



# Highams Park

6th Form



*Success through our endeavours*

**Prospectus 2024**



# Welcome

---

We are delighted that you are considering joining Highams Park 6th Form. Should you be successful in your application you will be taught by a well-established and experienced group of staff and have the opportunity to be part of a highly professional environment that is proudly the pinnacle of the school.

Our Key Stage 5 results have been excellent for many years, our A Level results in 2022/23 placed Highams Park School within the Top 10% of Post-16 education providers nationally for student progress, with our Level 3 BTEC Results placing us in the Top 25% of Post-16 education providers nationally for student progress in 2022/23.

There are three key factors behind these outstanding results are firstly, the hard working and dedicated nature of the students who join our 6th Form; secondly, our highly experienced teaching staff who are all specialists in their subjects; and thirdly, our purpose built 6th Form facilities, that includes dedicated 6th Form classrooms and 3 separate 6th Form study areas, supporting our students in becoming independent learners.

Students are supported to quickly develop the skills and attitude to adjust to life in our Sixth Form. The transition from year 11 into year 12 is strategically planned and delivered by our supportive and highly knowledgeable Sixth Form team. In this stimulating and rewarding environment, our students become confident and well-rounded young people, prepared for adult life. Throughout your time in the Sixth Form, students will be able to experience our extensive careers and enrichment programme, which will enable them to develop both personally and academically.

As a 6th Form student at HighamsPark School you will be valued, challenged and nurtured, leaving better prepared to take your next step, whether that is progressing onto higher education, moving onto an apprenticeship or entering employment.

We do hope that the prospectus, and our Open Evening on Thursday 18th January 2024, will provide you with the information you need to choose the best subjects for your Post-16 education



**Mr Armsby**  
*Principal*



**Mr McDonnell**  
*Assistant Principal:  
Head of 6th Form*



# Success at Highams Park Sixth Form

Here at Highams Park we are incredibly proud of all our students. Our comprehensive programme of support means that our students progress on to a variety of exciting Post-18 destinations, including university, apprenticeships and employment.

## Key Statistics:

- 100% of students supported into some form of Education, Employment or Training
- 72% of students progressed onto study at university. With 85% of students attaining their first-choice university
- 35% of students are studying at world-leading Russell Group Universities.
- 2 students are making their way to Oxford and 2 students are going on to study Medicine.



## Most Popular University Courses:

Accounting – 6 students
Biological Sciences – 4 students
Business, Economics and Finance – 16 students
Computer Science – 7 students
Criminology – 6 students
Education – 5 students
History – 6 students
Law – 11 students
Media – 5 students
Psychology – 12 students
Sports Science – 6 students

## Vocational Courses:

We are also very proud of our students who have gone to university to train to be:

Interior Architect - 1 student
Engineers - 11 students
Pharmacist - 1 student
Physiotherapist - 1 student
Primary School Teachers - 3 students
Nurses - 4 students
Occupational Therapist - 1 student
Social Workers - 4 student

## Apprenticeships and Employment:

Our students also secured very impressive jobs and apprenticeships, including:

Saffery Champness LLP
TfL General Management degree apprenticeship
Marketing apprenticeship
Project search at Whipps Cross Hospital
MacMillan Support Charity
Police force

