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# NOA Sixth Form

## 2023-24 Prospectus

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# Applications and Entrance Requirements

## A Levels

Applications for September 2023 entry are open to both NOA students and external applicants. Forms will be available from Reception / Student Services at the school or online from November 9th. The deadline for applications is **Friday 27th January 2023**; applications received after this date will be considered depending on course numbers.

Courses offered at NOA Sixth Form require students to achieve a minimum of five 9-4 in their GCSEs including English and Maths. Students wishing to pursue courses from the Career Zone (BTEC and OCR) will also require a minimum of a Merit grade in that subject at level 2.

### To study at A Level:

- 5 GCSE's Grade 5 or above including English and Maths.
- Students will need to achieve a specific grade for some STEM and Hums courses (below)
- Those who do not achieve this may still be offered a place but their choice of courses may be limited
- Students who do not achieve a 4 grade in English or Maths GCSE are unlikely to be accepted but may be considered if they gain good grades in other subjects. Where this is the case, they will be required to retake these subjects during year 12

**We will not offer places to students who fail to achieve a 4 grade in English and Maths at GCSE.**

**Students looking to apply for Engineering (double), Biology, Chemistry and Physics who are not already studying A Level maths will be required to pick up Core Maths (see page 8).**

### 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:

Maths  
Grade 7 in Maths GCSE

Further Maths  
Grade 9 in Maths GCSE

Biology, Chemistry and Physics  
Grade 7 in triple sciences OR Grade 7 in double science

Physics  
Grade 6 in Maths

Spanish  
Grade 6 in Spanish

Economics  
Grade 5 or above in GCSE English and Maths

English Literature  
Grade 6 in English Literature

Psychology  
Grade 6 or above in GCSE Science, Grade 6 in Maths and Grade 5 in English

French  
Grade 6 at GCSE

## Vocational

Vocational, or 'applied general' pathways offer a mixed way of learning and assessment. Students can combine coursework with examination units, with exams possible to be taken in the first year. BTEC courses still allow for progression into university and all our courses provide UCAS points for higher education (except Youth Work), so they are great options for students who are looking to enrol on a course that combines both practical and academic elements. Entry requirements are specific to the course, but as a guide, students need to obtain 4 GCSE's grade 4 or above to access this pathway.

### To study Applied General:

- Grade 4 in English, Maths and Science
- 5 GCSE's Grade 4 or above to study Applied General Subjects
- Grade 5 or above in Sciences to study Sport and Health and Social Care
- Grade 4 in English and Maths for Business
- Grade 4 in English for Health and Social Care
- At least a L2M in the vocational subject they have studied (Food Science, Sport, & Engineering)

# A LEVEL PROGRAMME



# Art

## 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 10 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 2,000-3,000 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 use 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 10 hour exam, for this you will use your explorations and experimentation within your sketchbook to plan your final piece before the exam.

### Enrichment Opportunities

Students will finish the course with a diverse portfolio having taken part in the following activities: Producing sketchbooks showing research, development, experimentation and refinement, improving knowledge on artists and craftspeople by producing critical studies, educational visits, working with professionals and presentation.

### Progression

Art and design can lead to employment or further study in many areas including; fine art, 3D sculpture, ceramics, textiles, theatre design, photography, graphic design, architecture, fashion and many other related areas.

# Biology

**Entry requirements:** Grade 7 at GCSE

## Course Details

The aims of the GCE in Biology are to enable students to:

- Develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, biology including developing an interest in further study and careers in the subject
- Appreciate how society makes decisions about biology-related issues and how biology contributes to the success of the economy and society
- Develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of How Science Works
- Develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of biology and how they relate to each other

## 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)

**Students who select Biology but are not already studying A Level Maths will be required to study Core Maths in their first year (AS Level) to support this element of the course.**

## Course Assessment

### A Level

#### Paper 1 *What's assessed?*

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

#### Paper 2 *What's assessed?*

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

#### Paper 3 *What's assessed?*

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

## Enrichment 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
- 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

## Progression

Students looking to study medicine or biomedical sciences will need Biology as one of their courses. Combined with Chemistry or Physics, this course makes up one of the crucial courses for those looking to move into TSEM courses or jobs. Biology can open up lots of opportunities within academic research, teaching and medical pathways.

