NOA Sixth Form
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Prospectus 2027/28

QUALITY MARK
ACE School of CHARACTER

NOA Family, Proud to Belong

Confidence ■ Ambition ■ Respect ■ Determination

Welcome to NOA Sixth Form

Welcome from the Principal and Director of Key Stage 5

Ellie Jacobs
Principal

Beth Hall
Director of Key Stage 5

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our Sixth Form for the academic year.

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant, inclusive, and ambitious community where students are supported to thrive both academically and personally (character). We are proud to offer a broad and challenging academic curriculum, alongside a character curriculum that prepares our students for university, apprenticeships, and the world of work.

At the heart of our Sixth Form is a commitment to high standards, independence, and personal growth. We believe in nurturing each student's potential, encouraging them to take ownership of their learning, and supporting them to become confident, resilient, and well-rounded individuals.

Our Values

At NOA Sixth Form, our values underpin everything we do. They shape our culture, guide our expectations, and inspire our students to become the best versions of themselves.

Confidence

Confidence

Our students approach their learning with self-belief and curiosity. They embrace challenges, take initiative, and grow into confident, independent thinkers ready to lead and inspire.

Ambition

Ambition

We set high aspirations for every student. Through a strong academic foundation and enriching super-curricular experiences, we empower students to aim high and pursue their goals with purpose and passion.

Respect

Respect

We are proud of our inclusive and welcoming community. Every student is valued, and we foster a culture of kindness, empathy, and mutual respect – where individuals respect themselves and others.

Determination

Determination

Our students demonstrate resilience and perseverance. They rise to challenges, learn from setbacks, and remain committed to their personal and academic growth.

Our dedicated team of staff is here to guide and inspire every step of the way, ensuring that students are not only successful in their studies but also equipped with the skills and experiences needed for life beyond the classroom. Whether you are continuing your journey with us or joining from another school, we are excited to welcome you into our community. We encourage you to explore this prospectus to discover the many opportunities that await you at our Sixth Form. We look forward to supporting you in achieving your goals and celebrating your successes in the year ahead.

Warm regards, Ellie Jacobs – Principal and Beth Hall – Director of Key Stage 5

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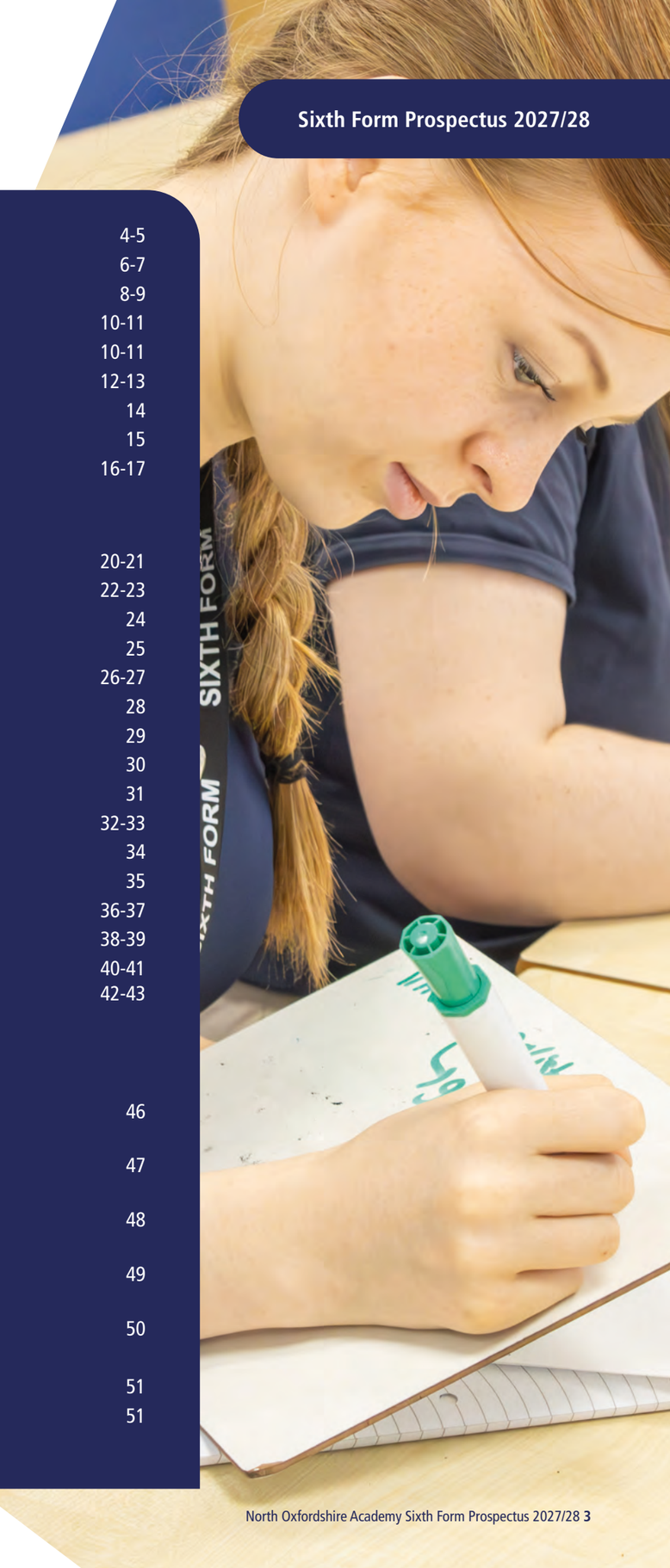

Meet the Sixth Form Team

Sixth Form Leadership Team

Ms Hall – Director of Key Stage 5 (Head of Sixth Form)
After earning a degree in Media and Creative Writing from the University of Portsmouth, I completed a PGCE in Further Education and began teaching Media and English at schools across the South East and London. In 2013, I joined NOA as a Sixth Form tutor, where I taught Media and English and mentored PGCE students from Oxford University.

While continuing to teach, I pursued a part-time MA in Education at University College London (IOE) whilst also completing an NPQSL. Last year, I completed an Aspire to Headship programme which has given me insight into further leadership opportunities. During this time in Sixth Form , I have progressed through a series of leadership roles, including Key Stage 5 Curriculum Leader, Head of Year 13, and ultimately Head of Sixth Form.

In addition to overseeing the Key Stage 5 provision at NOA, I also have responsibility for the Oxbridge mentoring programme and have most recently coordinated the UCAS process. I find great fulfilment in leading the Sixth Form and supporting its ambitious, driven students towards their destinations.

Ms Hall
Director of Key Stage 5
(Head of Sixth Form)

Ms West – Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Physics Lead
As Deputy Head of Sixth Form and Head of Year 12, my main aim is to support students in achieving their academic and personal goals. I work closely with our Director of Key Stage 5 and subject leads to ensure that our students receive high-quality teaching, tailored guidance, and the pastoral care they need to thrive. My role includes monitoring progress, coordinating enrichment, and preparing students for life beyond Sixth Form – whether that's university, apprenticeships, or employment.

Having completed a BSc in Chemical Physics at the University of Sheffield I spent nearly 20 years in the events industry before retraining as a teacher, completing my PGCE at the University of Oxford in 2018. I also hold a Master's in Teaching and Learning from Oxford (2024). I teach Physics and Chemistry at A Level, combining subject expertise with a strong focus on student development. Before joining the Sixth Form team, I was Deputy Head of Science from 2020, supporting staff across the sciences.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my role is leading extracurricular opportunities, such as our annual trip to Geneva and the upcoming ski trip. These experiences give students the chance to explore new environments, develop independence, and build confidence, curiosity, and a strong sense of community beyond the classroom.

Ms West
Deputy Head of Sixth Form
and Physics Lead

Sixth Form Prospectus 2027/28

Sixth Form Support and Subject Leaders

Mr Leyburn – Key Stage 5 Psychology and Sociology
I graduated from Queen Mary College, University of London with a degree in English Literature. Shortly afterwards I completed a PGCE qualification and began teaching in Sixth Form colleges in the local area. I completed a Master's degree in English in 2008, before moving to NOA to help develop the newly established Sixth Form in 2009. I took over as head of Sixth Form in 2011 and worked in this role for over 10 years. I then served as an Assistant Principal overseeing Key Stage 5 and eventually as Vice Principal for whole-school curriculum and achievement. In my current role, I work on the Senior Management Team as well as teaching A Levels in English Language, English Literature, Psychology and Sociology. I have spent many years working as a senior examiner for AQA on the English Language A Level Programme and was co-author of the official course textbook released in 2008.