## Other Achievements:

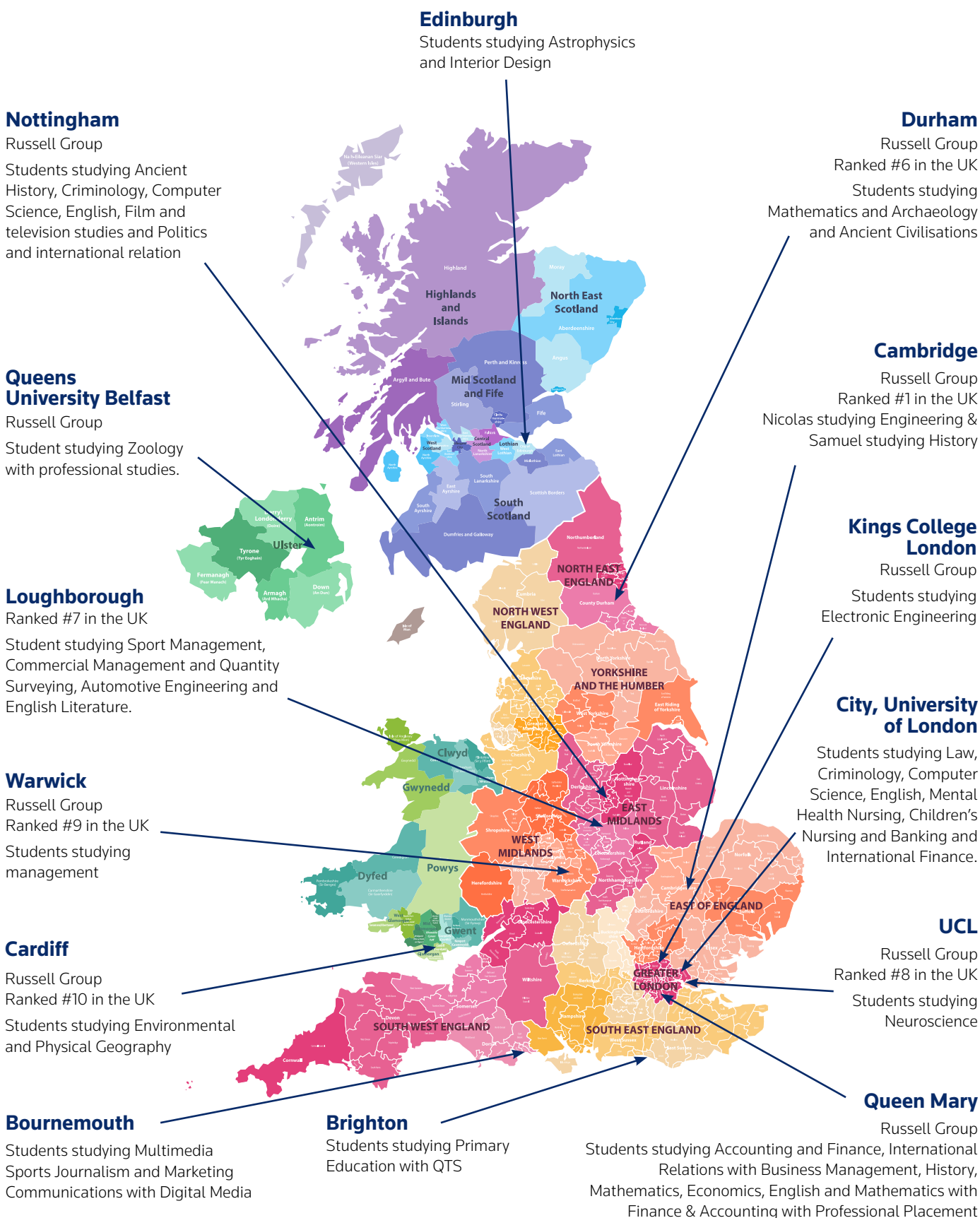
Whilst studying for A Levels and BTECS, some of our students also completed these notable achievements:

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Work Experience in Hospitals and GP clinics
Volunteering in school and local community

# University Destinations

## Highams Park Sixth Form

Below are just a few examples of where our students have gone on to study.



