



**Hermitage
Sixth Form**

2026

PROSPECTUS

A close-up photograph of two students working together at a desk. The student on the left has long, wavy brown hair and wears glasses and a dark top. The student on the right wears a tan hijab, a light-colored patterned sweater, and blue gloves. They are both looking down at a surface, possibly a book or a project. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting with a window.

There is a shared

desire to succeed
and staff are devoted
to this common goal.



Welcome



to Hermitage Sixth Form - a close-knit learning community with academic excellence and personal development at its heart.

Our sixth form has a simple vision - that every student experiences excellence every day. Hermitage Sixth Form offers a bespoke learning experience. We work hard to achieve this with high quality teaching and learning, a rich curriculum, exceptional personal support and a wide range of exciting and challenging extra-curricular activities.

Our staff know each student individually and are deeply committed to ensuring that they are challenged, supported and prepared for their next steps in the world.

Many of our students describe our sixth form as an extended family - it's a place where students work hard, have fun and forge lifelong friendships. There is a shared desire to succeed and all staff are devoted to this common goal. Our aim is to ensure that our students leave us as

accomplished, well-rounded individuals, ready to move on to university, college or the world of work with a winning edge.

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities which allows students to follow their passions and aim for higher education with many students going on to attend some of the country's most prestigious universities.

Choosing your post-16 education is an important decision and I am delighted that you are considering Hermitage Sixth Form where we are incredibly proud of our students and their achievements.

Yvonne Weston
Executive Headteacher

Your chance to excel **AT HERMITAGE**

Sixth Form is one of the most exciting stages of your education as you start to make plans for your future and look forward to your next steps in life.

At Hermitage Sixth Form we will provide you with the experience you need to excel. For us, sixth form is about looking ahead and we are here to help guide you as you make some very important decisions about your future.

We have a strong and supportive sixth form community where everybody is valued as an individual, meaning you can expect the highest level of care in every aspect of school life.

Our curriculum is designed to challenge and stretch you through stimulating and exciting lessons that are personalised to your needs and your ambitions for the future.

Dedicated subject specialists enthuse sixth formers by sharing their love of their subjects. At the beginning of your sixth form journey you will be taught study skills that will help build confidence and independence.

Sixth form life actively encourages team spirit and leadership skills, adaptability, responsibility for yourselves and others, and pride in your endeavours, through a range of exciting academic and extra-curricular opportunities.

Sixth formers are encouraged to focus on their own independent learning, whilst enjoying the support of our inclusive and caring community and have a key role to play as leaders and shapers of the school.







Our vision & **VALUES**

Our vision is simple and shared by all schools in the North East Learning Trust – that every student experiences excellence every day.

This fundamental goal stands as the cornerstone of every decision we make and is an aspiration that staff at Hermitage Sixth Form, with support from the North East Learning Trust, are dedicated to delivering.

Our vision is supported by a set of values that set the tone for learning. These start with the important job of encouraging sixth formers to aim high and make the most of their talents.

We aim to provide a sixth form education that empowers every student to achieve their full potential, growing in confidence within a safe and supportive environment. We also have a fantastic careers team who are here to help guide

and support students with their next steps as they explore pathways beyond Hermitage.

We aim to create a healthy, happy, disciplined and supportive environment that promotes an independent work ethic and a love of learning. Alongside this, we endeavour to nurture students' sense of social responsibility and their spiritual and personal development.

Our final value is about respect and teaching our sixth formers to value individuality and difference as well as fostering integrity, resilience, creativity, good manners and sensitivity to the needs of others.

Life outside THE CLASSROOM

Hermitage Sixth Form is so much more than a place to study and offers students a wide range of exciting opportunities beyond their usual lessons.

Enrichment

We know that employers and universities look for much more than just academic qualifications, so we offer a fantastic enrichment programme including:

- First aid qualifications
- Sign language courses
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Cooking on a budget
- Sports
- Career workshops
- A range of societies

Charity work

Hermitage Sixth Form has always had a place in the heart of the community and is strongly committed to

supporting charities. Students are encouraged to organise and take part in a range of events including the 'Great Hermitage Bake Off' cake sale where sixth form students recently raised money for the local charity 'If U Care Share'. Sixth formers also organised 'Purple Day' to raise money for a charity close to their hearts - Cash for Kids.

Educational visits & trips

We enjoy a wide range of educational trips including short excursions to London and Leeds as well as many field trips. We also do our fair share of globe-trotting with international adventures to New York, Berlin and China.

Work experience

Year 12 students attend a work experience placement which is a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable experience in a career that interests them. During the placement, students develop skills needed for their chosen university course, apprenticeship or employment.

Our students can access work experience placements in the fields of medicine, law, accountancy, business and primary education.

We also provide our sixth form students with part time employment opportunities with the North East Learning Trust.





Student leadership PROGRAMME

To maximise students' potential and nurture their ambitions, we offer exciting leadership opportunities through our student leadership programme. In sixth form, a team of students are elected to develop leadership skills through representing the student body. Students are elected in Year 12 and form an important part of the whole school council and student voice in the sixth form community.

A particular achievement of the leadership programme has been the enthusiastic work students have done for charity including organising bake sales, visiting a local hospice and a fundraiser for the Epilepsy Society. They have also played a pivotal role in supporting younger students with their reading skills through their buddy reading programme.



“The individual roles we take on as part of the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team help us develop ourselves whilst making a meaningful impact on every aspect of sixth form life.”

Admissions AND BURSARIES

We welcome applications from dedicated and enthusiastic students looking to join our ambitious sixth form. The minimum entry requirements for sixth form are:

- Five Grade 9 to 5 grades or equivalent, including a 5 or better in both English language and maths.
- A GCSE Grade 6 or above if you wish to study that subject at A level.
- A GCSE Grade 5/Merit if you wish to study that subject as a BTEC Level 3 course.
- Some subjects may have their own subject entry requirements.
- A proven good attendance and behaviour record.

Where courses are new for post-16 study entry requirements will be included on the application form.

How to apply

Please complete the application form, which is available to download from the sixth form section of our school website.

Bursary information

At Hermitage Sixth Form we have a post-16 bursary scheme, which provides financial support for eligible students.

A guaranteed bursary is available to:

- young people in care and care leavers
- young people in receipt of income support
- disabled young people in receipt of both employment support allowance and disability living allowance.

A discretionary bursary is available to students who are eligible for free school meals or who may be experiencing hardship.

Please speak to a member of staff to check your eligibility.



Teaching & LEARNING

At Hermitage Sixth Form our dedicated team works hard to enable every student to enjoy their studies and reach their potential.

Small class sizes together with high quality teaching and learning ensure that there is a personal touch, which enables us to bring out the best in our students. Dedicated subject specialists enthuse our students by sharing their love of their subjects.

At the beginning of your sixth form journey you will be taught study skills that will help build confidence and independence. Sixth Form study areas mean that you can study in a purposeful environment with support staff ready to help if you require extra guidance or help

with an essay or note taking.

Our dedicated team will help to ensure that you leave our sixth form with a set of skills that will set you up for life including resilience, the ability to respond to challenges and a determination to succeed.