# Chemistry

**Entry requirements:** Grade 7 at GCSE

## 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

**Students who select Chemistry but are not already studying A Level Maths will be required to study Core Maths in their first year (AS Level) to support this element of the course.**

## Enrichment 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

## Progression

Students who study Chemistry A level also tend to study at least another science which allows them to progress into STEM fields. Those looking to study Medicine would need to study Chemistry and Biology, for example. Students who wish to move into engineering could combine Chemistry with Physics. Chemistry is a valued A Level which opens many windows of opportunity across a range of STEM courses at university, but also apprenticeships.

# Core Maths (AS - 1 year course)

Students who are looking to study STEM subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Engineering) will also pick up Core Maths as an AS level in their first year if they are not already studying A Level Maths.

To support students' learning on some of the toughest courses, it is important that students are developing their Maths if they are not already studying Maths A Level. The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education. Most students who study mathematics after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning potential.

## Course Details

Core Maths has been designed to maintain and develop real-life mathematical skills. What students study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis, whether in work, study or life.

Most Core Maths courses will include a financial mathematics element and can help with other A Level subjects, in particular with science, engineering and psychology.

Mathematical skills are becoming increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education - studying Core Maths will help students to keep up these essential skills.

*This course will only be studied for 1 year in Y12 and students will be entered for an examination in June of Y12. There will be fewer lessons than their usual subjects, with Core Maths being run on 3-4 lessons over 2 weeks.*

## Core Maths – building on GCSE mathematics

Students will build upon their skills from GCSE and will be able access their mathematical elements on other courses, such as the STEM, with added support. With an absence in learning over the last year, it is important that for our students we are supporting their transition into sixth form with Core Maths.

## Extra Qualification

Core Maths will allow students to gain an extra qualification, equivalent to an AS level at the end of the year. It is also recognised by universities and UCAS (tariff table) so can contribute to applications for university. They will be entered for an examination which will be taken in.

Even though Core Maths is a new qualification, several universities have already come out in strong support of it. Employers from a range of sectors are also firmly behind the qualification. Many roles in the workplace require high levels of budget management and problem-solving skills and Core Maths will be a useful tool in equipping you with these skills.

## Incentive

Students will gain an extra AS Level qualification in addition to their other A Levels. It is also impressive for universities and apprenticeship companies to see Core Maths has been studied in addition to A Levels and Vocational subjects.

# Drama and Theatre

## Course Details

The Drama and Theatre A Level course develops and builds skills which are acquired at GCSE and focuses on the key skill areas: creating, performing and analysis and evaluating. Although the course builds on the experience you will have from GCSE Drama, everything is explored in more detail with the added benefits of drawing on a wider range of theatre styles, genres and practitioners. Commitment is key to this course.

## Course Breakdown

**Component 1** – Devising (40% of A Level) (Internal assessed, externally moderated)

You will prepare a devised performance based on an extract from a play text and a practitioner. You will work in a group to rehearse and refine your ideas for this performance. You will produce a portfolio of work that details your exploration, rehearsal and creation process and well as the final performance. (This will be between 2500-3000 words).

**Component 2** – Text in Performance (20% of A Level) (Externally assessed)

You will create a performance from a play text, rehearsing and refining your ideas for this performance.

You will also prepare and perform a monologue or a duologue from a different play text.

**Component 3** – Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of A Level) (External written paper)

This is an externally assessed written exam of 2 hours 30 minutes based on detailed study of two set play texts and one live theatre performance you have seen. Section A is based on the live theatre performance you have seen. Section B is based on one set text and you will answer questions based on performance and design elements of this play text. Section C is based on another set text and the focus of a practitioner; you will create a director's concept for a re-imagined production of the play.

## Enrichment Opportunities

The great strength of this course is the practical involvement in acting and acting skills. The most obvious way that you can extend your coursework is through being involved in the many Academy shows and performances during the year. A variety of theatre trips will be organised throughout the course. You might also think about being involved with a community drama group as an extension of your interest in the broad area of acting and technical theatre. Working with smaller groups at lunch times and supporting students in lessons can also aid in development of both you Drama knowledge and skills and well as interpersonal skills.

