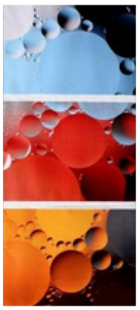
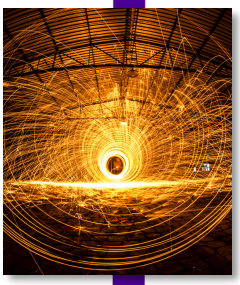
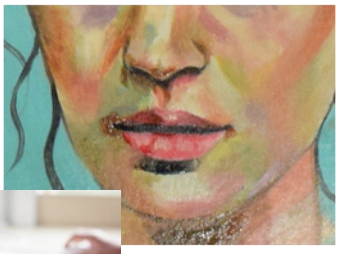
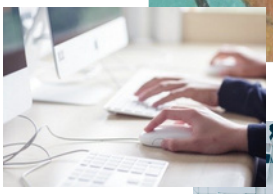
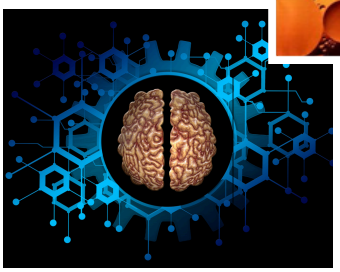
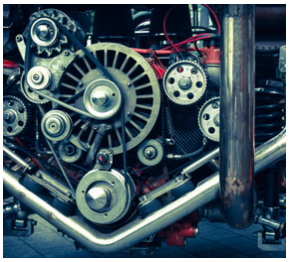
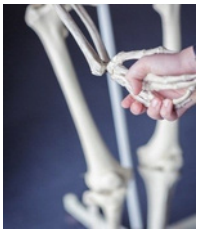
YOUR JOURNEY

YOUR FUTURE...







Prospectus 2027

Nailsea School Sixth Form

Mizzymead Road | Nailsea | North Somerset | BS48 2HN | www.nailseaschool.com

NAILSEA 6 FORM

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Welcome to Nailsea School Sixth Form

Nailsea Sixth Form is a vibrant learning community with an inclusive ethos, offering a wide range of Level 3 courses alongside an extensive pastoral and enrichment programme. We are proud of the high standards of teaching and learning our students experience from subject specialists, while also placing great emphasis on developing the whole student, supporting their academic, social, and personal growth. We support learners to become confident, well-rounded individuals who make a positive contribution to both our local community and wider society.

Aspirational Learners

Our Sixth Form is committed to developing aspirational learners, giving students the opportunity to explore content beyond the curriculum through our termly Aim Higher tasks, fostering both subject passion and a curiosity for learning. We encourage participation in our Aspire, HE+ and In2MedSchool Programmes, supporting applications to competitive institutions and preparing students for admissions tests and interviews. Students also undertake ambitious work experience placements to further develop career-related skills and attributes, culminating in our engaging and impactful Pathways Week.

Independent Thinkers

At Nailsea, we are passionate about empowering students to embrace our mantra, 'Your Journey, Your Future'. We work closely with our students as they become leaders of their own learning, fostering independence and proactivity in their academic ambitions. Our weekly VESPA Programme enhances Key Stage 5 study skills and learning characteristics, including organisation, critical thinking, and self-reflection, developing a confident and resilient A level mindset. We ensure all available pathways are explored through insightful trips, fairs, and open days, supporting students to make well-informed choices about their future.

Community Ambassadors

Our extensive enrichment programme allows students to pursue diverse areas of interest that support their wellbeing, enhance their academic profile, or broaden their knowledge and understanding of the world. Through volunteering within school and surrounding areas, our students make positive contributions to the local community, developing valuable skills that prepare them for life beyond school. They also benefit from a wide range of experiences, including student leadership, termly social events, Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and curriculum trips, further enriching their personal development and overall Sixth Form experience.

Students leave Nailsea Sixth Form equipped with the knowledge, skills, experiences, and qualifications needed to thrive in the next stage of their journey. Each year, our students progress to a wide range of exciting destinations, including higher education, apprenticeships, and full-time employment, with many securing places at prestigious universities or joining competitive national organisations.

Thank you for taking the time to consider Nailsea Sixth Form.

N. Macleod

Mrs N Macleod
Assistant Headteacher- Head of Sixth Form

"Students in the Sixth Form develop confidence and independence. They have exemplary attitudes to their work and contribute meaningfully to the life of the school and wider society"

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

NAILSEA SCHOOL

10

Sixth Form Life

"More than just lessons - it's a place to belong"

At Nailsea Sixth Form, you will experience a welcoming community where you can focus on your studies, have the confidence to explore your interests and make lasting friendships where your wellbeing is prioritised.

Independent Study Spaces

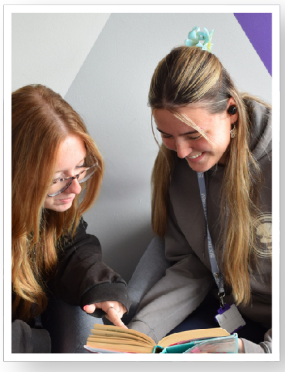
Our dedicated Sixth Form study space gives you the environment and resources to work independently, complete homework and prepare for your next steps. You'll develop reactive study habits to meet teacher deadlines and proactive strategies through our tutor time programme. With IT access, quiet study areas, support from our Learning Mentor and a range of resources, you'll have everything you need to succeed.

Social Spaces

Our dedicated Sixth Form social spaces are perfect for relaxing, catching up with friends and taking a break between lessons and study. From our common room and bridges to the central space, there's room to chat, play cards or air hockey, or work individually and in groups during your free periods.

Our Local Community

We're proud to be at the heart of Nailsea, with excellent links to local businesses, volunteering opportunities and transport. During free periods, you can explore the local area, grab a coffee or lunch, go home if you live nearby, or get involved in community projects. We prioritise your wellbeing, recognising that independence means balancing study with socialising, exercise and part-time work.



Support for External Students

We welcome students from a range of schools and backgrounds, and we have a strong programme in place to support the smooth transition to Sixth Form. Each year, we welcome lots of external students. Therefore our programme is designed to ensure that students settle into our Sixth Form community, from carefully considering tutor groups, to transition events such as our first social event at Puxton Park. Our dedicated Sixth Form team have considered everything to ensure that you feel confident, prepared and ready to thrive.

Our Transition Programme

Our transition programme is designed to help all students both internal and external applicants – feel welcomed and prepared for their next steps in Sixth Form. From summer transition tasks and our transition day with taster lessons, we'll make sure you feel part of the Sixth Form community from day one.

"Joining Nailsea from a different school felt like a big step, but staff support and opportunities to make friends helped me settle quickly and feel part of the community."

Supporting Every Student

At our Sixth Form, we believe that every student deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. We are committed to providing a supportive environment where students feel valued, build confidence and develop the skills they need for success. Through our comprehensive pastoral, academic and holistic support, we ensure that every student is encouraged to flourish throughout their Sixth Form journey.

Pastoral Support

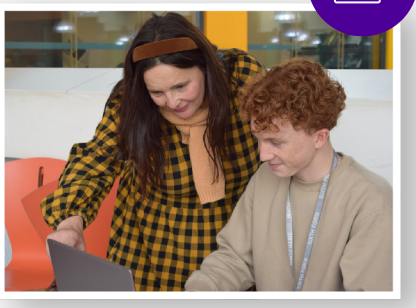
"Your wellbeing matters"

Our Sixth Form is a welcoming, inclusive community where you can feel a sense of belonging and thrive. Our dedicated pastoral team supports you throughout your journey, with tutor time, wellbeing activities and social events such as the Summer and Winter Balls, helping you build resilience, strengthen friendships and enjoy Sixth Form life.

Examples of support include:

- 1:1 tutor monitoring meetings
- Dedicated pastoral teams and Heads of Year 12 and 13
- Wellbeing and mental health support
- Termly social events promoting community and positive relationships
- Tutor time programme, including Wellbeing Mondays

Academic Support



"Aiming high to achieve your ambitions"

We provide tailored teaching, individual guidance and targeted support to help you achieve your academic potential. Where additional support is needed we offer a range of interventions such as learning mentor, SEND and tutor led support.
Our 'Aim Higher' programme, regular progress reviews and study skills sessions encourage you to extend your learning, build confidence and become an independent learner.

Examples of support include:

- Regular progress reviews and feedback
- Subject support and revision sessions
- Targeted SEND, learning mentor and tutor support
- Excellent study spaces
- Weekly tutor time focused on study skills

Holistic Support

"Developing the person, not just the student"

We believe Sixth Form is about more than lessons. Through enrichment, volunteering, leadership, careers activities and wider community experiences, you can discover new interests, develop valuable life skills and grow in confidence.
Ultimately our aim is to help you become a well-rounded individual, ready to embrace future opportunities and take your next steps with ambition.

Examples of support include:

- Weekly enrichment for every student
- Leadership programmes
- Volunteering opportunities for every student
- Work experience and employer links
- Life skills and independence
- Work readiness programmes

"Teachers will go the extra mile to support you as a person both in and outside of their lessons. Tutors get to known you really well - which makes you feel valued"

Beyond the Classroom

At Nailsea Sixth Form, we believe in developing the holistic learner, and that involves experiences beyond the classroom. Our enrichment, volunteering and pathways opportunities give all students the chance to explore new interests, develop interpersonal skills and build confidence – all whilst making a positive impact and creating lasting memories

Enrichment

Our Tuesday enrichment programme provides every Nailsea Sixth Form student with the opportunity to engage in a wide range of activities designed to build new skills and help you discover new interests. From creative arts to debating and leadership, there is something for everyone. Enrichment looks great in your university or apprenticeship applications, but more importantly, it helps you grow as a person and enjoy Sixth Form along the way!

Recreation

Wellbeing walks, book club, team sports, music, creative arts, driving academy, life skills.

Super Curricular

EPQ, MedSoc, debate society, coding club, engineering, TEFL, In2Med School, HE+.

Extra Curricular

Gold D of E, event planning, Priority football academy, Nailsea Thunder rugby academy.

Volunteering

Volunteering is a wonderful way to give back, make a difference and gain valuable experiences - and demonstrate our core value of community ambassadors. All of our Sixth Form students engage in weekly volunteering – from supporting younger students with reading to tackling environmental projects. Our opportunities help you develop interpersonal skills, such as empathy, teamwork and leadership.

Opportunities Include:

- Peer reader
- Hive or Bridge mentor
- Subject Ambassador
- Club Leader
- Resource Base lunch leader
- 6th Form Journalist

Give back to the community, build confidence and make a difference

Pathways

"Pathways Day gave me the chance to connect with employers, explore my options and build the confidence to ace my apprenticeship interviews."