At Hermitage Sixth Form we will:



Set high standards
and expectations



Strive to help
you reach your
full potential



Adapt and
evolve teaching
strategies to suit
your needs



Give specific
advice and
guidance to you as
an individual



Listen to
you



“STUDENTS IN THE SIXTH FORM BENEFIT
FROM AN *ambitious curriculum.*”

OFSTED 2024

Your NEXT STEPS

At Hermitage Sixth Form we are ambitious for our students and support them to make well-informed next steps that match their talents, skills and passions in life.

We provide university and careers advice for all of our students. Our career fairs showcase the opportunities open to students from 16 onwards, with a range of employers and higher and further education providers in attendance, these are always excellent events.

Alongside this we provide interview practise and skills workshops for students who wish to apply for apprenticeships or employment.

We provide support for our medical, dentistry and veterinary school applicants, as well as mentoring for all university applicants.

Students at Hermitage Sixth Form can access the wider expertise that is available across the North East Learning Trust, with coaching offered to students to support their interviews and to help them secure places at their chosen institutions.

Facilities

Students at Hermitage Sixth Form benefit from their own sixth form building and personal space including an excellent range of facilities designed to enhance the high-quality teaching and learning on offer.

There are dedicated study areas available to give students the space they need to focus on their studies independently, as well as access to shared learning spaces and ICT facilities.



“

STUDENTS IN THE SIXTH FORM, RECEIVE CLEAR
CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE TO ENABLE THEM
TO MOVE ON TO *positive destinations.*”

OFSTED 2024

Supported by the North East Learning Trust

Hermitage Sixth Form is part of the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of schools across North East England.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the county, and indeed the country, with children making significant progress from their starting points, achieving impressive exam results, and going on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities.

NELT has grown to 13 schools with an impressive series of rapid school improvements under their belts.

Without exception, every school that has joined NELT as 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement' as judged by Ofsted, has improved by two whole grades to become 'good' or 'outstanding' – this success is a testament to the unwavering dedication of a talented regional network of staff.

NELT is deeply committed to teacher development. It operates North East SCITT, a dedicated training arm for new teachers, ensuring

the highest standards of teaching expertise are embedded from the start of new teachers' careers.

Additionally, as a National Teaching School Hub, NELT is one of 87 centres across England offering teachers high quality training and development throughout their careers.

NELT's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is also a National Research School, one of just 23 in England that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

NELT is led by outstanding educators, including CEO Dame Lesley Powell DBE, who actively contributes to regional and national educational development. It has also built up a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.

Our COURSES

At Hermitage Sixth Form we offer a wide range of courses for sixth form students. Courses run subject to the required number of students enrolling, staffing provisions and exam board approval.

- Applied science BTEC
- Art and design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Economics
- English language
- English literature
- Food science and nutrition
- Geography
- Health and social care
- History
- Information technology
- Languages
- Law
- Maths
- Further maths
- Media
- Music
- Performing arts
- Philosophy and ethics
- Photography
- Physics
- Politics
- Product design
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Sport BTEC

Find out more about option choices on our website:

www.hermitageacademy.co.uk/sixth-form

Applied Science – BTEC

Edexcel Level 3 Extended Certificate

The applied science sector is diverse and wide ranging. It covers topics from biomedical, forensic, physical and chemical sciences. Students experience transferable and higher order skills that are highly regarded by both higher education and employers. For example, when studying the practical scientific techniques unit, students develop laboratory skills which include carrying out an investigation and team working.

Course content

Year 1: Principles and applications of science.
Practical scientific procedures and techniques.

Year 2: Science investigation skills. Students will also choose one optional unit from the following:

- Physiology of human body systems.
- Biological molecules and metabolic pathways.
- Applications of inorganic chemistry.
- Electrical circuits and their application.

Assessment information

60% – Coursework

40% – Externally set exam – students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Why study applied science?

This course is equivalent to one A level. It is primarily designed to support progression to university or into apprenticeships programmes.

This course is for students wanting to continue their education through applied learning and who aim to progress to higher education.

The qualification is equivalent to an A level and is normally taken alongside other level 3 qualifications. It will be of particular value to students wishing to maintain an element of science in a broader study programme.

Students can progress to higher education, an apprenticeship or entry level employment in the science sector. Possible future career paths include: laboratory assistant, technician, midwifery or nursing.

“The BTEC science course is really good because the coursework and exam both go towards the final grade. I also enjoy the practical work.”

Art and design – A level

Awarding body: AQA

Art students from Hermitage Academy excel at A level art in many different disciplines as they move on to degree level, making rapid progress and impressing those institutions with their flexibility and resilience. This course allows students to fully engage in the philosophical and practical rigour of being an artist interested in making.

Course content

Year 12: Students will be immediately introduced to the creative process of researching, recording and experimenting with their independent ideas. This journey of exploring materials and responding to contextual sources will see students develop their independence as young creatives as well as their understanding of a range of techniques and processes, informing a portfolio of work including personal and meaningful outcomes. As the year progresses, students will conduct a personal investigation; a project requiring students to investigate a chosen line of enquiry and respond creatively. This provides students the opportunity to produce an ambitious and robust body of work, demonstrating their ability to think creatively and respond appropriately using a variety of media.

Year 13: Having chosen and begun to develop an exciting investigation, students pursue a number of avenues of inquiry at pace, experimenting with numerous ideas, concepts, techniques and processes. Alongside an impressive body of practical work, students also engage in analytical processes, culminating in a 3000 word extended written component.

Assessment information

60% – Coursework 40% – Externally set exam
External set assignment: Students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Why study art and design?

Art and design offers an incredible breadth of thinking and functional skills that are transferable across a vast spectrum of study. Many students have proceeded to study 2D and 3D animation, fashion and textile design, film and media studies, game design, illustration, product design, photography, set design and graphic design at degree level.

“Art and design has gives me the freedom to find my own unique style, using different mediums and techniques. I’ve also really enjoyed researching artists’ work to help me explore different styles.”

Biology – A level

Awarding body: AQA

Biology literally means the study of life and if that's not important, what is? A fascination with animals, plants and humans, the environment, conservation, genetics, medicine and complex living systems are just some of the reasons why A level biology would be the perfect subject for you.

Course content

Year 12

- **Biological molecules** – the basic biochemistry of living organisms.
- **Cells** – the ultrastructure of cells as seen by electron microscopy and practical light microscopy.
- **Organisms** – transport mechanisms. The exchange of substances with their environment, gas exchange, circulation and digestion
- **Genetics** – DNA and protein synthesis and the variation and relationships between organisms. The study of DNA and RNA, mitosis and meiosis, mutations and the impact on biochemical and physiological function.

Year 13

- **Energy** – energy transfers in and between organisms; photosynthesis, respiration and ecosystems.
- **How organisms respond to changes** – responses to internal and external environmental changes; homeostasis, the nervous and hormonal systems.
- **Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems** – the inheritance of characteristics
- Evolution and speciation and their effects on populations.
- **The control of gene expression** – DNA

technologies and their potential uses; epigenetics, totipotency, genetic engineering, gene sequencing and expression.