## Progression

Progression in this course could lead to university courses, such as degrees, in various subjects, including Acting, Musical Theatre, technical theatre and management. It could also lead to a variety of jobs within professional theatre companies. It is also a good course to study to develop personal and interpersonal skills that are needed in many different job sectors, for example Law or Education.

# 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 and language diversity
- 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*

## Enrichment 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.

## Progression

In combination with other A levels, English Language A Level can lead to study at university on a range of courses including English, linguistics, journalism and other language courses. English Language is a great course to combine with Media, English Literature, Drama or History as the analysis skills can be applied across all subjects.

# English Literature

## Course Breakdown

We follow the AQA English Literature Specification B for Advanced Level, which is linear in structure with students sitting all examinations at the end of the Advance 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 a literary genre. 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.

Students sit two examination papers of equal weighting.

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 Atwood
- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
- Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blake

In the second paper Advanced Level students also respond to an unseen text that is connected to social and political protest.

The final component of the Non-Exam Assessment: 'Theory and Independence' is a chance for students to explore aspects of a chosen prose and poetry text through the lens of different critical ideas and to engage with the notion that meanings in literature are not fixed and are influenced by many external factors that may be brought to bear on texts.

## Enrichment Opportunities

We seek opportunities to see texts in performance or, where these are not available, offer trips to see related productions to texts being studied. There are also opportunities for students to attend University and study days and online lectures and there is a sixth form book club.

## Progression

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.

# French

## Course Details

AQA Languages at A Level offers you a fantastic opportunity to work towards becoming a linguist, but that's not all. French is a fantastic career asset: the ability to speak both French and English is an advantage for finding a job with the many multinational companies using French as their working language (in retailing, automotive, luxury goods, aeronautics, for example). France, as the world's fifth biggest economy, attracts entrepreneurs, researchers and thousands of foreign students.

## Course Breakdown

The AQA French A Level course develops and builds skills which are acquired at GCSE and focuses on the four key skill areas: Speaking, Reading, Writing and Listening. This course aims to equip you to deal with everyday social and work situations in French-speaking countries. You will read a range of texts in French, drawn from contemporary fiction, the classics and transcripts of films and current affairs programmes.

**Theme 1)** Social Issues and Trends

**Theme 2)** Political and Artistic Culture

**Theme 3)** Grammar

**Theme 4)** Literature and Film

**How will you be assessed?** (All exams taken at the end of Year 2)

**Paper 1:** Listening, Reading and Writing Exam (Themes 1, 2 and 3): 2 Hours 30 Minutes. 50% of A Level. 100 Marks.

**Paper 2:** Writing Exam (Themes 3 and 4): 2 Hours. 20% of A Level. 80 Marks.

**Paper 3:** Speaking Exam (Themes 1,2,3 and 4): 21-23 Minutes. 30% of A Level. 60 Marks.

## Progression

When it comes to international business expansion, intercultural challenges and digital globalisation: the growing importance of those with a language qualification cannot be underestimated. French is one of the languages that the British Council has recently identified as the two most important foreign languages for the UK's future prosperity and global standing.



# 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 through 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

## Enrichment Opportunities

You will work practically and theoretically on compulsory residential.

## Progression

A Level Geography gives students a good grounding for Higher Education and can lead to employment in areas such as the Media, Law, Research etc.

# History

## Course Details

The A Level course focuses largely on some of the key developments in the history of Britain and the USA over the last 150 years. The course provides students with an excellent opportunity to build on their knowledge and skills from GCSE History although this is not essential for study of A Level History. If you enjoy the study of the past then History A Level is for you. 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

**3B:** The Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America B3

## Progression

History is a highly respected subject and is considered a worthwhile A Level subject for entry onto almost all degree courses. History is not only a subject valued by universities but employers too. The study of History is ideal for careers in law, involving the deployment of argument based on evidence. It is also ideal for jobs in the field of research, management, accountancy, journalism and marketing.

# Maths & Further Maths

**Entry requirements:** Grade 7 at GCSE and Grade 9 for Further Maths

## Course Details

Mathematics is a qualification highly valued by employers and higher education as it encourages logical and structured approach to problem solving. It also develops skills in analysis, effective and accurate communication, handling information and modelling practical solutions. Mathematics complements many other A Level subjects particularly Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Economics, biology, DT and Business Studies.