NOA is a great school, and our Sixth Form is one of its 'jewels', both in its focus on academic excellence but also in the way we support our students to develop character, social awareness and leadership skills. I have seen so many students excel and go on to great things during my time here at NOA. I find teaching Sixth Form students interesting, engaging and highly rewarding and I look forward to continuing my work here for many years to come.

Mr Leyburn
Key Stage 5 Psychology
and Sociology

Mr Yeomans – Key Stage 5 Mathematics
I am the Key Stage 5 lead for Maths at NOA. I completed a Master's in Maths in York and studied a PhD in Newcastle before starting my career in teaching. I started teaching here in 2013. I have been a Sixth Form tutor for most of my time here and have had the pleasure of teaching A Level Maths for over a decade. A highlight of teaching is seeing students develop into more well-rounded adults with their own personalities and opinions, and I look forward to continuing this with the next cohort.

Mr Yeomans
Key Stage 5 Mathematics

Ms Green – Key Stage 5 Curriculum Lead for Geography
I graduated with a BSc in Geography from Oxford Brookes University and have a passion for exploring the dynamic relationship between people and the environment. Teaching A Level Geography is incredibly rewarding, and I enjoy working with Sixth Form students as they develop their critical thinking, analytical skills, and a deeper understanding of the world around them. It is a privilege to be able to support geographers to feel confident to ask questions, explore ideas, and grow as independent learners.

Ms Green
Key Stage 5 Curriculum Lead
for Geography

A Sixth Form with Character

At NOA Sixth Form, we are committed to developing well-rounded individuals who are not only academically successful but also confident, compassionate, and socially responsible. We provide a wide range of opportunities for students to build their character through enrichment, academic challenge, and super-curricular engagement.

Our school community regularly comes together to celebrate achievements, support charitable causes, and foster a culture of kindness and ambition. This ethos is embedded in our lessons, pastoral care, and daily interactions with students.

The Character Tutor Programme

Our bespoke Character Tutor Programme is designed to help students explore and reflect on key themes that shape their personal development. The programme includes:

- Character and Society
- Character and Diversity
- Character and Careers
- Character, Morals and Ethics

Through guided discussions, debates, and reflective activities, students are encouraged to build confidence, develop their voice, and engage with complex ideas.

Weekly tutor reading sessions also support the development of oracy and literacy skills.

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Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

We offer a rich and varied programme of experiences to help students grow, lead, and contribute to the wider community. These include:

- Head Team
- Volunteering with Key Stage 3 classes
- Leading and supporting after-school clubs
- Assisting at school events (music, dance, and theatre)
- Local and international trips (including Geneva, Switzerland)
- University open days and assessment centre experiences
- Work experience placements
- Talks from external speakers and visitors
- PSHE and one-to-one careers guidance
- Access to the fitness suite and sports clubs (football, netball, and more)
- Sixth Form Book Club
- Charity fundraising initiatives
- Social events throughout the year (BBQs, celebration assemblies, leavers' events)

These opportunities are designed to inspire students, broaden their horizons, and prepare them for life beyond Sixth Form.

Student Support & Wellbeing

At NOA Sixth Form, student wellbeing is a top priority. We are committed to creating a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where every student feels valued and heard.

Daily Support Access

Students have access to daily welfare drop-in sessions during break and lunchtime, providing a safe space to talk, seek advice, or simply check in with a member of the team.

In addition, students can access support from:

- Head of Year 12 and Year 13 (DDSL)
- Safeguarding and Welfare Team
- School Nurse
- Parent Support Meetings
- CBT (via referral)
- Counselling Services (via referral)
- Sixth Form Supervisor

Concerns can be reported confidentially through the school website or via the student portal, ensuring students always have a way to reach out.

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE)

All Sixth Form students receive one hour of PSHE each week, delivered by their tutor. This programme covers a wide range of essential topics, including:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Managing stress and peer pressure
- Road safety
- Drugs and alcohol awareness
- Healthy relationships
- Financial literacy and understanding the law

Our PSHE curriculum is designed to equip students with the knowledge, confidence, and resilience they need to navigate life both inside and outside of school.

Sixth Form Prospectus 2027/28

Careers and Guidance

Our Sixth Form team and Careers Lead offer a range of support to ensure that students are on track to reach their intended destination and have a range of skills and experiences to ensure they can access opportunities beyond Sixth Form.

Mentoring, Support and Guidance

- NOA Oxbridge mentoring programme
- Centralised Oxbridge mentoring programme – webinars and interview practice
- BMAT, UCAT and aptitude testing support
- Career guidance meetings
- UCAS support – one to ones, personal statement workshops, HE talks and university trips
- Extended Project Qualification
- University summer school support (UNIQ)
- Interview practice

Careers and Enterprise

- Work experience (Year 12)
- Apprenticeship fair
- Assessment centre days
- Mock apprenticeship assessment days
- Interview and CV workshops
- PHSE employability skills workshops
- Volunteering (Key Stage 3 lessons and charity events)
- Engineering professional visits

Facilities

We have our own Sixth Form Centre, located in the heart of the school. Students have access to a study space with 50 computers, silent study rooms and printing resources. Students also have a silent study space away from the Sixth Form Centre where they have access to the Careers Team and the Library. The expectation in this silent space is that students work independently, in silence and complete prep work, homework or coursework.

Students can access lockers (rent for a year) and revision materials including textbooks and coursebooks to use during their study time.

Departments including Drama, Art and Music, allow students to access facilities during study periods and after school, when staff supervision is available.

Student Leadership Opportunities

Our Sixth Form offers a wide range of leadership opportunities that empower students to shape school life, develop essential life skills, and prepare for future success. Our students are encouraged to take initiative, lead by example, and contribute meaningfully to the wider school community.

As part of the leadership programme, students can:

- **Apply for key leadership roles,** including Head Leaders, and leadership team positions.
- **Plan and lead whole-school events,** such as Culture Day, promoting diversity, inclusion, and community spirit.
- **Organise and deliver charitable initiatives,** including food bank collections and fundraising events like Children in Need.
- **Take responsibility for celebration assemblies,** recognising the achievements of younger students and fostering a culture of encouragement.
- **Host formal events,** such as the Best in Everyone Awards, managing all aspects of planning, presentation, and delivery.
- **Lead remembrance activities,** including displays, poetry readings, and student-led parades.
- **Drive creative engagement through events** like Friday Lunch Live, using themed performances to energise the school community.
- **Collaborate with the school's social media team,** contributing content, photos, and student voice to showcase school life.
- **Identify and lead on initiatives for change,** helping to shape school priorities and improve the student experience.
- **Act as ambassadors for the school,** guiding tours for prospective students and parents, participating in student panels, and representing the school to visiting staff and guests.

These opportunities allow students to develop confidence, communication, teamwork, and leadership skills in a real-world context. Sixth Formers are not only role models for the rest of the school – they are active contributors to its success and culture.