Practicals are essential in science and there are a series of required practicals to complete. There will also be a residential field trip in Year 13 where you will apply your knowledge to a real habitat.

Assessment information

Three written examinations at the end of Year 13. At least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of practical skills. 10% of the papers will assess mathematical skills. Practical endorsement – students will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

Paper 1 – 35% of qualification
Paper 2 – 35% of qualification
Paper 3 – 30% of qualification

Why study biology?

A level biology gives you access to a wide range of university courses such as those in the fields of medicine, biomedical sciences, dentistry, orthotics, and veterinary medicine, scientific research for example. A level biology is also highly recommended for many courses, including environmental science, occupational therapy, pharmacy, sports science, speech therapy, forestry, teaching and nursing.

“Biology helped me develop research, problem solving, and analytical skills.”

Business – A level

Awarding body: Edexcel

Business is the perfect fit for students who are interested in and inspired by the world around them.

In lessons, we discuss topics which are in the news and analyse decisions using knowledge gained in class. Business changes and adapts and students will be asked to analyse decisions made by businesses. How could that business closure have been avoided? How could a business have prepared for an unplanned event? Why have they been successful?

Course content

Year 12: Theme 1 – marketing and people. Students are introduced to business concepts, such as the market; the marketing mix; managing people and leaders.

Theme 2 – managing business activities. Students will look at how businesses can raise finance, managing finance, analyse financial documents and external influences.

Year 13: Theme 3 – business decisions and strategy. Students will learn about business growth, decision-making techniques, business objectives and strategies, and influences on business strategies.

Theme 4 – global business. Students learn about globalisation, global marketing, global markets, business expansion and multinational corporations.

Assessment information

Three written examinations at the end of Year 13. All exam papers include data response questions and extended open-response questions. Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of business linked to real-life case studies. They are graded on their analytical and evaluative skills.

Paper 1 – 35% of qualification
Paper 2 – 35% of qualification
Paper 3 – 30% of qualification

Why study business?

Business is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in any business. Some careers include marketing, human resources, accountancy, retail and sales, travel and tourism, financial advisors, management, business consultancy, advertising and hospitality.

“Business is my passion, it’s helped to prepare me for the world of work.”

Chemistry – A level

Awarding body: AQA

A level chemistry attempts to answer the big question ‘what is the world made of?’ and it’s the search for this answer that makes this subject so fascinating.

From investigating how one substance can be changed drastically into another to researching a new wonder drug to save millions of lives, the opportunities that chemistry provides are endless. Chemistry is sometimes known as the “central science” because it helps to connect physical sciences, like maths and physics, with applied sciences such as biology, medicine and engineering.

Course content

Year 12: Bonding – how chemicals react together and stay together.

Kinetics and energetics – why chemicals react together and predict whether they will.

Amount of substance – how much of a chemical will react and how much will we produce.

Organic chemistry – an introduction to the chemistry of carbon.

Year 13: Acids and pH – calculating the pH of solutions.

Electrochemistry – how to make electricity from chemical reactions.

Thermodynamics – feasibility of a chemical reaction.

Organic – exploring different organic ‘families’ of compounds and their reactions and uses.

Practicals are essential in science and there will be a

series of required practicals to complete throughout the course.

Assessment information

Three written examinations at the end of Year 13. At least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of practical skills and 20% of the papers will assess mathematical skills.

Paper 1 – 35% of qualification

Paper 2 – 35% of qualification

Paper 3 – 30% of qualification

Practical endorsement – students will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

Why study chemistry?

Chemistry is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in medicine, dentistry, nursing and the health professions, scientific research, veterinary sciences, pharmacy, engineering, pharmaceuticals and teaching.

“Chemistry is an exciting and interesting subject... you constantly learn something new. I love learning about how chemistry is used in the world and I’m excited to develop my skills further at university.”

Economics – A level

Awarding body: Edexcel

Economics is about choice and the impact of our choices on each other. It relates to every aspect of our life, from the decisions we make as individuals or families to the structures created by governments and firms. An economic way of thinking can help you make better choices.

You will find this course interesting if you enjoy debating economic issues such as inequality, globalisation and the global financial crisis.

You will explore and present alternative courses of action whilst keeping up to date with national and international trends and learning about the economic environment and business through research and investigation.

Course content

In themes one and theme two you will be introduced to the nature of economics, how markets work and why they fail, consumer choices and enterprise in the economy. You will also consider the role of banks and life in a global economy.

In themes three and four you will explore the impact of globalisation on consumers, firms and the labour market.

You will also investigate the role of the government and have an opportunity to consider the role and impact of the financial sector.

Assessment information

100% exam.

Why study business?

Studying economics will help you develop transferable skills that will prepare you for studying at university or moving into the world of work. These include skills in data interpretation and essay writing. You will also develop commercial awareness.

Economics students can follow a wide range of careers in industry, commerce, finance and the civil service. You might choose a career in banking, sales, product management or general management.

Suitable higher education courses include economics degrees or degrees in applied economics such as environmental economics, labour economics, public sector economics or monetary economics. You might choose to study business economics, international business or a business and management degree.

“Economics will be very beneficial for the future as it covers a huge scope of jobs and areas of study. It will support me no matter what I choose to do.”

English language - *A level*

Awarding body: AQA

We're going to learn to cut and paste kids!
We're going to learn to cut and paste, kids!

Commas matter, punctuation saves lives.
English language allows students to engage with language in the world around them. Do you embrace language change or wince at your friends' terrible grammar and outrageous punctuation on Facebook? This course is perfect for you!

English language allows you to explore your personal point of view. You'll be encouraged to develop your study of written, spoken and multi-modal texts. You'll hone your critical analysis skills and evaluate data from a plethora of places. You'll also have the opportunity to sharpen up your creative writing and research skills.

The course is fast paced. Be prepared to create presentations, work in a team and deliver your own lessons. You will enrich your taught input with autonomous investigations of linguistics.

Course content

Paper 1: Language and the individual
This unit is an introduction to the study of language, focusing on text variations and representations. Methods of language analysis are integrated into class activities.

Paper 2: Language varieties
The aim of this unit is to develop your writing skills and gain a knowledge and understanding of our diverse language. Looking in particular at children's language development and language diversity and change.

Assessment information

A level assessment includes two summative examinations and the compilation of a coursework folder. This folder is made up of language investigation and a piece of original writing.

Paper 1 – 40% of qualification
Paper 2 – 40% of qualification
NEA– 20% of qualification

Why study English language?

English language is a keystone A level. Studying English gives you the 'key' to an awe-inspiring wealth of future careers, from law to leisure industries, advertising to accountancy, tourism to teacher training, journalism to public services to the media. Or, you might end up becoming a writer!

“English language keeps me grounded because everything is subjective - where other subjects teach a concrete curriculum, English excels in teaching me important life skills such as analysis and creativity that allow me to gain important insight into the world around me.”

English literature - A level

Awarding body: AQA

In a consumer-obsessed world, English literature has never been more relevant. Why do we binge-watch Netflix? What compels us to watch the same films over and over, despite us knowing how they end and when exactly is the right time to turn away? What keeps people tuning into Coronation Street 60 years after it first aired on television? As human beings, we are naturally curious and therefore obsessed with stories. Studying English literature, it is easy to find out why...

