



Sixth Form Prospectus

2023 Cohort



Welcome from the Principal

Dear students, parents and carers,

I am delighted that we are opening our sixth form in September 2021, for our 2023 cohort. It is hard to believe that it was nearly five years ago when our students joined us for the very first time, and I am excited to be able to continue to provide them with a high-quality education as they embark on the next phase of their educational journey.

Our aim is simple but ambitious: to ensure that we deliver a high-quality, academic curriculum, which will ensure our students secure places at top universities. We will offer our students a broad range of A levels taught by inspiring and engaging teachers, who are specialists in their subjects. Our teachers have had the benefit of getting to know your child over the course of the last five years and we will use this knowledge to ensure your child thrives in our sixth form provision.

Sixth form students will benefit from dedicated teaching spaces, excellent facilities, popular basketball provision, small class sizes, an exciting enrichment offer, and expert careers guidance and support with UCAS applications. By remaining at Goresbrook, each student's transition into sixth form will be as seamless as possible, and we can very quickly ensure that our students are taking advantage of everything our sixth form has to offer.

Applications for the sixth form will **open on 23rd October**. All students interested in applying should complete the application form and submit a personal statement by **27th November**. Applications can be accessed through the school website.

I am extremely excited to welcome our founding cohort and am very much looking forward to helping them make ambitious choices for their futures. It has been a real privilege seeing this group of young people grow and develop over the last five years and it will be an honour to continue to do this through the next phase of their education.



Best wishes,

Megan Harris

Principal- Secondary

Why choose Goresbrook sixth form?

Goresbrook sixth form opens in September 2021, providing a highly academic offer to students in the locality of Barking and Dagenham. In line with the school vision, the sixth form will provide a route to university. Our curriculum will provide a selection of A levels and a comprehensive university preparation programme, aiming to get our students into the best universities. Students who join our sixth form can expect the following:

Excellent, subject-specialist teaching in academic and facilitating subjects

We offer six teaching hours for all courses, delivered by specialist teachers. Our teaching and learning approach is designed to facilitate independent study and study at higher education. Our class sizes are small, enabling a more personalised approach to curriculum delivery.

A comprehensive university preparation programme

In order for students to successfully secure a place at a top university, they will require support with a combination of selecting the right courses, writing a winning application, effective interview techniques, support with entrance exams, and financial preparation. At Goresbrook, these elements will be planned into a supplementary curriculum, taught over the two years. Students can expect support from an academic tutor, who will maintain oversight of their university preparation, providing expert advice and guidance throughout.

Our university preparation programme will go beyond getting students into university and look at how to prepare students for success whilst at university. This will include exposure to higher education study skills, as well as sessions on managing finances and well-being.

A broad enrichment offer

Students will get the opportunity to build wider skills such as leadership, organisation and research. Students will also be encouraged to take part in sport. These experiences aim to mirror what students might expect at university. This means that students will be able to leave Goresbrook as well-rounded individuals.

Goresbrook sixth form students can expect to be part of a supportive culture, where they are known, the expectations are high, and their development is a priority. We hope you will join our founding sixth form cohort.

Admissions criteria

Students applying to the sixth form must have secured a minimum of 5 GCSEs (including mathematics and English) at a grade 6 or above. Students must then meet the requirement of each specific subject as listed below:

Subject	Entry requirements
Art	Grade 7 in art
Biology	Grade 7 in biology/combined science and grade 6 in mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 7 in chemistry/combined science and grade 6 in mathematics
Drama & Theatre Studies	Grade 6 in English literature or language, and performance experience
Economics	Grade 6 in English literature or language and grade 7 in maths
English Literature	Grade 6 in English literature and English language
French	Grade 6 in French
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in mathematics
Geography	Grade 6 in geography and mathematics
History	Grade 6 in history and/or English
Mathematics	Grade 7 in mathematics
Music	Grade 7 in music
Philosophy and Theology	Grade 6 in English literature
Psychology	Grade 6 in biology/combined science and mathematics
Physical Education	Grade 6 in PE GCSE or distinction in Cambridge Nationals Sports Studies, and grade 6 in biology/combined science
Physics	Grade 7 in physics/combined science and mathematics
Sociology	Grade 6 in sociology GCSE or grade 6 in English language/literature

If there is a subject that we are not currently offering but which you would like to study, please indicate this on your application form.

