topics that you study. You grapple with some really complex ideas, and the ability to understand them in another language is such an achievement. It's an entertaining subject to study - I couldn't recommend it enough!"

— Sam Kerrison



Sport

This course uses a combination of assessment styles to help students apply their knowledge to succeed in the workplace, and develop study skills to continue onto Higher Education. Students study each unit in depth to acquire a range of practical and transferable skills. The range of assessments – both practical and written – help students showcase their learning and achievements to best effect.

Course Content

Extended Certificate Units

1. Anatomy and Physiology (external exam)
2. Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-Being (external exam)
3. Professional Development in the Sports Industry (internal assignments)
4. Sport Psychology (internal assignments)

Diploma Units: Above units, plus:

5. Sports Leadership (internal assignments)
6. Rules, Regulations and Officiating in Sport
7. Sports Injury Management
8. Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry (external exam)
9. Skill Acquisition in Sport (internal assignments)

Assessment Criteria

Units are assessed on a scale of Distinction, Merit, Pass and Unclassified. Qualifications are graded on a scale of P-D* (Extended Certificate) or PP to D*D* (Diploma).

Unit 1: Anatomy and Physiology

Students sit a 1 hour 30 minute exam

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

Part A: Students are given a scenario, with 6–8 hours to prepare for the final assessment.

Part B: (Final assessment): Students are given more information and use this and their research to produce their final plan. In all other units, students are assessed by assignments, including research, projects, investigations, fieldwork, and experiments, and linking theory with practical exercises.

Please note this course is one year only in the first instance. Only upon successful completion of the first year, will students be invited to complete the second-year qualification.

National Diploma (Level 3):
Extended Certificate
Diploma (Single and Double)

Subject requirements:

- + GCSE 4 in English
- + GCSE 4 in PE (if studied)

Teacher contact:

Mr S Macfie

Are you interested in:

- Sport in all its facets?
- The role of sport in the community?
- The leisure and fitness industry?

Leading to a career in:

- Sports Performance and Development
- Sports Officiating
- Sports Journalism

This subject goes well with:

- Business
- Health and Social Care
- IT

Exam Board:

- Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport (Level 3) (QcF) 601/7218/6
- Pearson BTEC National Diploma in Sport (Level 3) (QcF) 603/0460/1



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FOR MORE
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The course allowed me to work independently, suiting my learning style. The teachers were always there to support me with resources and good teaching."

— Jo Barylski



Three-Dimensional Design & Architecture

This Art and Design course focuses on architecture and spatial design. It develops your capacity to design like an Architect and appreciate the complex relationship between the built environment and our modern world. You will explore the full process of design, investigating past, present and future developments in architecture, and developing knowledge and understanding of materials and processes. You will gain skills in concept development, 3D experimentation, creating physical models and producing industry-standard working drawings and computer-generated visualisations.

Course Content

Year 12

The course begins with a series of short, skills-based projects designed to build confidence and introduce key architectural techniques. These practical tasks support the development of creative understanding across both 2D and 3D elements, providing a strong foundation before starting the Component 1 portfolio.

Year 13

In Year 13, the focus remains on Component 1, with work centred around the final stages of development and the production of the architectural model. In early February, Component 2 is launched by the exam board, introducing a set theme to respond to.

Assessment Criteria

Component 1: Personal Investigation – Internally set (60% of the qualification). This incorporates three major elements:

- Supporting studies and practical work: This comprises a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points.
- Personal study: This is evidenced through acritical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose.

Component 2: Externally set assignment - Externally set, (40% of the qualification). This incorporates two major elements:

- Preparatory studies: This will comprise a portfolio of practical based on the Externally Set Assignment.
- 15-hour practical exam: Under examination conditions, students will produce a final physical outcome extending from their preparatory studies in response to the theme.

A-Level

Subject requirements:

+ GCSE 6 in an Art & Design or Technology subject plus 4 in English + ONE of EACH of the following from GCSE or personal portfolios: observational drawing; work showing good use of media; research piece on artist or designer; final piece of artwork or design; your favourite, most successful piece of work

Teacher contact:

Mr D Bennett

Are you interested in:

- Architectural studies?
- Physical modelling?
- Digital design?
- Drawing techniques?
- Sustainable design?