Students will also need to be studying A Level Mathematics. Students who have gone on to study Mathematics, Physics or Engineering at university have found this course particularly invaluable. Students have also found that by studying Further Mathematics they improved their attainment in the main Mathematics A Level.

## Course Breakdown

The mathematics course consists of units in pure mathematics and statistics and mechanics. All topics are assessed by exams at the end of each study year.

## Enrichment Opportunities

Through the mathematics course, there is opportunity to compete in the Team Maths Challenge. This is a competition testing mathematical, communication and teamwork skills, where students compete against teams from other schools and colleges from their region. There are guest lectures at local universities to deepen and broaden knowledge of the A-level curriculum.

## Progression

Mathematics is highly valued by universities and employers and can lead to many rewarding career paths. It is essential for science degrees and is also useful for social sciences.

# Media Studies

## Course Details

The Media course is studied on the WJEC/Eduqas specification. This is split into 3 components which assess different skills. The exam consists of two exam papers, which are for Component 1 and Component 2. Component 3 is internally assessed and sent to the examiner.

## Course Breakdown

**Component 1:** This is split into the study of Media Language, Representation, Audiences and Industries. These frameworks are studied with underlying theory which students apply to set texts ranging from print to moving image. These set texts are dated from 1950 to present day and explore political, historical, economic and social context studies.

**Component 2:** There are 6 set texts to study in this component which include texts from the following sectors:

- British and International TV Drama
- Mainstream and Independent Print Media
- Digital Media

**Component 3:** This is coursework and is worth 30% of the overall qualification. Students will pick from set briefs by the exam board and will need to complete research and a statement of aims to be submitted with their final product.

## Enrichment Opportunities

AS and A Level students have the opportunity to cover school events using the equipment, which can be added to their portfolio. Visits from the BFI Film Academy and the BBC have provided media students with opportunities to develop practical skills. We encourage media students to develop skills in production through the Christmas and Summer shows.

## Progression

The theory which students study in Media studies are the same as some of those from Business, Economics and Psychology. Media Theory is applied within marketing, advertising and business so skills be used within these sectors. The practical skills which students develop can be applied to design courses, graphics, media production or journalism. Media is a great subject as it looks at current affairs, politics, historical and political contexts and develops students debating skills. This is a skill which can be applied in any university course or apprenticeship.

Combined with English Language, students can look to progress into Journalism courses or marketing and communication courses at university, too.

# Physics

**Entry requirements:** Grade 7 at GCSE and Grade 6 in Maths

## Course Details

Physics, at A Level, 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. Individual work, group work, class discussion and personal research will all play important roles in developing students' understanding of the topics covered and of How Science Works – the exploration of how scientific knowledge is developed, validated and communicated by the scientific community.

This course 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.

**Students who select Physics but are not already studying A Level Maths will be required to study Core Maths in their first year (AS Level) to support this element of the course.**

## Course Breakdown

Year 1 of the course is compiled of the following modules:

- Measurements and their errors
- Particles and radiation
- Waves
- Mechanics and materials
- Electricity

The second year of the course includes:

- Further mechanics and thermal physics
- Fields and their consequences
- Nuclear physics
- Astrophysics (chosen option)

## Enrichment 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
- Student trips to physics settings and Universities

# Psychology

**Entry requirements:** Grade 6 in Science and Maths

## 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.

## Course Breakdown

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

## Enrichment 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.

## Progression

In combination with other A Levels or vocational courses, Psychology A Level can lead to study at university on a range of courses. A degree in Psychology can lead into many career areas such as Clinical Psychology, Counselling, Educational Psychology, Criminal Psychology or Health Psychology. Other careers that Psychology could lead to include health and social welfare occupations, or commercial, professional and managerial jobs.

# Politics

## Course Details

Government and Politics is an interesting course that allows you to develop and deepen your understanding of the political systems in the UK and globally. To understand politics helps you to understand the decisions made on your behalf by those in power as well as the tools to use your basic right to democracy 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.