# Contents

## General

Welcome	3
Success at Highams Park	4
University Destinations	5
What to expect	7
Facilities	8
Enrichment Opportunities	9
Subject Entry Requirements	10
Advanced Level Subjects for University Courses	11

## Subjects

Art	14
Biology	15
Business Studies	16
BTEC Business Studies	17
Chemistry	18
Computer Science	19
3D Design	20
Drama & Theatre Studies	21
Economics	22
English Language	23
English Literature	24
Film Studies	25
French	26
Geography	27
BTEC Health & Social Care	28
History	29
Technical Award (Single)	30
Maths & Further Maths	31
Core Maths (Level 3)	32
Media Studies	33
Music	34
Philosophy	35
Physics	36
Politics	37
Psychology	38
Sociology	39
BTEC Sport	40



## Courses Information:

**A Levels:** These are two year courses. Due to national reforms, A Level subjects will now be assessed at the end of the second year of study.

**BTEC and Vocational Programmes:** We offer the Level 3 BTEC Diploma in Health & Social Care, Business and Sport. We also offer IT Technical Single Award. The Diploma and Double Award (worth two A levels) can be studied in combination with 1 other A Level. The Single Award (worth one A level) can be studied alongside 2 A Level subjects.

**GCSE Programme:** All students must resit English Language or Maths GCSE if they have not attained at least a Grade 4 prior to entering the 6th Form.



6th Form Building





# What to expect

At Highams Park School we understand that each student is different – some will want to continue their studies at university, while others will want to complete an apprenticeship. We support every student to get to the place they want to through different means of support and guidance. Students are provided with a 6th Form Bulletin weekly which gives details of a number of ‘super-curricular opportunities’ such as Year 12 University schemes, taster days and mini courses to help them get into the best university possible. In addition, our 6th Form Bulletin gives details of the different types of apprenticeships that are already open for applications and careers fairs that are happening around London. This is sent to tutors however this is also available for students on Firefly so they can access the various hyperlinks and is sent to parents and guardians. Additionally, at the end of Year 12 there are a number of days off timetable to help students make those all-important choices in regards of what they do at the end of Year 13 with a specific focus on university choices and help with UCAS. This support continues into Year 13 with sessions to explain Student Finance and help with exam success.

To ensure every student is as successful as possible we have a regular tracking scheme. Each student is given a minimum grade target based on their GCSE scores and every term teachers will report on how each student is achieving at the stage of that course. This means that trends can be observed quickly and underachievement can then be acted upon through support. These reports are sent home to parents in addition to the pastoral team.

Each student is assigned to a Form Tutor when they enter the 6th Form who is one of your first ports of call for important information and any issues. Form Tutors, who students see every morning, are responsible for creating a positive environment for each student but they will also get to know each student and their performance in each subject very well which is imperative for those UCAS references. The 6th Form pastoral team is available to all students for support and encouragement but also, if necessary to contact parents and find solutions to problems.

## Highams Park Key Pastoral Staff

<b>Mr L McDonnell</b>	Head of Sixth Form
<b>Mrs J Whitehead</b>	Head of Year 12
<b>Ms L Wallace</b>	Head of Year 13
<b>Dr S Moore</b>	Deputy Head of Year – Student destinations
<b>Ms M Clump</b>	Deputy Head of Year – Bridging Curriculum
<b>Mrs S Klysz</b>	6th Form Secretary
<b>Ms S Vickers</b>	6th Form Study Centre Supervisor

## Expectations

- Commitment and dedication to your studies, utilising the Study Centre to ensure you keep on top of your work
- Working hard in lessons, meeting homework deadlines, re-reading class notes throughout the academic year
- Arriving at 08:30 every day in order to attend registration
- An attendance record of 96 – 100%
- Act as a role model for the students in Yrs7-11, demonstrating a courteous manner towards both staff and students
- To dress in a professional manner, adhering to the 6th Form Dress Code



# Facilities

6th Form students have their own Study Areas with extensive ICT provision. The 6th Form also has it's own new block with seven purpose built classrooms to give the 6th Formers space to enable independent learning. A 6th Form only canteen and outside social area is also available.

Sports facilities already include an AstroTurf, A sports hall, a multi-purpose room and a fitness suite that 6th Form students have access to after school. Highams Park has a range of sporting clubs including our specialist Sixth Form Football team, however, we encourage all students to do physical exercise for its proven benefit to wellbeing, health and focus.