Academies

"Being part of Priority Football Academy has enabled me to develop my skills, represent Nailsea Sixth Form and push myself to be the best I can be."

Trips

"The Iceland trip brought us together, creating friendships, unforgettable memories and a real sense of belonging - it was an experience I'll never forget."

Gold D of E

"Gold DofE taught me resilience, teamwork and the importance of never giving up."

"Sixth form has help me explore the person I want to be, by trying new things with different people, my friendship group and confidence has really grown"

Extended Project Qualification

Contact Person: Miss Cartwright

Course Outline:

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a uniquely exciting opportunity for students to explore a subject they are passionate about and showcase their independent research and critical thinking skills. With the EPQ, students have the freedom to choose their own topic, allowing them to explore areas beyond the confines of their regular curriculum. Whether it's investigating a scientific hypothesis, looking at historical events, or creating a piece of artwork, the EPQ empowers students to become experts in their chosen field. Students produce either an artefact (such as a piece of artwork, a performance, or a prototype) or a written report.

Through this immersive experience, students learn how to conduct independent research, gather relevant information from various sources, and critically evaluate the credibility and reliability of sources. As a self-directed project, it requires students to manage their time effectively. You will learn to set goals, plan tasks, and meet deadlines, developing essential time management skills that are valuable in higher education and the workplace. Students are required to communicate their research findings effectively through a variety of mediums, such as written reports, presentations, or creative projects.

This qualification attracts the same UCAS tariff points as half an A Level, and therefore students who receive a points offer from university will benefit from studying the EPQ. Some universities also routinely give alternative offers to students who have studied the EPQ, increasing their chances of attending first choice and competitive universities. It is highly regarded by employers due to the valuable skills and attributes that are transferable into the workplace.

Assessment is via the production of a 5000 word written report or an artefact and 1000+ word written report. Students also have to deliver a presentation on their project to members of the Sixth Form team.

Progression Post-18

All universities like this qualification as it develops skills and teaching methods that they will build on. The independent approach is something employers will look for too.

Students do not need to apply for the EPQ until they start Sixth Form with us.
This programme runs January Year 12- January Year 13

Qualification: Extended Project Coursework 100%
Examination Board : AQA

Priority Football Academy

Sixth Form Football Programme – Priority Football Academy
If football is your passion, our Sixth Form Football Programme, delivered by Priority Football, gives you the opportunity to train and compete as part of Nailsea School's 1st XI Football Team: representing the school against top opposition across the South-West region.

The Offer

Alongside your A Level or BTEC studies, you'll train twice per week under the guidance of UEFA-qualified coaches Adam Davidson and Rob Prior. Sessions take place on our state-of-the-art 4G pitch or Sports Hall. You'll then put your training into action in regular midweek fixtures as part of the English Colleges Football Association (ECFA) League and two cup competitions, competing against some of the region's strongest school and college sides.

The Experience

Our football programme is designed to give you the feel of a semi-professional environment; structured training, game preparation, video analysis, and the chance to develop both individually and as a team.
You'll learn what it means to:
· Represent your school at a competitive level
· Train to professional standards
· Balance sporting commitments with academic achievement

Opportunities

As part of the team, players will have opportunities to:
· Be scouted by semi-professional and academy sides
· Gain insight into sports performance, analysis and leadership
· Compete for regional and national recognition through ECFA pathways

Who Can Join?

The Football Programme is open to all sixth form students whether you're studying A Levels or BTEC Sport anyone can train and play in midweek fixtures.

Why Join the Football Programme?

· Athletic development while pursuing your chosen studies
· Represent the school with pride in competitive fixtures
· Improve your game through structured, high-quality coaching
· Experience the thrill of competitive football

Progression Post-18

The UK boasts several specialist Universities when it comes to playing and studying sports and performance. Local Universities such as University of South Wales, Bath and Hartpury as well as Loughborough, Glasgow and Exeter are some of the top sports performance Universities that can provide you with valuable experience and qualifications essential for further progression within sport.
In addition, Priority Football Academy can help you gain a scholarship studying and playing at a University

If this course is of interest to you, we would love to speak with you about how we can make your football dreams a reality. Please register your interest at www.priorityfootballacademy.co.uk/join. As there are a limited number of spaces available on this course, we ask that you please endeavour to register your interest as early as possible.

Nailsea Sixth Form Rugby Academy

Ready to Start the Journey? Our Sixth Form Rugby Academy gives you the opportunity to experience college-level competition, high-quality coaching, performance analysis and strength and conditioning support, all while gaining a high-quality education. Compete as part of Nailsea School's 1st XV rugby team, taking on top opposition from across the South West.

The Offer

Alongside your A Levels or BTEC studies, you'll train twice per week under the guidance of England RFU Qualified coach Sam Taylor. Session will take place on school site, or local fitness establishments. You'll then put your training into action in regular midweek fixtures as part of the AOC Rugby Colleges league and cup competitions against some of the regions strongest school and college sides. Alongside this you'll have access to National Tournaments such as Rosslyn Park 7s.

The Experience

Our rugby programme is designed to give you the feel of a semi-professional environment, structured training, game preparation, video analysis, Strength and conditioning guidance and a chance to develop individually and as a team.

- Train to Professional Standards
- Access High Level Competition
- Balance Sporting Commitment with Academic Achievement

Opportunities

As part of the team, players will have opportunities to:

- Gain insight into sports performance, analysis and leadership
- Compete in regional and national competitions
- Support local clubs in leadership and coaching
- Be scouted by semi-professional and academy sides

Who Can Join?

The Rugby Programme is open to all sixth form students whether you're studying A levels or BTEC Sport anyone can train and play in midweek fixtures.

Why Join the Football Programme?

- College level competition, whilst receiving high-quality teaching.
- Improve your game through structured, high-quality coaching.
- Create Memories

Progression Post-18

The UK boasts several specialist Universities when it comes to playing and studying sports and performance. Local Universities such as University of South Wales, Bath and Hartpury as well as Loughborough, Glasgow and Exeter are some of the top sports performance Universities that can provide you with valuable experience and qualifications essential for further progression within sport.
In addition, Nailsea School Rugby Academy can help you gain a scholarship studying and playing at a University

If this course is of interest to you, we would love to hear from you. To register your interest please email: STaylor@nailseaschool.com

"The pathways programme helped me feel confident choosing the right path for me"

Your Pathway, Your Future

At our Sixth Form, support for your future is central to everything we do. Whether you know exactly what you want to do or are still exploring your options, our carefully sequenced programme is designed to guide, support and inspire you every step of the way.

We provide a comprehensive Pathways programme, and dedicate one tutor time a week to Pathways from the start of Year 12. We start by exploring all Post-18 options, supporting students to make informed decisions about their future. Students then opt into a 'pathway', where our programme is bespoke and tailored to ensure students have the knowledge, tools and support to create the highest quality applications – whether that is university, apprenticeships, gap years, or employment.

Structured Pathways

Explicit teaching to write University applications, opportunities to build skills and evidence to stand out in applications.

Employment Links

Throughout Pathways week, students gain valuable real-world experience through placements and visits from employers.

Future Focus

In Year 12, we visit a UCAS and apprenticeship fair to support informed choices, while school careers fairs connect students with professionals across a range of industries.

Mock Interviews

in Year 13, our Pathways programme supports students in developing skills required at interview, leading to a mock interview with a professional in the industry.

Specialist Support

From In2Med School and HE+ to our own Aspire programme, mock apprenticeships, assessment centres and CV clinics, our bespoke 'future' programme supports every student

Suggested Pathways: Level 3 Courses for Key Careers and Degrees*

Career Pathway	Suggested Level 3 courses (highly recommended in bold)
Architecture	Art, Craft and Design, Further Maths, Maths, Physics
Biomedical Science	**Biology**, **Chemistry**, Human Biology, Further Maths, Maths, Physics
Business and Finance	Business Studies, Computing, Further Maths, Maths
Creative Media and Marketing	Art, Craft and Design, Business Studies, English Language, Media Studies, Photography
Cyber Security / Coding	Business Studies, Chemistry, Computing, Further Maths, Maths, Physics
Education	Early Child Development, English Language, Health and Social Care, Psychology
Engineering and Physics	**Chemistry**, Further Maths, **Maths**, **Physics**
Environmental Science	Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Maths, Physics
Health	**Biology/Human Biology**, Early Childhood Development, Food Science and Nutrition, Health and Social Care, Psychology, Sport and Physical Activity
Journalism	English Language, English Literature, History, Media Studies, Photography, Politics
Law	Criminology, English Language, English Literature, History, Spanish, Politics, Psychology
Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science	**Biology**, **Chemistry**, Further Maths, Maths, Physics, Psychology
Psychology	Biology, Criminology, English Language, Early Childhood Development, Health and Social Care, Human Biology, Psychology
Public Affairs	English Language, English Literature, Geography, History, Politics
Sport	Biology, Food Science and Nutrition, Health and Social Care, Human Biology, Sport, Sport and Physical Activity, Psychology

*This is for guidance purposes only and therefore it is essential to do your own pathways research.

Your Options, Your Journey

At Nailsea Sixth Form, we offer a wider range of A Level and vocational courses designed to match your interests and future ambitions. With expert teaching, excellent facilities and personalised guidance, you'll find the right combination of subjects to create a pathway to suit your goals.

Students are expected to select three courses, establishing the foundation required for successful progression into higher education or employment. Those who wish to pursue a fourth subject are welcome to discuss this as part of their interview. Each subject choice must be chosen from a different option block. Once submitted, courses can be changed during the interview process, and if necessary as late as GCSE results day. Changes are subject to course availability and capacity.

Students who have not achieved a Grade 4 in either English Language or English Literature, or in Maths, are required to re-sit those qualifications alongside their Level 3 courses.

A Level

An A-Level is a Level 3 qualification typically studied over two years in Sixth Form. Assessment is through examinations, although some subjects may also include coursework.

Vocational

Career-focused Level 3 qualifications combining subject knowledge and employability skills through modular units, coursework and examinations. Includes BTECs, AAQs and V Levels.

Extended

A Level 3 Vocational qualification equivalent to three A-Levels, studied over two years. Combines practical skills, theoretical knowledge, examinations and coursework.

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D	Pool E
Biology	Art, Craft and Design	Business Studies	Criminology	English Language
Computing	Geography	Chemistry	French	English Literature
Food Science and Nutrition	Health and Social Care	Early Childhood Development	History	Further Maths
Human Biology	Physics	Politics	Maths	Psychology
Media Studies	Philosophy, Religion and Ethics	Psychology	Photography	Geography
Music			Sport and Physical Activity	Criminology
Maths				English & Maths - Resits
The option below is a full-time course and the equivalent to 3 A Levels				
Sports Extended Diploma				

Entry Requirements

A minimum of five GCSEs at grades 9–4, alongside the subject-specific entry requirements.