## Enrichment 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.

## Course Breakdown

### Paper 1

You will investigate in detail how people and politics interact. They 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 UK government, since 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: Global Politics

1. The state and globalisation
2. Global governance: political and economic
3. Global governance: human rights and environmental
4. Power and developments
5. Regionalism and the European Union
6. Comparative theories

## Progression

- University courses that relate directly to government and politics
- University courses that will benefit from the skills acquired from this course, for example
- Law, economics, philosophy
- Employment where analytical skills are essential, for example management, finance
- Government, industry, and business environments.





# APPLIED GENERAL

# Business Studies

## 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

**Unit 5:** Marketing and Market Research

**Unit 8:** Introduction to Human Resources

## Enrichment 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.

## Progression

Wherever you work in the future, you will be part of a business. Studying Business Studies can help with university applications and provides UCAS points towards an application. It also serves as a great foundation for applications to apprenticeships in a wide range of business functions, from finance to marketing and IT. Students who combine Business with Media find that the skills obtained in both subjects assist in evaluation and synthesis which are useful for a range of sectors.

# Engineering

## Course Details

### Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate and Foundation Diploma in Engineering

This course provides the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in the design, development and manufacture and maintenance of engineering products and systems. The course is practical; work related and follows a manufacturing pathway developed by BTEC. Learning is achieved through the completion of projects and assignments based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.

### Extended Certificate Single Engineering 360 GLH - Equivalent to 1 A Level

- Two-year course made up of three lessons. It will give a broad basis of study for the engineering sector.
- Supports progression to higher education as part of a larger programme of study which includes other vocational or general qualifications, such as other BTEC subjects or A Levels.

## Course Breakdown

Optional units may include:

- Computer Aided Design in Manufacturing
- Engineering Manteca
- Maintenance of Mechanical systems
- Fabrication Manufacturing Processes
- Power & Energy Electronics
- Work Experience in the Engineering sector
- Electronic Devices and Circuits
- Composites Manufacture and Repair
- Computer Aided Manufacture

The course will be developed so that students will be able demonstrate and use machines such as 3D printer, CAM Routers, Workshop machines and use CAD software such as Solidworks and Auto CAD efficiently.

## Enrichment Opportunities

- 3D Printing Evening club manufacturing
- Links with businesses e.g. Banbury Bass performance, Mondelez & Lotus F1
- Apprenticeships fair
- Given access to the workshop in study periods to nurture their skills

## Progression

Engineering is a huge job family with a lot of different jobs, but many of them involve machines and practical processes. So if you like working with your hands and understanding how things work you might want to consider this as a career. Entry level wage in this career is £25k, but can rise to £68k with work experience and further education. Locally, employment is projected to increase substantially over the next few years.

**Students who select Engineering but are not already studying A Level Maths will be required to study Core Maths in their first year (AS Level) to support this element of the course.**

# Health and Social Care

## Course Details

### The Cambridge Extended Certificate and Diploma in Health and Social Care Level 3

This course will provide you with the opportunity, through applied learning, to develop the core specialist knowledge, skills and understanding required in the health and social care sector.

## Course Breakdown

To complete the Extended Certificate, you will study six units, three of which will be assessed through an external examination. The other three will be internally marked and then externally moderated.

In year 12 you will study the following four units:

**Unit 1:** Building positive relationships in health and social care

**Unit 2:** Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care

**Unit 3:** Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care

**Unit 10:** Nutrition for health (after summer exams)

## Progression

This course will enable students to progress onto an Apprenticeship in the sector such as Adult Care Worker, Healthcare Support Worker or Early Years Educator. It also offers UCAS points so could be taken alongside other academic subjects to support progress to university. Those who take HSC, often combine with Psychology and Youth Work which allows them to look at teaching, child psychology as a degree or counselling.

In year 13 you will study:

**Unit 10:** Nutrition for health (continued) Unit 4 Anatomy and physiology for health and social care

**Unit 22:** Psychology for health and social care

The units are graded Pass, Merit and Distinction.

This qualification is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\*

# Food Science and Nutrition

## Course Details

The aim of the course is to enable you to gain an understanding of the hospitality industry, the classification systems used and the organisation and structure of hospitality businesses. The course also aims to give you an understanding of the importance of the meal experience in food and drink service operations and skills to prepare and review provision of food and drink service.

## Course Breakdown

### Year 12

**1:** Meeting Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups

The purpose of this unit is for learners to develop an understanding of the nutritional needs of specific target groups and plan and cook complex dishes to meet their nutritional needs.