Sixth Form Student Expectations

Sixth Form students at North Oxfordshire Academy have personal responsibility for:

Commitment to their learning

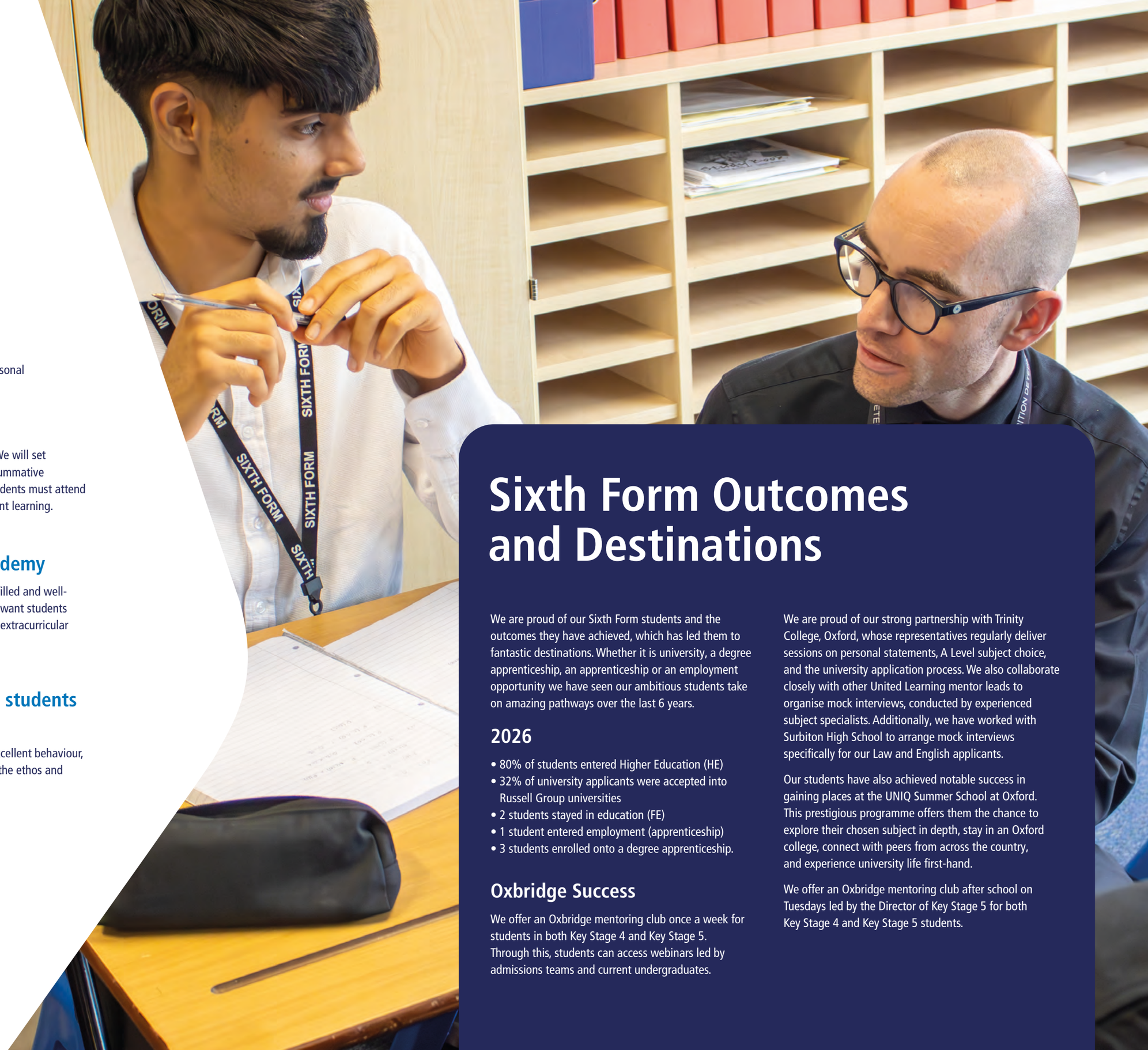
We want students to succeed and reach their destinations. We will set individual targets and monitor students' progress through summative assessments and regular formative assessments in class. Students must attend all lessons and study periods and engage in their independent learning.

Contributing to the life of the Academy

Part of the role of Sixth Form is to help students become fulfilled and well-rounded individuals who contribute to their community. We want students to be part of academy life and engage with enrichment and extracurricular activities, developing their student character.

Acting as role models for younger students within the Academy

As senior students we expect Sixth Formers to role model excellent behaviour, show leadership and maturity and play a part in promoting the ethos and values of the school.



Sixth Form Outcomes and Destinations

We are proud of our Sixth Form students and the outcomes they have achieved, which has led them to fantastic destinations. Whether it is university, a degree apprenticeship, an apprenticeship or an employment opportunity we have seen our ambitious students take on amazing pathways over the last 6 years.

2026

- 80% of students entered Higher Education (HE)
- 32% of university applicants were accepted into Russell Group universities
- 2 students stayed in education (FE)
- 1 student entered employment (apprenticeship)
- 3 students enrolled onto a degree apprenticeship.

Oxbridge Success

We offer an Oxbridge mentoring club once a week for students in both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Through this, students can access webinars led by admissions teams and current undergraduates.

We are proud of our strong partnership with Trinity College, Oxford, whose representatives regularly deliver sessions on personal statements, A Level subject choice, and the university application process. We also collaborate closely with other United Learning mentor leads to organise mock interviews, conducted by experienced subject specialists. Additionally, we have worked with Surbiton High School to arrange mock interviews specifically for our Law and English applicants.

Our students have also achieved notable success in gaining places at the UNIQ Summer School at Oxford. This prestigious programme offers them the chance to explore their chosen subject in depth, stay in an Oxford college, connect with peers from across the country, and experience university life first-hand.

We offer an Oxbridge mentoring club after school on Tuesdays led by the Director of Key Stage 5 for both Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students.

A Level Information

A Levels

Entry into Sixth Form will require applicants to achieve at least a Grade 5 or Level 2 Merit in five GCSEs or BTEC examinations. Applicants must pass both their Maths and either English Language or English Literature at Grade 5.

All subjects require specific additional grades as indicated below.

Specific A Level Entry Requirements

Some subjects do have additional entry criteria that students should bear in mind when making their applications and are summarised below:

Art and Design
Grade 6 in Art or alternative evidence of demonstrable ability if not studied at GCSE

Biology
Grade 7 in Biology (or 7–7 in Combined Science) and Grade 6 in Maths

Chemistry
Grade 7 in Chemistry (or a 7-7 in Combined Science) and Grade 7 in Maths

Computer Science
Grade 6 in Maths and Physics (or 6-6 in Combined Science)

Drama and Theatre
Grade 6 in English Language or Literature

English Literature
Grade 6 in English Language and Literature

English Language
Grade 6 in English Language or Literature

Geography
Grade 6 in Geography (if taken) or Grade 5 in any of English Language, English Literature, RE or History

History
Grade 6 in History (if taken) or Grade 6 in English Language or Literature

Maths
Grade 7 in Maths

Further Maths
Grade 8 in Maths

Physics
Grade 7 in Physics (or 7–7 in Combined Science) and 7 in Maths

Psychology
Grade 6 in English Language or Literature and Grade 6 in Biology (or 6-6 in Combined Science)

Politics
Grade 5 in English Language or Literature and Grade 5 in a Humanities subject (RE, History or Geography)

Sociology
Grade 5 in English Language or Literature

Spanish
Grade 5 in Spanish and 6 in English Language or Literature

To Study Applied General

Applicants will require at least a Grade 5 or Level 2 Merit in five GCSEs or BTEC examinations. Applicants must pass both their Maths and either English Language or English Literature at Grade 5.

All students must demonstrate their ability to access a Level 3 programme by meeting the conditions of their offer, which are based on our published entry requirements. Entry requirements are fixed and will be applied consistently to all applicants. Students must achieve the specified grades to be eligible for enrolment on these courses.

Level 3 Vocational Requirements:

Some subjects require specific grades as detailed below:

Sport (BTEC)
Level 2 Merit (if studied at Level 2) and 5 in Biology (or 5-5 in Combined Science)

Business (CTEC)
Level 2 Merit (if studied at Level 2) or Grade 5 in Business (if studied to GCSE)

Health and Social Care (AAQ)
Level 2 Merit (if studied at Level 2) and Grade 5 in Biology (or 5-5 in Combined Science)

Music (BTEC)
Level 2 Merit (if studied at Level 2) or Grade 5 in Music (if studied at GCSE) or alternative evidence of demonstrable ability

A Level Programme

Art and Design

Course Details

The A Level course in Art and Design is structured over two years. In both years you will produce creative portfolios for a coursework and examination component. The exam is a practical exam and will last for 15 hours in which time you are expected to produce a high quality final outcome. In your second year you will also produce a significant contextual study of 1,000–3,000 words, this will be linked to your own work and look at the artists you have been inspired by within your coursework. Students who study this course develop their interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of art, craft and design. Students utilise their intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive approaches to produce innovative outcomes that are unique to them.