Subject	Grade in subject at GCSE	Additional Grades
Art, Craft and Design	5 in Fine Art or 3D Art	
Biology	66 in Science, or 6 in Biology and 6 in another Science	6 in Maths, 5 in English Language or Literature
Human Biology	44 in Combined Science or 4 in Biology	
Business Studies	4 or L2 Merit*	4 in Maths
Chemistry	66 in Science, or 6 in Chemistry and 6 in another Science	6 in Maths
Criminology		4 in English Language or Literature
Computing	L2 Merit in ICT*	4 in Maths
Early Childhood Development	L2 Merit in Health and Social Care*	4 in English Language or Literature
English Language	5	
English Literature	5	
Food Science and Nutrition	4*	
Spanish	6	
Geography	5	
Health and Social Care	L2 Merit*	4 in English Language or Literature, 44 in Science
History	5	5 in English Language or Literature
Maths	7	
Further Maths	8	
Media Studies	5* in Media or Film Studies	5 in English Language or Literature
Music	5* (Performance Standard 5 + Theory 5)	
Photography	5*	5 in Art*
Philisophy, Religion & Ethics		4 in English Language or Literature
Physics	66 in Science, or 6 in Physics and 6 in another Science	6 in Maths
Politics		5 in English Language or Literature
Psychology		5 in English Language or Literature, 55 in Science, 4 in Maths
Sport	4 or L2 Merit*	4 in English Language or Literature, 44 in Science
Sport and Physical Activity	4 or L2 Merit *	4 in English Language or Literature, 44 in Science

*Students who have not studied the subject at GCSE will be considered based on their broader academic achievement

Your Journey Starts Here

How to Apply

Current Nailsea School students will receive an application form via their school email account. Prospective students from other schools can register for an application form through our website. www.nailseaschool.com/sixth-form/apply-to-sixth-form/, or scan the QR code:

The application closing date is Friday 8th January 2027.

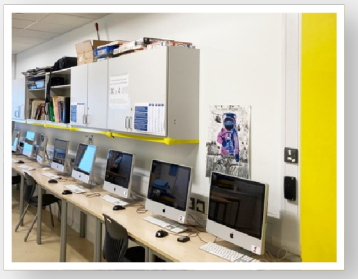
Thursday 6th November 2026	Online Application Opens
Thursday 26th November 2026	Open Evening
Friday 8th January 2027	Online Application Closes
January–March 2027	Sixth Form Interviews
April 2027	Conditional Offers
Thursday 8th July 2027	Transition Day
Thursday 19th August 2027	GCSE Results Day
Thursday 19th August 2027	Enrolment Form Opens
Friday 20th August 2027	Enrolment Form Closes
Monday 6th September 2027	Induction Day

"The interview was really helpful because it gave me a clearer understanding of the application process and the entry requirements for my chosen courses. It also gave me the opportunity to discuss my subject choices and make sure they were right for me. I left feeling more confident about my decisions and prepared for the next stage."

Book a Tour

We'd love to show you around our sixth form. Book a personal tour to experience our facilities, meet our staff and students, and get a real feel for what makes our community so special.

Email: NMacleod@nailseaschool.com to book a tour



Find out More

You can find out more about Nailsea Sixth Form on our website, for more information scan here:

Art, Craft and Design - A Level

Contact Person: Ms R Davies

Course Outline:

A Level Art, Craft and Design is ideally suited for students who possess a deep, intense curiosity about all aspects of visual communication, including painting, sculpture, illustration, or any form of creative expression.

Fundamentally, what sets A Level Art, Craft & Design apart is an emphasis on versatility. You're not confined to a single medium or style; instead, you will have the freedom to experiment, innovate, and challenge conventional norms. This in turn allows you to nurture your innate talents, while also honing your skills in drawing, painting, modelling in clay, printmaking, and many other mediums.

Over the two years you will plan, resource and develop projects in an increasingly independent manner, working meaningfully with a number of different mediums and techniques to communicate amazing individual concepts and ideas.

Whether your dream is to become a professional artist, illustrator, graphic designer, architect, or simply any profession that demands creativity and innovation, A Level Art, Craft and Design equips you with the skills and mindset to succeed.

The qualification consists of 60% coursework, with each student selecting their own area of focus, and 40% externally set task culminating in a 15-hour (three day) practical exam.

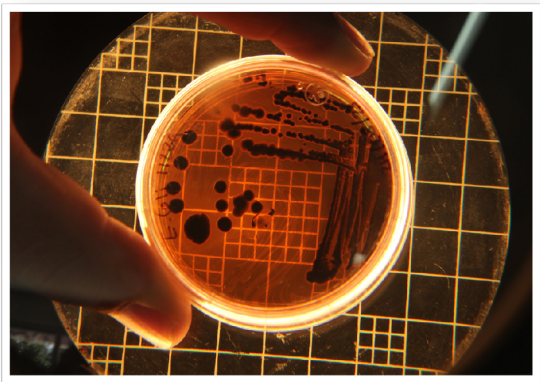
Progression Post-18

Following the successful completion of A Level Art, Craft & Design, a wide range of exciting progression routes available, including a Foundation Year in Art & Design, University degrees within the Arts, apprenticeships in creative industries and freelance work. Exciting and creative career opportunities include Graphic Design, Architecture, Illustration, Digital Media Design, Animation… The creative industries sector contributed £109bn to the UK economy in 2021 – there are so many opportunities out there for you

Qualification: A Level Art, Craft and Design Coursework: 60% Examination: 40%
Examination Board: AQA

Biology - A Level

Contact Person: Mrs I Barron-Smith



Course Outline:

Are you curious about life and how living things work? If you're someone who loves nature and wants to learn more about it, then A-Level Biology AQA is a great choice for you.

What You'll Explore:
Over two enlightening years, you'll delve into the core of biology, gaining invaluable knowledge.

Year 1: Building Foundations
Biological Molecules: Discover the fundamental components of life.
Cells: Explore the intricate world of cellular structures and functions.
Organisms Exchange Substances with Their Environment: Understand how living beings interact with their surroundings.
Genetic Information, Variation, and Relationships between Organisms: Unravel the secrets of genetics, diversity, and the interconnectedness of life.

Year 2: Delving Deeper
Energy Transfers in and Between Organisms: Explore the energy flow that sustains all life.
Organisms Respond to Changes in Their Environments: Investigate how organisms respond to their ever-changing surroundings.
Genetics, Populations, Evolution, and Ecosystems: Unearth the captivating stories of evolution, population dynamics, and the delicate balance of ecosystems.
The Control of Gene Expression: Understand the art of genetic regulation and how genes govern life's processes.

While there's no coursework, your practical skills will be invaluable. You will be assessed during practicals and receive a pass/fail on the practical certificate. Also at least 15% of the marks in tests are based on what you will have learnt in your practicals.

Progression Post-18

A Level Biology AQA opens doors to a wide range of careers and further studies. Whether you dream of pursuing a medical profession, environmental science, research, or another field, this course provides the foundation. The skills you acquire, such as analysis, interpretation, investigation, research, and problem-solving, are highly valued by employers and training providers across various industries.
Join us on this scientific journey as we explore life's complexities, from tiny molecules to the grandeur of ecosystems.
A-Level Biology AQA is your gateway to a world where curiosity knows no bounds, and the pursuit of knowledge is as rewarding as it is challenging.

Qualification: A Level Examination: 100%
Examination Board AQA

Human Biology

Cambridge Advanced National Level 3 Extended Study

Contact Person: Mrs I Barron Smith

Course Outline:

The OCR Level 3 Cambridge Advanced National in Human Biology is an exciting and challenging course that gives you the opportunity to explore the remarkable complexity of the human body. If you are fascinated by science and interested in pursuing a future in healthcare, biomedical research, or medical sciences, this qualification offers the perfect foundation.

The course combines theoretical study with practical, hands-on learning. You will explore the fundamentals of human biology, including cell structure, biochemistry, and genetics, before delving into health and disease, understanding how lifestyle, environment, and the immune system influence wellbeing. Alongside this, you will study inheritance and DNA, and develop real laboratory skills through biomedical techniques such as microscopy, biochemical testing, and DNA analysis.

There is also scope to pursue specialist areas that reflect your interests, such as nutrition and metabolism, reproduction, the brain, or drug development. This breadth allows you to deepen your knowledge while making links to real-world contexts and the rapidly developing field of medical science.

Human Biology is more than just content knowledge: it is about developing independence, communication skills, and the confidence to research, analyse, and present ideas. You will use whiteboards, digital tools, and experiments to check understanding, tackle misconceptions, and build your ability to think critically and creatively. The qualification balances examined units with non-examined assessments (NEA), giving you opportunities to demonstrate your knowledge both in traditional tests and through practical or applied assignments.

This qualification is designed to sit alongside A Levels and complements subjects such as Chemistry, Psychology, or Sport. It not only prepares you for progression to undergraduate study in healthcare and medical science but also equips you with transferable skills valued in many career paths.

Human Biology will challenge you to think like a scientist and inspire you to see how biology can shape lives and futures.

Progression Post-18

This course could lead you towards:
BSc Nursing

- BSc Social Work
- BSc Physiotherapy
- BSc Occupational Therapy
- BSc Speech Therapy
- BSc Health and Social Care
- BSc Midwifery
- BSc Radiography
- BSc Paramedic Science

The course may lead to apprenticeships, such as:

- Early Years Provision
- Care Worker
- Teaching Assistant
- Health Care Support Worker

Qualification: Cambridge Advanced National Level 3 Extended Certificate (AAQ)
External Units 44% Internal Units 56% NEA Examination Board: OCR

Business Studies

Cambridge Technical Level 3

Contact Person: Mrs A Finney

Course Outline:

The Cambridge Technical Level 3 in Business at Nailsea School offers an opportunity to explore the business world, equipping you with the skills and knowledge to succeed. The course is ideal for students interested in understanding business operations, developing essential skills, and gaining insights into different business environments. Our curriculum combines practical and theoretical learning, preparing you for higher education or entering the workforce.

What you'll explore:
Over two years, you will cover five key units:
Unit 1: The Business Environment, Unit 2: Working in Business, Unit 4: Customers and Communication, Unit 5: Marketing and Market research and Unit 8: Introduction to Human Resources.

You will understand how businesses operate, develop practical skills for professional environments, learn about customer relationships, explore human resources, and gain project management skills.

We're looking for motivated students eager to understand business, develop professional skills, and apply knowledge to real-world scenarios. The ideal candidate should have a genuine interest in business, be open to learning theoretical and practical skills, and possess strong communication and teamwork abilities. If you are curious and hardworking, this course will provide a strong foundation for success.