Throughout your studies, you will encounter a wide variety of tales that will keep you thinking for years to come. You will learn how to critically analyse a piece of work and develop mature and convincing debating techniques that will stay with you for a lifetime. Your communication will also be vastly improved, giving you useful skills to use in all walks of life.

If you are someone who enjoys getting your teeth stuck into great stories; engaging in exciting and dynamic discussions; and sharing your opinion with others or even being quietly introspectively reflective, this is the course for you.

Course content

Paper 1: Love through the ages

The aim of this unit is to encourage students to explore aspects of the central literary theme, love, as seen over time. For this component, students will study *Othello* by William Shakespeare, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and AQA's fantastic *Anthology of love poetry through the ages*.

Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts

The aim of this unit is to encourage students to explore aspects of literature connected through

a period of time: WW1 and its aftermath. This explores literature arising out of WW1, but extends this period to allow reflection on the full impact of the war that reverberates up to the present day. It considers the impact on combatants, non-combatants and subsequent generations as well as its social, political, personal and literary legacies. For this component, students will study *Journey's End* by R. C. Sherriff, *Life Class* by Pat Barker and *The War Poetry* of Wilfred Owen.

Assessment information

Two examinations plus the completion of a non-examined assessment.

Paper 1 – 40% of qualification

Paper 2 – 40% of qualification

NEA – 20% of qualification

Why study English literature?

English literature is a versatile and well-established qualification which can lead to a variety of careers and degree courses. It is regarded as a facilitating subject for those wishing to apply for top universities. It is suitable for anyone who is considering a career working with the public, such as journalism, law, teaching, banking and social work.

“Studying English literature has given me essential skills in establishing my own opinions regarding the world around me.”

Food science & nutrition - Diploma

Awarding body: WJEC

This course has been designed to provide learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to further study and training. It offers exciting and interesting experiences that focus learning through application, i.e. through the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in purposeful contexts linked to the food production industry.

Course content

Year 12: Meeting the nutritional needs of specific groups. Unit 1 will enable the learner to demonstrate an understanding of the science of food safety, nutrition and nutritional needs in a wide range of contexts, and through on-going practical sessions, to gain practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals.

Year 13: Ensuring food is safe to eat. Unit 2 allows learners to develop their understanding of the science of food safety and hygiene; essential knowledge for anyone involved in food production in the home or wishing to work in the food industry.

Experimenting to solve food production. Unit 3 will provide you with an understanding of the scientific properties of food and how these properties contribute to the changes that occur in food.

or

Current issues in food science and nutrition. Through unit 4, you will develop the skills needed to plan, carry out and present a research project on current issues linked to food science and nutrition. This could be from the perspective of a consumer, food manufacturer, caterer and/or policymaker.

Assessment information

This course is assessed through a combination of a written exam and external assignment set and marked by WJEC plus two centre marked assignments.

Why study food science & nutrition?

This course allow students to gain a wealth of knowledge about the food and nutrition industry. Students will learn about the relationship between the human body and food as well as practical skills for cooking and preparing food.

An understanding of food science and nutrition is relevant to many industries and job roles. Care providers and nutritionists in hospitals use this knowledge, as do sports coaches and fitness instructors. Hotels and restaurants, food manufacturers and government agencies also use this understanding to develop menus, food products and policies that support healthy eating initiatives. Many employment opportunities within the field of food science and nutrition are available to graduates.

“I loved making a three course meal for specific dietary needs and my understanding of nutrition at different life stages is much better.”

Geography - A level

Awarding body: AQA

Geography is an academically robust subject which spans the social and physical sciences and promotes a lifelong interest and fascination in how the world works. The knowledge and transferable skills that geographers gain from their A level studies are highly relevant to the workplace. You will find geographers working in every sector of the economy, leading highly relevant research or as key decision-makers in local and national government.

Course content

Year 12: Water and carbon cycle systems – two of the earth's major systems and how they interact to influence each other and the rest of the earth system. Coastal systems – the development of distinctive coastlines due to local and global variations and how these can be managed in the future. Changing places – people's engagement with places, their experience of them and the qualities they ascribe to them, all of which are of fundamental importance in their lives. Population and the environment – the relationships between key aspects of physical geography and population numbers, population health and well-being, levels of economic development and the role and impact of the natural environment.

Year 13: Hazards – the management of tectonic (earthquakes and volcanoes) and weather hazards (tropical storms and wild fires) in different locations around the world. Global systems and governance – the economic, political and social changes associated with technological and other driving forces which have been a key feature of global economy and society in recent decades.

Personal investigation – choose an aspect of the syllabus that you wish to investigate further through the setting of hypothesis and collection of data to develop your own conclusions.

Assessment information

Paper 1 – 40% of qualification

Paper 2 – 40% of qualification

NEA – 20% of qualification

Why study geography?

Geography is an obvious choice for careers in sustainability and green issues, urban regeneration, energy supply, retail location, managing the effects of hazards and climate change. For careers in the world of business, an understanding of global economics forms an important part of geography. If you are thinking of a career in law, human rights, international relations or welfare, then geography gives you the opportunity to consider relevant issues such as; how do we measure development? What are the consequences of migration on societies?

“I chose geography due to its current and future relevance to the ever-changing world; it's a subject in which I feel will be safe and sustained for when I'm searching for job opportunities...”

Health and social care - *BTEC*

Awarding body: Pearson/Edexcel

This course investigates why and how people grow and develop, the biology of the human body, the different types of care available to meet all of an individual's needs as well as how health and social care practitioners can promote health and well-being.

Course content

Year 1: Human lifespan development - You will learn about the physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan, the interaction between biological and social factors in health and well-being and how health care professionals provide effective care.

Principles of Health and Social Care Practice - You will create a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate your knowledge of core values expected of NHS and social care professionals which underpin professional standards, skills and attributes and how these should be applied in practice to meet the needs of individuals in health and social care environments

Year 2: Human Biology and Health- You will explore the organisation, structure and normal physiological functioning of the human body, and the effect on health of common disorders of the body systems. Promoting Health Education - You will create a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate your knowledge of the purpose of health education, models and approaches to educating the public and encouraging behaviour change in the population.

Assessment information

Internally assessed units

Externally assessed units

Why study health and social care?

This course is equivalent to one A level. It will give you an introduction to the biggest employment sector in the UK. The course covers a range of traditional and contemporary issues that influence the way we develop and the care we receive to meet our needs. There are good opportunities for critical thinking, studying a course that develops your analytical and evaluative skills.

This course brings together knowledge and understanding with practical and technical skills, through vocational tasks that encourage the development of behaviours and transferable skills. These are valued in both higher education and the workplace in a wide range of health and social care sectors such as: nursing, childcare, social work, teaching, mental health, paramedic, counselling, health visiting. BTEC health and social care is designed to combine the technical and academic skills to allow you to become the highly skilled, work-ready individual that employers and universities in the health and social care sector look for.

“I love the fact that this subject is very varied. This course opens up many doors in all health and social care sectors.”