Students investigate, analyse, experiment using practical and technical skills to refine and develop their ideas in all aspects of their work. Students have a clear understanding of aesthetic, cultural, contextual meaning within art and are able to link this effectively to social contexts and perceptions. Students have a number of opportunities to be independent, to experience working with a broad range of media and to develop their own style and creativity to develop as an artist and practitioner in their own right.

Course Breakdown

60% of the course is coursework based, at least two projects will be dedicated to this. You will use sketchbooks to show your research, demonstrate your development, experimentation and refinement throughout the project. Your sketchbook will show your learning journey from your initial research to your final outcomes. Final outcomes are tailored specifically to you, they may include installation, photography, print, sculpture, mixed media, fine art or craft pieces.

40% of the course will be based on an externally set exam focus, this will be released in February. Your final outcome will be produced within a 15 hour exam, for this you will use your explorations and experimentation within your sketchbook to plan your final piece before the exam.

Course Assessment

Work is assessed throughout the course, with students receiving regular feedback from teachers. Students also take part in peer assessment, presenting and discussing the work of others. Formal assessment takes place in May at the end of the course with an external moderator from AQA.

Character Opportunities

The strength of this course is based within each student's area of interest. Visiting galleries, exhibitions and museums is expected and we also provide a group visit to a gallery. Students are expected to engage in social, political and philosophical discussion to contextualise their research; here students engage in vast range of topics that range from geopolitical rights, activism, identity and culture ensuring that students have an appreciation of the world around them. Drawing from these points of interest student discuss, debate and explore how artists use visual language to articulate meaning and more importantly how to develop their own artistic voice. Students work closely with each other to develop both their practical and theoretical work. Students also collaborate with staff to build a digital toolkit of art sources, including artworks, materials, techniques and concepts.

Where can this take me?

1. Higher Education:
Many students go on to pursue degrees in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fashion Design, Photography, or Architecture.

2. Art and Design Careers:
Artist: Create original works in various mediums.
Graphic Designer: Design visuals for print and digital media.
Illustrator: Produce illustrations for books, magazines, or advertising.
Fashion Designer: Create clothing and accessories.
Interior Designer: Design functional and aesthetic spaces.

3. Creative Industries:
Animator: Work in film, video games, or advertising.
Curator: Manage and organise art exhibitions in galleries or museums.
Art Director: Oversee the visual aspects of projects in advertising, film, or publishing.

4. Teaching:
With further qualifications, you could teach art at schools or colleges.

5. Therapeutic Roles:
Art therapy combines psychology and art to help individuals express themselves and heal.

6. Entrepreneurship:
Start your own business selling artwork, crafts, or offering creative services.

7. Art Management:
Work in galleries or arts organizations, managing events, marketing, and administration.

8. Freelancing:
Many artists work independently, taking on various projects or commissions.

A Levels

Drama and Theatre

Course Details

A Level Drama and Theatre is a dynamic and enriching course that builds on the skills developed at GCSE, with a strong focus on creating, performing, analysing, and evaluating. You will explore a wide range of theatrical styles, genres, and influential practitioners, gaining a deeper understanding of the art form. Commitment and enthusiasm are key to making the most of this exciting opportunity.

Course Breakdown

Component 1 – Devising (40% of A Level)
(Internal assessed, externally moderated)
You will create a devised performance inspired by an extract from a play and the work of a chosen theatre practitioner. Working collaboratively in a group, you will rehearse and refine your ideas to develop a polished final piece. Alongside the performance, you will produce a detailed portfolio (2,500–3,000 words) documenting your creative journey, including your exploration, rehearsal process, and the development of your final performance.

Component 2 – Text in Performance (20% of A Level)
(Externally assessed)
You will develop and perform a scene as a group, from a published play, focusing on rehearsing and refining your interpretation and delivery. In addition, you will prepare and present either a monologue or a duologue from a different play, showcasing your versatility and performance skills.

Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of A Level)
(External written paper)
This is an externally assessed written examination lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes, focusing on the in-depth study of two set play texts and one live theatre performance you have attended.

- Section A – Requires analysis and evaluation of the live theatre performance.
- Section B – Focuses on one of the set texts, with questions exploring both performance and design elements.
- Section C – Focuses on a second set text and a chosen theatre practitioner, where you will develop a director's concept for a reimagined production of the play.

Enrichment Opportunities

A key strength of this course lies in its strong emphasis on practical acting and performance skills. One of the best ways to enhance your learning is by taking part in the wide range of Academy productions and performances held throughout the year. The course also includes a variety of theatre trips to enrich your understanding of live performance. To further extend your experience, you might consider joining a local community drama group, which can broaden your exposure to both acting and technical theatre. Supporting other students during lessons or working in smaller groups during lunchtimes can also help you develop your drama knowledge, practical skills, and interpersonal abilities.

Progression

Progression in this course could lead to university courses in various subjects, including Acting, Musical Theatre, Technical Theatre and Management. Beyond performance and theatre, this course also nurtures transferable skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity – all highly valued in a variety of career paths. Whether you're aiming for a future in the performing arts, media, education, law, or any profession that values confident and articulate individuals, this course provides a strong foundation.

A Levels

Biology

Course Details

AQA A Level Biology is a fascinating subject, allowing you to learn about the natural world and all the living things within it. A Level Biology is a 'facilitating' subject and can open up a vast range of opportunities for both university degrees and career options, many of which can take you around the world.

Alongside in-depth knowledge of the biological world, you will develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works.
Across the eight units you will make links between units and to the real world around you which will allow you to develop an interest in further study and careers in the subject.

Course Breakdown

1. Biological molecules
2. Cells
3. Organisms exchange substances with their environment
4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
5. Energy transfers in and between organisms (A Level only)
6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (A Level only)
7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems (A Level only)
8. The control of gene expression (A Level only)

Course Assessment

Paper 1
Any content from topics 1–4, including relevant practical skills.
Assessed by written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks / 35% of A Level.

Paper 2
Any content from topics 5–8, including relevant practical skills.
Assessed by written exam: 2 hours, 91 marks / 35% of A Level.

Paper 3
Any content from topics 1–8, including relevant practical skills.
Assessed by written exam: 2 hours, 78 marks / 30% of A Level.

Character Opportunities

Lots of opportunities to work as part of groups to plan and investigate challenging problems.

- Students can develop thinking skills to solve current science issues
- Ecology field trip opportunity
- Student trips to universities and university lectures
- Comprehensive study of practical work and lab and providing numerous opportunities to use practical experiences to link theory to reality, and equip students with the essential practical skills they need

Where can this take me?

Biology is a facilitating subject at A Level which means it is widely accepted by universities and employers. Those looking to work within medicine, will need Biology and Chemistry to study medicine at university. Biology is a course which can lead to a range of occupations including: Midwifery, Medicine, Biomedical sciences, Research, Academics, Natural sciences.

Chemistry

Course Details

Have you ever wondered why the sky is blue? Well, A Level Chemistry will lead you to the answer! Chemistry is all around us and is absolutely fundamental to all we do. It will make you think, question and at times really challenge you, but then we love a challenge at NOA! A Level Chemistry is essential for certain career paths (such as Forensic and Veterinary Science, Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Dentistry) but is also a valuable support subject for students studying Biology and can provide support for aspects of Physics and Geography.

Course Breakdown

Year 1 (4 units taught across year 12)

Module 1 – Development of Practical Skills in Chemistry

Module 2 – Foundations in Chemistry

Module 3 – Periodic Table and Energy

Module 4 – Core Organic Chemistry

Year 2 (2 units taught across year 13 after successful completion of year 12)

Module 5 – Physical Chemistry and Transition Elements

Module 6 – Organic Chemistry and Analysis

Course Assessment

Paper 1
2 hr 15 mins, 100 marks.
Any content from topics 2, 3 & 5, including relevant practical skills.

Paper 2
2 hr 15 mins, 100 marks.
Any content from topics 2, 4 & 6, including relevant practical skills.

Paper 3
1 hr 30 mins, 70 marks.
Any content from topics 2–6, including relevant practical skills.
Practical skills are not examined but are assessed in class.

Character Opportunities

- Lots of opportunities to work as part of groups to plan and investigate challenging problems
- Students can develop thinking skills to solve current science issues
- Potential trips to chemical industry settings & universities

Where can this take me?