Progression Post-18

After completing this course, you can pursue a degree in business, marketing, finance, or related fields, or choose an apprenticeship for hands-on experience. Many students successfully transition into careers in finance, marketing, HR, and management. This course equips you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to thrive in business, whether you aim to start your own enterprise or work in a corporate setting.

Qualification: Cambridge Technical Level 3 Business Studies
Coursework: 50% Examination: 50%

Chemistry - A Level

Contact Person: Mrs M Evry

Course Outline:

Chemistry helps us to understand the world in which we live and underpins a wide range of science-based degree courses and careers. Success with A level chemistry will prepare you for a future in chemistry, pharmacy, pharmacology, chemical engineering, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, medicine / veterinary and dentistry. For some undergraduate degrees A level Chemistry is an essential entry requirement. This course is designed to be stimulating, enjoyable and challenging.

Chemistry is for you if:

- You want impressive skills to show off to future employers, e.g data handling, analysis, problem solving, collaborative working.
- You are not afraid to get stuck on new concept and enjoy having to work it out!
- You're not as keen on writing—but you do enjoy methodically working through calculations.
- You are unsure what to do but enjoy chemistry and would like to keep your options open.

What you will Study

Year 1	Year 2
Atomic Structure	Thermodynamics
Amount of Substance	Rates
Bonding	Equilibrium
Energetics	Electrochemistry
Kinetics	Period 3
Equilibria	Transition Metals
Groups 2 & 7	Further Organic Chemistry
Periodicity	Proteins and DNA
Organic Chemistry	Organic Synthesis
Analysis	Pathways
	Organic Analysis

In addition to this, there will be ample opportunities to get into the lab both to carry out the required practical element and to conduct class experiments. The required practical is a teacher assessed part of the course (although this has no impact on your overall grade).

Progression Post-18

Previous A Level Chemistry students have gone on to study a range of scientific and non-scientific courses at university. These include: medicine, dentistry, mathematics, biochemistry, engineering, architecture, languages, music, economics and veterinary sciences.
A Level Chemistry is a required A Level for most medicine, dentistry and veterinary courses.

Qualification: A Level Examination: 100%
Examination Board: AQA

Criminology

WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma

Contact Person: Miss A Cartwright

Course Outline:

Criminology is a gripping film-noir of a subject, a procedural police thriller of new knowledge and adventure. We will do our best to ensure it lives up to your CSI expectations. One thing is certain: this course will open your eyes to a range of thrilling job opportunities within the criminal justice sector, social and probation work, as well as sociology and psychology. Here's a sneak peek at what you'll discover:

Changing Awareness of Crime
Unravel the mysteries surrounding different types of crime and discover the factors that influence our perceptions. Challenge your preconceptions and broaden your understanding of the complex world of criminal activity.

Criminological Theories
Ever wondered why people commit crimes? Peer into the minds of criminals and unleash your inner detective as you explore various theories behind criminal behaviour.

Crime Scene to Courtroom
Step into the shoes of a crime scene investigator and follow the trail from the crime scene to the court-room verdict. Examine crucial evidence and discover the intricate workings of the criminal justice system.

Crime and Punishment
Gain a deep understanding of criminality awareness, criminological theories, and the process of bringing an accused individual to court. Evaluate the effectiveness of social control in delivering criminal justice policy and become a champion of fairness and equality.

The WJEC Level 3 Certificate in Criminology is an Applied General Qualification. The main purpose of the qualification is to support access to higher education degree courses, such as: Criminology, Psychology, Sociology and Law. While not an A-Level, universities widely accept and value students with a Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology.

Progression Post-18

The main purpose of the WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology is to use the qualification to support access to higher education degree courses, such as:
· BSc Criminology
· BSc (Hons) Criminology and Psychology
· LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology
· BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology
· BSc (Hons) Psychology and Sociology ·
Alternatively, the qualification allows learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within some aspects of the criminal justice system, e.g. the National Probation Service, the Courts and Tribunals Service or the National Offender Management Service

Qualification: Level 3 Diploma Coursework: 50% Examination: 50%
Examination Board: WJEC

Computing: Digital Systems and Data

Cambridge OCR V Level

Contact Person: Mrs S Wheeler

Course Outline:

You will explore how digital systems work, including hardware, software, networks and secure access, and learn how organisations keep their technology reliable and secure.

You will develop skills in working with data, learning how to analyse and present information to identify trends and support decision making. You will also investigate cyber security, exploring common threats and how digital systems and information can be protected.

You will discover how digital solutions are designed and developed to meet user needs, while building valuable problem-solving, communication and teamwork skills. You will also explore the ethical and responsible use of technology, including the exciting and growing role of AI and automation in the workplace.

V Levels at a Glance:

- Level 3 qualification
- 60% non-exam assessment
- 40% exam
- Same size as an A Level (360 guided learning hours)
- Attracts UCAS points for entry into Higher Education

Progression Post-18

Higher education degrees linked to digital and technology subjects, such as Computer Science, Computing, Data Science, Cyber Security, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Business Information Systems and Digital Technology Solutions

Level 4 apprenticeship in areas such as Data Analysis, Software Development, Business Analysis and Cyber Security and at Level 5 in Data Engineering

Careers in data analysis, cyber security, software development, IT support, digital systems and business analysis.

Qualification: Cambridge Advanced National Level 3 Extended Certificate
Coursework (NEA): 60% Examination: 40% Examination Board: OCR

Early Childhood Development

BTEC V Level

Contact Person: Mrs R Gardiner

Course Outline:

Early Childhood Development offers a rich, engaging pathway into careers in early years education, primary teaching, paediatrics, social work, and child psychology. This course equips you with essential knowledge, professional skills, and real-world understanding of the early years sector.

Children's Development
Begin with an in-depth look at children's developmental progress from birth to eight years. Explore key developmental theories, milestones, and principles. You'll understand how factors like health, family environment, culture, and early experiences can shape a child's growth. You'll be assessed through a 1 hour 45-minute external exam in January, worth 25% of your final grade.

Play and Learning
Next, immerse yourself in the concept of play and how it supports every area of development. Learn how different theories and approaches to play influence practice and provision in early years settings. You'll complete four internally assessed assignments, exploring how play-based learning benefits children and how practitioners plan and deliver meaningful experiences. This unit is worth 25% of your final grade and is completed by the end of Year 12.

Progression Post-18

This can lead to university courses like Early Childhood Studies, Teaching, or Child Psychology. It opens doors to jobs such as nursery assistant, teaching assistant, or childminder. You can pursue apprenticeships in childcare or education. Combined with qualifications like Health and Social Care or Human Biology, it can lead to nursing, paramedic science, or midwifery. It offers flexible pathways into education or early years careers.

Keeping Children Safe
This unit prepares you for real-world responsibilities. You'll gain a thorough understanding of health, safety, and safeguarding procedures, including emergency best practices and how to respond to concerns about a child's welfare. In January, you'll sit another 1 hour 45-minute exam, worth 25% of your final qualification. Research and Reflective Practice.
In your final unit, you'll explore how research shapes early years policy and provision, and how professionals apply this to their own practice. You'll learn how reflective thinking improves the quality of care and supports continuous professional development. You'll complete four assignments, due by May of Year 13, contributing the final 25% to your grade.

Qualification: BTEC Level 3 V Level
Coursework: 50% Examination: 50% Exam Board: Pearson

English Language - A Level

Contact Person: Ms C B Jacobs

Course Outline:

Studying English is an exhilarating journey into the fascinating world of language. This course is specifically designed to ignite your interest and passion for the spoken and written word. Discover the power of words as you navigate through the historical, geographical, and social influences that have moulded the English language into what it is today.

By immersing yourself in a wide range of reading materials, you'll not only sharpen your critical thinking skills but also cultivate the ability to think independently and form your own unique perspectives.

Throughout this course, you'll become a master communicator by honing your writing skills. You'll also have the opportunity to take charge of your learning by conducting an investigation on a topic of your choice, unleashing your curiosity for a fascinating subject. You will embark on a journey that will shape not only your academic path, but also unlock the doors to a lifelong love affair with the power of words.

For this A-level course, we're looking for students who are curious about how language works and how it shapes the world around us. Students develop their analytical skills, creative prowess, and critical thinking abilities – which are all highly valued and recognised by universities, regardless of what you go on to study. If you're someone with a passion for the power of language and aren't afraid to think for yourself, then this course is for you.

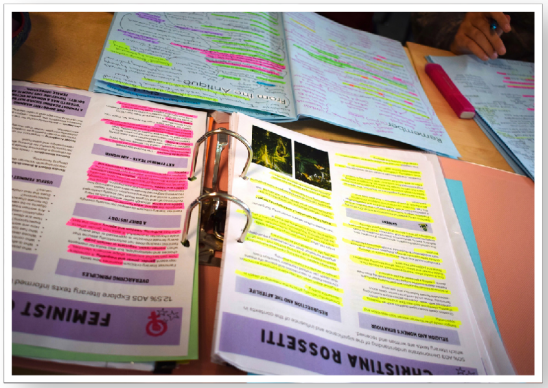
Progression Post-18

English and English Literature are highly regarded by both universities and in the workplace, given the connection with the skills of communication, both written and spoken. Our students have gone on to university courses in English, Philosophy, Media, Linguistics, Law and History, and to careers in Law, Journalism, Media, and Education to name but a few.

Qualification: A Level English Language Coursework: 20% Examination: 80%
Examination Board: AQA

English Literature - A Level

Contact Person: Ms C B Jacobs



Course Outline:

A Level Literature is an amazing adventure, packed with excitement and endless possibilities; it will ignite your passion for novels, plays, and poems in unexpected, thrilling ways.

You'll dive headfirst into a sea of captivating stories. We're not just talking about reading a few books here and there. You'll be immersed in an ocean of literary wonder, equipped with a critical eye and an insatiable curiosity.

This course is designed to unlock your expressive powers and empower you to articulate your thoughts with confidence. You'll sharpen your writing skills, craft compelling essays that captivate your readers and bring your ideas and thoughts to life.

The English Literature classroom is an electrifying place, full of intense discussions as you engage with your classmates, debate the nuances of conflicted characters, untangle intricate plots, and unravel poetic language. It's a chance to share your unique perspective and expand your understanding in a vibrant, intellectual environment.

We don’t forget the importance of real-life experiences and adventures, with literary journeys beyond the classroom walls. You'll have the opportunity to attend theatre performances, explore art galleries or lose yourself in films, allowing literature to come alive in new and illuminating ways.

What are you waiting for? Seize this unique opportunity to unlock the magic of words, embrace the thrill of literary exploration, and become part of a community that celebrates the power of literature. A Level Literature will shape your perspective, ignite your imagination, and leave an indelible mark on your soul.