History - A level

Awarding body: OCR

History is an engaging and crucial subject. Without the knowledge of where we have been we can't understand where we are or where we are going. Students benefit from seminar style lessons that are excellent preparation for higher education.

We also have close links with the Institute of Education and the Holocaust Educational Trust. Each year, two history students have the opportunity to apply to become Holocaust Educational Ambassadors which includes seminars, a visit to Auschwitz and a project designed for the lower school.

Course content

Year 1: Unit 1: England 1485–1558: the Early Tudors – a substantial and coherent element of British history. Enquiry topic: Mid Tudor Crises 1547–1558 – a source-based study focusing on the reigns of Edward VI and Mary I.

Unit 2: A coherent period of non-British history – the study democracy and dictatorships in Germany 1919–1963.

Year 2: Unit 3: The Middle East 1908–2011: Ottomans to Arab Spring – a thematic study over a period of more than 100 years. Students will develop the ability to treat the whole period thematically and to use their detailed knowledge to evaluate interpretations of the specified key events, individuals or issues.

Unit 4: A 3000–4000 word internally assessed essay.

Assessment information

Unit 1: Written exam – 25% of the final mark

Unit 2: Written exam – 15% of the final mark

Unit 3: Written exam – 40% of the final mark

Unit 4: 3000–4000 word essay – 20% of the final mark

Why study history?

History is one of the Russell Group universities' facilitating subjects, meaning choosing A level geography allows a wide range of options for degree study. One of the most flexible of qualifications, history provides an excellent pathway to degrees such as history, law, English and philosophy, leading to a range of interesting careers. History is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in; teaching, journalism, civil service, law and criminal investigation.

“A level history helps students to question sources more and in turn improves critical thinking. A level history is a challenge, but the friendly and helpful nature of our dedicated history teachers, makes the subject easier and fun.”

Cambridge Advanced Nationals in Computing: Application Development

Awarding body: OCR

This dynamic Level 3 qualification is designed for students who want to develop real-world skills that are highly valued by universities and employers alike. This course brings together some of the most exciting and creative parts of Computer Science and ICT. It gives students an excellent base of knowledge and skills to work in a variety of digital industries, which is a growth sector in the North East of England. Students will gain an understanding of application design and development, game and website development, and user interface design.

Course content

Year 12

Fundamentals of application development – you will learn about the stages developers follow to produce working software, how they scope requirements, and the design features that make applications intuitive for users.

Game development – you will learn how types and genres of digital games and their characteristics affect design. You will then plan, design, create and test game prototypes using software such as Game Maker.

Website development – you will learn website principles and web page components, then plan, design, create and test website prototypes for a range of devices. This unit teaches you how to use a variety of languages, frameworks and libraries.

Year 13

Developing application software – in this unit you will learn about implementation methodology and key considerations when developing applications

for different platforms. You will also learn how data moves in and beyond applications, how to keep applications and their data secure, how developers deploy finished applications to users, and how they are installed and maintained.

Designing and communicating UX/UI solutions – you will learn the principles of UX and UI design and what makes an interface easy to use and visually appealing. You will use tools and techniques to plan UX/UI solutions, design high-fidelity prototypes, and communicate effectively with clients.

Assessment information

External Exams (40%)

Developing application software NEA (60%)

Why study application development?

Choose this course if you want to work on real-life digital projects – from interpreting client requirements to designing and presenting your own UX/UI solutions. You'll gain practical skills for the digital age by planning, designing and building intuitive software applications using industry-standard tools and techniques. Alongside this, you'll develop valuable transferable skills such as creativity, critical thinking, communication and time management, helping you stand out in any future career or university pathway. The course is fully aligned with the needs of today's ICT sector, preparing you for your next step and opening the door to exciting careers including systems analyst, games developer, app or web developer, cyber-security analyst, IT project manager, technology consultant and UX/UI designer.

Languages - A level

Awarding body: AQA

Studying a language gives you the chance to explore a diverse range of topics. From the musical styles to the finest foods; from the geographical features to the political structure; from the influence of social media to immigration-related unrest. In this subject your mind will be stretched – not just linguistically but by the way you perceive another culture, identity and heritage. Many of our post-16 language students go on to spend time in the country whose language they are learning, not just to develop language skills but to experience the vibrancy of the country and live a different experience to their own at home through the medium of a different language.

Course content

Year 12: French and Spanish A level is split into several topics. Grammar, vocabulary and the skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking run through all the themes. Aspects of French/Spanish speaking society – traditional and modern values, the family model, attitudes to marriage and divorce, the influence of religion. Cyberspace – the influence of the internet, mobile phones in society, social media. Equality – women and the world of work, the rights of gay and transgender people. Artistic culture – music, television, cinema, fashion. Heritage – understanding the civilisations which contributed to the current heritage of France/Spain; art and architecture.

Year 13: Diversity in society – multiculturalism; diversity, tolerance and respect; people who are marginalised in society and how they can be supported; criminality – attitudes to criminality; prison – does it work? Aspects of political life – the right to vote, engaging young people in politics.

Workers' rights – the role of unions, immigration and the world of work.

Assessment information

Three examinations at the end of year 13.

Paper 1 – written exam on listening, reading and translation.

Paper 2 – written exam about one literary work and one film studied in French/Spanish.

Paper 3 – speaking exam based on an A level topic and a presentation and discussion of a research project undertaken by the student.

Why study languages?

The ability to excel in a different language is of particular interest to those wanting to work in translation, travel, teaching, broadcasting, journalism or any career in which the quality of communication is extremely important. The course links well to English language, English literature, history, government and politics, law, art, music, sociology and media. Studying a language evidences your academic skills and commitment, your ability to acquire and develop a skill through regular practice and your fascination with different languages and cultures – it is an asset to an application for any degree level course.

“Studying a language at A level has given me not only the ability to speak the language but the confidence to use it. I’ve developed really useful memory and communication skills and it’s a brilliant way to learn about the culture.”

Law - A level

Awarding body: AQA

Law is the perfect fit for students who are fascinated by the world around them and would like to explore the laws which govern their everyday lives. Although academically demanding, students will benefit from and enjoy the application of law to a number of issues.

Course content

Year 12:

- English Legal System
- Criminal Law
- Tort Law
- Law and morals

Year 13:

- Contract Law
- Concept of Fault Law and Society Law and Justice Balancing conflicting interests

Assessment information

Three written examinations at the end of Year 13 – each paper is worth 33% of the final grade.

- Paper 1 – 33.3% of qualification
- Paper 2 – 33.3% of qualification
- Paper 3 – 33.3% of qualification

Why study law?

Law is an excellent qualification for a wide range of university courses, most notably law itself. All students who have studied law at A level and who continue law to degree level, report that they are at a distinct advantage having studied

law previously. Universities see the benefits of prospective students having studied law at A level. As well as being excellent preparation for higher education, law is useful for those considering a career in the civil service, banking, media, the police, local government, accountancy, business and of course the legal profession.

Additionally, law students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of course related experiences such as:

- Visit to Newcastle Crown Court
- Talk by a solicitor and barrister

“Law is such an intriguing subject to study. Throughout my two years studying the subject I have developed so much knowledge and learnt so many interesting things which I can apply to daily life. Each lesson had something different, and the teaching standard was excellent.”