Choosing the right course

Students are encouraged to consider the university courses they would like to study and the potential universities that offer these courses. The UCAS website will provide information about the entry requirements for these courses.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-where-study>

Any students who are unsure of what courses they would like to study should consider selecting subjects they enjoy and subjects that are known as facilitating subjects. These subjects provide useful, transferable skills. These include subjects like mathematics, the sciences, languages or humanities.

Students are encouraged to discuss their options with a teacher and/or a member of their family.

How to apply

To apply to our sixth form, please visit our school website (<https://www.goresbrookschoool.org.uk/>) and access the application form. Students will need to submit a personal statement to support their application.

Subject	Art	Exam Board	Edexcel	Entry Requirements	Grade 7 in Art
What will you learn?					
<p>A-level art follows the same structure as the GCSE, but students will get to deepen their skills, creativity and understanding of art, artists and techniques.</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop ideas - Explore and learn about artists - Experiment with different materials - Refine ideas and processes - Create personal outcomes. <p>The course aims to develop key skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intellectual, imaginative and creative-thinking skills - The ability to investigate and analyse - Independence of mind - The ability to develop and communicate your own ideas - The enthusiasm and enjoyment of art, craft and design. 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p><u>Component One (60%):</u></p> <p>Personal project, ending in a final outcome (same Assessment Objectives as GCSE). Personal written study (1000 words continuous prose).</p> <p><u>Component Two (40%):</u></p> <p>Personal project (same Assessment Objectives as GCSE). This is in response to an externally set title/theme and you have eight weeks to work on this. Final piece to be completed in 15-hour assessment period.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
<p>Are interested in learning to think creatively, explore new materials and develop your art skills. This A level is not just for those who wish to study art at university. This is a subject that helps develop independent, creative and critical-thinking skills, in preparation for university and your future. You can use this subject to show that you are a well-rounded and creative university applicant, who is able to think and work independently.</p>					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Students taking art & design can go on to study art at university, complete an Art Foundation or any number of other degree options. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English - History - Media - History of art - Languages - Sciences - Geography - Film. 					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>The Goldfinch</i> – Donna Tartt</p> <p><i>The Girl with the Pearl Earring</i> – Tracy Chevalier</p> <p><i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> – Oscar Wilde</p>					

Subject	Biology	Exam Board	AQA	Entry Requirements	Grade 7 in biology or combined science Grade 6 in mathematics
What will you learn?					
<p>A level biology builds upon GCSE learning. Students will get the opportunity to deepen their understanding of biological phenomena and get increased exposure to biological experimental procedures. Students will study the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biological molecules – learning about carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, nucleic acids and water - Cells – learning about cell structure, communication between cells, transport, and disease - Organisms exchange substances – learning about gas exchange, digestive system and transport - Genetics – learning about DNA, protein synthesis, genetic diversity and taxonomy - Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, learning about the nervous system and homeostasis - Energy transfers – learning about photosynthesis, respiration and nutrient cycles. 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>Students will sit three 2-hour examinations, covering a combination of content and practical skills.</p> <p>Papers 1 and 2 contain short- and long-answer questions and extended responses. Paper 3 contains structured questions on practical techniques, critical analysis of experimental data, and one essay.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
<p>Are interested in the world around you, the relationships between different organisms, and find the human body, plants or animals interesting.</p>					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Students taking biology can go on to study biology at university as well as any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biomedical science - Medicine / veterinary science / dentistry / nursing / midwifery - Pharmacology - Psychology - Neuroscience - Anthropology - Zoology - Sports science - Dietetics and nutrition - Genetics - Microbiology. 					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>Bad Science</i> – Ben Goldacre</p> <p><i>The Selfish Gene</i> – Richard Dawkins</p> <p><i>Genome</i> – Matt Ridley</p>					