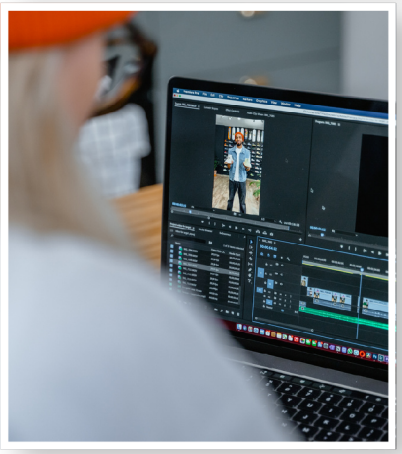
Progression Post-18

English and English Literature are highly regarded by both universities and in the workplace, given the connection with the skills of communication, both written and spoken. Our students have gone on to university courses in English, Philosophy, Media, Linguistics, Law and History, and to careers in Law, Journalism, Media, and Education to name but a few.

Qualification: A Level English Literature Coursework: 20% Examination: 80%
Examination Board: OCR

Film Studies - A Level

Contact Person: Miss G Britton



Course Outline:

It's time to spill the beans on why Film Studies is unequivocally the coolest subject in the world. Picture this: you're not just sitting in class, but diving headfirst into an electrifying cinematic adventure! We watch mind-blowing movies and analyse the directors' intentions through their choice of key elements of film form.

The course provides the opportunity to explore different cultures, travel back in time, and unravel the secrets of storytelling, all through the magic of movies. That's not all though- you will become a mini-filmmaker! By working together on film projects, you will unleash your creativity and produce your masterpiece – talk about epic teamwork!

Through the power of film you will become an expert at critical thinking, seeing the hidden messages in films and becoming a smarter consumer of the waves of flashy visual content out there. This is a superpower; the capacity to be open-minded and culturally aware.

For this A-level course, we're looking for students who enjoy films and discussing them. Film Studies develops a wide range of valuable skills that extend beyond the world of cinema. Some of the key skills that students can gain through Film Studies include:

Critical Thinking: Analysing films requires students to think critically, interpret complex narratives, and evaluate the artistic choices made by filmmakers.
Communication: Discussing and writing about films helps students improve their communication skills, both verbally and in written form.
Creativity: Engaging with filmmaking and storytelling encourages creativity and the ability to express ideas in unique and innovative ways.
Cultural Awareness: Studying films from different cultures and historical periods fosters cultural empathy and a broader perspective on the world.
Teamwork: Collaborative film projects require teamwork, promoting cooperation and effective communication among students.
Visual Literacy: Learning to interpret visual elements in films hones visual literacy skills, which are essential in understanding various forms of media.

Progression Post-18

The Film Industry has over 2.1 million people employed - these are not only jobs that are directly involved with the camera and the set, but also HR, marketing and advertising, finances, catering, etc. Jobs in the film industry have a salary that is 68% higher than the average salary nationwide. Career progression paths can vary from continuing to study Film Studies at Degree level to Advanced Apprenticeships inside the industry. Previous students have gone onto study Film at Warwick and Bristol.

Qualification: A Level Coursework: 60% Examination: 40%
Examination Board AQA

Food Science & Nutrition

WJEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Contact Person: Miss N Allright

Course Outline:

If you're curious about how what we eat shapes our health, performance, and wellbeing, then Food Science and Nutrition is the perfect choice for you. This exciting, applied course blends scientific study with real-world practical skills, helping you explore the fascinating connections between food, health, and the human body.

You'll gain a deep understanding of how nutrition supports growth, energy, and lifestyle — and how food professionals create safe, nutritious, and appealing meals for a range of people and settings. From designing balanced menus to analysing ingredients and understanding dietary needs, you'll learn to think like a professional nutritionist or food scientist.

Practical learning is at the heart of this course. You'll take part in regular food-based investigations, applying theory to real-life scenarios and developing the technical skills needed for modern careers in food and health. You'll also explore key issues such as food safety, sustainability, and the role of diet in preventing illness and promoting wellbeing.

Assessment combines internal coursework with an externally assessed exam, giving you the opportunity to demonstrate both practical ability and scientific understanding.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy hands-on learning and want to make a genuine difference to people's lives through food and nutrition.

Progression Post-18

Studying Food Science and Nutrition opens the door to an incredible range of opportunities after sixth form. It's the perfect foundation for students aiming to pursue careers in nutrition, food science, public health, sports performance, catering, or the wider health and wellbeing sector.
This qualification works brilliantly alongside subjects such as Biology, Sport, and Health and Social Care, giving you a balanced mix of scientific, practical, and people-focused skills that universities and employers highly value.

Qualification: WJEC Level 3 Extended Certificate Coursework: 50% Examination: 50%
Examination Board: EDUQAS

French - A Level

Contact Person: Mr E Bennetts

Course Outline:

Are you ready to set foot on an incredible linguistic journey that will transform your world? If so, then French is absolutely for you. Imagine immersing yourself in the cultural tapestry of a foreign country, effortlessly communicating at a social level with locals, and broadening your language skills to operate on a whole new level!

At A Level, it's not just letting your friend know what time you'll arrive at the station and what jumper you'll be wearing. It is a deep dive into current affairs and popular culture. Get ready to debate, argue, and express yourself with confidence, using spoken and written language to go beyond rote learning and move towards fluency.

Unlocking the secrets of grammar will be your key to effective communication, enabling you to express yourself with clarity and individuality.
We will equip you with the skill to read and digest authentic spoken and written sources diving into captivating films and fantastic literary texts.
The Exam is divided into three parts:

Part 1: Listening, Reading, Writing (50%). In this paper, all the topics you have studied over the course are assessed via reading and listening as well as translation tasks. Your ability to apply grammar studies is also very important. Where possible authentic material is being incorporated into this paper.

Part 2: Writing (20%). In this paper you will be writing about one text and one film (or two texts). Your ability to engage with the material as well as the application of grammar will be assessed.

Part 3: Speaking (30%). During the exam you will be talking about an individual research project as well as about one of four sub themes studied during the course (based on the stimulus card).
Students interested in this course should be be prepared to talk, develop and express their opinions on the topics studied in every lesson. They should have a lively interest in the people, life and culture of the relevant country or countries and a commitment to keeping abreast of current affairs at home and abroad.

Progression Post-18

A modern foreign language is a good subject choice for many students and combines well with a wide range of subjects, i.e. another foreign language, English, Humanities, Business Studies, Computing, Maths and Science. The new examination syllabuses cater for the needs and interests of a wide variety of students, and universities and colleges offer many degree courses combining a modern foreign language with another discipline.
Our links with the European Community are developing constantly and the ability to speak a foreign language is becoming increasingly important. There is great demand for personnel with foreign language skills: international organisations such as the EU or the UN, international banking, import/export trade, airlines and the tourist industry; also, journalism, public relations, secretarial, translating, interpreting, communication technology, publishing and teaching.

Qualification: A Level Examination: 100%
Examination Board: AQA

Geography - A Level

Contact Person: Mrs K Thompson

Course Outline:

A level Geography provides a platform for exploring and understanding the world around us. It covers a wide range of topics such as physical landscapes, human interactions, global issues, and environmental challenges. This dynamic subject allows you to study the complexities of our planet and the interconnectedness of human and physical processes.

Geography is a subject with direct relevance to real-world issues. It addresses global challenges like climate change, sustainable development, urbanisation, and social inequalities. You will gain insights into the world's environmental, social, and economic complexities, enabling you to develop informed perspectives on current affairs and contribute to creating a better future for everyone.

There is a strong emphasis on fieldwork, offering opportunities to conduct practical investigations in different environments. This hands-on approach allows you to collect data, analyse it, and develop practical skills like map reading, data interpretation, and geographical techniques. Residential fieldwork enhances your understanding of concepts and helps you develop important research and analytical skills.

Geography encompasses aspects of both physical and human sciences, making it an interdisciplinary subject. It integrates elements of geology, meteorology, sociology, economics, and politics, providing a well-rounded educational experience. This in turn fosters critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and the ability to connect different disciplines.

When considering your A-level options, it's crucial to explore your personal interests, career aspirations, and the specific course details outlined in the sixth form prospectus. This will enable you to make an informed decision about whether Edexcel A level Geography aligns with your goals and fuels your passion for understanding the world we live in.

Fieldwork is a compulsory part of the course, and we go on a residential course to complete fieldwork needed for the NEA- this costs between £300-£400. Help is available if students are eligible for bursary. In addition to this there is also an optional, five-day residential visit to Iceland which runs every two years.

Progression Post-18

A-level Geography leads to a wide range of careers. The subject equips you with skills that are highly sought after in various fields, including environmental management, urban planning, sustainable development, international relations, geospatial analysis, and tourism. It also serves as a solid foundation for further studies in geography-related disciplines at the university level.

Qualification: A Level Coursework: 20% Examination: 80%
Examination Board : Edexel

Health & Social Care

BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate (AAQ)

Contact Person: Mrs R Gardiner

Course Outline:

Get set for a transformative journey with our Health and Social Care Level 3 BTEC course—a course that is not just an education but a gateway to limitless opportunities within the sector. Here's your roadmap to success:

You will begin by studying the principles and practices underpinning personalised care and support. It's the foundation upon which all care disciplines stand, and you'll experience it first-hand. Take on four challenging task assignments, which reflect real-world scenarios in the health and social care domain. This unit will be completed in January of Year 12, and is worth 25% of your BTEC grade. You will then get stuck straight into a fascinating exploration of human development, encompassing physical, intellectual, emotional, and social aspects of a lifespan. In May of Year 12, you will sit a 1 hour 30-minute examination paper that accounts for 25% of your overall BTEC grade.