Mathematics – A level

Awarding body: Edexcel

Mathematics continues to be the most popular subject choice at A level. As technology continues to advance, so too does maths, increasing its essential role in everyday and corporate life. New mathematical theories are being discovered and developed every day enabling inventions and scientific discoveries to flourish.

By choosing to study A level maths you will have the opportunity to forge a career at the forefront of technological advancement. Maths gives us the power to build anything from a website to a huge skyscraper. Studying maths gives you a varied skillset that will be essential for a variety of tasks including: problem-solving, analytical skills, research skills and logic; all of which are highly desirable for a variety of employers and for a myriad of higher education courses.

Course content

Year 12: Mathematics is split into three main areas; pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics.

Pure mathematics – Students develop advanced algebraic skills, including manipulation, solving equations, graphs, proof and binomial expansions. They also study coordinate geometry, calculus, vectors and logarithms.

Mechanics – Topics covered include mechanical modelling, Newton's laws of motion, friction and how particles move and interact.

Statistics – Students work on probability theory and are introduced to advanced statistical techniques.

Year 13: Students build upon and extend their learning from Year 12 in all areas of pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics.

Assessment information

Students are assessed by three examinations at the end of Year 13:

Pure mathematics – two 2 hour examinations (67%)

Applied mathematics – statistics and mechanics – one 2 hour examination (33%)

Why study mathematics?

Mathematics is one of the most highly respected and demanding A level courses and provides the foundation for the study of any scientific subject as well as a challenge in logical thinking and problem solving. The study of mathematics is essential for careers such as an actuary, data analyst, chartered accountant and many more.

“It’s fun to learn how equations can be used to calculate things in everyday life.”

Further mathematics – *A level*

Awarding body: Edexcel

Course content

Further mathematics is split into four main areas.

Further pure mathematics – topics covered include; complex numbers, numerical maths, differential equations, proof and hyperbolic functions.

Decision maths – algorithms, graph theory, linear programming and critical path analysis.

Further mechanics – further study of kinematics, mass, statics, elastics and dynamics.

Further statistics – further probability distributions, sampling and regression.

Assessment information

Students are assessed by four examinations at the end of Year 13. Due to the nature of the course, there is flexibility in the modules available and there is no fixed route through the course. Modules are generally negotiated with students as to which best suit their needs and interests.

Core pure mathematics – two 1 hour 30 minutes examinations which equal to 50% of the final grade. The two papers are compulsory.

Further mathematics options – two 1 hour 30 minutes examinations which is equal to 50% of the final grade.

Options available: further pure mathematics, decision mathematics, further mechanics and further statistics.

Why study further mathematics?

Further mathematics is a course designed to run in tandem with the A level mathematics course, for those with a passion for the subject and to challenge and advance the most gifted students. The subject is very highly regarded and excellent preparation for a science or maths related degrees at one of the country's top universities.

“I decided to take maths and further maths at A level because I greatly enjoyed the subject at GCSE. The courses are well structured and interesting and the teaching is highly engaging.”

Media - A level

Awarding body: AQA

Media studies challenges and empowers students to analyse and interpret the world around them. Our students live lives that are saturated with media content, products and messages and they need to be informed and able to think critically about the media and its role in everyday life. The media is often controlled by powerful corporate interests. These individuals and institutions shape how we view the world. Students need to recognise the things that influence the media.

Course content

A level media studies engages students in the detailed study of media products in relation to the four areas of the theoretical framework: media language, representation, industries and audiences. Students are required to study media products from: audio-visual (TV, film, radio, advertising, video games and music video), online (social and participatory media, video games, music video, newspapers, magazines, advertising and marketing) and print (newspapers, magazines, advertising and marketing).

Year 12: Students explore the key concepts and apply their understanding to a range of close study products that include: television (Capital and Deutschland 83), magazines (Men's Health and Oh Comely), music videos (Letter to the Free and Ghost Town), advertising and marketing (Score and Maybeline) and video games (Tomb Raider; Metroid and Sims).

Year 13: Students will develop their understanding of media theories and apply complex theories to a range of close study products that include: radio

(War of the Worlds and Newsbeat), newspapers (The I and The Daily Mail) and film industries (Blinded by the Light).

Assessment information

Two written examinations at the end of Year 13. Questions will focus on issues and debates in the media and the analysis of media products. Students will be expected to refer to the close study products and will also be expected to demonstrate understanding of the contexts in which the products were created. A non-examined assessment will also be completed where students will independently create a media product in response to a brief set by AQA. This product can be video, print or digital.
Media One – 35% of qualification
Media Two – 35% of qualification
NEA – 30% of qualification

Why study media?

Media studies is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in the media industry including working in film and TV production, journalism, advertising and marketing, public relations.

“Studying media gave me a great understanding of how products are created in the media industry. I really enjoyed learning about pre-production processes and then being able to use that knowledge to create my own products such as a digital magazine and a music video.”

Music – A level

Awarding body: Eduqas

Musicians develop valuable transferable skills such as creativity, teamwork, initiative and commitment, making them highly desirable in many careers. We help students grow into confident performers and enrich their cultural experiences through local and national concerts and events. Studying music is rewarding, builds strong musicianship, and opens doors to a wide range of opportunities.

Course content

Performing – the development of instrumental/vocal skills, in preparation for final performance recitals. At least one piece must be a solo, while the other pieces may be as a soloist, as part of an ensemble or a combination of both.

Composing – the development of composition skills and the production of a portfolio of compositions. One is a free choice whereas the other is in response to an exam board brief.

Appraising – the exploration of music from three areas of study to develop detailed knowledge of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. The areas of study include western classical music, musical theatre and styles from the 20th century.

Detailed analysis of the following set works:
Symphony No.104 in D major, 'London', movements 1 and 2: Haydn. Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Movement II: Poulenc. Three Nocturnes, Number 1, Nuages: Debussy.

Assessment information

Two options are available giving a 25%/35% weighting to performance and composition. These two components are externally assessed and the performance is assessed by a visiting examiner. The remaining 40% of the course takes the form of a listening and appraising exam. Exam questions will cover set work analysis questions, extended responses around a wider context, unprepared listening/appraising work and comparison questions.

Component 1 – Performing 35%

Component 2 – Composing 25%

Component 3 – Appraising 40%

Why study music?

Music is a pre-requisite for those wishing to pursue a professional music career as a teacher, performer or composer. It also creates a practical and creative balance for those studying all classroom/lab-based subjects. It can lead to careers in teaching, music therapy, music technology, media, theatre, arts administration, human resources and the entertainment industry.

“Studying here made me a good musician and helped my passion for music thrive. I can happily and confidently move on into the world with everything I learned.”

Performing arts **BTEC**

Awarding body: Edexcel/Pearson

The study of performing arts is not just for those who wish to work in the industry itself. It gives students an advantage in any career that involves working and communicating confidently and creatively with others.

Course content

The course is made up of four components; three mandatory and one optional. Two are internally assessed and two externally assessed by the exam board. While much of the course is practical, there is a considerable amount of theory to be studied and progress to be evaluated.