Chemistry is a subject which can lead to many careers, mostly those linked to the STEM field. Students often combine Chemistry with another science so that they can study medicine at university, but Chemistry can also lead to routes into Engineering and Environmental Sciences. Some occupations include:

Chemist

Researcher

Forensic Researcher

Chemical Engineer

Teaching

Pharmacologist

Clinical Biochemist

Management Consultant

Oceanographer

Computer Science

Course Details

Computer Science is a practical subject where students can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real-world systems. It's an intensely creative subject that combines invention and excitement, and can look at the natural world through a digital prism. The aims of this qualification are to enable learners to develop:

- An understanding and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including: abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation
- The ability to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including writing programs to do so
- The capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- The capacity to see relationships between different aspects of Computer Science
- Mathematical skills

Course Breakdown

Computer systems (01)
The internal workings of the (CPU), data exchange, software development, data types and legal and ethical issues.

Algorithms and programming (02)
Using computational thinking to solve problems.

Programming project (03)
Non-exam assessment.

Students will be expected to analyse a problem (10 marks), and design (15 marks), develop and test (25 marks), and evaluate and document (20 marks) a program. The program must be to solve it written in a suitable programming language.

Course Assessment

Paper 1
140 marks, 2 hours and 30 mins (Computer Systems)

Paper 2
140 marks, 2 hours and 30 mins (Algorithms and Programming)

Programming Project
70 marks

Character Opportunities

Lots of opportunity to have classroom discussions. Students will have the opportunity to develop deep thinking skills to solve programming questions and challenge.

Where can this take me?

Computer Science is a great course which opens the pathway to studying Computer Science further at university, or linked courses which study systems and data. An A Level in Computer Science can also open pathways for degree apprenticeships and apprenticeships in a wide range of sectors and roles including:

Web Design

Coding

Lecturing

Games Developer

Software Engineer

Cyber Security Analyst

Applications Developer

A Levels

English Literature

Course Details

We follow the AQA English Literature Specification B for A Level, which is linear in structure with students sitting all examinations at the end of the A Level course. In addition, students are assessed via two pieces of Non Examination Assessment. The course is designed around a distinct philosophy, which centres on different ways of reading and the connections that exist between texts within the literary genres of Tragedy and Protest writing. In this way, students can gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways in order that students can arrive at their own interpretations and become confident autonomous readers. Students are then not only equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for exams, but also experience a rich, challenging, and coherent approach to English Literature that provides an excellent basis for further study in the subject.

Course Breakdown

Paper 1
Aspects of Tragedy (40%)

Paper 2
Elements of Social and Political Protest Literature (40%);

NEA 1&2 (20%)

Course Assessment

For the first paper, 'Aspects of Tragedy' students study texts through the lens of tragedy. Currently these include:

- Othello by William Shakespeare
- Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
- Poetry of John Keats

The second paper, 'Elements of Social and Political Protests' is a study through the lens of social and political protest which currently include:

- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Attwood
- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
- Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blake

Character Opportunities

Students who wish to study English Literature at university will need an English Literature A Level. Routes from here include: a Scriptwriter, Copywriter, Journalist, Playwright, English Teacher, Author, for example. English Literature is also considered for courses in Law as it is a facilitating subject.

Where can this take me?

English Literature is a facilitating subject which is highly respected by universities. English Literature can be studied further at university, combined with another degree course, or on its own. Literature provides a range of analytical skills, so these are transferable to a wide range of roles in the future. Those wishing to study Literature at university can elect modules which interest them from Modern Literature to Victorian Literature, for example. Some occupations which students have moved into after studying English Literature:

Teacher

Lecturer

Marketing Manager

Consultant

Advertising Executive

Social Media Manager

Web Designer

Arts Administrator

Journalist

Magazine Editor

Public Relations Officer

Lawyer

English Language

Course Details

English Language A Level enables you to acquire knowledge and understanding of many aspects of language including how the English Language works.

You will learn how to convey meaning in different ways and how to analyse language in use. Topics include spoken and written language, how and why language has changed over time, how and why language varies according to the context in which it is used, the relationship between language and society and how children acquire language. Students will explore a range of texts from newspaper articles, magazine articles, leaflets and advertisements.

Course Breakdown

The AQA course explores: how language conveys representations and the ever changing dialects within communities, language change over time, language diversity and child's language development.

The coursework tasks focus on linguistic research and creative writing. For this, students must complete:
A language investigation (a 2,000 word research project into an aspect of language use) 1,500 word creative writing piece with an explanatory commentary. These tasks allow students to work on areas of personal interest, whilst at the same time developing their skills of linguistic analysis and creativity.

Course Assessment

Students complete a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is a language investigation and a creative writing piece.
Students will also take examinations – 2 papers – and will be expected to apply their analysis skills to unseen texts in the examination.

Character Opportunities

Studying the course will involve a range of teaching and learning activities including seminars, symposiums, lectures and debates plus a trip to the British Library. In the past, the course has included talks from visiting speakers and trips to universities and other related institutions, including Warwick University.
The English department also has an online blog which is written by Sixth Form students and all A Level students are encouraged to contribute.

Where can this take me?

English Language offers students to develop many skills including writing, analytical and critical writing skills. In studying this at A Level, students can move into an English or Humanities degree, as English Language is a well respected A Level. Most students move into Linguistics, Media or Marketing, due to the skills which are transferable. Combined with other courses, English can be studied alongside Literature, MFL, Creative Arts or Theatre Studies, for example. Those looking at apprenticeships can access a wide range of these due to the analytical and critical skillset students will have. Some occupations students may wish to take if they study English Language:

Marketing Executive or Manager

Writer

Journalist

Teacher

Consultant

Advertising or Branding Manager

Linguist

Business Manager

Geography

Course Details

During Geography A Level you will study a range of topics: Dynamic Landscapes, Dynamic Places, Physical Systems and Sustainability and Human Systems and Geopolitics. You will develop your analytical and critical thinking skills through answering questions such as 'How does water insecurity occur and why is it becoming such a global issue for the 21st century?'

Course Breakdown

You will be assessed though examinations and coursework. The coursework is a written report of 3–4,000 words and accounts for 20% of the A Level grade.

Dynamic Landscapes
Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards
Topic 2: Landscape Systems, Processes and Change – a choice of either 2A Glaciated Landscapes and Change or 2B Coastal Landscapes and Change

Dynamic Places
Topic 3: Globalisation
Topic 4: Shaping Places – a choice of either 4A Regenerating Places or 4B Diverse Places

Physical Systems and Sustainability
Topic 5: The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
Topic 6: The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

Human Systems and Geopolitics
Topic 7: Superpowers
Topic 8: Global Development and Connections – a choice of either 8A Health, Human Rights and Intervention or 8B Migration, Identity and Sovereignty

Course Assessment

Paper 1
105 marks available on this paper worth 30% of the overall grade.

Paper 2
105 marks available, also worth 30% of the final grade.

Paper 3
70 marks available, worth 20% of the final grade.

NEA on an investigation of your choosing, with 70 marks available and worth 20% of the final grade.

Character Opportunities

Opportunities for students to lead investigations in geographical processes, and develop investigative skills. Students will also have the opportunity to engage with contemporary geographical issues, whilst being able to make holistic links between different themes across Geography.

Where can this take me?

Having an A Level in Geography can lead to being able to move into degrees in Conservation, Sustainability, Climate Science, Tourism and Meteorology whilst also opening doors to careers in Cartography, Architectural Technology, Data and Business Analysis.

History

Course Details

At A Level we follow the Edexcel Route B course, focusing on the Tudors and the German Reformation. At A Level we complete an NEA and investigate a series of witch-hunts that took place across Europe and America. By immersing yourself in the Early Modern period, students will get to grips with a transformative period of change that laid the foundations of our modern world. You'll witness the rise of powerful monarchies, the birth of new religious ideas, and shifts in science and culture. The study of History trains you to select relevant information, assess validity of an argument, think and write logically, make informed judgments about controversial issues and present a well ordered argument with supporting evidence. These skills will equip you for a wide variety of degree courses and careers.

Course Breakdown

Edexcel Route B: Religion and the State in Early Modern Europe.