In Year 13, it's time to explore what it's really like to be part of the health and social care sector. Understand the roles, responsibilities, and the duty of safeguarding individuals with unique needs. Learn the importance of safeguarding sensitive information with utmost care, and tackle discrimination. January of Year 13 will be your moment to shine, with a 1 hour 30-minute examination paper that constitutes 33% of your overall BTEC grade. The focus is the care of physiological disorders. Discover the roles played by various professionals in providing treatment and care for service users. There are four task assignments, completed by May of Year 13, in which you demonstrate your understanding of physiological disorders and their treatment. The tasks are carefully designed to mirror real-world health and social care scenarios

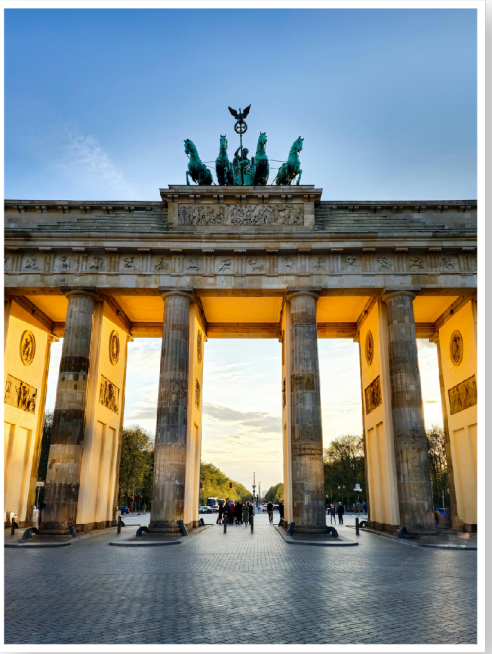
Progression Post-18

This qualification is designed to support progression to higher education.
Areas to consider - any degree in health professions, nursing (adult, children, mental health), special needs, midwifery, physiotherapy, occupational health, health visitor, teaching (all age groups), police force, social work and prison officer.

Health and Social care is much more than a course; it's a compelling journey where you'll not only gain knowledge but also unlock your potential and shape your future in the sector, or any of a number of linked professions.
This course is equivalent to one A-Level; you will study it alongside two other subject choices. Studying Health and Social Care provides you with a foundation of knowledge and skills for a huge variety of careers, but dances alongside A-Levels in the world of academic achievement. What does that mean for you? UCAS points awarded to you are equivalent to that of A-Levels, allowing you to continue your journey with a qualification that is recognised by all universities, whether you're setting your sights on higher education or an exhilarating apprenticeship.

Qualification: BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate (AAQ)
Coursework: 50% Examination: 50% Exam Board: Pearson

History - A Level



Contact Person: Mrs L Ginnis

Course Outline:

Are you ready to embark on an intellectual journey back in time, unravelling the mysteries of the past and providing valuable insights into the present and future? If so, A-Level History offers an unparalleled opportunity to plunge into the recesses of human history, developing your critical thinking and analytical skills, leading to a profound understanding of the world we inhabit. Furthermore, there will be the opportunity to go on a residential trip to Berlin to visit some of the key sites such as the Berlin Wall; the Holocaust Memorial and the Brandenburg Gate to further compliment your History A-Level.

You will have the opportunity in Year 12 to explore modern European History, tracing the journey of 20th Century Spain from monarchy to republic; dictatorship to democracy. You will uncover how this vibrant nation has shaped the modern world. Alongside this you will explore 20th Century Germany, from the devastation of World War Two through post war divisions of East and West Germany and on to their eventual reunification.

In Year 13 you will drop into the tumultuous world of medieval England and The Wars of the Roses. Discover the intrigue, power struggles and dynastic conflict of medieval England featuring the legendary figures of Henry V and Richard III. Finally, in our coursework unit you will have the opportunity to conduct historical research and explore and compare historians interpretations of a controversy in the past. This will be under our expert guidance and will equip you well for researching independently at University and completing extended pieces of writing.

A-Level History is a rewarding course giving you the opportunity to unravel the complex narratives that have shaped our world through the analysis of historical evidence and the work of historians. It is suited to students who have an innate curiosity about the past and enjoy the challenge of evaluating both contemporary historical sources and historians' interpretations to construct their own arguments.

Progression Post-18

A Level History has much to offer and fits in with a wide range of other A Level courses (Sciences, Geography, English, Sociology, Technology), and is regarded by colleges, universities and employers as evidence of a student's ability to handle information, to think and to express her or himself clearly.
Many of our students go on to study either History itself, or Law, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology and Education (or combinations of these subjects) at colleges and universities.
History is particularly relevant for careers in journalism, law, broadcasting, government and administration in all its aspects. Any career that demands independent thinking and an ability to see all sides of the issue will benefit from A Level History skills.

Qualification: A Level Coursework: 20% Examination: 80%
Examination Board: Edexcel

Maths - A Level

Contact Person: Mrs Coates

Course Outline:

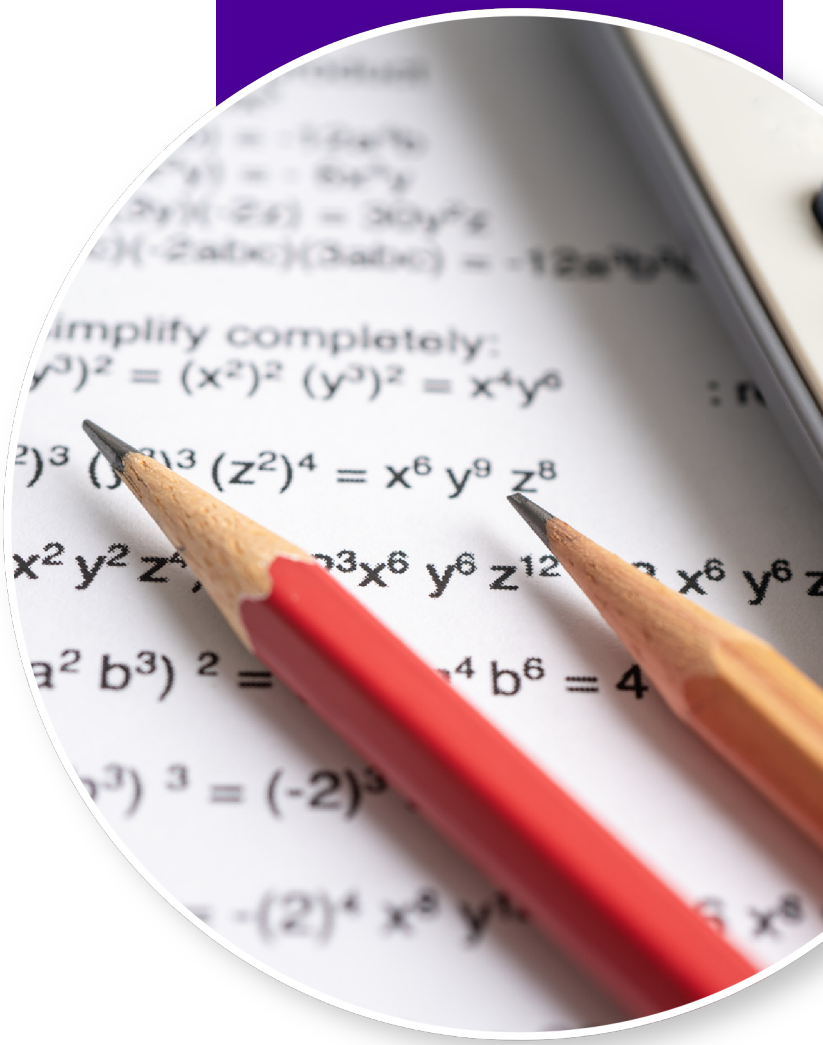
A-level Mathematics is a fascinating journey through the realm of Pure Mathematics, Statistics, and Mechanics. Pure Mathematics lays the foundation for all mathematical thinking, offering a constellation of concepts to challenge the mind. From the elegance of calculus to the intricacies of algebra and geometry, Pure Mathematics is the intellectual core enriching our understanding of the mathematical universe.
Statistics injects a dose of real-world relevance into the mix, equipping students with the tools to analyse data, make informed decisions, and uncover meaningful patterns.

Mechanics moves your study of mathematics from the abstract to the tangible, grounding theory in the physical world. It allows us to predict the motion of objects, understand forces at play, and engineer solutions to real-world problems. The thrill of Mechanics lies in its ability to bridge the gap between theoretical elegance and practical application, empowering you to engineer the future.
In summary, A-level Mathematics is a two-year journey that nurtures both a deep appreciation for the beauty of mathematics and the skills needed to apply it in a multitude of contexts.

Algebraic fluency is a priority, as are strong organisational and time management skills. Most importantly you must enjoy maths and the problem solving that comes with it!
All students will be expected to complete set work over the summer and will be given an induction test at the beginning of September to ensure that they start the course with a strong foundation.

Progression Post-18

Maths is essential for many degree courses besides a Mathematics degree and is desirable for many more. These include Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Computer Science, Technology, Engineering, Geography, Economics, and Psychology. Maths also supports many other courses and careers, for example accountancy, actuarial work, banking, computing, MORSE and management.
Whatever employment or further education is pursued, Maths AS/A2 is highly respected and research suggests that people with A-level Mathematics may earn up to a third more per annum than those who don't have it!



Qualification: A Level Examination: 100%
Examination Board: Edexcel

Further Maths - A Level

Contact Person: Mrs R Coates

Course Outline:

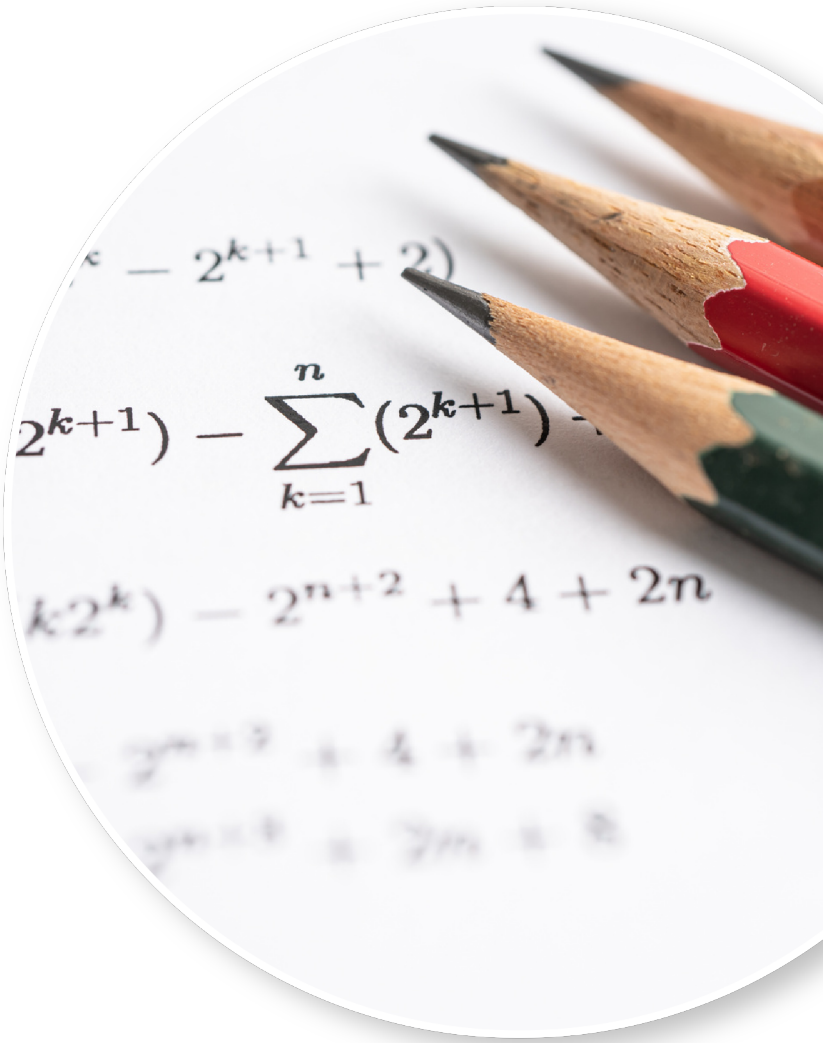
Studying Further Mathematics at A-level opens up a world of mathematical exploration, encompassing three distinct and exhilarating strands: Core Mathematics, Further Mechanics, and Decision Mathematics. The core strand delves deep into the fundamental principles of mathematics, providing a rock-solid foundation for advanced mathematical concepts.

