



Course Information & Entry
Requirements 2024

Hinchingsbrook Sixth Form

Excellence in Everything

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We are delighted that you are considering Hinchbrook Sixth Form!

In this guide, you will find all of the courses which we intend to offer from September 2024. We do, however, retain the right to withdraw courses subject to student take up or qualification review.

In order to qualify for a place in Sixth Form you need to gain either

- i. 5 grade 5s which include Maths and either English Language or Literature, or
- ii. 5 grade 5s AND at least a 4 in Maths and English Language or Literature.

In addition to the general entry requirements, there are also course specific requirements. Most courses ask for a 5 in the subject but there is a number of courses (eg Maths, the sciences, Computer Studies, Psychology and Geography) which have higher entry requirements. Make sure that you check the subject requirements on the next page.

We interview all applicants who name us as one of their top 3 preferences on their Mychoice application and who meet our entry requirements. In the interview, we discuss your subject choices and some of you may have to re-opt at this point if you do not meet the specific subject requirements.

Nearly all students study 3 two year courses at Sixth Form. In addition, you may pick to complete an Extended Project Qualification or Additional Maths, giving you 4 courses in the first year of Sixth Form. Students who are predicted an average of 7 for their GCSEs, may study four A level subjects. We will check your predictions and discuss this with you at interview.

At the end of Year 12 you will complete examinations in all of your courses to assess your progress. If you do not pass one or more of these exams (gain a 'U' grade or equivalent) and your approach to your learning suggests that your chosen courses are not suitable, we will meet to discuss your best progression route. This may involve restarting Year 12 with different options, dropping a subject and picking up a one year course, or even joining a different establishment which may have a curriculum where you are likely to succeed.

Making an appeal for a place on a Sixth Form course

Please note that in fairness to all of those who apply for places on courses, we strictly uphold our grade entry requirements and it is very rare for a student to be admitted to a course where they have not met the grade entry requirement. If you have not met the grade entry requirement and wish to make an appeal for a place on the course, you may do so by emailing us on (sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk), making your subject title: (Your name +) Appeal for a place on a Sixth Form course – e.g. *John Smith appeal for a place on the Year 12 Physics course*.

A panel of three senior staff who have not already been involved in discussions about your courses will consider your appeal within 5 working days of receipt of your appeal and we will email you the outcome. Please note that being close to a grade boundary (e.g. achieving a high grade 6 when the entry requirement was a Grade 7) and being very keen to do a subject would not be considered grounds for appeal. There will have to be exceptional circumstances that affected your performance that are likely to be unique to you, such as hospitalisation for an extended period of time or bereavement in the run-up to the end of Year 11 examinations.

If at any time you have a query about a specific subject, please contact the Head of Department. If your query is about the Sixth Form or the application process, please contact sixthform@hbk.acesmat.uk. One of Sixth Form team will be able to help.

Good luck with your application!

Sixth Form Team
Hinchingbrooke School

If you would like more information about the Sixth Form – please contact one of our team. If you have a subject specific query, please do get in touch with the Head of Department from the list below.

Role	Name	Email	Ext
Head of Sixth Form	Mrs V Rix	vrix@hbk.acesmat.uk	5745
Deputy Head of Sixth Form (Head of Year 12)	Mrs F Solano	fsolano@hbk.acesmat.uk	5742
Deputy Head of Sixth Form (Head of Year 13)	Mrs C Black	cblack@hbk.acesmat.uk	5742
Student Support Officer (Year 12), Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ms J Edwards	jedwards@hbk.acesmat.uk	5744
Student Support Officer (Year 13)	Mr A Burton	aburton@hbk.acesmat.uk	5742
Sixth Form Administrator	Mrs K Farrington	kfarrington@hbk.acesmat.uk	5742/5004
Attendance Co-ordinator	Mrs K Simms	ksimms@hbk.acesmat.uk	5300

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Film and Media	Mr P Lloyd	plloyd@hbk.acesmat.uk	5743
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RPE	Miss C Newman	cnewman@hbk.acesmat.uk	5798
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Social Sciences	Ms S Dearnaley	sdearnaley@hbk.acesmat.uk	5747

Curriculum Pathways

Below is a suggested curriculum pathways to guide you with your choices. These are descriptive rather than prescriptive

Achieved some grade 4s at GCSE. Will have an average point score of 5	<p>Typically, students with this profile will do three subjects, choosing from the courses below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Diploma in Criminology • Dance BTEC • Drama BTEC • DT Product Design • Film Studies • Music Technology • Photography • Sport BTEC
Will have an average point score of between 5 and 6	<p>Students with this profile will do subjects from the list above, and/or those below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language • English Literature • French • Geography • German • History • Media Studies • Music • Physical Education • Politics • Psychology • RPE • Sociology • Spanish
Will have an average point score of between 6 and 7	<p>Students with this profile, if they wish to go to university, might be expected to be progressing to Russell Group universities. They will typically do three 'A' Level subjects, from the lists above, and/or those below. They should consider the Extended Project as an opportunity for stretch and challenge. Students who study Psychology, Business and the Sciences are strongly advised to study Mathematical Studies. This one year course (worth one half of an A Level) is designed to support the Mathematical content of these A Level courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • Chemistry • Computer Science • Maths • Physics
Will have an average point score of above 7	<p>Students with this profile, if they wish to go to university, would be expected to be progressing to a Russell Group university and should consider Oxbridge.</p> <p>They can, if they wish, do four subjects (though in some cases the fourth may be Further Maths) from the lists above.</p> <p>These students should do the Extended Project if they are not doing four 'A' Levels</p>

Subject	Entry Criteria
Art	GCSE grade 4 in Art
Biology	GCSE grade 7 in Biology and 6 in Maths. 7-7 for Combined Science students and 6 in Maths
Chemistry	GCSE grade 7 in Chemistry and 6 in Maths. 7-7 for Combined Science students and 6 in Maths
Computer Science	GCSE grade 7 in Computer Science, 6 in Maths, 6-6 in Combined Science
Criminology Level 3 Diploma	GCSE grade 5 in English Literature/Language
Dance BTEC	Dance experience and/or GCSE grade 4 in Dance/BTEC Merit or above
DT	GCSE grade 5 in DT, GCSE Maths grade 5
Drama BTEC	Drama experience needed and/or GCSE grade 4 in Drama/BTEC Merit or above
English Language	Grade 5 in English Language
English Literature	Grade 5 in English Literature
Extended Project	An average of grade 6 for your GCSEs
Film Studies	GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature
French	GCSE grade 6 in French
Geography	GCSE grade 6 in Geography and 5-5 in Combined Science or 5 in a single Science
History	GCSE grade 5 in History and 5 in English Language or Literature
Maths	GCSE grade 7 in Maths
Maths (Further)	GCSE grade 8 in Maths
Mathematical Studies Level 3	GCSE grade 4 in Maths
Media Studies	GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Music	GCSE grade 5 in GCSE Music, Grade 5 theory and Grade 5 Practical recommended. Performing at grade 5 standard
Music Technology	GCSE grade 4 in Music
Physical Education	GCSE grade 4 in PE and/or experience of playing competitive sport. GCSE grade 4 in Science
Photography	GCSE grade 4 in Art
Physics	GCSE grade 7 in Physics and 6 in Maths. 7-7 for Combined Science students and 6 in Maths
Politics	GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Psychology	GCSE grade 6-5 in Combined Science or 6 in any Science. 5 in Maths and English
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature and 5 in Religious Studies, if studied
Sociology	GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Spanish	GCSR grade 6 in Spanish
Sport BTEC	GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature



Why study Art?

This is a highly challenging course. We expect students to think independently whilst developing core creative skills. The course is designed to encourage creativity, imagination and independence based on personal experience and critical understanding.

These are the essential traits for the course:

- Curiosity: problem solving
- Risk taking: be brave
- Celebrating failure: non-precious attitude
- Self-motivation: responsibility
- Individuality: no robots

What does the course involve?

This is a broad course of study which combines and explores a range of Fine Art creative skills. You will use a variety of materials and processes to develop a personal response and individual outcomes. These will include drawing, painting, printmaking in 2D and surface manipulation, textiles, and material process in 3D.

Students will work in areas such as: portraiture, environment, the human form, abstract and narrative. Content and context are important in all developments of work. A wide range of artists and art movements will be studied, including contemporary works.