1B: England 1509–1603
2B: Luther and the German Reformation
33: The Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America

Course Assessment

Three exams and NEA

Character Opportunities

Opportunities to take part in the Historical Association's 'Great Debate'.

Where can this take me?

History is a facilitating subject and is widely accepted by universities for a range of degree programmes and degree apprenticeships. Those who study History in the past have moved into roles within:

Law

Journalism

Media

Publishing and editing

Research

Political and civil service

Museum and heritage management

Maths

Course Details

In the Maths A Level, students will develop their mathematical thinking and understanding. They will discover a range of skills and techniques that will enable them to cultivate their reasoning abilities in order to communicate their decisions with clarity. Maths is a powerful tool in problem solving and logic, and the main aim of the teaching is for students to be able to analyse a situation in context and use mathematical modelling to solve and interpret their solution. There are many options available to students of Maths. You will develop skills that make you highly desirable to potential employers, including problem-solving skills, analytical skills, logic.

- The financial sector applies maths skills to real-life, particularly accounting, actuarial work, investment management, and banking
- Many engineering apprenticeships require a good level of mathematical understanding
- IT companies value maths, particularly in computer programming
- Defence and intelligence
- Mathematical research
- Teaching

Course Breakdown

Pure

- Proof
- Algebra and functions
- Coordinate geometry in the (x,y) plane
- Sequences and series
- Trigonometry
- Exponentials and logarithms
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Numerical methods
- Vectors

Statistics

- Statistical sampling
- Data presentation and interpretation
- Probability
- Statistical distributions
- Statistical hypothesis testing

Mechanics

- Quantities and units in mechanics
- Kinematics
- Forces and Newton's laws
- Moments

Course Assessment

Students will sit 3 papers at the end of Year 2:

Pure

Two 2 hour exams, each worth 33% of the qualification, each worth 100 marks.

Statistics and Mechanics

2 hour exam, worth 33% of the qualification, worth 100 marks.

Character Opportunities

Through the mathematics course, there is opportunity to compete in the Senior Maths Challenge. This is a competition testing mathematical skills that makes personal statements stand out. There are guest lectures at local universities to deepen and broaden knowledge of the A Level curriculum.

Where can this take me?

Maths is considered a science, so is accepted at universities as a science A Level. Mathematics is widely used across a multitude of sectors and roles and will open up doors to positions in the following areas:

Medicine

Research

Software Engineering

Engineering

Civil Service

Teaching

Lecturing

A Levels

Further Maths

Course Details

The Further Maths A Level is designed to build on the skills, knowledge and understanding seen in the Maths A Level. Although a greater depth of mathematical ability is required to succeed in this A Level, students that choose it will be rewarded with a richer understanding of the subject, and will be able to draw links across different areas of Maths. Two modules have been chosen from a range of options in order for students to see the wider impact of maths in the real world.
Further Pure develops the skills seen in the only staple module (Core Pure), whilst Decision has many links to Computer Science and programming. Any student considering studying Maths at university is strongly recommended to take the Further Maths A Level.

There are many options available to students of Maths. You will develop skills that make you highly desirable to potential employers, including problem-solving skills, analytical skills, logic.

- The financial sector applies maths skills to real-life, particularly accounting, actuarial work, investment management, and banking
- Many engineering apprenticeships require a good level of mathematical understanding
- IT companies value maths, particularly in computer programming
- Defence and intelligence
- Mathematical research
- Teaching

Course Breakdown

Core Pure

- Proof
- Complex numbers
- Matrices
- Further algebra and functions
- Further calculus
- Further vectors
- Polar coordinates
- Hyperbolic functions
- Differential equations

Further Pure

- Further trigonometry
- Further calculus
- Further differential equations
- Coordinate systems
- Further vectors
- Further numerical methods
- Inequalities

Decision

- Algorithms and graph theory
- Algorithms on graphs
- Critical path analysis
- Linear programming

Course Assessment

Students will sit 4 papers at the end of year 2:

Core Pure
Two 1 hour 30 min exams, each worth 25% of the qualification, each worth 80 marks

Options – Further Pure and Decision
Two 1 hour 30 min exams, each worth 25% of the qualification, each worth 80 marks

Character Opportunities

Through the mathematics course, there is opportunity to compete in the Senior Maths Challenge. This is a competition testing mathematical skills that makes personal statements stand out. There are guest lectures at local universities to deepen and broaden knowledge of the A Level curriculum.

Physics

Course Details

A Level Physics builds on topics that will be familiar from GCSE studies – taking them to the next level by looking at more in-depth theoretical explanations. The course balances classical Physics content, like Mechanics and Electricity, with more modern topics such as Particle Physics. One common aspect is the use of mathematical models to help explain phenomena seen in the real world, so a good level of maths is crucial for anybody considering Physics at A Level. Time in class will be spent both studying the theoretical aspects of physics and investigating the practical aspects through experimentation.

Physics pairs well with Maths, thanks to the large number of equations that we use and the amount of calculation involved. Engineering is another complimentary subject; there are links through our study of materials and their properties, and electrical circuits. This course is a good step towards university courses in Physics, Maths, various types of Engineering (such as Civil, Electronic, Mechanical or Aeronautical) and Economics or Accountancy. A good Physics A Level shows universities that you have great mathematical skills, can think logically and are able to solve complex problems.

Course Breakdown

Year 1
Module 1 – Practical Skills
Module 2 – Foundations of Physics
Module 3 – Motion, Forces, Energy, Materials & Newton's Laws
Module 4 – Electricity, Waves & Quantum Physics

Year 2
Module 5 – Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations, Gravitational Fields, Astrophysics & Cosmology
Module 6 – Capacitors, Electric Fields, Electromagnetism, Medical Imaging, Nuclear & Particle Physics

Practical work throughout the course

Course Assessment

Paper 1
2 hr 15 mins, 100 marks
Any content from topics 2, 3 & 5, including relevant practical skills

Paper 2
2 hr 15 mins, 100 marks
Any content from topics 2, 4 & 6, including relevant practical skills

Paper 3
1 hr 30 mins, 70 marks
Any content from topics 2–6, including relevant practical skills
Practical skills are not examined but are assessed in class

Character Opportunities

Plenty of opportunities to work as part of groups to plan and investigate challenging problems. Sixth Form trip to Geneva in July including a guided tour of parts of CERN – a fantastic experience for all who are interested in Physics.

Where can this take me?

Physics can lead to anything including:

Pure science

Engineering

Civil Engineering

Plus many, many more!

Psychology

Course Details

Psychology is concerned with answering questions about human behaviour. It focuses on the science of the mind, behaviour and experience. It looks at how individuals think, what they do and the way they are affected by their biological make up and their wider social group.

Studying Psychology also involves analysing data and using research methods to explain reasons for behaviour. It requires students to have gained a Grade 6 in Maths so that students can access the course. The course will offer a range of discussion opportunities, essay writing skills and real-life case studies where we explore reasons for behaviour.

- Are criminals born or made?
- Is there a critical period in which we attach to our mother?
- How do genes contribute to our behaviour?
- How accurate is eyewitness accounts of an event?
- What causes OCD and depression?

Course Assessment

The course is split into three units. The first two papers are made up of compulsory topics while the third paper has options to choose from. The units are all externally assessed through exams, with two papers being sat at the end of the first year, although if you progress on to second year these scores do not carry forward.

- Approaches
- Research Methods
- Attachment
- Memory
- Forensic Science
- Psychopathology
- Schizophrenia
- Issues and Debates
- Relationships

Course Breakdown

Each paper is weighted the same for the A Level. Students are assessed at the end of the two years and will have 100% examination – there is no coursework. Research Methods is worth 48 marks on one of the papers, and is an important part of the course. Students are expected to pass their Year 12 year to continue onto the Year 13 A Level pathway.

Character Opportunities

The course is taught in an interactive way in which pupils have the opportunity to carry out some experiments on each other in class. During class we have many debates over different topics within the course. In the past Psychology trips have taken place which is something we would be looking at doing again in the future. Students will visit the Freud Museum in London.

Where can this take me?

