



**Hermitage
Sixth Form**

2025 PROSPECTUS



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

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.

We have a strong and supportive sixth form community where everybody is

valued as an individual.





OUR VISION IS SIMPLE AND SHARED BY ALL SCHOOLS
IN THE NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST - THAT EVERY STUDENT

experiences excellence every day."

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.

Moving on we aim to provide sixth formers with an education that enables each of them to achieve their full potential and learn with confidence in 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
- EtonX courses
- 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 - SUDEP Action - who raise awareness of epilepsy.

Educational visits and 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 Paris.

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.

I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SECURE WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE RESPIRATORY WARD AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL NORTH DURHAM. I SHADOWED CONSULTANTS AND JUNIOR DOCTORS AND HAD THE amazing opportunity of observing various treatments. //

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones interlocking large, light-colored wooden gears. The gears have a complex, multi-lobed design. The background is dark and out of focus.

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 given to members of the sixth form student leadership team allow us to focus our efforts on our passions, whilst ensuring that every aspect of sixth form life is focused upon.”



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 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



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.

"I have had multiple opportunities to access career and university schemes which I have made use of, it has allowed me to focus on what is important for the future."

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.





North East
Learning Trust

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 Lesley Powell CBE, 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.

- Art and design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- 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
- Product design
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Sport BTEC

Find out more about option choices on our website:

www.hermitageacademy.co.uk/sixth-form

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.

“A level biology helped me to develop research, problem solving, organisation and analytical skills, all of which will help me in the future.”

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.”



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 allowed me to explore my creativity and visionary skills, whilst also expanding my analysis and interpretation ability through investigating a range of texts I love, all the while providing me with 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 A level geography not only due to my interest in the topic but due to its current and future relevance to the ever-changing world (whether that be climatic change or human development) and 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

Health and social care is part of everyone's life. The course helps students gain an understanding of how to best help and support those who need it the most. We will look at what makes us healthy as well as how to look after ourselves and others, which plays a fundamental part in the wellbeing of society.

Course content

Year 12: Unit 1 (exam) - Human lifespan development. Adding to students' Level 2 knowledge of theorists and evaluating their findings.

Unit 5 (coursework) - Meeting individual care and support needs. Using case studies, students show their response to the individual's care needs.

Year 13: Unit 2 (exam) - Working in health and social care. The study of care roles and professions including professional responsibilities and duty of care.

Unit 11 (coursework) Psychological Perspectives.

Assessment information

Two externally assessed exams and two internally assessed pieces of coursework. The assessment is split so that students will complete one exam and one piece of coursework per year.

Why study health and social care?

Health and social care is perfect for those who want to work with people, especially in the NHS, care professions or public services. This Level 3 qualification is designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A levels.

“Acknowledging people's struggles and learning how to support and care for them is a crucial part of life. I would love to professionally support individuals in the future and health and social care has enabled me to learn the key skills needed for my future career.”

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 12: 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 13: 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 Technicals Introductory Diploma in Information Technology

Awarding body: OCR

This course 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 a broad understanding of how data and information is used in business, learning about topics including hardware and software, computer systems, communication systems, number systems, ethical and environmental considerations, computer legislation, how data is analysed and used in computer systems.

Course content

Year 12 - Games Design and Prototyping - Students will learn about the key features of computer games and the importance of producing prototypes before games are made. Students will then design and code a prototype of their own game which will be presented to key stakeholders. This unit allows students to be very creative and learn valuable industry skills.

Social Media and Digital Marketing - This unit looks at digital marketing as a concept and then offers the opportunity to explore the possible impacts, both positive and negative, that may be generated by the use of social media as a digital marketing tool. Students will plan the social media content of a digital marketing campaign to meet identified business objectives.

Year 13 - Fundamentals of IT - This examined unit provides students with a broad understanding of how Information technology is used in a range of business settings. It will provide students with a base knowledge of different types of information systems, how to troubleshoot problems, communication protocols and number systems,

and how to be an effective IT practitioner.

Global Information - Information is now an extremely valuable commodity. This unit explains how data is acquired, stored, analysed and used. It provides a detailed understanding of legislation regarding the use of information in the United Kingdom and beyond. Students then learn the principles and applications of data security so that information can be protected.

Application Design - In this unit students will explore potential ideas for a new application and develop the fundamental design for it. They will then develop the designs for an application and decide how users will interact with it.

Assessment information

Exam 1 – 25% of qualification

Paper 2 – 25% of qualification

Coursework – 50% of qualification

Why study IT?

Possible future careers include systems analyst, games developer, app developer, cyber security analyst, IT project manager, IT consultant, UX designer, network technician, social media analyst and ICT teacher.

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, 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:

Criminal law
English legal system
Law and justice
Law and morals

Year 13:

Tort law
Contract law
Concept of fault
Law and society
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
Compete in mock trials with the Law Society

“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 all of the following media forms: 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 are always highly desirable in the workplace in all global careers/industries because of their transferable skills such as performance, creativity, self-motivation, initiative, innovation, teamwork and commitment. We ensure that students develop all of these skills to grow into confident performers. We aim to culturally enrich all of our students so that they attend a wide range of local and national musical concerts and events. Ultimately, students find music rewarding because they develop their musicianship and a wealth of transferable skills and consequently this opens doors to a 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 at Hermitage Sixth Form not only made me a good musician but also helped my passion for music thrive. I can happily and confidently move on into the world with everything I learned there.”

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 chose to study performing arts as I really enjoyed my drama lessons at Key Stage 3 and 4 at Hermitage Sixth Form. 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 onto 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 love discussing and debating different ethical and philosophical view points. This subject has enabled me to do so in an analytical way by considering different issues that may contribute to a person’s way of thinking.”

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.”

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.

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

Psychology A level

Awarding body: AQA

Psychology is the perfect subject for an inquisitive mind. Students will examine many questions such as 'why do people suffer from stress or mental illness?', 'why are some individuals considered abnormal for deviating from social norms' and 'can early attachment experience affect later relationships?'.

Course content

Year 12: Social influence - conformity, obeying evil authority figures, obedience, resistance to social influence and change in society. Memory - models of memory, forgetting, eye witness testimony and police interviews. Attachment - babies and their caregivers, when attachment goes wrong and early attachment on adult relationships. Approaches - origins of psychology, classical and operant conditioning, cognitive approach and biological approach. Psychopathology - 'abnormality', biological, behavioural and cognitive explanations and treatments, phobias, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder. Research methods - experiments and observations, investigations and presenting, analysing and interpreting data.

Year 13: Psychodynamic - Freud and the unconscious, humanistic, Maslow and counselling. Biopsychology - brain regions, split brain research and recovery after trauma, brain scans and post mortem examination, bodily rhythms and the sleep/wake cycle. 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

Paper 1 – 33.3% of qualification

Paper 2 – 33.3% of qualification

Paper 3 – 33.3% of qualification

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.

“I have always been interested in mental health and how and why people do the things they do and psychology brings that answer to life.”

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:

Families and households
Education and research methods

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**

01

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

02

We have **excellent university and employment links**

03

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**

04

05

We offer a **personalised learning experience**

07

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

06

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

09

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

08

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

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