Trips & additional activities

There are regular trips out to London galleries and relevant exhibitions throughout the year. There is a UK trip at the beginning of Year 13. Lectures and portfolio sessions with workshops are run in year 13.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of the final grade)

- a portfolio of work in response to a brief or stimulus, devised and provided by the centre;
- related study: an extended response of between 1000 and 3000 words.

Component 2: Externally Set Task (40% of the final grade) 12-week prep period and 15-hour exam.

Leading to a career or further courses in?

Textile Design, Fashion Design, Fashion Communication, Surface Design, Sculptor, Product Design, 3D Design, Interior Design, Fine Art, Art Historian, Graphic Design, Computer Game Design, Photography, Illustration, Animation.



Additional entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in Art. This can be taken with Photography

Exam board

Eduqas

Why study Biology?



In Biology you will develop practical skills by planning experiments, collecting data, analysing experimental results and making conclusions. You will also learn how scientific models are developed, the applications and implications of science, the benefits and risks that science brings and the ways in which society uses science to make

decisions. Biology is a science at the forefront of some of the most exciting and controversial issues in the news today. Current publicity surrounding genetic engineering, environmental and medical developments have highlighted the need for an understanding of such issues. Biology seeks to explore these areas of study to provide an appreciation of the living world.

What does the course involve?

Module 1: Development of practical skills in biology: skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation.

Module 2: Foundations in biology: cell structure and membranes; biological molecules; DNA; cell division, diversity and organisation.

Module 3: Exchange and transport: exchange surfaces; transport in animals; transport in plants.

Module 4: Biodiversity: evolution and disease; communicable diseases and prevention; immune system; biodiversity; classification and evolution.

Module 5: Communication, homeostasis and energy: communication and homeostasis; excretion; neuronal communication; hormonal communication; plant and animal responses; photosynthesis; respiration.

Module 6: Genetics, evolution and ecosystems; cellular control; patterns of inheritance; manipulating genomes; cloning and biotechnology; ecosystems; populations and sustainability.

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 papers plus a practical endorsement.

Leading to a career in?

Undergraduate degree courses: Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Life Sciences, Forensic Science, Physiotherapy, Veterinary medicine, Biochemistry, Paramedical work, Nutrition, Ecology, Biology, Marine Biology, Sport Science, Food Science, Environmental Monitoring and the expanding field of Microbiology and Biotechnology.

There are also numerous career paths that will utilise the knowledge and skills gained at 'A' Level Biology.

Entry requirements

For Triple Science students, GCSE grade 7 in Biology and 6 in Maths. 7-7 for Combined Science students and 6 in Maths

Exam board

OCR



Why Study Chemistry?

Are you open-minded, imaginative, argumentative, methodical, logical and determined? Do you wonder about the world, how it works and how mankind is changing it? If so, you will probably be interested in A Level Chemistry at Hinchbrook. It is a rewarding but demanding course, which sets the subject within a relevant and modern-day framework, without sacrificing intellectual rigour. It builds on the higher concepts learnt at GCSE and appeals to students who like to ask the questions 'why', 'how' and 'what' and are keen to find out the answers.

What does the course involve?

Module 1: Development of practical skills in Chemistry: skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation

Module 2: Foundations in Chemistry: atoms, compounds, molecules and equations; amount of substance; acid-base and redox reactions; electrons, bonding and structure

Module 3: Periodic Table and energy: the Periodic Table and periodicity; Group 2 and the halogens; qualitative analysis; enthalpy changes; reaction rates and equilibrium (qualitative)

Module 4: Core organic Chemistry: basic concepts; hydrocarbons; alcohols and haloalkanes; organic synthesis; analytical techniques (IR, MS)

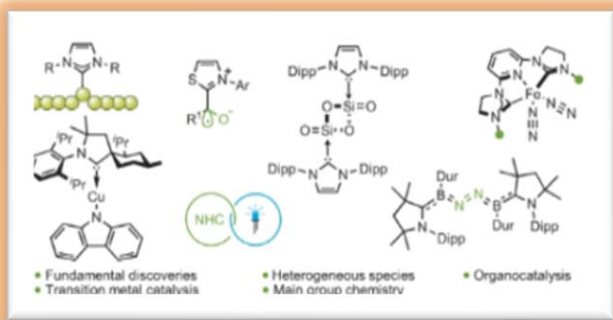
Module 5: Physical Chemistry and transition elements: reaction rates and equilibrium (quantitative); pH and buffers; enthalpy, entropy and free energy; redox and electrode potentials; transition elements

Module 6: Organic Chemistry and analysis: Aromatic compounds; carbonyl compounds;

carboxylic acids and esters; nitrogen compounds; polymers; organic synthesis; chromatography and spectroscopy (NMR).

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 papers plus a practical endorsement.



Leading to a career in?

As far as employment prospects are concerned, Chemistry is a 'heavyweight' subject, essential for many scientific careers and highly regarded for non-vocational jobs. It has obvious relevance for medicine and veterinary science, as well as jobs in businesses involved in drugs and medicine manufacture, agriculture, brewing, food, biotechnology and forensic science – to name just a few. Any student qualified in Chemistry will automatically be regarded as someone who is numerate, well organised, self-motivated and intellectually adept – useful qualities to bring to any job.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 7 in Chemistry and 6 in Maths. 7-7 for Combined Science students and 6 in Maths

Exam board

OCR

Why Study Computer Science?

This qualification is relevant to the modern and changing world of computing and is also relevant to the higher education community. 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. The course values computational thinking, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand the power and limits of human and machine intelligence. It is designed to inspire and challenge students to apply the knowledge they gain with the creative and technical skills they acquire. Other aspects are:

A Level Computer Science is focused on programming; it builds on GCSE Computing and emphasises the importance of computational thinking as a discipline.

There is an expanded Maths focus, much of which is embedded within the course.

There is an increased emphasis on coding and programming.

What does the Course involve?

Unit 1: Computer Systems

Covers the characteristics of contemporary systems architecture and other areas including the following:

- Software and its development
- Types of programming languages
- Data types, representation and structures
- Exchanging data and web technologies

Following algorithms
Using Boolean algebra
Legal, moral and ethical issues.

Unit 2: Algorithms and Programming

Elements of computational thinking
Programming and problem solving
Pattern recognition, abstraction and decomposition
Algorithm design and efficiency, and Standard algorithms

Unit 3: Programming Project

You are set a user-driven problem of an appropriate size and complexity to solve. You will need to analyse the problem, design a solution, implement the solution and give a thorough evaluation.

How will I be assessed?

80% exam, 20% coursework.

Leading to a career in?

Typical roles in industry include software engineer, developer, analyst, project manager, software architect, tester and operational manager; career development opportunities are almost unlimited within the industry.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 7 in Computer Science, 6 in Maths and 6-6 in Combined Science

Exam board

OCR



Why Study Criminology?

Not all types of crime are alike. Are you interested in the different types of crime that take place in our society? Are criminals born, or made? How do we decide what behaviour is criminal? What are the different roles of everyone involved when a crime is detected?

Criminology is a course that combines the subjects of Psychology, Law, Politics and Forensic Science to form a new discipline of its own. This is a growing subject nationally. The course can broaden your field of study in the Social Sciences. You will explore the causes of criminal behaviour, attitudes to crime, criminal investigations and the wider social and psychological aspects of crime.

By studying the underlying causes of crime, we potentially develop solutions. Part of this is exploring ways of how to rehabilitate the criminal. You will explore theories of criminality and use these to analyse criminal scenarios and put forward possible ways of improving society's response to crime, and hence of reducing it.

What does the course involve?

The course covers an exciting range of topics, covering the Changing Awareness of Crime, Criminological Theories, Crime Scene to Courtroom and Crime and Punishment.

Unit 1: Changing Awareness of Crime

You will explore how crime reporting affects the public perception of crime and criminals. You will then go on to study how campaigns are used to bring about change and plan a campaign of your own.

Unit 2: Criminological Theories

You will discover and assess all the theories that have been put forward to explain why crime occurs.

Unit 3: Crime Scene to Courtroom

You will gain an understanding of the process of criminal investigations. You will then go on to learn about the prosecution of suspects and be able to review criminal cases.

Unit 4: Crime and Punishment

You will study every aspect of the criminal justice system and the types and purposes of punishment in England & Wales.