Psychology can take you into a range of careers within the health care sector, but is also an A Level which is useful in a range of occupations such as:

Business and Management

PR

Advertising and Marketing

Teaching

Counselling

Lecturing

Anthropology

Charity work

You can also study Psychology further and look to become a Certified Psychologist or Forensic Psychologist, working with criminals.

A Levels

Politics

Course Details

Government and Politics allows you to develop and deepen your understanding of the political systems in the UK and in the USA. Studying Politics helps you to understand the decisions made on your behalf by those in power and gives you the tools to recognise when decisions are not being made fairly or for the best interests of the people. Taking this course will allow you to develop knowledge and an informed understanding of contemporary political structures and issues in their historical context. It will also allow you to develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, institutions, and processes.
Importantly, this course will allow you to understand of the influences and interests which have an impact on decisions in government and politics as well as the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups. A key skill you will also develop, which is attractive to universities and future employers, is the ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form arguments and make judgements.

Course Assessment

Paper 1

You will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. You will explore the emergence and development of the UK's democratic system and the similarities, differences, connections and parallels between direct and indirect democracy. They will focus on the role and scope of political parties that are so central to contemporary politics, including the significance of the manifestos they publish at election time and their relevance to the mandate of the resulting government.

Component 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas

1. Democracy and participation
2. Political parties
3. Electoral systems
4. Voting behaviour and the media

Component 2: Core Political Ideas

1. Liberalism
2. Conservatism
3. Socialism

Paper 2

Politics is ultimately about people, but most political decisions are made by a branch of government whose roles and powers are determined by a set of rules: The Constitution.
This component is fundamental to understanding the nature of the UK Government, as it enables you to understand where, how and by whom political decisions are made.

Component 1: UK Government and Non-core Political Ideas

1. The Constitution
2. Parliament
3. Prime Minister and executive
4. Relations between the branches

Component 2: Non-core Political Ideas

1. Feminism

The assessment is 2 hours.
Component A 60 marks
Component B 24 marks

Paper 3

The USA has been considered by some to be a 'beacon of democracy'. As a world power, understanding the nature of US democracy, and the debates surrounding it, is crucial given the considerable impact that the USA has on UK, European and global politics.

Component 1: USA Government and Politics

1. US Constitution and Federalism
2. US Congress
3. US Presidency
4. US Supreme Courts
5. US Democracy and Participation
6. Comparative theories

Course Breakdown

Students will have 3 papers and will sit these exams in formal conditions. There will be no coursework element to this course.

Character Opportunities

Students will visit the Houses of Parliament to experience the hub of UK politics. Students will also meet with the local MP to have the opportunity to question their policies and voting record. Students will also be encouraged to become active members of the community by engaging in local issues.

Where can this take me?

Politics as an A Level can lead to university degrees and apprenticeships within Humanities, Social Sciences and English. Students who have studied Politics have moved into:

Law

Business and marketing

International Relations

Public Relations

Media and Broadcast Journalism

Writing

Copywriting

Sociology

Course Details

This course is a great A Level for those looking to understand society, its systems and institutions. Lots of the topics which are covered on the specification, students can relate to and are able to draw upon their own experiences as young people in society. There is academic theory which underpins the sociological arguments, such as functionalism, Marxism and feminism. The course offers students an opportunity to discuss and debate current affairs, through real case studies which can be applied to theory.

Course Breakdown

Students have 3 papers, which are assessing different elements of the course. The course is broken down into:
Theory and Methods, Education and Methods in Context, Crime and Deviance, Work and Poverty.

Students will have research methods taught explicitly to support their understanding of social science research.

Course Assessment

Paper 1
Education within Theory and Methods

Paper 2
Topics in Sociology

Paper 3
Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods

Students will be assessed on AO1, AO2 and AO3 across all papers and will be expected to write in prose for essay questions. There are a range of 10 mark and 20 mark questions which will require students to evaluate and discuss topics at a critical level.

Character Opportunities

Students will develop critical thinking skills and take part in a wide range of discussion in class. There are opportunities for students to take part in enrichment across the school and develop leadership opportunities.

Where can this take me?

Sociology is a social science which is accepted by all universities. Due to the nature of the topics, which allow for discussion and debate, this subject develops critical thinking skills and prepares student for university or an apprenticeship. Sociology can be studied alongside other subjects such as Criminology, Psychology, English and Business as a combined degree, or can be studied on its own. Sociology is the study of society, so this subject opens routes to many careers such as: Teaching, Civil Service, Social Work, Marketing, HR, for example.

A Levels

Spanish

Course Details

Learning another language enriches the mind and opens new horizons, both personal and professional. Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world: it is the official language of 20 countries and has 480 million native speakers. If you study A Level Spanish, you will gain an in-depth understanding of the culture and society of the Spanish-speaking world. You will study Literature, Film, Politics, Culture, Media and much more.

Course Breakdown

The AQA Spanish A Level develops and builds on skills which are acquired at GCSE and focuses on the following four key skill areas: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. Throughout your studies, you will acquire the Spanish language in context, by learning about Hispanic countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study texts and films, and will also have the opportunity to carry out an independent research project on an area of their choice. Here is a breakdown of what students will study:

Theme 1:
Social Issues and Trends

Theme 2:
Political and Artistic Culture

Theme 3:
Spanish Grammar

Theme 4:
Literature and Film.

Course Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing
2h 30mins
100 marks
50% of A Level

Paper 2: Writing (Literature and Film)
2 hours
80 marks
20% of A Level

Paper 3: Speaking
21-23 mins
60 marks
30% of A Level

Where can this take me?

A Level Spanish can open doors to various career paths. It can lead to further study in languages, Linguistics, or related fields like Law, Business, or International Relations. It will also equip you with valuable skills for careers in Translation, Interpreting, Teaching, Journalism, and International Business. Being bilingual will make you more competitive in the jobs market and can increase salary potential.

Applied General

Sport

Course Details

This course is designed for those who wish to build on the learning and achievement of Key Stage 4 or Level 2 Sport. In order to take this subject, it would be beneficial if students had the following:

- CNAT Sport Studies at Merit or above, or GCSE PE at Grade 6 or above
- English Language Grade 5
- Science grade in Biology 5 or Double Science
- An interest in and regular participation in a sport is also recommended

Course Breakdown

Unit 1 & 2 are exam based, assessed externally and worth 67% of final grade.

Unit 3 & 4 coursework units are assessed internally worth 33% of final grade.

Course Assessment

Assessment will be examinations in January and then students will work on their coursework which will contribute to their final grade. In class assessments will be focused on core knowledge from the units.

Character Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to acquire a bespoke NOA designed sports kit for their practical days. There is also the opportunity to join an extra session of physical education once a week to support in physical and mental health wellbeing within students.

Where can this take me?

Sport provides a range of skills which can be transferred into a wide range of areas beyond Level 3. Universities accept Sport as it offers leadership skills and develops students' understanding of the human body and wellbeing. Those who have selected Sport have the opportunity to move onto university, apprenticeship or degree apprenticeship in the following areas:

Sport and Nutrition

Coaching

Teaching

Sport Psychology

Fitness

Elite Sports

Social sciences

Journalism

Business

Course Details

Students will study the Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technical in Business at an Extended Certificate level.

This course contains a wide variety of business themes, starting with an introduction to the Business Environment and Customers and Communication in the first year, and further topics such as Marketing and Business Decisions in the second year. The course involves both practical work assessed through coursework and witness statements, as well as externally assessed exams.

Course Breakdown

Business Studies is a vocational course, which also includes an examination component. The course will be broken down into units and will develop practical as well as academic writing skills.

Unit 1
The Business Environment (exam)

Unit 2
Working in Business (exam)

Unit 4
Customers and Communication (mandatory)

Unit 5
Marketing and Market Research

Unit 8
Introduction to Human Resources

Course Assessment

Students will complete 75% coursework and the remaining percentage will be examination.

Character Opportunities

There are opportunities throughout the year for Business students which allow them to apply their understanding to scenarios and mock interviews. Assessment centre days and apprenticeship interviews are offered on the course and local businesses take part in a range of enrichment opportunities led by our Career Leader.

Where can this take me?

Business can open doors to a range of pathways and sectors. Students who have studied Business have moved into Business and Marketing degrees at university, and finance apprenticeships. Due to the nature of the course, with students working independently and the research they complete, students develop skills in communication and are able to progress into other roles within HR and Customer Service.