Subject	Chemistry	Exam Board	AQA	Entry Requirements	Grade 7 in chemistry or combined science Grade 6 in mathematics
What will you learn?					
<p>A level chemistry builds upon GCSE learning. Students will get the opportunity to deepen their understanding of chemical reactions, moving past pattern recognition in reactions, to an understanding of why the reactions take place. Students will gain a deeper understanding of physical chemistry, learning the underpinnings of thermodynamics and kinetics.</p> <p>The course is divided along the academic subgroups of Chemistry:</p> <p>Physical chemistry - the study of how matter behaves on a molecular and atomic level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic and electronic structure • Amount of substance • Energetics • Kinetics • Thermodynamics • Electrochemistry <p>Inorganic chemistry – the study of the reactions and properties of Inorganic chemicals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonding • Periodicity <p>Organic chemistry – the study of the reactions and properties of organic compounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reactions of organic compounds • Optical isomerism • Synthesis of organic compounds • Structure determination 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>Students will sit three 2-hour examinations, covering a combination of content and practical skills.</p> <p>Papers 1 and 2 contain short- and long-answer questions and extended responses. Paper 3 contains structured questions on practical techniques, critical analysis of experimental data and a multiple-choice section.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
Are interested in understanding how the world around you works on a molecular level.					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>A chemistry A level is ideal if you wish to pursue a degree in scientific discipline. Chemistry combines the skills of both physics and biology, and so is highly valued by universities. Chemistry A level is often a necessity for medicine applicants.</p> <p>The skills that students will develop are highly valuable in academic areas beyond science. Analytical skills that students will develop in this A level are highly valued in most fields, for example law and economics.</p>					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>The Billion Dollar Molecule</i> – Barry Werth</p> <p><i>The Disappearing Spoon</i> – Sam Kean</p> <p><i>The Periodic Table</i> – Dmitry Mendeleev</p>					

Subject	Drama and Theatre	Exam Board	AQA	Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in English literature or language Performance experience
What will you learn?					
<p>A level drama inspires students to become independent theatre makers with the skills they need to go on to higher education, whether that is to study a course in drama and theatre, or another subject.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will learn in detail about the methodologies of influential practitioners in the world of theatre, and devise a performance influenced by the work of one prescribed practitioner. - Students will study a range of professional repertoire through practical exploration, culminating in a performance of three extracts, each taken from a different play. - Students will gain knowledge of the theatre, study two set plays, and evaluate and analyse a live performance. 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>The assessment is broken into three components: devising, performing, and analysis and evaluation of performance. Students must complete the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drama and Theatre (40%): Written exam - Creating Original Drama (30%): Devised performance and accompanying journal - Making Theatre (30%): Performance of extract and a reflective report. 					
Choose this subject if you...					
<p>Fundamentally enjoy performing, reading and watching theatre. Remember, this is about expanding horizons and gaining the currency that top universities are looking for. It would be advantageous to study this course alongside an English A level, as the two subjects complement each other well.</p>					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Studying drama at A level offers students so many transferable skills that will support any further education and career choices. The course demands innovation, confidence, personal management and teamwork, to name just a few, which means learners finish the course with skills for any profession. Many a barrister will make use of their dramatic training in the courtroom!</p>					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>Impro</i> by Keith Johnstone</p> <p><i>An Actor Prepares</i> by Konstantin Stanislavski</p>					

Subject	Economics	Exam Board	Edexcel	Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in English and grade 7 in maths
What will you learn?					
Economics is an applied subject that investigates how markets and economies interact with each other, and the role that we, the consumer, play in these interactions.					
Theme 1 - Introduction to Markets and Market Failure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nature of economics• How markets work• Market failure• Government intervention Theme 2 - The UK Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measures of economic performance• Aggregate demand• Aggregate supply• National income• Economic growth• Macroeconomic objectives and policy			Theme 3 - Business Behaviour and the Labour Market <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business growth• Business objectives• Revenue, costs and profits• Market structures• Labour market• Government intervention Theme 4 - A Global Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International economics• Poverty and inequality• Emerging and developing countries• The financial sector• Role of government in the macroeconomy		
What does the assessment look like?					
The A level consists of three 2-hour papers that will be sat at the end of year 13.					
Choose this subject if you...					
Are interested in studying a relatively quantitative subject that combines mathematical skills with real-world applications.					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
An A level in economics will allow students to have access to a large range of different degree disciplines. Due to its quantitative nature, it lends itself well to a degree in economics, accounting, finance, geography or mathematics.					
The A level also contains a large amount of evaluative and analytical skill, as students study human behaviour. It also therefore lends itself nicely to degrees such as psychology, law, politics and other social sciences.					
Recommended reading:					
<i>The Undercover Economist</i> – Tim Hartford					
<i>Freakonomics</i> – Steven Levitt					
<i>Superfreakonomics</i> – Steven Levitt					

Subject	English Literature	Exam Board	Edexcel	Entry Requirements	Grade 7 in English literature and at least a Grade 6 in English language
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What will you learn?