How will I be assessed?

50% exam 50% coursework.

Leading to a career in?

This course is ideal for anyone who wishes to pursue a career in Criminology. This course can provide a route into Higher Education to study at degree level in a variety of areas such as Criminology, Criminal Justice, Psychology and Forensic Science.

The course would also provide an excellent basis to anyone wishing to pursue a career within Social Work, Mental Health, the Police Force, Customs and Immigration, Prison Services, Court Services, Security Services, the NHS, Education and Youth and Community Services.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Literature/Language

Exam board

WJEC

Why Study Dance?



Studying Dance prepares students for a lifetime career in the performing arts. Our Dance course sets out to create self-aware dancers who are highly educated and knowledgeable as well as versatile, creative, and technically accomplished.

There are numerous aspects that will be learnt and developed on this course – leadership, ability to choreograph, teamwork, improved fitness, improved confidence, opportunities to perform and compete as well as providing a varied skill-set for students to expand upon in their CVs/University applications.

What does the Course involve?

You will complete 4 units in total, all of which contain practical and theory assessed elements. In a normal week, you will attend some practical and some theoretical lessons.

Unit 1: Investigating practitioners' work You will investigate the work of Professional Dance Practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work. In this Unit, you will watch and complete a range of Dances in different styles and learn about a range of practitioners and why their work is relevant to contemporary society. This unit culminates with a written assessment on what you have learnt.

Unit 2: Developing skills and techniques for live performance You will explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing skills and techniques in at least two performance dance styles. You will participate in regular workshops, classes, and exercises where you will acquire, practice and develop new, and often innovative, performance material. This may be in response to a specific commission, to meet the needs of a target audience, or to explore an artistic theme or idea. This unit culminates with a devised performance to a live audience.

Unit 3: Group performance workshop You will explore and integrate creative, physical, and

choreographic skills and techniques, working collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus. Many professional practitioners work as devising companies to develop new, and often innovative, performance material. This may be in response to a specific commission, to meet the needs of a target audience, or to explore an artistic theme or idea. This Unit culminates with a devised performance to a live audience.

Unit 22: Movement in Performance You will look at the four components of movement in performance in their most uncomplicated form, taking into account Rudolf Laban's theories of movement. Having gained an understanding of how to use the body as an expressive instrument, you will then apply your knowledge of movement in performance.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed internally for units 2 and 22 and externally for units 1 and 3. The course is vocational and assessed through coursework – recorded evidence from rehearsals, and performances, research, written assignments, reflective writing, journals, discussion, and evaluations. Over two years, you will compile a portfolio of coursework. There will be certain key dates and deadlines for all work.

The nature of a BTEC allows for a more varied and vocational approach to student learning, with coursework, portfolio, and video evidence at its heart.

Leading to a career in?

University: study Dance at degree level.

Work: teacher/dance therapist/community worker/professional dancer/artist in residence/travel & tourism. Supporting other courses – acting/singing/stage work/ make-up/theatre/music/film.

Entry requirements

Dance experience and/or GCSE grade 4 in Dance/BTEC Merit or above



Why study Design Technology?

Good design is vital to our world and our economy. Innovation, creativity, problem solving, experimenting. There is a strong demand for students in the Design, Engineering and Construction industries who are capable of developing solutions to today's problems. This course provides you with a solid base from which to develop your design and making skills, using a range of materials and manufacturing methods to become designers and engineers of the future.

This course allows students to provide solutions to "real" problems linked to produce design, interior design and architecture. Students will work with a range of clients across different projects. This course combines diverse areas of DT and is suitable for anybody who has studied DT, Product Design or Engineering at GCSE.

What does the course involve?

There will be a series of smaller projects during Year 12 to build skills: technical drawing, processes, machinery and tools, CAD/CAM before a major project for the coursework element.

Students focus on understanding the various aspects of the design cycle and the design and make process.

Nothing has 'just been made'. All aspects of the world around us are designed and made considering clients, end users, materials, processes, and the effect this all has on our planet.

Students will continually be developing designing and making skills with a focus on drawing, research, design concepts, evaluating, modelling, and making skills in all projects. Projects will also include aspects of theoretical knowledge in preparation for their end of Year 13 exam.

How will I be assessed?

You will be studying AQA Product Design which is 50% coursework (NEA) and 50% Exam. The coursework is a project of your choosing where you will research, design, develop, test, and evaluate your end product. The exam at the end of Year 13 will test the theory learnt over the two years.

Leading to a career in?

Product Design, Robotics, Automotive Industry, Digital Media, Aerospace, Civil Engineering, Construction, Architecture, Interior Design, Armed Forces, Graphic Design, or an Art Foundation course. This course will help you to demonstrate a wide range of skills in your portfolio. It is a subject that links well to other areas of the curriculum such as Maths, Physics, Geography, Art, Photography, and others, even if you do not continue with a design career.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in DT and GCSE grade 5 in Maths

Exam board

AQA



Why study Drama BTEC?

Drama expands your self-confidence, creativity, and through these your potential in so many other areas of life. The Extended Certificate (called 'Performing Arts' but focused on acting) is for students who are interested in learning about the performing arts sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in performing arts.

What does the course involve?

Unit 1: Investigating practitioners' work

You will investigate the work of Performing Arts practitioners and develop critical analysis skills and contextual understanding of how practitioners communicate themes in their work. In this Unit, you will watch a range of live theatre in different styles and learn about a range of practitioners and why their work is relevant to contemporary society. This Unit culminates with a written assessment on what you have learnt.

Unit 2: Developing skills and techniques for live performance

You will explore technical performance skills with a focus on developing skills and techniques in at least two performance styles. You will participate in regular workshops, classes and exercises where you will acquire, practice and develop the necessary technical, practical and interpretative performance skills to help you succeed when performing live to an audience. This unit culminates with a performance of a monologue in one style and a group performance from a play in a contrasting style.

Unit 3: Group performance workshop

You will explore and integrate creative, physical, and vocal skills and techniques, working

collaboratively to create a performance in response to a given stimulus. Many professional practitioners work as devising companies to develop new, and often innovative, performance material. This may be in response to a specific commission, to meet the needs of a target audience, or to explore an artistic theme or idea. This Unit culminates with a devised performance to a live audience.

1 Flexible Unit: A range to choose from acting styles and interpreting classic texts to improvisation.

How will I be assessed?

The course is split into 4 units - 3 compulsory modules and 1 flexible choice from a range of exciting options.

Assessment is threefold – students are assessed through a combination of portfolio production, graded practical activities and through performance to a live audience.

Leading to a career in?

Acting or performance; stage management; technical design, sound, lighting, costume, set and props; social care or social setting; television and media; teaching; uniformed services. Ultimately, any job that involves working in a team, with people or presenting to a group!

Entry requirements

Drama experience needed and/or GCSE grade 4 in Drama/BTEC Merit or above

Exam board

Pearson



Why Study English Language?

If you want to understand how language is used to control and manipulate us by both the media and people in power; how to take apart a piece of language and be able to work out exactly what makes it tick, produce your own language investigation, AND dabble in your own creative writing then this is the course for you.

What does the course involve?

Paper 1: 40 %: Language, the Individual and Society

A focus on individual and immediate social contexts for language, exploring textual variety and language development.

Section A: Textual Variations and Representations: You will explore significant features and patterns in language across a variety of texts. When exploring multiple texts, these will be linked by topic or theme to prepare you for a comparative task in this section.

Section B: Children's Language Development: You will delve into the fascinating world of child language development, exploring how children develop their spoken and written skills.

Paper 2: 40%: Language Diversity and Change

You will consider language outwardly, reflecting on larger-scale public discourses about change and variety, drawing on regional, ethnic, national, and global English.

Section A: Diversity and Change: You will explore a range of examples of language in use and research data to inform your study of diversity and change.

This will include analysis of texts using different sociolects and dialects and texts that highlight the influences that technology has had on language.

Section B: Language Discourses: You will consider how texts use language to present ideas, attitudes, and opinions. This section also offers you the opportunity to put your own discursive writing skills to the test on a subject linked to language in use.

Non-exam assessment 20%: Language in action

The aim of this non-exam unit is to allow you to explore and analyse data independently and develop and reflect upon your own writing expertise. You will carry out two different kinds of individual research...