Leading to a career in:

- Architecture
- Urban Design
- Landscape Design
- Interior Design
- Product Design
- Set Design
- Graphic Design

This subject goes well with:

- Mathematics
- Geography
- Photography

Exam Board:

Edexcel 9TD0 (Art & Design: Three-dimensional Design)



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO

“Creative freedom allows for further exploration of drawing skills along with CAD development, allowing you to explore different design ideas and concepts in creating a range of architectural structures.”

— Isabella Foote



Travel & Tourism

Britain will have a tourism industry worth over £257 billion by 2025 – just under 10% of UK GDP and supporting almost 3.8 million jobs, which is around 11% of the total UK number. (visitbritain.org).

Course Content

Year 12 Unit One. The World of Travel & Tourism

This unit covers the key components of the Travel and Tourism industry, using data to analyse key trends and their impact on one of the fastest growing industries in the UK.

Assessment : Written exam 1.5 hours (75 marks)

The exam will be sat January of year 12.

Year 12 Unit Three. Principles of Marketing in Travel & Tourism

Students will develop a marketing plan for a new product or service for use by a travel and tourism organisation to attract and engage customers.

Two travel and tourism organisations must be chosen, a transport and another type of provider for example, tour operator, attraction, hotel.

Assessment : Internally assessed and externally verified assignment.

(Year 12 50% is externally assessed)

Year 13 Unit Two. Global Destinations

Students will start this module at the end of year 12 and may have summer work to ensure they can complete the January assessment.

Students will investigate and analyse the features and appeal of global destinations taking into account travel planning, trends and factors that affect the popularity of global destinations.

Assessment 3.0 hours (60 marks)

Students are given pre-released information two weeks prior to assessment to carry out research. This will be sat in January of year 13.

Students are then given a three hour session to complete a set task that will assess their ability to explain features of destinations and recommend suitability for customer needs. In addition students will also assess travel plans and justify how customer needs are met evaluating the appeal of destinations.

Year 13 Unit 9. Visitor Attractions

Students analyse and investigate the nature and role of built and natural attractions, their commercial success and appeal, responses to visitor needs and importance of delivering a memorable visitor experience.

Assessment: Internally assessed and externally verified assignment.

This will be completed by April of year 13, therefore ensuring the whole course is complete and verified prior to other A level examinations.

BTEC Level 3

Extended Certificate

Subject requirements:

4 in Humanities and English

Teacher contacts:

Miss C Miller and
Ms K Jenkins

Are you interested in:

- Working in an expanding industry?
- Sustainable tourism development
- Exploring other cultures?

Leading to a career in:

- Travel Industry
- Tour Operations
- Event Management

This subject goes well with:

- Business
- Geography

Exam Board:

Pearson.
Course Code 601/9023/1



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INFO



As a result of studying Business and Tourism, I am now training to be a pilot and loving life in Oxford!"

— Ben (alumni)

Travelling to SWCHS

By Car



Postcode: CB11 4UH

Parking is limited and is on a permit-only basis for those with access needs or travelling over 3 miles.

There is no onsite drop off from September 2025 onwards and those without permits will be refused access.

Cycling/Walking



There is a cycle lane path from Audley End Station via Wenden Road at an approximate distance of 1.6 miles to SWCHS. Saffron Walden town centre is within walking distance from SWCHS at approximately 0.6 miles in distance to the High Street.

By Train



Audley End Station is the nearest train station to SWCHS. Train services run to Audley End from London, Harlow, Bishops Stortford, Stansted Airport and Cambridge.



By Bus



Stephensons buses directly to SWCHS:

414 417/419 438 441 444 446

stephensonsofsex.com

Other bus routes to Saffron Walden:

313 314

stephensonsofsex.com

Stagecoach Citi7

stagecoachbus.com

Central Connect

central-connect.co.uk

Don's Of Dunmow

donscoaches.co.uk

Acme Bus co Ltd

acme-bus.com

For journey planners, visit:

www.traveline.info

Please note that this is a condensed list of buses to Saffron Walden and there are further routes listed on the traveline website.

All routes accurate at time of going to press.

For further timetable information and travel costs, please contact each bus company directly.

PHOTO CREDITS

Joe Higham's Reportage jhreportage.co.uk

Roger King saffronphoto.co.uk

Carmel Jane Photo carmeljane.co.uk



“

It is a hard balance between supporting a Sixth Form student and encouraging independence. We believe that SWCHS have exactly the right balance and approach to this.”

— Parent



@swchs_sixth_form



Saffron Walden County High School Sixth Form

Saffron Academy Trust
Audley End Road
Saffron Walden
Essex CB11 4UH