- A level English builds on the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE. Students will learn new concepts and approaches to literature and will gain a deeper insight into the way writers craft their work.
- Across the two years, students will study:
 - Two Shakespeare plays
 - Collections of pre-1900 and post-1900 poetry
 - Five prose texts
 - One modern drama.
- Students will also have the opportunity to complete an independent study project. This module gives students the freedom to choose their own texts to compare, and essay questions to respond to, allowing them to pursue their own literary interests and deepen understanding of their chosen area.

What does the assessment look like?

- The exam board is Edexcel (9ET0), and the assessment is 80% exam and 20% coursework.
- All core texts are assessed in formal examinations. There will also be unseen elements to each exam.
- The Independent Study unit is assessed in a formal coursework essay.

Choose this subject if you...

- Love reading and want to learn more about a wide range of literature
- Enjoy thinking about and exploring some of life's biggest questions - *"The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of past centuries."* René Descartes
- Express your opinions well – both in speech and in writing
- Want to develop your understanding of literature from all over the world
- Are interested in developing your critical, analytical faculties
- Are interested in human rights, justice and politics, and how authors explore and affect our understandings of these ideas
- Possess empathy, curiosity and enthusiasm
- Want to keep your options open for further study – English literature is a popular qualification for a wide range of courses in higher education and for future careers, including: Medicine, accountancy, law, PPE, politics and all academic degree.

What can an A level in this subject lead to?

Students with A level English literature have a wide range of possible higher education and career opportunities open to them. The course helps to develop a keen eye for detail, a deep understanding of and appreciation for the written word, and the ability to analyse and evaluate ideas in depth.

There are many job opportunities open to students with an A level in English literature, including:

- Lawyer
- Writer
- Publisher
- Journalist
- Teacher
- Public relations
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Film and TV
- Travel
- Politics.

Recommended reading:

Prose:

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - *Purple Hibiscus, Americanah*

Margaret Atwood - *The Handmaid's Tale, Oryx and Crake, The Blind Assassin*

Daphne Du Maurier - *Rebecca*

F. Scott Fitzgerald - *The Great Gatsby, Tender Is the Night*

Khaled Hosseini – *The Kite Runner*

Kazuo Ishiguro - *The Remains of the Day, Never Let Me Go*

Andrea Levy - *Small Island*

George Orwell - *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Alice Walker - *The Colour Purple*

Zadie Smith - *White Teeth, NW, On Beauty*

Poetry:

Ted Hughes

John Keats

Philip Larkin

Sylvia Plath

Christina Rossetti

Drama:

George Bernard Shaw

Tennessee Williams

Polly Stenham

Non-Fiction

Anon: *I Am the Secret Footballer*

Maya Angelou: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Robert Graves: *Goodbye to All That*

Nelson Mandela: *Long Walk to Freedom*

Malcolm X - *Autobiography*

Subject	French	Exam Board	AQA	Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in French
What will you learn?					
<p>Students will progress beyond the fundamentals of GCSE to learn how to express themselves fluently in spoken and written French, making use of the highest levels of vocabulary and grammar.</p> <p>You will study the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social issues and trends – the changing nature of family, technology, voluntary work, positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised, criminal justice systems - Political and artistic culture – heritage and culture, contemporary music, cinema, the right to vote and political commitment, demonstrations and strikes, politics and immigration - A literary text and a film. 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing – 2 hours, 30 minutes – 50% of A level</p> <p>Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.</p> <p>Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources.</p> <p>Material will include complex factual and abstract content, and questions will target main points, gist and detail. All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French.</p> <p>Translation into English: A passage of minimum 100 words.</p> <p>Translation into French: A passage of minimum 100 words.</p> <p>Paper 2: Writing – 2 hours – 20% of A level</p> <p>Students will answer an essay question in French for one work of literature and one film they have studied. They will have a choice of question on each book/film. All questions will be in French and will require a critical and analytical response.</p> <p>Paper 3: Speaking – 21-23 minutes (including five minutes preparation time) – 30% of A level</p> <p>Discussion of a topic from the specification, based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes). You will study the card for five minutes at the start of the test.</p> <p>Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of individual research project on an aspect of francophone society.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dream of speaking French fluently and impressively, and perhaps working abroad - Wish to gain in-depth knowledge of France and French-speaking countries - Want to get a broad perspective on a wide range of issues and topics - Enjoy learning about other cultures and languages - Have an interest in literature and the arts. 					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Students may choose to go on to study a language further at university. This is sought after in a variety of career sectors, including finance, retail, banking, business, law, teaching and tourism.</p>					

Companies in any field value employees with language skills, as the UK trades with over 200 countries worldwide, 60% of which are not English-speaking. English may be the language of international business, but the ability to communicate in another language and to be aware of cultural differences is a tremendous asset.