Year 12: Investigating practitioners' work – exploring the professional works of major theatre and dance practitioners and companies. Developing skills and techniques for live performance – building and refining skills in either or both acting and dance as preparation for a live, public performance. This can be solo, duo or ensemble work.

Year 13: Group performance workshop – developing an original group performance. Plus a choice of one of the following optional units: Variety performance – this can be based on drama, dance or a music act. Musical theatre performance – performing extracts from musical theatre repertoire. Improvisation – devising new and original drama or dance work.

Assessment information

External assessment accounts for 58% of the overall qualification. The styles of external assessment used for qualifications in the performing arts suite are: Set tasks – learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task. Performance – learners prepare for assessment over an extended window and demonstrate skills that generate some non-written evidence.

Why study performing arts?

The qualification will particularly support entry to degrees where knowledge of the sector is relevant. Performing arts can be an advantage in many career areas and higher education courses including: Teaching; social work/youth work; events management; leisure and tourism; hospitality; media and broadcasting.

“I loved the course! Not only did I develop my skills in all three art forms, I challenged myself physically, creatively and academically.”

Philosophy and ethics – *A level*

Awarding body: OCR

Philosophy and ethics is an inspiring and engaging academic subject that creates opportunities for critical thinking as well as deepening knowledge and understanding of the world around us. It allows for the development of critical and evaluative skills sought by higher education and employers.

Course content

Year 12: Philosophy of religion:

Ancient philosophical influences

The nature of the soul, mind and body

Arguments about the existence of God

The nature and impact of religious experience

The challenge of the problem of evil within religious belief

Ideas about the nature of God

Issues in religious language.

Ethics and religion:

Normative ethical theories

The application of ethical theory to two

contemporary issues of importance

Ethical language and thought

Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience

Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

Year 13: Christianity:

Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world

Sources of religious wisdom and authority

Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition

Significant social and historical developments in

theology and religious thought

Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society

Assessment information

Three 2 hour written exams at the end of Year 13 each worth 120 marks.

Paper 1 – 33.3% of qualification

Paper 2 – 33.3% of qualification

Paper 3 – 33.3% of qualification

Why study philosophy and ethics?

Philosophy and ethics can give you many transferable skills which will be useful for future studies but also in everyday life, in how you approach the situations and problems you are faced. The subject is academically rigorous and widely recognised by universities and can work well with both humanities and written subjects as well as science, due to covering units such as medical ethics.

Students have gone on to study theology, religious studies, philosophy, education, law, politics, medicine and more. It can lead to careers in law, education, social work, politics, the armed forces, police and healthcare.

“I enjoy discussing ethical and philosophical ideas, and this subject has helped me understand the issues that shape people’s beliefs.”

Photography - A level

Awarding body: AQA

Photography is a subject that opens many opportunities to those who wish to capture the world in different ways. Apart from great job prospects including photojournalism and advertising, photography is a great medium for developing creative independence and exploring a diverse range of both traditional and contemporary techniques and processes.

Course content

Year 12: Skills & Principles – Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences as they learn the building blocks of photography, including formal elements and rules of composition. Here will develop their technical skills of aperture, shutter speed, depth of field and exposure. Students will also be introduced to traditional photographic methods including handmade negatives and dark room processing. Students will engage with image manipulation using both traditional and contemporary methods in order to respond creatively to a range of contextual sources.

Year 13: Personal investigation – having begun to develop an exciting investigation, students pursue multi avenues of inquiry at pace. Alongside a wide breadth of making exercises students also contribute research and writing, culminating in up to 3000 words of extended written prose.

Assessment information

Students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified

time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

60% – Coursework

40% – Externally Set exam

Why study photography?

Photography offers an incredible breadth of thinking and functional skills that are transferable across a vast spectrum of study. Many students have proceeded to study: 2D and 3D animation, fashion and textile design, film and media studies, game design, illustration, product design, photography, set design and graphic design at degree level.

“I was introduced to a range of contemporary photographic practices. The course stood out in its focus on and encouragement of experimentation and play, two crucial activities for the development of any artist or photographer.”

Physics – A level

Awarding body: AQA

Physicists explore the fundamental nature of almost everything we know of. They probe the furthest reaches of the earth to study the smallest pieces of matter. Join them to enter a world deep beneath the surface of normal human experience.

This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas which allows analytical, mathematical and problem-solving skills to become highly developed. Physics is more than a subject – it trains your brain to think beyond boundaries.

Course content

Practicals are essential in science and there will be a series of required practicals to complete throughout the course. They will assess your application of the physics topics taught so you can investigate the physics that governs our Universe.

Specific content includes measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, waves, mechanics and materials, electricity, thermal physics, fields and their consequences, nuclear physics and medical physics. All of these topics offer an understanding of the hidden laws as to why all matter and energy exist and how it behaves.

Assessment information

Three written examinations at the end of Year 13. At least 15% of the written papers will assess knowledge and understanding of practical skills. 30% of the papers will assess mathematical skills.

Paper 1 – 34% of qualification

Paper 2 – 34% of qualification

Paper 3 – 32% of qualification

Practical endorsement – students will complete a minimum of 12 practical activities to demonstrate practical competence.

Why study physics?

Physics is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in all types of engineering, astronomy, maths, computing, medicine and teaching.

“It’s fun to learn how the world works using equations and theories. You learn something new every lesson.”

Politics – A level

Awarding body: AQA

Politics involves the study of both political theories and current affairs and the ways in which people and politicians raise and resolve controversial contemporary issues.

The course starts from the fact that we live in a democracy and that this is considered to be the best form of government available. It studies how well our democracy functions, whether it needs further improvement, and the ways reforms might be carried out.

As such, it studies major ideologies, political organisations, elections, referendums, and the behaviour and beliefs of voters. It also studies our constitution and how politicians and institutions such as parliament, devolved bodies, the Supreme Court and the cabinet operate within our democratic system.

Course content

Component 1: UK politics and core political ideas

Component 2: UK Government and non-core political ideas

Component 3: Comparative politics

Assessment information

100% assessed through written examinations at the end of Year 13.

Why study politics?

Politics helps you make sense of current events, government decisions, and global affairs.

Studying politics can lead to careers in:

- Government and civil service
- Law
- Journalism and media
- Public relations

Politics complements subjects like:

- History
- Economics
- Sociology
- Law
- Philosophy

“Politics is the one subject that helps you understand the news, challenge opinions, and actually feel like your voice matters. Every lesson connects to the real world—and that makes it exciting.”

Product design - A level

Awarding body: AQA

Product design is the perfect subject for those that have a thirst for both academic challenges and hands on practical problem solving. The subject allows the freedom for students to explore design problems practically and theoretically and tackle them with the aim of developing solutions that improve and enhance the lives of others. Few subjects allow for students to explore such a plethora of activities as product design, using a range of equipment, processes and techniques.

Course content

Year 12: Students focus on developing confidence in the workshop and building an in-depth knowledge of materials and processes, designing and the development of prototype design concepts, through a selection of mini projects and assessments. This aims to prepare students for the exams and controlled assessment in Year 13. Some of the topics covered include; performance characteristics of materials, digital design and manufacture (Autodesk Inventor), health and safety, product life cycle, design processes, critical analysis and evaluation.