50% Controlled Assessment.

*Also includes planning and producing a 3-course meal for a target group of people.*

50% Written Exam

This is a 90 minute (+15 minute reading time) paper worth 90 marks.

### Year 13

**3:** Experimenting to Solve Food Production

**4:** Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition

**The course will also allow for students to become accredited with qualifications in Food Hygiene (Level 2/3) and Allergy Training which is industry recognised.**

## Enrichment Opportunities

- Links with well-known and prestigious local hospitality businesses
- Placement opportunities within the local area
- Support with school events
- Putting on events with Business

## Progression

On successful completion of this Level 3 qualification you can progress to employment or continue with your study in the same, or related vocational area. Those who have taken Food Science and Nutrition have progressed onto degrees to become a dietician, sports science and nutritional science. Those looking for an apprenticeship have secured roles at local providers in Oxfordshire.



# Music

## Course Details

The Music course is for students interested in a career in music. The BTEC Level 3 Music Subsidiary Diploma specification enables students to gain an experience of a wide range of musical skills. Students will develop:

- Performance skills (solo and ensemble)
- Knowledge and understanding of compositional processes
- Knowledge of popular music history
- Skills in organising and promoting a live music event

## Course Breakdown

The course is split into six units. There are three compulsory units for the AS and three further units for the complete A Level. The units are internally/externally assessed through coursework and exams over the two years.

### Year 1

**Unit 23:** Music Performance Techniques

**Unit 24:** Music Project (planning a live music event)

**Unit 30:** Pop Music In Practice

**Unit 40:** Ensemble Performance Skills

### Year 2

**Unit 4:** Aural Perception Skills

**Unit 7:** Composing Music

# 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:

- BTEC First in Sport 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

## Enrichment Opportunities

Worcester University visit, plus students will receive a 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.

## Progression

This BTEC will lead to a nationally recognised vocational qualification developing a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attitudes essential for a career in sport of further study of sport, leisure or recreation at University. It is an introduction for those who wish to build a career in sport through exercise and fitness, coaching, sports development and the outdoor area. This is an area of employment that is continually increasing and will continue to develop as part of the legacy of the 2012 London Summer Olympics and Paralympics. Students that have followed this pathway have gone on to university to study sports management, sports journalism, sports coaching, PE teaching, sports science and physiotherapy. Other students have gone on to follow personal training and gym instructing routes or began placements in coaching companies within the Banbury and Oxford area.



# Youth Work Practice

## Course Details

This Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice is a great course if you are thinking of a career in teaching, becoming a teaching assistant or a sports coach. This course gives you skills and opportunities to develop your confidence in working alongside others. Youth Work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through formal and informal educational activities which combine enjoyment, challenges and flipped learning. This whole course is about developing people skills to work with young people. The skills you learn are transferable into other careers which require face to face communication.

## Enrichment Opportunities

Students will take part in a variety of after school clubs, breakfast clubs, mentoring opportunities with KS4 and possible primary school placements. These experiences can also be used as forms of assessment for the portfolio.

## Progression

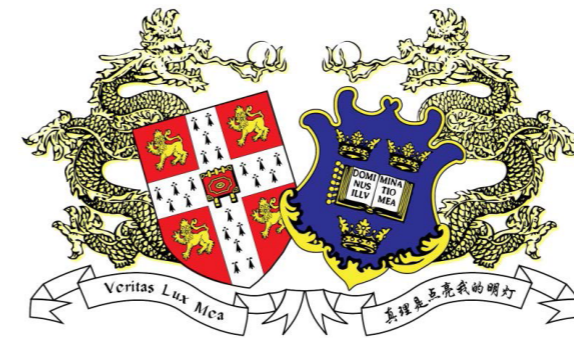
Youth work skills are in great demand, and opportunities for qualified youth workers are expanding. Youth workers are found working in local authority departments such as leisure, arts and housing, health authorities, youth justice teams, and in voluntary organisations.