Students' experience of travel and other cultures will benefit them personally, as well as being attractive to future employers.

Even if students do not choose to study a language in higher education, learning a language at A level can develop a number of more general skills. Among these are communication skills, cultural knowledge, and links with other subject areas. Foreign language study has been found to be associated with improvements in students' creativity, self-concept, critical-thinking abilities, memory, and listening skills. Mental flexibility is enhanced by the reasoning, problem-solving and analytical processes that are frequently used in learning a language.

Recommended reading:

French novels:

- *Les Malheurs de Sophie* (La Comtesse de Ségur)
- *Le Petit Prince* (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)
- *Le Petit Nicolas* (René Goscinny & Jean-Jacques Sempé)

Students could also read bilingual parallel texts or watch French/English films with French subtitles.

Subject	Further Mathematics	Exam Board	Edexcel	Entry Requirements	Grade 8 in mathematics
What will you learn?					
<p>Students may only take further maths if they also study mathematics A level.</p> <p>Over the year, students will be introduced to new maths systems that change the laws of maths as you know it!</p> <p><u>Core Pure Mathematics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof • Complex numbers • Matrices • Series • Further calculus • Further vectors • Polar co-ordinates • Hyperbolic functions <p><u>Further Pure Mathematics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further trigonometry • Further calculus • Further differential equations • Further inequalities <p><u>Further Applied Maths</u></p> <p>Students will build upon the work they covered in A level maths, in either statistics or mechanics. This will go into much more depth and cover topics seen at university, if studying a mathematics-related degree.</p>					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>The A level course consists of four papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Core Pure Maths papers • 1 Further Pure Maths paper • 1 Applied Maths paper on either statistics or mechanics. <p>The four papers are equally weighted at 25% of an A level each.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
Are a confident mathematician who is particularly interested in studying a mathematical degree at university.					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
Top universities will expect students to have an A level in maths and further maths if they wish to study maths at that institution. Oxbridge and Warwick will also expect students to sit an additional maths admissions test for that university.					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>Alex through the Looking Glass</i> – Alex Bellos</p> <p><i>Alex's Adventures in Numberland</i> – Alex Bellos</p> <p><i>Journey Through Genius: The Great Theories of Mathematics</i> – William Dunham</p>					

Subject	Geography	Exam Board	AQA	Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in geography and grade 6 in maths
What will you learn?					
<p>A level Geography builds upon GCSE learning. Students will get the opportunity to deepen their understanding of human and physical geographical concepts and they will be able to engage critically with real world issues and places. Students will study the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water and carbon cycles – learning about the dynamic relationship between them - Coastal landscapes and systems – learning about geomorphological processes and the distinctive landscapes they create - Hazards – learning about the risk these pose to the population and how people respond to them - Global systems and global governance – learning about the social, economic and political changes of the global economy - Changing places – learning how places change and develop over time and people’s experiences of different places - Contemporary urban environments – learning about urban growth and the challenges associated with this. 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>Students will sit two 2.5-hour examinations, covering a combination of human and physical geography topics.</p> <p>Students will also be required to complete an independent investigation.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
<p>Are interested in the world around you and keen to learn about some of the challenges that we will face in the future.</p>					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Students taking geography can go on to study geography at university, as well as any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geology - Urban and regional planning - Geophysics - Environmental science - Economics - Politics - International relations 					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>Geography: An Integrated Approach</i> – David Waugh</p> <p><i>Global Shift</i> – Peter Dicken</p>					