Language Investigation: You will undertake an independent investigation of language on a topic of your own choice. You will choose your own methodologies; select and analyse your own data and draw suitable conclusions from them.

Original writing and commentary: For the original writing task, you will produce one piece of original writing based on the power of persuasion, storytelling, or information.

You will complete a commentary allowing you to reflect upon your decisions, the writing process, and the effectiveness of your final piece.

How will I be assessed?

80% exam 20% coursework.

Leading to a career in?

A Level English Language can help many career paths including journalism, writing, teaching, politics, and the law.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Language

Exam board

AQA

Why Study English Literature?

In studying English Literature, you will develop interest in and enjoyment of the subject through reading widely, critically, and independently across centuries, genre and gender. You will consider how writers – including you – succeed in shaping the responses and opinions of others. In essence, “The study of English Literature trains the brain and frees the imagination; it is about life and living and just where you fit into the world around you.”

What Does the course Involve?

Component One: Drama and Poetry pre-1900 (40 %)

You must study one play by Shakespeare. In addition, you are required to study one pre-1900 poetry text.

At HBK, we study the texts below:

Shakespeare: HAMLET

Murder, revenge, corruption, madness, religion.... On this course, you will study Shakespeare’s most popular and most performed play, getting to grips with the language, structure, and rich themes of the text.

Pre-1900 Drama: A DOLL’S HOUSE by Henrik Ibsen

Gender roles, marriage, lies and deceit, 19th century bourgeoisie values... Ibsen’s play caused ‘a storm of outraged controversy’ upon release, as it explored the role of women in a rigid male-dominated society.

Pre-1900 Poetry: PARADISE LOST, BOOKS 9 & 10 by John Milton

Sin and innocence, hierarchy and order, the Fall of Man, Satan... Milton’s Paradise Lost, an epic poem considered to be his masterpiece, solidified his reputation as one of the greatest English poets of all time.

Component Two: Comparative and Contextual study 40%

On this part of the course, you study at least two whole texts in your chosen topic area. **At HBK, we opt for American Literature 1880-1940**

THE GREAT GATSBY by F Scott Fitzgerald

The American Dream, infidelity, organised crime, morality, class boundaries... Fitzgerald’s text is one of the most celebrated literary masterpieces

of all time and an example of the Great American Novel.

PASSING by Nella Larsen

Race and racism, Black identity, privilege, deception... New to the course from 2022, Larsen’s Passing, set in 1920s New York, explores the reunion between two old friends whose lives have taken very different paths.

Component Three: Literature post-1900 (20% coursework)

You choose and study one poetry text, one drama text and one prose text all written after 1900.

Poetry: SYLVIA PLATH

You will explore an array of works from one of the world’s most celebrated poets, before choosing one piece to explore in greater depth for your coursework.

Drama text: ARCADIA by Tom Stoppard

Sex, literature, death and ...pigeons. Stoppard’s farcical comedy explores knowledge, lust, and what it means to get things *very* wrong.

Prose text: ATONEMENT by Ian McEwan

Guilt, innocence, regret, war, remorse... widely regarded as McEwan’s best work, the text explores the devastating, lasting effects of a misunderstanding.

How will I be assessed?

80% exam, 20% coursework.

Leading to a career in?

A Level English Literature can lead to many career paths including journalism, writing, teaching, politics and the law.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Literature

Exam board

OCR



Why study the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)?

The Extended Project Qualification is an optional curriculum extra for students. The subject enables you to gain a qualification whilst spending time on something you are passionate about. You can tailor what you study to extend your A levels and personalise your further education/career goals (it is worth half the UCAS points of a full A Level).

There is variety of formats in which you can present the work you complete: a dissertation, an investigation/field study, a performance, or an artefact. You could study medical ethics if you want to go into the medical profession, human rights as you want to study law or perhaps clothes design because you want to work in the world of fashion.

The choice is limitless. It also enables you to develop and improve your ability to be a critical, reflective, and independent learner; learning how to analyse, synthesis, evaluate and present your work to a high level. This can only support your progress in other subjects and looks fantastic in personal statements and job applications.

What does the course involve?

As an EPQ student you will have both a teacher and a tutor. Your teacher will see you for one period a week where you will have seminar style lessons to ensure you gain all the skills you require to complete a successful EPQ. As you start writing your EPQ, you will continue to have lessons so that this teacher ensures that you are demonstrating all the skills you have learnt. You will also be allocated a tutor (where possible one who is knowledgeable in your chosen study area). You will be expected to

meet this tutor fortnightly to discuss the content of your EPQ and for them to assess your progress.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on your ability to plan, manage, complete, and review your project. You will start the EPQ in Year 12 and hand in your final submission at the start of Year 13. Your work will be marked internally by your tutor and moderated externally by Edexcel.

Assessment objective	Marks available	Weighting
AO1 Manage Identify, design, plan and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives.	9	17%
AO2 Use resources Research, critically select, organise and use information, and select and use a range of resources. Analyse data, apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any links, connections and complexities of the topic.	12	22%
AO3 Develop and realise Select and use a range of skills, including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes.	24	44%
AO4 Review Evaluate all aspects of the extended project, including outcomes in relation to stated objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced project outcomes and conclusions in an appropriate format.	9	17%
Total	54	100%

Entry requirements

The EPQ is an optional curriculum extra for students who gain a GCSE point score 6 or above. Many students will take 3 A Levels plus the EPQ. It will be completed alongside your 3 other courses.

Exam board

Edexcel



Why study Film Studies?

Studying Film will deepen your understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the major art form of the last 120 years. We have all been 'cineliterate' since early childhood, but few realise what a complex act of decoding we take on when we watch a film. Studying cinema as a medium, as art and as a social and economic institution, you will engage with a wide range of different kinds of films, developing skills of observation, critical analysis, and personal reflection.

What does the course involve?

You will be introduced to the diverse range of film forms and film styles that have developed in different places through the history of cinema. This will include analysing how film 'works'; how the interaction between spectator and the use of editing, sound and visual storytelling creates meaning. There will be opportunities to put this learning into practice through practical filmmaking.

We will also analyse how the context of filmmaking affects style and ideology through study of a diverse range of film, including Hollywood genre films, experimental film, and British cinema. There will also be a focus on international film movements. With its emphases on visual storytelling and response, Film Studies extends areas of experience covered by Literature, Theatre and Art History specifications. With its emphases on depth and diversity, it goes much further than Media Studies in providing a foundation in the study of film texts, producers, audiences, messages, and critical approaches.

With its emphases on the interaction between audiences and film and psychoanalytical approaches to reading cinema, there are links with the Social Sciences and Business Studies.

With its emphases on the context of film production, there are parallels with the study of History.

How will I be assessed?

The A Level course will involve two exams: one focusing on American and British film, the other on varieties of film. Exams will total 70% of the mark. 30% will come from a creative production of **either** a short film (4-5 minutes) **or** a screenplay (1600-1800 words), plus an evaluative analysis of the creative work.

Leading to a career in?

Filmmaking, film theory, film criticism and film history, the social sciences, the media, journalism the performing arts, marketing.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature

Exam board

WJEC





Why study French?

Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life. We live in a multilingual global society. The aim of the A Level modern language course is to help you to develop an interest in speaking a foreign language, to gain awareness of the need to speak foreign languages, to appreciate the nature and diversity of different cultures and people and to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use, further study, and employment. Choosing an A-Level language is a smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and is a lot of fun along the way.

You already know how essential languages are for integrating in a culture and getting the most out of your experience; you'll get more of a taste of life in a different country. Languages can take you to some wonderful places and give you many brilliant opportunities. French could take you to Africa, Canada, Switzerland . . .

What does the course involve?

A-Level languages build upon your existing knowledge gained at GCSE, giving you a sound understanding of using your language in a variety of contexts and situations - at home, abroad, with friends or in the workplace. At A Level French, you will study current trends and issues (for example new technologies) in French-speaking society, as well as political and artistic culture (including a film and a book) in the French-speaking world. In Year 13 you will complete an individual research project. With around nine hours of class time a fortnight dedicated to learning your language, you will rapidly make noticeable improvements not only in your speaking and writing ability but also in your understanding and use of grammar and more advanced vocabulary. You will also have an

individual weekly speaking session with a French native speaker.

How will I be assessed?