Year 13: Students embark on their final major project which requires them to develop a substantial portfolio worth 50% of the final grade. This is an opportunity for students to showcase their designing and making skills and their understanding of designing for specific markets and individuals. Students are required to make a working prototype model to showcase their design solution after carrying out focussed research and design development. Exam theory continues alongside this in preparation for the final examinations at the end of the course.

Assessment information

Students will develop a specific brief, that meets the needs of a user, and produce a final prototype based on the design brief, along with a written or digital design folder or portfolio (50%). Students will complete two written exams; technical principles (30%) and designing and making principles (20%).

Why study product design?

Product design is a crucial step in the right direction towards a career in the design industry including; architecture, industrial design, 3D design, automotive and transport design, product design, fashion design and is also a fantastic supporting qualification of other art and media qualifications. It also supports students looking at a future in engineering as it further develops their understanding of materials and manufacturing methods.

“The course allows for massive amounts of creativity and an insight into how products are designed, developed and marketed. The freedom available means that nothing is impossible and with technology like 3D printers there really is no limit.”

Psychology - A level

Awarding body: AQA

This A level course will enable you to gain an understanding of people and their motivation. You will engage with real world issues, applying your psychological knowledge and skills to case studies and experiments. Psychology is a science so there is a focus on brain structures, neurochemicals and other physiological factors that impact an individual's behaviour. You will also carry out and analyse experiments, using a range of inferential statistics.

Course content

Year 12

Social influence - conformity, obeying evil authority figures, obedience, minority Influence and resistance to social influence.

Memory - models of memory, forgetting, eyewitness testimony and police interviews.

Attachment - babies and their caregivers, when attachment goes wrong and early attachment on adult relationships.

Approaches - behaviourist approach, social learning theory, cognitive approach, biological approach. Psychodynamic, and humanistic approach.

Clinical psychology and mental health - 'abnormality', biological, behavioural and cognitive explanations and treatments of phobias, depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Research methods - experiments and observations, investigations and presenting, analysing and interpreting data.

Year 13

Biopsychology - brain regions, split-brain research and recovery after trauma, brain scans

and postmortem examination.

Research methods - case studies and content analysis and features of science. Issues and debates - gender and culture bias, free will and nature/nurture, behavioural laws, ethical implications and social sensitivity.

Relationships - evolved partner preferences, romantic attraction, virtual relationships and 'relationships' with media personalities.

Schizophrenia - symptoms and problems in diagnosis, genes and brain chemistry, faulty thinking and dysfunctional families, therapies, drugs and CBT.

Aggression - neural and hormonal mechanisms, genetic factors, ethological and evolutionary explanations, social-psychological explanations, institutional aggression and media influences on aggression.

Assessment information

The final grade is based on three two-hour exams, each worth 96 marks and contributing equally. Exams include multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions, with at least 10% of marks testing Level 2 mathematical skills and 25-30% assessing research methods.

Why study psychology?

Psychology is a well-respected degree for a range of occupations. A degree in psychology opens up opportunities to train as a chartered psychologist. Psychology is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in medicine, business, education and the legal profession.

Sociology - A level

Awarding body: AQA

Are you interested in people and their behaviour? Then this is the course for you! Sociology is the study of society which looks at how everyday experiences shape our lives. In particular, students will study patterns of behaviour within social groups and the impact of class, gender, ethnicity and age on social relationships.

The focus of the course will be the UK, but references will also be made to other cultures. Sociology will allow you to see your social world in a different way. Students often find that their sociological education is not confined to the classroom. The sociological imagination can be used to analyse everything from Netflix shows to social media interactions or a commute through several very different North East neighbourhoods.

Course content

Year 12:

- Education and research methods
- Families and households

Year 13:

- Mass media
- Crime and deviance

Assessment information

Three 2-hour exams.

- Education with theory and methods - 33.3%
- Families and households and mass media - 33.3%
- Crime and deviance with theory and methods - 33.3%

Why study sociology?

This course is for students who are interested in how society works and why particular social events happen. Sociology is also considered good preparation and an acceptable entrance qualification for many courses at degree level.

Common career pathways taken by sociology graduates include journalism, law, PR, marketing, social research, politics, charity, development work, teaching, social work and nursing.

It is also a useful subject for those not wishing to go to university and wanting to follow careers such as the police, armed forces, civil service and working with children or the elderly.

“I love sociology because it links with so aspects of every day life which makes you question everything - about school and society around me.”

Sport - BTEC

Awarding body: OCR

A BTEC sport extended certificate offers students a wide range of experiences based around the workplace and an insight into a range of careers in the sport industry. This course develops confidence by offering a range of leadership opportunities as well as independent learning in some units. Leadership opportunities are available within school or, if a student takes part in sport outside of school, this too can be used as evidence towards the final outcome.

The qualification can be tailored to the individual with many optional units available. Students enjoy this very practical course as it allows students to specialise in a chosen sport which can link to a chosen career pathway. Students have achieved some excellent grades in this qualification and have gone on to study at university or into employment upon completion.

Course content

Year 12: Applied anatomy and physiology – advanced anatomy for sporting performance. Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being – developing training programs for self or individual performers in a scenario setting.

Year 13: Professional development in the sports industry – sports development, coaching and improvement for training and facilities in sport. Optional units from a selection, including sports leadership, application of fitness testing, sports psychology and practical sports performance.

Assessment information

Four units, one of which is an external exam based around the anatomy and physiology of the body in sport. The second unit is an externally set task involving planning a training and fitness programme for a given individual. The final two units are optional and could include: sport psychology, practical sport, sports coaching, sport nutrition, outdoor education or many others to choose from.

Why study sport BTEC?

BTEC sport is of particular value to those hoping to pursue careers in coaching, sports management, sport psychology, physiotherapy, scientific research, personal training and gym instructor training, sports development, sports marketing, event management, sport science and teaching.

“BTEC Sport has allowed me to feel good about myself! The teachers have been supportive in all circumstances, in and out of school.”

Top 10 reasons to STUDY AT HERMITAGE

1

We have **highly skilled specialist teachers** in all subject areas

2

We have **excellent university and employment links**

3

We have a **passionate team of experienced** staff working solely in the sixth form who can help you **achieve your goals**

We provide you with **expert university and careers advice**

4

5

We offer a **personalised learning experience**

7

We provide a **wealth of opportunities** to learn and socialise outside of the classroom

6

We have a **unique enrichment programme** embedded into your timetable to **help and support** university and job applications

We can provide you with **financial support** and offer **employment opportunities**

9

8

We offer a fantastic **induction programme** to help you **integrate into sixth form life**

10

We have our very own **purpose built sixth form building**



Hermitage Sixth Form

Waldrige Lane
Chester-le-Street
County Durham
DH2 3AD

enquiries@hermitageacademy.co.uk

0191 388 7161

www.hermitageacademy.co.uk

*Sponsored by North East Learning Trust
Company number 07492165, registered in England and Wales*



**North East
Learning Trust**