Subject	History	Exam Board	Edexcel	Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in history and/or English.
What will you learn?					
<p>A level History is ideal preparation for many of the courses available at university and future career paths. Students will learn how to evaluate sources and interpretations and create their own historical interpretations of the past. Students will develop their critical and independent-thinking skills, a skill hugely relevant to today's world.</p> <p>At Goresbrook, we look at revolutions through time. What causes people to revolt? How much change do they actually achieve? Students will study revolutions in Britain, as well as revolutions from an additional country. Do all revolutions happen for the same reason?</p>					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>Exams: Three papers, two of which are 2 hours and 15 minutes, the other being 1 hour and 30 minutes. Students will be assessed on their ability to use historical concepts, evidence and their source and interpretations skills.</p> <p>Coursework: Students will carry out their own independent historical enquiry about a historical event that has caused debate amongst historians. Students will then communicate their own ideas and interpretation. This is your opportunity to write your own history!</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
<p>find people and the societies they live in interesting. This course is ideal for developing your analytical and communication skills, and is applicable to many careers, ranging from medicine to finance, to the heritage sector. It is an ideal complementary subject to English, sociology, psychology, government and politics, and modern foreign languages, as well as an ideal contrasting subject to science and maths.</p>					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Students studying history at A level can go on to study history at university. It is also highly desirable for courses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English literature • English language • Law • Psychology • Sociology • Philosophy and ethics • PPE • Economics • Computing <p>History students are sought after by employers from a variety of fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banking • Heritage • Healthcare • Public service • Journalism 					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>The Wars of the Roses: The Fall of the Plantagenets and the Rise of the Tudors</i>, Dan Jones.</p> <p><i>The French Revolution: From Enlightenment to Tyranny</i>, Ian Davidson.</p> <p><i>The English Civil War: A People's History</i>, Dianne Purkis.</p>					

Subject	Mathematics	Exam Board	Edexcel	Entry Requirements	Grade 7 in mathematics
What will you learn?					
<p>A level maths builds upon the work in GCSE. Everything learnt in the GCSE syllabus will be revisited and used to solve increasingly difficult problems. There is a large focus on formal notation, and students will answer fewer questions with more depth in each exam.</p> <p><u>Pure Mathematics</u></p> <p>Proof - Students will learn further methods of proof within mathematics, such as proof by deduction or contradiction.</p> <p>Algebra and functions – Students will expand upon their work from GCSE and learn about the formal notation that is required for mathematics beyond A level.</p> <p>Calculus – Students will learn about the processes of differentiation and integration and many of its applications. These will include how companies maximise profit.</p> <p>Exponentials and logarithms – Students will learn about models of exponential growth, including how to estimate how often bacteria may multiply if they are growing exponentially.</p> <p>Trigonometry - Students will further explore uses of trigonometry, including learning of some new trigonometric functions not covered at GCSE level.</p> <p><u>Statistics</u></p> <p>Students will learn about how statisticians and scientists use models to make estimates about real world situations, along with the implications and restrictions that must be put in place to ensure a successful study. For students studying GCSE statistics, it will build upon the foundation they learned at GCSE and extend some of the skills they have already used.</p> <p><u>Mechanics</u></p> <p>Students will use many of the skills learnt in physics about objects in motion, to set up a framework that allows for them to model situations in a controlled manner.</p>					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>The A level course consists of three papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pure 1 • Pure 2 • Applied (Statistics and Mechanics) <p>Three 2-hour exams are taken at the end of the 2-year course.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
Are interested in continuing to explore how mathematics affects the world around us, whilst also learning about how scientists and mathematicians work together to model real-world situations.					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Students will require studying mathematics to get a degree in mathematics, statistics, physics, astronomy, engineering, economics and computer science.</p> <p>Degrees that have mathematics as a recommended subject include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medicine - Architecture - Biology 					

- Chemistry
- Statistics
- Finance and accounting

Subject	Music	Exam Board	Edexcel	Entry Requirements	Grade 7 in music
What will you learn?					
<p>A level music builds upon the GCSE offer and is structured in the same way. Students will get the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the western musical tradition and get increased exposure to solo and ensemble playing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance: A combination of solo and ensemble playing - Composition: Two compositions in a range of styles - Listening & Appraising: An academic exam, based on details listening and analysis 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>The assessment is very similar to the GCSE course. Students must complete the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A performance with a combination of solo and ensemble playing. This is slightly longer than the GCSE but very similar in style and range. 2. Two compositions. One is in a style of the student's choice and the other links to a genre or area of study from the exam content. 3. An exam that covers a range of musical styles from pop to western art music. 					
Choose this subject if you...					
<p>Fundamentally enjoy playing and writing music. If you enjoyed the GCSE course, then you will find a lot of comparisons. Remember, this is about expanding your horizons and gaining the currency that top universities are going to be looking for. There is a reason why Oxford and Cambridge are famous for their music departments!</p>					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Students taking music can go on to study music at university, as well as any of the following:</p> <p>Literally anything. The best things about an A level in music is the respect that it generates. It doesn't matter if you look at the qualifications of medics, physicists, chemists, engineers, lawyers, politicians, musicians, historians or geographers – the thing they all have in common is exposure to playing a musical instrument to a high level and, more often than not, an A level in the arts.</p>					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>The Rest is Noise</i>, Alex Ross</p> <p><i>How Music Got Free</i>, Stephen Witt</p> <p><i>This Is Your Brain on Music</i>, Daniel Levitin</p>					