Fitness Suite



Outside facilities



6th Form only canteen



Year 13 Study Centre



# Enrichment opportunities

Our aim at Highams Park 6th Form is to help students succeed not only in academia but also in developing competencies such as leadership and team work. These skills are essential for entering Higher Education or employment and therefore we encourage students to get involved in opportunities outside of the classroom as much as their study commitments will allow.



## Prefect Team

Is a team made up of students in Year 13 who wish to make the 6th Form the best place it can be and ensure Student Voice is heard. This not only gives students the opportunities in leadership and working as a team but also in an application and assessment process. The Student Leadership Team meet at least every half term to discuss ideas and issues in the 6th Form. However, initially they have to write letters outlining why they want to join the team and what they can offer. Applicants then have to complete a group activity and if successful are then interviewed by members of the school Senior Leadership Team.

Variety of different enrichments:
Debate Club
Duke of Edinburgh
Law Society
Literacy Mentoring / Peer reading
Mental Health Awareness Days
Orbytys (Original research by young twinkle students)
Peer Mentoring
Prefect Team
School Show Productions
Student Voice
Take the Lead
TfL Innovate
Trips (Auschwitz programme)
University Links (Realising Opportunities)
Volunteering - 30 hours of giving back
Weekly Bulletin of opportunities
Work Experience



# Subject Entry Requirements

In addition to the requirements below each student will need to achieve a minimum of a Grade 4 in five of their GCSE subjects. Furthermore, to study 4 subjects students should have at least 4 GCSEs at Grade 7 or above.

	6th Form Subject (A level/BTEC)	Subject Entrance Minimum requirements
<b>A</b>	Art (A Level)	GCSE Art grade 5, or subject to portfolio review if a grade 4 is attained or GCSE Art not completed.
<b>B</b>	Biology (A Level)	GCSE Biology grade 6 in Triple Science, or grade 6-6 in GCSE Double Award Science, with GCSE Maths grade 6 and GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 5.
	Business Studies (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) and Maths grade 5. Alternatively grade 6 in Business Studies with a grade 5 in either Maths or English (Literature or Language).
	Business Studies (BTEC)	Five 4 – 9 GCSE grades including a minimum of a 4 in GCSE English (Literature or Language) and a minimum of a 4 in GCSE Maths.
<b>C</b>	Chemistry (A Level)	GCSE Chemistry grade 6 in Triple Science, or grade 6-6 in GCSE Double Award Science, with GCSE Maths grade 6.
	Computer Science (A Level)	GCSE Computer Science grade 5 or if computer Science has not been completed, GCSE Maths grade 6.
<b>D</b>	3D Design	GCSE Design and Technology grade 5 (except Systems strand). Alternatively, if Design and Technology has not been completed, GCSE Art and Design grade 5 and a portfolio review'.
	Drama & Theatre Studies (A Level)	GCSE Drama grade 5 and GCSE English Literature grade 5.
<b>E</b>	Economics (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) and Maths grade 6.
	English Language (A Level)	GCSE English Language grade 5.
	English Literature (A Level)	GCSE English Literature grade 6.
<b>F</b>	Film Studies (A Level)	GCSE English Language grade 5, or GCSE English Language grade 4 and English Literature grade 5.
	French (A Level)	GCSE French grade 6.
<b>G</b>	Geography (A Level)	GCSE Geography Grade 5 or if GCSE Geography has not been studied, grade 6-6 in double science or 2 x grade 6's from triple science.
<b>H</b>	Health & Social Care (BTEC)	Five 4 – 9 GCSE grades including a minimum of a 4 in GCSE English (Literature or Language).
	History (A Level)	GCSE History grade 6, or if History has not been completed at GCSE, a GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 6.
<b>I</b>	IT Technical Award (Single)	Five 4 – 9 GCSE grades, including a minimum of a 4 in English (Literature or Language) and a minimum of a 4 in Maths
<b>M</b>	Maths (A Level)	GCSE Maths grade 7.
	Maths (Level 3 Core)	GCSE Maths grade 5.
	Further Maths (A Level)	GCSE Maths grade 8.
	Media Studies (A Level)	GCSE English Language grade 5, or GCSE English Language grade 4 and English Literature grade 5.
	Music (A Level)	GCSE Music grade 5, or grade 5 ABRSM Music Theory is required. A minimum of Grade 4 standard on your instrument/voice at the start of the course.
<b>P</b>	Philosophy (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 6.
	Physics (A Level)	GCSE Physics grade 6 in Triple Science, or grade 6-6 in GCSE Double Award Science, with GCSE Maths grade 6.
	Politics (A Level)	GCSE English grade 5 (Literature or Language) and a grade 5 in a GCSE Humanities Subject (History, Geography or Full Course RE).
	Psychology (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 5, with GCSE Biology grade 6 if a student has completed Triple Science, or if a student has completed GCSE Double Award Science grade 6, 6.
<b>S</b>	Sociology (A Level)	GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 5.
	Sport (BTEC)	GCSE PE grade 5 / Merit in Sport BTEC Level 2. If Level 2 in PE/Sport has not been completed; Five 4 – 9 GCSE grades, including a minimum of GCSE English (Literature or Language) grade 5.