Further Mechanics introduces the beauty of applying mathematical rigor to analyse the physical world, from the motion of celestial bodies to the intricate mechanics of everyday objects. Meanwhile, Decision Mathematics equips students with the tools to make data-driven choices, shaping the future through the power of algorithms and optimization. The amalgamation of these three strands not only fosters a profound appreciation for the elegance of mathematics but also empowers individuals to tackle complex real-world problems, making Further Mathematics an inspiring journey of intellectual growth and practical impact.

To begin A Level Further Mathematics you need to be a strong mathematician. Algebraic fluency is paramount, as are strong organisational and time management skills. You must also be studying A Level Mathematics. This is a highly respected course that compliments A Level Maths perfectly. If you have an interest in maths, enjoy a challenge and want to extend and enrich your mathematical A level journey then this is the course for you.

Progression Post-18

Maths is essential for many degree courses besides a Mathematics degree and is desirable for many more. These include Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Computer Science, Engineering, Geography, and Economics. Further Maths particularly supports future studies in Maths, Science, Technology and Engineering.
Maths also supports many other courses and careers, for example accountancy, actuarial work, banking, computing, MORSE, and management.
Whatever employment or further education is pursued, Maths A Level is highly respected and Further Maths



Qualification: A Level Examination: 100%
Examination Board: Edexcel

Music - A Level

Contact Person: Mrs C Irwin

Course Outline:

Are you passionate about music, enjoy performing or creating your own music, or want to understand more about the music you listen to? A Level music offers an exciting opportunity to develop your musical abilities, explore a wide range of musical styles and discover how music communicates ideas, emotions or stories.

Over two years, you will develop your skills in three interconnected areas: performing, composing and appraising. Whether you are an instrumentalist, vocalist or an aspiring composer, this course will challenge you to think creatively, develop your individual musical voice and become a more skilled and independent musician.

Performing: Develop your technical ability, musical interpretation and expressive skills through solo and/or ensemble performance. You will work towards a performance assessment that allows you to showcase your musical strengths and progress as a performer.

Composing: Explore how musical ideas are created, developed and combined to communicate meaning. You will compose original music, including a piece inspired by the Wester Classical Tradition, alongside opportunities to develop your own musical ideas and style.

Appraising: Discover how music has evolved across different periods, genres and traditions. You will study the development of the symphony, alongside your choice of areas including Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre, Jazz, music of the twentieth century and contemporary music. Through this process you will develop a deeper understanding of how composers and performers use musical elements to create distinctive effects and express ideas.

Progression Post-18

A Level Music provides a strong foundation for further study in music and related creative subjects, including performance, composition, music production, sound engineering and music technology. It can also complement a wide range of degree subjects and career pathways within the creative industries, media, broadcasting and events.

The skills developed through studying music are valued across many professions. Independent thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, self-discipline and creative expression will support you in whatever direction you choose to pursue.

If you enjoy music and are ready to develop your skills, broaden your musical knowledge and discover your creative potential, A Level Music offers a rewarding and challenging next step.

Qualification: A Level Music
Non-exam Assessment (performing & composing) 60% Examination (appraising) 40%
Examination Board: Educas

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics - A Level

Contact Person: Mr I Jones

Course Outline:

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion at Nailsea is an engaging and thought-provoking course exploring three key branches of religious studies: Christianity, Philosohy and Ethics.

Component 1 looks at Christianity, how Christian beliefs have developed in the 2000 years since the time of Jesus; structured around complex, intellectual questions like; what does Christianity have to say about the gap between the rich and the power? What gender is God?

We go on to look at the Philosophy of Religion. This component starts by considering arguments for the existence of God in the modern and postmodern age, including atheists like Dawkins and Harris. We have all the questions, we just need you to consider them! Can we believe in God through reason and rational thought? Does the physical world tell us anything about the likelihood of God's existence?

It's the study of Ethics for component 3, where we ask two basic questions. What does it mean to do or be good? Who decides what is good? Do we believe the certainty of a deontological theory or instead opt for the teleological or situational principle – be prepared to find out!

Essentially, this course offers a rewarding opportunity to consider deep questions about existence, ethics, and religious beliefs, while equipping you with essential skills for further academic pursuits and personal growth.

Students are given the opportunity to develop critical skills such as reasoning, debating and empathy. Students must decide what they think on some key theological, philosophical and ethical issues which develops skills and capacities that go beyond the study of one A Level and equips them with the complex nature of the world around them. In short, it prepares them for life.

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Progression Post-18

Universities and employers consider Religious Studies as a subject that develops high level thinking skills, equipping students with analytical and critical ability. Religious Studies is a rigorous academic course that requires students to think philosophically, use skills similar those required in the study of history and do empathise with others who may have different religious beliefs from their own.

Qualification: A Level Religious Studies
100% Examination Board:Eduqas

Photography - A Level

Contact Person: Ms R Davies

Course Outline:

A Level Photography is an exploration of visual storytelling, where your creativity knows no bounds, and your passion for photography is nurtured into a powerful skill set. Our course offers a perfect blend of technical mastery, compositional knowledge, contextual referencing, and artistic expression, equipping you with the tools to communicate with a camera, in the darkroom and whilst editing using Adobe Photoshop. A Level Photography is ideally suited for students who possess a deep curiosity and inquisitiveness in regard to visual communication.

You will gain a sophisticated understanding of photography equipment, including cameras, lenses, and lighting. You will explore the potential of Adobe Photoshop, from retouching and enhancing your photographs, to complete digital construction of imagery. Fluency with Photoshop will empower you to bring your artistic visions to life- it's also a tool that can set you apart in a competitive job market, as digital literacy and design skills are increasingly in demand across various industries. Through numerous projects, and study of different genres and themes you will also foster critical thinking skills, the ability to analyse and interpret images, understanding the messages and impact they convey.

Whether you dream of becoming a professional photographer, a photojournalist, a digital artist, or simply want to enrich your life with the art of visual storytelling, A Level Photography is your stepping stone to a world of possibilities. Join us, and let your images tell the stories that words alone cannot convey. Your photographic adventure awaits!

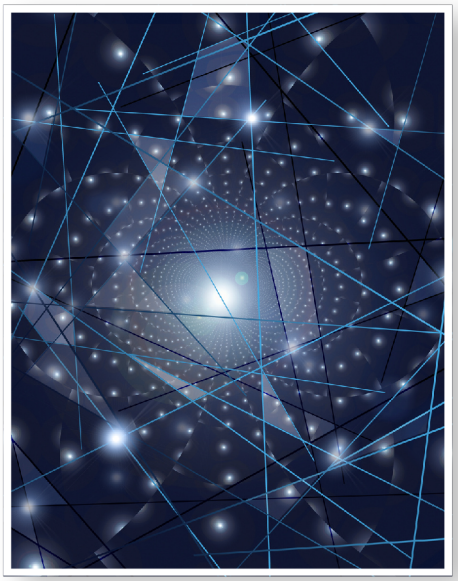
The course is made up of 60% coursework, with each student selecting their own area of focus, and 40% externally set task culminating in a 15-hour (three day) practical exam.

Progression Post-18

Following the successful completion of A Level Photography, you have a wide range of exciting progression routes available, including a Foundation Year specialising in Photography and Digital Media, University degrees within the Photographic Arts, apprenticeships in creative industries, and freelance work. Included in variety of exciting and creative career opportunities are Commercial Photography, Photojournalism, Photographic Editing, Graphic Design, Illustration, Digital Media Design, Animation… The creative industries sector contributed £109bn to the UK economy in 2021 – there are so many opportunities out there for you.

Qualification: A Level Coursework: 60% Examination: 40%
Examination Board AQA

Physics - A Level



Contact Person: Mr J Todd

Course Outline:

Physics, also known as Natural Philosophy, is the study of nature and the universe in the broadest sense. It is at the heart of everything, and is a rewarding discipline. Physics is the foundation of technology with far-reaching implications for almost all areas of study, and crucially, how we live.
This AQA specification has been developed in consultation with leading universities to provide students with the essential skills and knowledge required for degree level study, whilst incorporating fascinating contemporary aspects of Physics.

Students in Year 12 are taught the first principles of Physics across four modules with cover fundamentals upon which to build further knowledge. We begin the course with a branch of Physics not covered at any previous point in your education, and you will be exposed to new ideas with far-reaching implications as you take your first steps into the world of Quantum Physics.
In Year 13 we expand upon the foundations set, covering a further four modules including topics such as nuclear physics, electric and magnetic fields, and simple harmonic motion. These topics will stretch and challenge your problem solving, and enhance your critical thinking.

Progression Post-18

Previous A Level Physics students have gone on to study a range of scientific and non-scientific courses at university. These include: mathematics, aerospace engineering, music, astrophysics, electrical and mechanical engineering audio technology and engineering, apprenticeships at local companies such as GE Oil. A Level Physics is a required A Level for most engineering courses.

Practical work is at the heart of the course, with regular opportunities to conduct hands-on investigations, allowing students to collect, analyse and evaluate data, and develop practical skills. Successful completion of the practical element to the course is rewarded with a Practical Endorsement, which is essential for many practical science and engineering university courses.

For this course we are looking for students with an innate curiosity and fascination about how things work, in addition to a proven aptitude for science and mathematics, and excellent organisational skills.
Through studying Physics A-Level you will develop and improve upon a wide range of transferable skills, many of which you will have demonstrated in your prior studies, including;

- Making and recording reliable measurements with appropriate accuracy and precision.
- Communicating scientific understanding through report writing and presentations.
- Solving problems through methodical and logical application of mathematics.
- Assessing the validity, reliability and credibility of scientific information.

The course is 100% examination based, assessed through three 2 hour exams in the summer term of Year 13, each 2 hours. Examinations consist of short and long written answer questions, extended calculations, multiple choice, and questions focusing on practical skills and analysis.