Subject	Philosophy and Theology	Exam Board	OCR	Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in English literature or language
What will you learn?					
<p>During the study of A level philosophy and theology, students will have the opportunity to study some of history's most intelligent thinkers and deepen their understanding of Christian thought.</p> <p>Here are some examples of what we will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will discuss essential questions such as, does God exist? Is there such thing as a soul? How can God exist if there is evil and suffering in the world? Is it ever right to end somebody's life? How can we define what a good or bad action is? - We will study the works of some of history's most intelligent thinkers, such as Socrates, Plato Aristotle, Augustine and Freud. - We will deepen our understanding of religious belief, through an in-depth study of Christian thought. We will study what Christian thinkers have written about human nature, whether all religious believers will be saved, Christian responses to feminism and much more. 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>The A level is made up of three units. Each unit is assessed in a 2-hour exam at the end of year 13. Students will therefore sit three 2-hour examinations. Students will write three extended essays for each unit.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
<p>Enjoy understanding different perspectives about important issues, you are willing to reflect upon and discuss your own opinions, and you enjoy analysing challenging texts and ideas.</p> <p>A famous philosopher called Socrates wrote, '<i>the unexamined life is not worth living</i>'. If you agree with Socrates, then you will love philosophy and theology A level.</p>					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>A level philosophy and theology opens up many routes to students after year 13. Students may go on to study degrees in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philosophy - Theology - History - English literature - Anthropology - the study of human societies and cultures - Archaeology - the study of human culture through the study of artefacts, architecture and landscapes - Medicine – many doctors take A level philosophy and theology to inform their decision-making about tricky ethical issues. 					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>The Puzzle of God</i> - Peter Vardy</p> <p><i>Philosophy the Basics</i> - Nigel Warburton</p> <p><i>Mere Christianity</i> - C. S. Lewis</p>					

Subject	Physics	Exam Board	AQA	Entry Requirements	Grade 7 in physics or combined science Grade 7 in mathematics
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What will you learn?

A level physics combines both theory and practical aspects to understand physical phenomena around us. The course builds on the GCSE knowledge, tackles a few abstract phenomena, and takes students to cutting-edge studies in particle physics and beyond.

- Particle Physics: This section starts with classification of various fundamental particles, tries to shed some light upon quantum phenomenon and explores Nuclear physics.
- Waves: This section deals with progressive and stationary waves. Various experiments help us to understand wave phenomena, like Young's Double Slit.
- Mechanics: This section builds on Newtonian physics and leads into material physics, which is extremely important for future engineers.
- Electricity: This section begins with analysis of charge flow and investigates Kirchoff's laws. The section presents many real-life applications.
- Fields and Astrophysics: This section develops gravitational, electric and magnetic fields, the forces which cause them, and their interaction. Astrophysics takes us into cosmos with analysis of telescopes, black holes and stellar evolution.

What does the assessment look like?

Students will sit three papers of 2-hour examinations, covering a combination of content and practical skills.

Papers 1 and 2 contain short- and long-answer questions, with 25 MCQs. Paper 3 contains structured questions on practical techniques and data analysis, and long and short answers on the optional module.

Choose this subject if you...

Want the opportunity to explore the phenomena of the universe and to look at theories that explain what is observed. This subject combines practical skills with theoretical ideas, to develop descriptions of the physical universe. Your problem-solving skills will develop immensely.

What can an A level in this subject lead to?