This is a two-year linear course, assessed by examination at the end of Year 13:

Paper 1: Listening, reading, writing and translation into and out of French (2 hours 30 mins), 100 marks, 50% of course

Paper 2: Writing (2 hours) 80 marks. 20% of course

Paper 3: Speaking (23 mins), 60 marks, 30% of course.

However, we will also offer a one year, ie AS option for students who wish to take the course as one of four subjects in Year 12. For information about this, please contact the MFL department.

Leading to a career in?

Studying languages teaches you all the skills that employers look for: an analytical mind; good thought process; amazing memory capacity; fantastic cultural and intercultural awareness; good communication; great team player to name just a few. Languages are an invaluable skill to have and having a language can increase your salary by as much as 20% and gives you a head start on other potential employees. Speaking another language means you are vital to any company that does international business. You may need languages for all sorts of career destinations, not just the obvious ones of teaching, interpreting and translating: doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists need language skills to communicate effectively with patients whether they work in the UK or overseas; businesspeople, bankers and entrepreneurs all need language skills to make deals and sell products on the global market; politicians, historians, geographers and holiday reps all need language skills to get to know the people and area that they are passionate about.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in French

Exam board

OCR

Why study Geography?

Geography matters. It matters because it's relevant. Geography's relevance stems from the fact that it can lie at the heart of government policy making, as well as affecting the way we live our everyday lives. It considers some of the most critical issues affecting the planet today, such as population growth and migration, hazard impact, globalisation and environmental degradation. To understand Geography is to understand your world.

Geography's strength lies in its breadth. It draws together just about all other subjects and explains the link between them all. It is the link between science and the arts and looks at key issues such as sustainability, interdependence, and global citizenship. Universities and employers like Geography, as it provides you with so many useful and transferable skills, including analytical, statistical, presentational and research skills, useful in so many disciplines.

What does the course involve?

A Level

Component one: Physical systems

Glaciated landscapes

Earth's life support systems: water and carbon cycles

Component two: Human interactions

Changing spaces, making places
Global connections: Global Migration and Power and Borders

Component three: Geographical debates

Disease dilemmas

Exploring Oceans

Component four: Investigative geography

Independent investigation

An essential part of Geography is studying the environment first-hand. The department organises a range of fieldwork opportunities to enable you to develop the necessary skills. These trips include a residential trip to North Wales at the start of the course to study glaciated landscapes and optional



trips to support different aspects of the course, including Iceland, New York and Malaysia.

How will I be assessed?

A Level

Component one: Physical systems

1 hour 45 minutes written exam; 24% of 'A' Level

Component two: Human interactions

1 hour 45 minutes written exam; 24% of 'A' Level

Component three: Geographical debates

2 hour 30 minutes written exam; 32% of 'A' Level

Component four: Investigative geography

Internally assessed, externally moderated; 20% of 'A' Level

Leading to a career in?

Geography is a subject that teaches transferable skills which help with many career paths and are highly valued in the job market.

Geography is particularly useful for careers in: environmental management, international aid/development, logistics and distribution, market researcher, nature conservation officer, tourism officer, transport/town planner, cartographer, surveyor and geographical information systems officer.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in Geography and 5-5 in Combined Science or 5 in a single Science

Exam board

OCR



Why study History?

If you want to understand how the world we see today was shaped and forged, how one event and person can change the course of History and debate the very nature of “fact” itself, History at Hinchingsbrook is the course for you!

At Hinchingsbrook, we aspire to train you as Historians. Knowledge lies at the heart of our enquiries, as does our engagement with primary evidence and interpretations.

The History Department also wishes you to explore the world of the individuals you study, with heritage opportunities such as trips to Berlin and Hampton Court Palace.

What does the course involve?

The coursework unit (NEA) examines Russia’s transformation from a Tsarist to a Soviet state in the period 1955-1964.

The breadth of experience and expertise within the History Department allows us to offer a diverse range of topics for the exam units which will include two of the following:

The Tudors, 1485-1603 (Breadth paper)
 Democracy and Nazism, 1918-1945 (Depth paper)
 The Making of a Superpower USA, 1865-1975 (Breadth paper)
 The English Revolution, 1625-1660 (Depth Paper)

The exact topics taught will be dependent upon staffing and timetable considerations; these will be confirmed in the summer term.

How will I be assessed?

Exam: 80% Coursework: 20%

Leading to a career in?

A Level History can lead to many career paths including Teaching, Journalism, Law, Heritage, and the Civil Service.

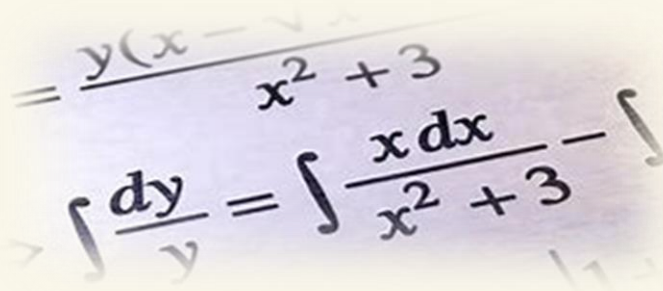
Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in History and 5 in English Language or Literature

Exam board

AQA





Why study Mathematics?

There are three good reasons why you should consider studying 'A Level Mathematics:

- It gives you a chance to understand what Mathematics is really about. It is most definitely not about getting 'the answer' – and in many ways has less to do with numbers than you might think. Instead it is about applying your knowledge to solve problems. Put more simply it is about learning to think.
- Mathematics is the most cited facilitating course for entry to degree level courses and has consequently become the most popular A Level subject over the past two years.
- Mathematics is the only A Level subject where there is a proven link to improved income chances in later life. Students who pass A Level Mathematics earn on average 10% more in later life than those that do not.

What does the course involve?

Employers value skills such as problem solving, logical thinking and an ability to articulate clear written arguments. A Level Mathematics is focused very much on developing these skills and written work based around algebraic communication will feature in almost every lesson.

You will need to be able to think clearly, remember methods you have met and understood and be able to apply them to new situations. You will learn the meaning of mathematical terms and the real mathematical meanings of some things you thought you already knew. You will be expected to be able to talk about your work, with your friends and with your teacher and to be able to apply mathematics to practical situations, sometimes called modelling.

You will need to understand about numbers, arithmetic, estimation, and patterns, be able to use a calculator sensibly and work things out in your

head when necessary. A particular focus of the new A Level is on understanding large data sets and using technology to solve problems. All students will need a Casio Classwiz or an approved graphical calculator for use during the course.

All students studying Mathematics will spend 66% of the course studying Pure Maths (trigonometry, algebra, calculus and proof), 17% studying Mechanics (modelling forces, motion and the physical world) and 17% studying Statistics (statistical sampling, data presentation and probability).

Students who excel at Maths can opt to study Further Mathematics alongside their A Level in Mathematics to get a second A Level in Further Mathematics. Most students opting for Further Mathematics do so as a fourth subject.

All students take a baseline test on the enrolment day in September that's heavily based on transition work. We use the information gathered to identify weaknesses for a targeted start to a successful course.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam.

Leading to a career in?

Mathematics is key to most scientific disciplines so it could lead onto higher education courses in science related subjects as well as Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science and Economics. With further training, you could go into a job related to Mathematics such as an Accountant, Engineer, Financial Adviser, Business Manager, Software Engineer or Teacher. You could also go straight into a job as the A Level is a recognised qualification that will help you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries are looking for.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 7 in Mathematics. Only one Mathematics course out of Mathematics (one A Level) and Further Mathematics (two A Levels) can be taken

Exam board

OCR



Why Study Further Mathematics?

Further Maths is a unique A Level that offers students who have traditionally excelled in Mathematics the chance to look even deeper at key mathematical principles. You earn two distinct A Level qualifications: one in A Level Mathematics and one in A Level Further Mathematics.

There are several reasons why students should consider studying Further Mathematics:

- If you enjoy Mathematics then what is not to like about doing more of it! The Further Mathematics course offers the greatest insight into what real mathematics is about and develops the subject to provide a fuller understanding of both its applied and abstract nature. The extra mathematics practice/lessons also really help to consolidate success in the single A Level Mathematics qualification.
- Students wanting to study Mathematics or Engineering at a top university will generally have been expected to have studied Further Mathematics at A Level. Students applying for these courses who have not studied Further Mathematics are at a disadvantage.
- The content in Further Mathematics often overlaps with first year degree courses in several related disciplines such as Chemistry, Physics and Economics. Students who have already covered this content in the sixth form have an advantage over those that have not.
- Despite its unique place in post 16 education, Further Mathematics is still in the top 15 of the most popular A Level subjects taken by students.