Engineering

Course Details

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering is designed for learners who are interested in a career in the engineering sector and want to progress to further study in the sector. Learners will take a practical, applied engineering course as part of their Level 3 study programme, which gives them an introduction to the sector. They will be able to combine this with other qualifications, such as a GCSE A Level in Mathematics, Physics or other A Levels, which would allow them to progress to higher education to study engineering or other STEM-related programmes.

Course Breakdown

Engineering covers a broad variety of roles and it involves the application of scientific principles and practical knowledge to transform ideas and materials into products and systems safely and support them during their lifetime. This qualification has a focus on a broad range of engineering specialist areas. Learners taking this qualification will study mandatory content covering:

- Engineering principles and mathematics
- Health and safety, team work and interpreting and creating computer-aided engineering drawings
- Design and manufacture of products

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with academics to ensure that it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved and consulted in order to confirm that the content is appropriate and consistent with current practice for learners planning to enter employment directly in the engineering sector.

Course Assessment

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. There are two forms for this qualification: Externally assessed via examination and internally assessed, producing reports to write up the findings of their own research, using case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations, carrying out projects for which they have choice over the direction and outcomes and demonstrating practical and technical skills using appropriate processes, devices, components, equipment, materials, consumables.

Character Opportunities

- 3D Printing training and access
- Solidworks personal student licence and training
- Links with local businesses e.g. Banbury Bass performance, Mondelez & Lotus F1, Engineering Education Trust
- Apprenticeships fair
- Given access to metal and woodworking workshop in study periods to nurture their skills

Where can this take me?

Engineering A Level opens the door to a variety of exciting opportunities in both higher education and the professional world. With a strong foundation in engineering principles, students can pursue further studies in Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, or Aerospace Engineering at top universities. Alternatively, this qualification can lead directly to engineering apprenticeships or technical roles in industries such as manufacturing, automotive, renewable energy, and construction. Whether aiming for roles as a Design Engineer, Project Manager, or Technical Specialist, the practical skills and theoretical knowledge gained through the course lay the groundwork for a successful and dynamic engineering career. Additionally, it fosters problem-solving abilities, creativity, and a passion for innovation, which are highly valued in today's technology-driven world.

Health and Social Care

Course Details

Over the four units students will examine physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan, the interaction between biological and social factors in health and well-being and how health care professionals provide effective care. They will then go on to explore the organisation, structure and normal physiological functioning of the human body, and the effect on health of common disorders of the body systems. Students will then focus on the principles that underpin meeting the care and support needs of individuals, which are the foundation of all services within health and social care. Finally, students will explore the purpose of health education, models and approaches to educating the public and encouraging behaviour change in the population.

Course Breakdown

Unit 1: Human Lifespan and Development

Exam – 80 marks – 1 hour 30 mins – Students will be assessed through multiple-choice, short and long-answer questions.

The questions will assess knowledge and understanding of human growth and development through the life stages; application of knowledge of the factors affecting human growth and development across each life stage and making connections between lifestyle factors and health inequalities; and evaluation and analysis of health and social care workers and how they promote, prevent and treat health conditions at different life stages.

Unit 2: Human Biology and Health

Exam – 80 marks – 1 hour 30 mins – Students will be assessed through multiple-choice, short and long-answer questions.

The questions will assess knowledge and understanding of the structure, organisation and function of the human body and common disorders that affect it; application of knowledge on the structure and function of body systems to the primary and secondary effects of common disorders on those body systems; and connections between the primary and secondary effects of common disorders and how they affect interlinked body systems.

Unit 3: Principles of Health and Social Care Practice

This unit is Internal assessed through a Pearson-Set Assignment Brief (PSAB). Pearson sets the assignment for the assessment of this unit. The PSAB will take approximately 12 hours to complete.

Unit 5: Promoting Health Education

This unit covers core care values, skills, and principles such as the 6Cs and anti-discriminatory practice, exploring ethical issues and relevant legislation. Assignments typically target evaluations of anti-discriminatory practice and strategies for overcoming care challenges.

Course Assessment

This unit is Internal assessed through a Pearson-Set Assignment Brief (PSAB). Pearson sets the assignment for the assessment of this unit. The PSAB will take approximately 17 hours to complete.

Character Opportunities

There are four broad skill areas, each with a cluster of skills as shown below:

1. Managing Yourself: (1) Taking personal responsibility; (2) Personal strengths and resilience; (3) Career orientation planning; (4) Personal goal setting
2. Effective Learning: (1) Managing own learning; (2) Continuous learning; (3) Secondary research skills (4) Primary research skills
3. Interpersonal Skills: (1) Written communications; (2) Verbal and non-verbal communications; (3) Teamwork; (4) Cultural and social intelligence
4. Solving Problems: (1) Critical thinking (2) Problem solving; (3) Creativity and innovation

Where can this take me?

Health and Social Care opens up many routes into the social and health sector due to the transferable skills from the BTEC into the real world. Students who have studied this course have moved into many health care positions within the NHS and into degree apprenticeships. Those looking to go to university can move into social science courses such as Psychology and Sociology, for example, but also into sector specific degrees such as Social Work, Occupational Health, Human Sciences, Police and Teaching.

Music

Course Details

The BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate specification enables students to gain an experience of a wide range of musical skills. Students will develop music performance and compositional skills, organisational and logistic skills relevant to the modern music industry and understanding of music reading and notation.

Course Breakdown

The course is split into four units, which are internally/externally assessed through coursework and exams over the two years.

Course Assessment

Unit 1
Practical Music Theory and Harmony (internally assessed)

Unit 2
Professional Practice in the Music Industry (externally assessed)

Unit 3
Ensemble Music Performance (externally assessed)

Optional unit
Choose from solo performance, group performance, composition or improvisation (internally assessed)

Character Opportunities

Studying the course will involve a range of teaching and learning activities including practical workshops, seminars, lectures and critical listening sessions. The course will include visits from speakers in the industry as well as trips to universities and other related institutions.

Where can this take me?

Students from NOA Music have gone on to be signed Recording Artists, International DJs, Promoters, Sound Engineers, qualified Music Teachers and instrument and equipment manufacturers.

Applying to NOA Sixth Form

Application Process

Applications for September 2027 entry are open to both NOA students and external applicants. The application can be found on our school website using this link: (www.northoxfordshire-academy.org/sixth-form/applying-for-a-place) or you can scan the QR code at the bottom of this page.

All applicants will be invited to attend an interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and key Sixth Form staff to discuss their application. We ask that a parent or carer also attends this meeting, as their presence can be valuable in addressing any questions or concerns.

Following the interview, students will receive a **conditional offer**, outlining the entry requirements and the grades needed to secure a place on their chosen courses.

In June, students will be invited to an **Induction Day**, where they'll have the opportunity to:

- Meet Sixth Form staff and fellow students
- Take part in taster sessions for their selected subjects
- Receive important information about summer work, resources, the bursary, and the start of term

Once GCSE results are released, students must confirm their place at NOA Sixth Form – provided they have met the entry criteria. Confirmation must be received by **5pm on the Friday following results day**.

Please note: Students who do not confirm their place by the deadline may be withdrawn from the enrolment process.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact the Sixth Form team on sixthform-enquiries@northoxfordshire-academy.org

External Applications

We welcome applications from students who attend other schools and are delighted we are your first choice of Sixth Form for your next pathway. All external applications require a reference from a Head of Year or Pastoral Leader from their current school and their details will need to be given on the initial application.

Students who apply from another school will need to have a reference completed before they are invited to interview.

Scan the QR code for further details and application form link

ACE School of CHARACTER

> “There’s a great atmosphere at NOA and a genuine sense of purpose. The expertise of the teachers is exceptional, and I’ve also been really impressed by the structure and the quality of communication.”

NOA Family, Proud to Belong

NOA Sixth Form
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Drayton Road, Banbury, OX16 0UD

Telephone: 01295 224300
Email: enquiries@northoxfordshire-academy.org
Website: northoxfordshire-academy.org

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@NorthOxAcademy

ACE School of CHARACTER

Proud to be the first school in Oxfordshire to be awarded the Ace School of Character Quality Mark