Students taking physics can go on to study physics at university, as well as any of the following:

- Natural sciences and applied science
- Electrical engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Computer science
- Engineering in manufacturing technologies and material sciences
- Construction and built environment
- Information technology
- Statistics, geography, geology

Recommended reading:

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson

Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze? by New Scientist

The Quantum Universe: Everything That Can Happen Does Happen by Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw

Subject	Psychology	Exam Board	AQA	Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in biology/combined science
What will you learn?					
<p>Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. It is a multi-disciplinary subject that involves exploration of elements of biology, sociology, research methods, psychopathology, child development and much more. Students will study the following compulsory content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social influence • Memory • Attachment • Psychopathology • Approaches in psychology • Biopsychology • Research methods • Issues and debates in psychology <p>Students will also cover optional modules, ranging from eating behaviours to forensic psychology.</p>					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>The A level will be assessed through three examination papers. Papers 1 and 2 will cover the compulsory content with a mix of multiple-choice questions and extended answers. Paper 3 covers issues in psychology and optional content.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
<p>You are interested in understanding how the brain works, how we behave and the world of research.</p>					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Many students who study psychology go on to study psychology at university. However, there are a number of other university courses that utilise the skills of a psychology A level. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forensics - Statistics - Biology - Neuroscience - Criminology - Medicine - Law - Social work - Sports psychology - Counselling - Health promotion - Marketing 					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>Left Neglect</i> – Lisa Genova</p> <p><i>The Lucifer Effect</i> – Phillip Zimbardo</p> <p><i>The Social Animal</i> – Elliot Aronson</p>					

Subject	Physical Education	Exam Board	OCR	Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in PE GCSE or distinction in Cambridge Nationals Sports Studies Grade 6 in biology/combined science
What will you learn?					
<p>In A level PE, students will gain a deeper understanding of key systems in the body and how they react to changes in diet and exercise. Students will also study the effects of force and motion on the body and how they can be used to our advantage. They will explore the psychological factors affecting performance and group dynamics, alongside skill acquisition. Students will also study the social and cultural factors that have shaped sports over time. They will be assessed in the role of either a performer or coach in one practical activity. Students are required to show high-level tactics/techniques and will observe and evaluate a peer's performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical factors affecting performance (30%) - Psychological factors affecting performance (20%) - Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport (20%) - Performance in physical education (30%) 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>Students will sit three separate papers; one of these is 90 minutes, and the other two papers are 60 minutes.</p> <p>Students will also be assessed as a performer or coach. They will be required to demonstrate high analysis and evaluation skills in their coursework element.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are passionate about sport and play competitively outside of school. - Are interested in sports science, psychology, biomechanics, sociology and the history of sport. 					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>Students taking physical education can go on to study any of the following at university. Physical Education also presents students as well-rounded individuals, who will contribute further to university life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exercise and sport science - PE QTS (teacher degree) - Sports coaching - Sport psychology - Sports journalism - Physiotherapy - Sports rehabilitation 					
Recommended reading:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Soccernomics</i> by Simon Kuper & Stefan Szymanski - <i>Faster</i> by Michael Hutchinson - <i>Bounce</i> by Matthew Syed - <i>The Sports Gene</i> by David Epstein 					

Subject	Sociology	Exam Board	AQA	Entry Requirements	Grade 6 in sociology GCSE or grade 6 in English language/literature
What will you learn?					
<p>Studying sociology offers insights into social and cultural issues. It helps students develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, identity, religion, crime, families and social power.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and methods in context: Students will consider the role of education in society. For example, as part of their studies, they will look into gender and ethnicity differences in school achievement. • Research methods: Students will learn how to conduct their own sociological research, from interviews to reviewing documents and official statistics. • Families and Households: Students will learn about family structures and changes in how attitudes and values have changed over time. • Crime and deviance with theory and methods: Students will learn about criminal and deviant behaviour, including factors that might lead a person to follow this path in life and how the media portrays them. • Theory and methods: Students will expand on their knowledge of research methods, and study theory and methods. • Beliefs in Society: Students will learn the significance of religion, ideology and science. 					
What does the assessment look like?					
<p>At A level, there are three exams; each account for one third of an A level grade. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 80 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short-answer and extended writing questions.</p>					
Choose this subject if you...					
<p>Are truly interested in what is going on in the world around you and why humans behave in different ways. If you want to look more objectively at our society and how the parts of society fit together and change, then sociology may be of interest to you.</p>					
What can an A level in this subject lead to?					
<p>The top six degree courses taken by students who have an A level in sociology are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sociology • Psychology • English studies • Business studies • Law • Teaching 					
Recommended reading:					
<p><i>Chavs</i> – Owen Jones</p> <p><i>Natives</i> – Akala</p> <p><i>The McDonaldisation of Society</i> – George Ritzer</p>					