What does the course involve?

Students studying A Level Further Mathematics are taught a bespoke course in a separate class that covers all of the content for A Level Mathematics alongside the extra content for Further Mathematics. Students studying Further Mathematics need to have excellent algebraic skills and a love for the abstract nature of the subject. As in A Level Mathematics, you will be expected to do a lot of written work, presented so that others can understand clearly what you are trying to do. You will need to be able to think clearly, remember methods you have met and understood and be able to apply them to new situations. You will be expected to talk about your

work, with your friends and with your teacher and to be able to apply mathematics to practical situations, sometimes called modelling.

All students studying Further Mathematics will cover the A Level Mathematics Course, plus a second A Level of which 50% is pure mathematics (complex numbers, further calculus, hyperbolic functions, matrices and differential equations) and the other 50% is split equally between mechanics and statistics, building on the topics covered in the single A Level. Students are recommended to have an approved graphical calculator.

All students take a baseline test on the enrolment day in September that's heavily based on transition work. We use the information gathered to identify weaknesses for a targeted start to a successful course.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam - papers at the end of Year 13

Leading to a career in?

Mathematics is key to most scientific disciplines so it could lead onto higher education courses in science related subjects as well as Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science and Economics. With further training, you could go into a job related to Mathematics such as an Accountant, Engineer, Financial Adviser, Business Manager, Software Engineer or Teacher. You could also go straight into a job as the 'A' Level is a recognised qualification that will help you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries are looking for.

Entry requirements

You cannot study Further Mathematics without studying for A Level Mathematics. The entry requirement is GCSE grade 8 in Mathematics.

Exam board

OCR



Why Study this course?

Mathematics is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging, and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be.

Level 3 Mathematical Studies is a new qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE. It is a one-year course and can only be taken as a fourth subject in Year 12 alongside three other subjects.

The course supports students' mathematical skills and thinking and supports courses such as A Level Business, Finance, Psychology, Sciences and Geography, as well as technical and vocational qualifications. We strongly advise you opt for this course if you choose any of these A Levels.

What does the course involve?

Mathematical Studies aims to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in GCSE Mathematics. As such, students choosing this subject will need to have a solid grasp of basic numeracy and algebra. Unlike a lot of the content at GCSE, Mathematical Studies covers topics that have 'real world' applications and will be useful after the student has finished their studies.

There is heavy emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving with students being encouraged to 'think outside the box'. Not all questions have a single solution, and a large part of the marking relies on a student being able to justify their reasoning to achieve full marks.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed throughout the one-year course (through end of topic assessments as well as assessed homework). The final grade is determined by two end of year live examinations (AQA specification code 1350) detailed below. Calculators are allowed for both papers.

Paper 1: 1 hour and 30 minutes (60 marks)

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes (60 marks) [either graphical techniques or critical path analysis]

Leading to a career in?

Mathematical Studies is a recognised qualification that will help you develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers across lots of industries are looking for.

Entry requirements

Students will need to achieve at least GCSE grade 4 in Mathematics.

Exam board

AQA



Why Study Media?

The media plays a central role in contemporary culture, society and politics, shaping our perceptions of the world through the representations, ideas and points of view they offer. This course aims to explore how Media texts create meaning, and how their representations of the world affect audiences. You will also look at the economic and cultural context in which individual media texts operate, through the close analysis of a range of media texts – both ‘traditional’ media (newspapers, television, films,) and digital online media (blogs, websites). You will also develop practical production skills and will be required to produce your own media products.

Any student with an interest in the media and/or thoughts of following a higher education course in Media / Film / Communications / Journalism / Cultural Studies would benefit from taking this course.

The course works well with many subjects but especially English Language, English Literature, DT (Graphics), Photography, Film Studies and Sociology.

What does the course involve?

This contemporary, accessible and creative course has been designed to allow learners to study the media in an academic context and apply the knowledge and understanding gained to the process of creating their own media production. Macs, video and still cameras, and other necessary equipment are all also freely available to students for all creative projects that you undertake during the course.

Media Studies is designed to widen the intellectual horizons of the learner through the analysis of a wide range of media forms and contexts. It will enable students to develop a wider understanding and appreciation of the media in both an historical and contemporary context. Over the two year A Level, students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding across a range of different media forms and will develop a critical understanding of the media and of media products. Students will respond to a short, unseen moving image extract in exam conditions and will apply their knowledge and understanding of the media to the creation of their own media product.

How will I be assessed?

70% exam, 30% coursework.

Leading to a career in?

The course is relevant to students considering a career in Media. It can lead directly to training, or to a place on a Media degree course. You will develop a range of skills on the course, which could lead to a number of different options in employment or higher education. Media Studies can lead to industry-related roles in areas such as production, journalism and photography.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature

Exam board

OCR



Why Study Music?

This course is designed to help you develop your skills as a performer, composer, and listener. You study the theory and history of music, will have instrumental or vocal lessons, and perform as both a soloist and as part of ensembles. The course gives you a broad range of skills which are highly desirable at university level.

What does the course involve?

- Performing – 30% with a 'final recital' of at least 8 minutes at the end of the course
- Compositional Techniques – 10%
- One original Composition – 20%
- Listening and Understanding – 40% final exam, which involves knowledge and analysis of 13 set works plus related works

You will receive 9 hours lesson time during the fortnight, additional listening, homework on knowledge and analysis of set works, homework on compositional techniques and composition, developing performing skills – practice lessons, concerts, and research.

You will be an active part of the vibrant extra-curricular life of the Music Department and a role model to our younger musicians, developing your leadership and personal skills. Our Christmas and Summer Concerts, 'Glastonbrooke' festival, school shows, annual Music Festival and the use of a Bosendorfer Concert Grand Piano in our purpose-built Performing Arts Centre all help to enrich the life of our sixth form musicians.

How will I be assessed?

Performing: You will need to prepare a recital of at least 8 minutes in length, assessed externally.



Composing: You will be assessed externally

Analysis: There is a two hour and 10-minute listening and written paper at the end of Year 13.

Leading to a career in?

A-Level Music is widely accepted as a general qualification for entry into any type of business or organisation or for entry into a wide range of degree courses in other subjects. You could take this course with other advanced level courses to prepare for higher education in Music related courses or more general higher education courses.

With further training, you could go into a job related to Music such as a Music Composer, Freelance Musician, Sound Technician, Theatre, Concert Management, or you may wish to use your music ability for recreational purposes. The course is designed to provide you with access to a range of music related employment and will also develop the skills, understanding and knowledge that many employers seek.



Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in GCSE Music, Grade 5 theory and Grade 5 Practical recommended. A member of the Music Department will be able to advise if necessary. Performing at grade 5 standard

Exam board

Edexcel



Why Study Music Technology?

Music technology is integrated into almost all elements of the entertainment industry today, from writing and recording an acoustic performance to creating music for computer games or film. Having a solid foundation in how to get started in this field is at the heart of the course. This qualification is well suited to those pursuing a career in the music industry. It can be taken with other advanced level courses including Music.

What does the course involve?

- Developing attention to detail and a critical ear in different aspects of the subject
- Learning how to use recording and sequencing software such as Logic Pro X
- Composing using music technology
- Listening and analysing of popular music through time focusing on key developments in technology

You will have 9 hours lesson time per fortnight, with 2 hours a week set as 'studio sessions' to develop multitrack recording skills.

How will I be assessed?

A portfolio of work submitted at the end of the course. This will comprise of a multitrack recording and a composition based around synthesis, sampling, and creative effects.

There are two written exams:

- 'Listening and Analysing' paper focuses on different aspects of recording and production techniques, in the context of a series of unfamiliar commercial recordings.
- 'Producing and Analysing' paper is a mixture of written and practical tasks in sequencing and production techniques and theory in a practical exam.

Leading to a career in?