Qualification: A Level Examination: 100%
Examination Board: AQA

Politics - A Level

Contact Person: Mr I Jones

Course Outline:

Have you ever wondered who makes the big decisions that affect your everyday lives? Maybe the face of the current Prime Minister comes to mind (whoever the Prime Minister is when you are reading this, in the last nine years there have been six). Maybe you are thinking on a more international basis – it is certainly true that the decisions made by the President of Russia have had a huge impact on the lives of people living in UK and beyond.

By studying Politics at A Level you will have the opportunity to ask and seek answers to questions about power and the people who exercise this power. There are five key questions to ask politicians: What power do you have? Where did you get your power? In whose interests do you exercise it? To whom are you accountable? How can we get rid of you? These questions are applied not just to domestic Politics- studied in Year 12- but also global politics and institutions which is central to Year 13.

The exam has three components:
Paper 1 – UK Politics and Core Political Ideas (liberalism, conservatism and socialism).
Paper 2 – UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas (anarchism, feminism, multiculturalism or nationalism).
Paper 3 – Global Politics (including the UN, NATO, Climate Change and Nuclear powers).

Politics is a fascinating and unique subject; it gets to the heart of who we are and how we think the world should be. Everyone should study it!

Students are given the opportunity to engage with current political issues and debates in the UK and on a global scale. Students are required to decide which side of the argument they are on and are expected to make coherent and intelligent arguments that are supported with evidence and demonstrate that alternative viewpoints have been thoroughly dealt with. These capacities developed go beyond the study of one A Level and equip students with all required to understand and make sense the complex nature of the world around them.

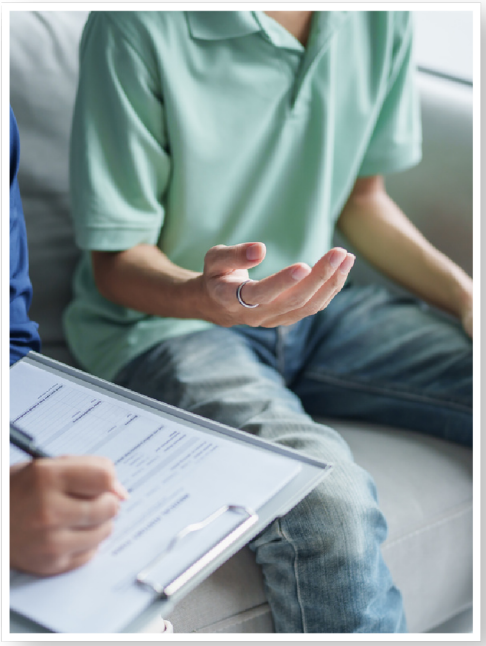
Progression Post-18

A Level Politics provides an excellent academic and skill base for a wide range of university courses and careers. The various skills required by the specification provide opportunities for progression directly into employment but equally contribute to students' lifelong learning.

Government and Politics students have gone into a range of areas including law, journalism, the civil service and the police force.

Qualification: A Level Politics Examination: 100%
Examination Board: Edexcel

Psychology - A Level



Contact Person: Mrs C Hastings

Course Outline:

A Level Psychology promises all the crazy, enthralling intensity of the human mind. There is nothing else like it.

Year 12 is your foundation, exploring cognitive psychology, revealing the intricacies of early childhood social development in developmental psychology, and unravelling the complexities of conformity and obedience in social psychology. You'll also gain insight into individual differences, the realm of clinical psychology and mental health, and acquaint yourself with various psychological approaches and research methods.
Year 13 builds upon this foundation, allowing you to become immersed in topics like biopsychology and forensic psychology. You will also study mental disorders and further refine your research skills, whilst getting into the dynamic field of psychology in action, with a particular focus on schizophrenia.

Psychology is about intense content and the science of the mind, but we also nurture essential skills. With a strong emphasis on writing, you'll become proficient in analysing various materials and expressing your insights concisely. Your skills in science, mathematics, and communication will be honed further as you handle complex, disparate material.
Join us to embark on a future rich in understanding, communication, and discovery, rooted in the human psyche.

An inherent interest in understanding human behaviour and the scientific inquiry behind it is crucial for success in this course. A passion for unravelling the human psyche is crucial.

Progression Post-18

Higher Education degree in Psychology, related medical and social science programmes, business studies, teaching, media, sports psychology/science, BTEC Higher National Certificate/Diploma in Counselling/Health and Care. Direct employment such as in caring professions, occupational and media sectors. Progression on to next level of vocational qualifications, especially into care, sports, management and media sectors

Qualification: A Level Examination: 100%
Examination Board: AQA

Sport & Physical Activity

Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate

Contact Person: Miss J Wild

Course Outline:

Our Sport and Physical Activity course is a brilliant opportunity for anyone excited by the complex, diverse world of sport. It is a journey of discovery into the intricacies of the human anatomy and the secrets of peak athletic performance. You will get the chance to develop your leadership skills, gain insights into the complex field of sports organisation, leading to a detailed awareness of factors surrounding sports management. This course includes the science of sports rehabilitation, mending and strengthening athletes with cutting-edge techniques. You will be able to show your logistical, technical and creative skills through sports management.

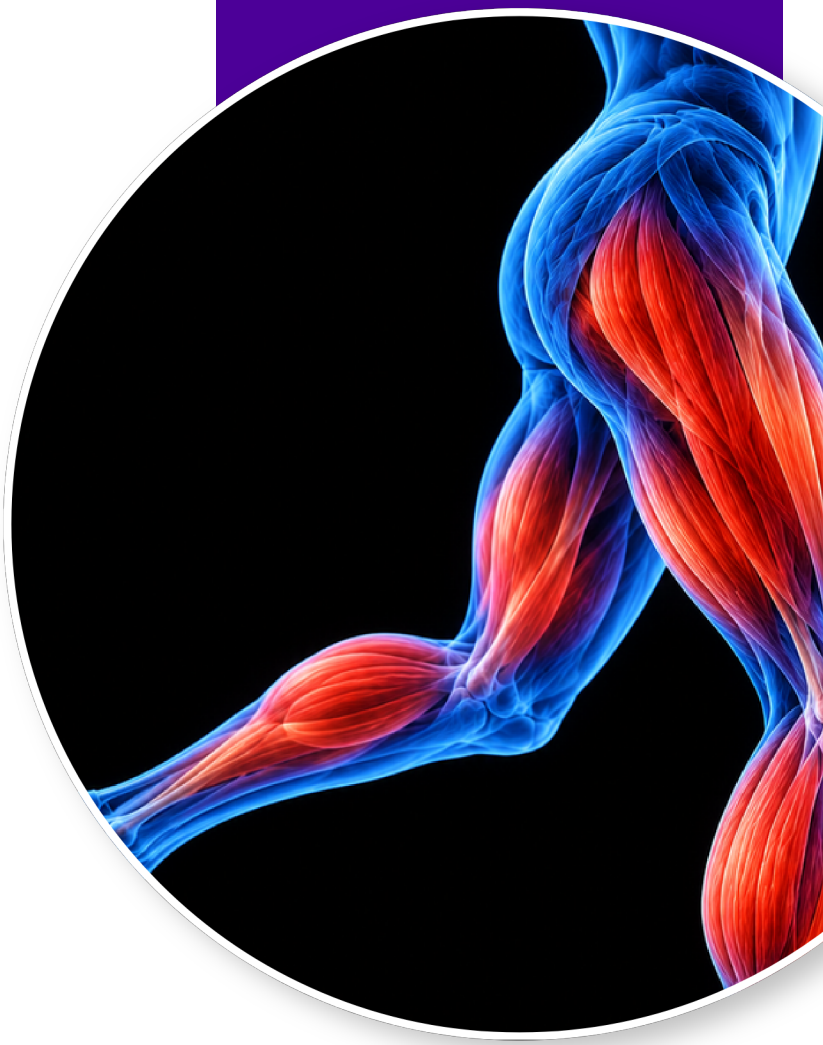
Sport and Physical Activity Technical is delivered through a careful blend of practical coursework and examinations, meaning you will have every opportunity to demonstrate your skills, aptitude and determination, and opening up a range of potential careers in a growing industry. Join us and become the driving force behind the future of sports excellence!

You are required to be participating in sport regularly to at least club standard. Excellent time management skills and the ability to meet deadlines are key to being successful in the coursework. If you have not studied a sports course at Level 2 candidates will be considered on a case by case basis, and will need to meet all other criteria. Coaching and leadership courses will be available.

Progression Post-18

Candidates can progress to higher education courses ranging from recreation management, exercise science, sports psychology and outdoor and adventurous activities (degree and foundation levels).

Career prospects are continually expanding within a growing industry, and include occupations such as leisure management, sports therapy, teaching, coaching, exercise consultancy and health promotion.



Qualification: Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate
Coursework: 60% Examination: 40% Examination Board: OCR

Sport

BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma

Contact Person: Mr A Davidson

Course Outline:

If you're passionate about sport and want a course that matches your ambition and curiosity, this is where your journey begins. Unlike traditional A-levels, which are predominantly exam-based, this qualification lets you apply your learning to real-world sporting contexts, with assignments that test your understanding through practical tasks, presentations, written reports and externally assessed projects.
Across two years, you'll complete a dynamic mix of units that develop your understanding of performance, leadership, coaching and the wider sports industry.

Core Units include:
Unit 1- Anatomy and Physiology Understand how the body's systems work together to support performance, training and recovery.
Unit 6- Sports Psychology Examine how motivation, confidence and mental preparation affect performance and behaviour in sport.
Unit 8- Coaching for Performance Learn how to plan, deliver and review coaching sessions that maximise athlete development.
Unit 17- Sports Injury Management Understand how to prevent, treat and rehabilitate sports injuries effectively.
Unit 23- Skill Acquisition in Sport Learn how athletes acquire, refine and apply skills through practice, feedback and coaching.
Unit 25- Rules, Regulations and Officiating in Sport Apply the laws of the game and gain insight into officiating as a professional pathway.

Assessments are a blend of:
External Exams (set and marked by Pearson) in key scientific and vocational units.
Internal Assignments (marked by your teacher) that include practical demonstrations, reports, video evidence and presentations that mirror real sports industry practice.

Progression Post-18

The qualification is equivalent to 3 A-levels, carries full UCAS points and is recognised by universities across the UK. Typical progression routes include:
· Sports Coaching & Development
· Sports and Exercise Science
· Physiotherapy
· Sports Psychology
· Sport Business Management
· PE Teaching
· Performance Analysis and Strength & Conditioning
It also provides an excellent platform for apprenticeships or employment in coaching, fitness instruction, sports development, or management.

Qualification: BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma
Coursework: 76% Examination: 24% Examination Board: Pearson