## Course Breakdown

Mandatory Group A	QCF Unit Number	Credit Value
Theory of Youth Work	T/506/9206	4
Safeguarding in a youth work setting	J/506/9226	3
Young People's Development	M/506/9219	2
Engaging and Communicating with Young People	F/506/9239	2
Group Work within a Youth Work Setting	A/506/9501	2
Working with Challenging Behaviour in Youth Work Settings	A/506/9420	2
Reflective Practice in a Youth Work Setting	A/506/9238	2
Work-based Practice in Youth Work	K/506/9218	6
Optional Group B - See Below for all to achieve the Certificate		
Facilitate the Learning and Development of Young People	J/506/9209	4
Support Young People to Achieve their Learning Potential	T/506/9500	3
Understand how Youth Work can Support Young People	H/506/9220	2
Understand how Youth Work can Support Young People	M/506/9222	3
Young People's Participation in Youth Work	J/506/9176	3

# Life at NOA Sixth Form

We offer a range of enrichment opportunities to provide inspiration to our students. The enrichment we offer is tailored to the needs of the students.



Oxbridge Mentoring



South Africa Trip



Year 13 Leaver's Meal



Head Team

# APPLICATION FORM

## North Oxfordshire Academy Sixth Form 2023-2025

Please complete the entire application form. Forms with missing information will be returned to applicants for completion, which will delay the interview process.

### Section 1: Applicant Information

Full Name	
Male, Female or Non-Binary	
Date of Birth	
Full Address including Post Code	
Telephone Number	
Email Address	

### Section 2: School Details

Current/ Most Recent School, including address and phone number	
Dates Attended – From/To	
Please provide a contact at the school we can use as a reference. This could be the Head of Year or Tutor.	
I give permission for my current school to be approached regarding any information they hold on me	

### Section 3: Qualifications

Subject (e.g. English Literature)	Qualification (e.g. GCSE or BTEC)	Grade	Predicted or Achieved? (P/A)

### Section 3: Qualifications

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes / No  
Please provide further details below:

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## Section 5: Choices

Please choose no fewer than three courses from the grid below. We are encouraging students to take **four courses** but this depends on GCSE results. Youth Work has two separate classes: choose only **one**.

**Courses that are within the same block or column cannot be taken together** as this will result in a time-table clash.

**All courses will run subject to student numbers. We will know which courses are running by January 27th 2023.**

	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
<b>Applied General</b>	Health and Social Care	Sport Youth Work	Food Science Engineering (double)	Music	Business	Engineering (double) Youth Work
<b>A Level</b>	Core Maths Politics GCSE Maths GCSE English	Art History Chemistry	Media English Literature Biology	Maths English Language French	Psychology Drama Physics	Further Maths Geography
<b>Choices</b>	1 choice per block	1 choice per block	1 choice per block	1 choice per block	1 choice per block	1 choice per block

**Students studying the sciences who do not pick Maths or Further Maths will be placed into a 'Core Maths' group. Core Maths will facilitate the learning which takes place in the sciences where there are math elements. Core Maths will be in addition to other subjects.**

**Please tell us below if you are interested in a course that is not part of our offer.**

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**To support your application, you need to provide us with further information regarding your aspirations and why you would be a valuable addition to our sixth form.**

Think about the following:

*Why are you applying for sixth form?*

*Why have you chosen your particular courses?*

*What do you hope to achieve in the future?*

*What achieved so far in the school that will make you a valuable addition to NOA Sixth Form?*

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## Section 6: Declaration

By signing this declaration you are certifying that all the information is correct and that you understand that by completing this form you are not guaranteed a place at North Oxfordshire Academy Sixth Form. Applications that have not been fully completed will not be considered until the deadline. We will only consider applications given to us after the 25th February if there are sufficient places available.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to The Sixth Form Office / Student Services, post to Sixth Form Applications, North Oxfordshire Academy, Drayton Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 0UD  
Or email to [lily.tilocca@northoxfordshire-academy.org](mailto:lily.tilocca@northoxfordshire-academy.org).**



ASPIRATION

INSPIRATION

DESTINATION



**North Oxfordshire Academy**

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Drayton Road  
Banbury  
OX16 0UD



@NorthOxAcademy

Telephone: 01295 224300

Email: [enquiries@northoxfordshire-academy.org](mailto:enquiries@northoxfordshire-academy.org)

Website: [northoxfordshire-academy.org](http://northoxfordshire-academy.org)