The use of music technology is a key skill in almost all areas of the media, so having a good foundation will help in many career paths: recording engineer, producer, composer, DJ, live sound engineer, theatre sound technician, broadcasting, music therapy, teacher, lecturer, performer, tour manager and many more.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in GCSE Music or equivalent. A strong portfolio of work demonstrating a range of music technology skills would be considered in the absence of a formal music qualification.

*please contact the head of Music Mr Cooke
wcooke@hbk.acesmat.uk

Exam board

Edexcel





Why study Physical Education?

Studying A-Level Physical Education will give you a fantastic insight into the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform or coach a sport through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop a wide range of theoretical knowledge of Physical Activity and Sport.

What does the course involve?

Over the two-year course, you will study a broad range of Physical Education theory topics including the following subject content:

Applied anatomy and physiology
Skill acquisition
Sport and society
Exercise physiology
Biomechanical movement
Sport psychology
Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport

The theory components of the course make up to 70% of the course content.

You will also be expected to be training and performing regularly in one activity from the published list of activities from AQA. You will need to be performing at a competitive level to perform well in your NEA practical coursework.

In the second year of the course, you will also complete a piece of NEA written coursework in the form of analysis of performance project based upon your own performance of your assessed activity.

How will I be assessed?

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course. It is 70% theory and 30% practically assessed.

Leading to a career in?

The subjects you learn about will be invaluable at a personal level and will help you to be better at sport, no matter what your standard.

The Physical Education A Level also acts as a foundation to many career options. Because of the broad range of content topics studied, you may want to go on to further study leading to the following career paths:

- Sport science
- Physiotherapy
- Working for a national governing body
- Sport psychology
- Technology in sport
- Sport and the law
- PE teaching
- Sports coaching
- Personal training
- Sport nutrition
- Sport journalism
- Sport analysis

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in PE and/or experience of playing competitive sport. Candidates must be prepared to play competitive sports during the course. GCSE grade 4 in Science.

Exam board

AQA



Why study Photography?

The course is designed to encourage creativity, imagination and independence based on personal experience, taught skills and critical understanding, transferable to other areas.

To study as a subject that may be either a positive contrast or complement to your other chosen subjects – Fine Art, Contemporary Fine Art, Film Studies, Media Studies, The Social Sciences, Music, Performing Arts, Dance, Criminology.

What does the course involve?

This is a broad course of study.

The study of traditional photographic techniques including, researching light exposure, film speed, aperture variation, focus. Dark Room techniques. Photograms, Cyanotypes, Photo-montage. Moving image/time based Photography. Digital Photography including image manipulation, through various software packages including Photoshop.

Drawing to develop ideas and outcomes, Use of a range of techniques to combine traditional photography, digital photography, drawings and collage/montage to realise outcomes. A wide range of photographers, artists, film makers and art movements will be studied, including Contemporary works.

There are trips out to relevant galleries and exhibitions in London throughout the course, such as The Photographers Gallery, The Courthauld Institute, The Tate Modern. There is a foreign trip in May of Year 12 and residential UK trip at the beginning of Year 13. University and Degree Show trips are also organised; including to our partner The University of Creative Arts. Lectures by department staff and

guest visitors are organised throughout the course, and portfolio sessions and workshops are run in Year 13. Creative work experience placements are facilitated.



How will I be assessed?

Component 1

Personal Investigation (60% of the final grade):

- a portfolio of practical work in response to a brief or stimulus, devised and provided by the centre
- a related study: an extended response of between 1000 and 3000 words.

Component 2

Externally Set Task (40% of the final grade) 12 week prep period and 15 hour exam

Leading to a career/further courses in?

Photography – Commercial, Fashion, Documentary, Advertising, TV work, Reporting, Film Studies, Media Studies, Digital Art, Communication, Photography Historian, Animation, Museum and Curating work.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in Art. Photography can be taken alongside both Fine Art or Contemporary Fine Art

Exam board

AQA



Why study Physics?

Are you interested in the physics topics in your science studies at GCSE? Are you good at Mathematics? Do you enjoy problem solving? Would you like to know more about fundamental ideas such as quantum mechanics, cosmology and nuclear physics? If the answer to these questions is yes, then A Level Physics might be for you.

What does the course involve?

Module 1:

Development of practical skills in Physics: skills of planning, implementing, analysis and evaluation

Module 2:

Foundations of physics: physical quantities and units; scalars and vectors; measurements

Module 3:

Forces and motion: motion; forces in action; work, energy and power; materials; Newton's laws of motion and momentum

Module 4:

Electrons, waves and photons: charge and current; energy, power and resistance; electrical circuits; waves; quantum physics

Module 5:

Newtonian world and astrophysics: thermal Physics; circular motion; oscillations; gravitational fields; astrophysics

Module 6

Particles and medical physics: capacitors; electric fields; electromagnetism; nuclear and particle physics; medical imaging.

How will I be assessed?

There are three papers plus a practical endorsement.

Leading to a career in?

A Physics qualification is essential for many future careers in science and engineering. It is also classed as a "facilitating" A Level by Russell Group universities as there are many university courses that require A Level Physics. Physics can also help you make progress in other fields that value the demanding skills developed through physics. Many architects, accountants, bankers and lawyers have benefited from studying Physics at A Level. Physics is even relevant if you are planning to study music, as it helps you to understand how sound is produced and transmitted.

Entry requirements

For Triple Science students, GCSE grade 7 in Physics and 6 in Maths. 7-7 for Combined Science students and 6 in Maths

Exam board

OCR

Why study Politics?

This course will give you valuable insights into the world of political ideas, processes and key institutions. There can be no better time to study Politics due to the rapidity of change in the world. The loss of confidence in governments in the West and the rise of populist political movements, the breakdown of governments in the Middle East, and Brexit, are all events which point to a crisis in domestic and international politics and have and will continue to touch our lives. A successful student of Politics will leave the course with a developing knowledge of both domestic and international issues and will have the skills necessary to make effective contributions to future political debates.

What does the course involve?

There are three broad areas of study:

- The government and politics of the UK
- The government and politics of the USA
- Political ideas

The course asks you to identify parallels, connections, similarities and differences between aspects of politics. This will ensure that you develop a critical awareness of the changing nature of politics and the relationships between political ideas, political institutions and political processes.

The political ideas to be studied have relevance to both of the systems of government and politics in both the UK and the USA.

There are set authors whose texts will provide a variety of theoretical perspectives which will further enhance your knowledge and understanding of politics as a whole. The study of political ideas is an integral part of the course, teaching you to analyse, interpret and evaluate political information to form rounded arguments and make mature judgements about all aspects of political life.

You will be expected to keep up to date by watching current events on TV and reading quality newspapers. You are encouraged to incorporate internet research into working habits. Course content is delivered via a range of teaching and learning activities which include, lectures, small group presentations, discussions and debates. Past questions are set for homework every two to three weeks for each teacher.

How will I be assessed?

There are three exams at the end of two years. 100% examination.

Leading to a career in?

This is an excellent A Level for many career pathways and university degrees, in fields such as politics, international relations, law, history, sociology, economics, business...all these will benefit from this course.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature

Exam board

AQA

Do you regularly find yourself questioning the behaviour of others? Are you interested in understanding how we can investigate human behaviour from a scientific point of view? Does your future career involve working with other humans?

If you've answered 'yes' to any of these, then Psychology may be for you! But, if you're more interested in solving murders, mind reading and learning about counselling, then it's unlikely you'll fulfil those needs in this course.



Psychology is one of the most popular subjects at Hinchingsbrook Sixth Form and the 2nd most popular subject nationally (Gov, 2020).

Three, 2-hour exams usually in May/June of Year 13.

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology: Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology.
Paper 2: Psychology in Context: Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, Research Methods.

Over two years, you will explore 11 topics with two specialist teachers. By the end of the course, you'll have a foundation of knowledge in various areas of psychology such as Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Psychopathology, Biopsychology and Research Methods which will prepare you for focused exploration at University.

Topics that you will explore in Year 12 include:

Approaches: Explore the various perspectives of Psychology that aim to explain behaviour and understand how psychology developed into a Science.

Memory: Understand the elements that form your memory and begin to understand why humans forget, how we learn and how our memory is flawed.

Social Influence: Investigate why the majority of people conform and obey instructions but also understand why some don't.

Psychopathology: Understand the aetiology, diagnosis and prognosis of Depression, OCD and Phobias.

Attachment: Explore the purpose of attachment and why it's an essential part of development, including the consequences of a disrupted relationship.

Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology: Issues and Debates, Gender, Schizophrenia and Aggression.

An understanding of human behaviour will help you in **any** career where there are humans.

Most students continue to study Psychology at degree level, with many choosing a career in Clinical Psychology, Law or Legal professions, Teaching, Researching their own investigations, Business and Marketing, Medicine, Forensic Psychology, Neurology, Sports Psychology or Counselling and therapy routes.

GCSE grade 6-5 in Combined Science or 6 in any Science. 5 in Maths and English

AQA

Why study RPE?

A Level RPE provides students with a broad introduction to the study of religious, philosophical and ethical concepts.

This course is designed to:

- develop a range of transferable skills which can be applied far beyond the study of RPE
- enable students to develop the ability to reason, form their own judgements, express themselves coherently and contribute to the process of debate
- develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies

“There are some advanced level subjects which provide suitable preparation for entry to university generally...Examples of such subjects include...Religious Studies.” The Russell Group *Informed Choices* 2015/2016

What does the course involve?

You will study three main areas of the course:

Philosophy: Can we prove God exists? Is religion a product of the mind? Does the modern world need religion? Is there a problem with the language we use when talking about philosophical issues?

Ethics: What do we mean when we say ‘good’ and ‘bad’? Are we completely free to act as we choose? Should we agree with: abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and nuclear weapons?



Christianity: How reliable are religious texts? Is God male or female? Can we still believe in religion with the challenges from science? Does celebrating Easter and Christmas make us religious?

How will I be assessed?

RPE is assessed by three two-hour examination papers (one on each of the above areas) at the end of the A Level.

Leading to a career in?

Many of our students go onto university to study Philosophy and/or Religious Studies, often in combination with other disciplines. Popular combinations include: Philosophy/History; Philosophy/English; Philosophy/Law; Philosophy/Maths and even Philosophy/Biology.

RPE is a valued qualification in such careers as: politics, research, journalism, law, charities, social services, education, civil service, publishing, marketing and advertising.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English Language or Literature, and 5 in Religious Studies if studied at GCSE

Exam board

Eduqas



Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of people in social groups. It attempts to describe and explain human behaviour in a variety of situations. It is a common mistake to think of Sociology as a soft option. While most people find it interesting, stimulating and enjoyable, it also involves reasoned and disciplined thinking and the use of abstract and difficult concepts.

Sociology is a living subject dealing with problems that face modern society and challenges many of the commonsense notions that people may have concerning issues such as gender, ethnicity, sexuality and class. There is also a growing focus on the impact of globalisation at international, national and local levels so an interest in current affairs is beneficial when studying Sociology.

What does the course involve?

Students should develop the ability to understand and use sociological concepts concerning theories and methods as well as those concerned with understanding contemporary social life in general. They should be able to interpret and evaluate sociological material in a variety of forms – written, graphical etc.

They should also learn to present explanations, ideas and arguments in a coherent and logical form as it is a subject that will develop the individual's ability to argue, think and present a balanced critical argument. As an academic subject is an ideal preparation for university entrance as well as careers such as teaching, human resource management, business, nursing or any occupation that is people orientated.

The course involves the study of three areas that contain various topics related to Sociology:

Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods.

Paper 2: Topics in Sociology: Work, Poverty and Welfare, Beliefs in Society.

Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination after two years.

Leading to a career in?

Sociology can lead to a range of further studies and possible careers including law, police work, journalism, teaching, medical professions, human resources, social work, management, the civil service and probation work.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 5 in English
Language or Literature

Exam board

AQA



Why study Spanish?

Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life - we live in a multilingual global society.

Choosing an A Level language is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and is a lot of fun along the way. You already know how essential languages are for integrating in a culture and getting the most out of your experience; you'll get more of a taste of life in a different country.

Languages can take you to some wonderful places and give you many brilliant opportunities. Spanish is the third most widely-spoken language in the world and will open up not just Spain but also the whole of South America . . .

What does the course involve?

A Level languages build upon your existing knowledge gained at GCSE, giving you a sound understanding of using your language in a variety of contexts and situations - at home, abroad, with friends or in the workplace.

At A Level Spanish, you will study current trends and issues (for example new technologies) in Spanish-speaking society, as well as political and artistic culture (including a film and a book) in the Spanish-speaking world. In Year 13 you will complete an individual research project.

With around nine hours of class time a fortnight dedicated to learning your language, you will rapidly make noticeable improvements not only in your speaking and writing ability but also in your understanding and use of grammar and more advanced vocabulary. You will also have an individual weekly speaking session with a Spanish native speaker.

This is a two year linear course, assessed by examination at the end of Year 13.



	Skills assessed	Duration	Marks	% of course
Paper 1	Listening, reading, writing and translation into and out of Spanish	2 hours 30 mins	100	50%
Paper 2	Writing	2 hours	80	20%
Paper 3	Speaking	23 mins max	60	30%

How will I be assessed?

However, we will also offer a one year, ie AS option for students who wish to take the course as one of four subjects in Year 12. For information about this, please contact the MFL department.

Leading to a career in?

Studying languages teaches you all the skills that employers look for: an analytical mind; good thought process; amazing memory capacity; fantastic cultural and intercultural awareness; good communication; great team player to name just a few. Languages are an invaluable skill to have and having a language can increase your salary by as much as 20% and gives you a head start on other potential employees. Speaking another language means you are vital to any company who does international business. You may need languages for all sorts of career destinations, not just the obvious ones of teaching, interpreting and translating: doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists need language skills to communicate effectively with patients whether they work in the UK or overseas; businesspeople, bankers and entrepreneurs all need language skills to make deals and sell products on the global market; politicians, historians, geographers and holiday reps all need language skills to get to know the people and area that they are passionate about.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 6 in Spanish

Exam board

AQA

Why study Sport BTEC?

Sport currently sits in the top 15 industrial sectors in England, contributing £20.3 billion to the economy in 2014, 1.9% of the total. The number of sport related jobs in the UK is estimated at over 400,000.

The sector also has a large number of volunteers, with the estimated economic value of sport-related volunteering at c£2.7 billion. Additionally, participation in sport brings health benefits to the nation, which is currently estimated at c£11.2 billion. The BTEC is recognised by schools, colleges, universities and employers; a practical, real-world approach to learning; offers progress to further education, training and employment.

What does the course involve?

The BTEC in Sport teaches the knowledge and skills you need to work in the industry.

Learn about the components of fitness and the principles of training and explore different training methods;

Develop team working skills by organizing and leading sports activities and events and carrying out a variety of roles in a team;

Present your work in a variety of ways, online research & using applications for presenting projects;

Develop business and customer awareness; Investigate opportunities for employment in the industry, as well as exploring trends which effect participation in sport.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment happens throughout the course, in the form of assignments. There are three core assignments and then there is flexibility to select one other unit which is marked internally.

Mandatory Core Units

Anatomy and Physiology (externally assessed):

Learners explore how the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems function and the fundamentals of the energy systems

80 marks, 90 minutes

Fitness Training and Programming for Health and Well-being (externally assessed):

Learners explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and well-being. *80 marks, 90 minutes*

Case study provided; completed under supervision;

Written submission. *60 marks, 2.5 hours*

Synoptic assessment

Professional development in the sports industry (internally assessed):

Learners explore the knowledge and skills require for different career pathways in the sports industry. Learners will take part I, and reflect on, a personal skills audit, career action plan and practical interview assessment activities.

Optional units (internally assessed): 1 unit to be completed.

Sports Leadership: Learners study what makes a good leader, the different capacities of this role and the leadership skills and techniques necessary when leading activities in different roles.

Application of Fitness Testing: Learners gain an understand of the requirements of fitness testing and learn how to safely conduct a range of fitness tests for different components of fitness.

Sports Psychology: This unit covers the psychological dimensions of sport and introduces psychological techniques that can be used to enhance performance.

Practical Sports Performance: Learners study the skills, techniques, tactics and rules of selected sports through active participation in individual/team sports.

Leading to a career in?

Gym instructor, personal trainer, coach, sports massage therapist, sports management, teaching, physiotherapy, sports psychology, sports journalism.

Entry requirements

GCSE grade 4 in English Language or Literature

Exam board

Pearson

Hinchingbrooke Sixth Form

Excellence in Everything

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