# Advanced Level Subjects

## Advanced Level Subjects for University Courses

In order to help advise students on which subjects to study, the accompanying table is intended to act as a guide of Advanced Level subjects required for university courses.

University Course	Advanced Level Subjects Required or Preferred	Additional Information
<b>Accountancy, Finance, Business, Management</b>	Mathematics and Economics are required for many top universities. Business Studies is advantageous.	Interested candidates should visit <a href="http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch">www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch</a> since requirements vary considerably depending on the institution.
<b>Architecture</b>	Mathematics usually specified. Plus one additional science (Physics preferred due to its numerical nature).  3D Design and Art & Design is recommended for portfolio development	Art A Level is often a requirement  A portfolio of drawings, designs and models must be developed, and is required for interview.
<b>Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fashion Design, Textiles, Fine Art, Sculpture, Animation, Photography</b>	A level Art & Design (or relevant subject above) and Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (1 year course).	A portfolio of drawings and sketches must be developed, and is required for interview.
<b>Biochemistry</b>	Chemistry and two from Biology, Physics or Mathematics.	Ideally suited if you have a strong interest in experimental work and cutting edge research.
<b>Biological Sciences</b>	Biology and Chemistry.	For non-traditional qualifications, interviews may be applicable.
<b>Chemistry</b>	Chemistry and Mathematics to at least AS; A Level for Oxbridge and top universities.	A level in Biology and/or Physics useful and preferred by some universities but not essential.
<b>Computer Science</b>	Often Mathematics and/or Computing/ Computing Science.	Further Mathematics or another science would also be highly recommended.
<b>Dentistry</b>	Chemistry and Biology required to A Level. Psychology also identified as advantageous by some dental schools.	A candidate must complete 3-14 days' work-shadowing experience preferably within a General Dental Practice setting. Applicants will need to be able to show evidence of manual dexterity, good communication skills, the ability to work in and lead a team.
<b>Drama</b>	English Literature and Drama are advantageous subjects.	For university and Drama School candidates will be asked to attend a group audition and prepare 2 contrasting monologues for performance to the admissions panel.
<b>Economics</b>	Mathematics essential for top universities, with Economics being highly advantageous.	You are strongly advised to take Further Maths for Cambridge, UCL, Warwick, LSE and Oxford.
<b>Engineering</b>	Physics and Mathematics required, with Chemistry also needed for Chemical Engineering.	Due to the variety of engineering courses students should visit <a href="http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch">www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch</a> to find out the requirements for specific courses.

# Advanced Level Subjects

University Course	Advanced Level Subjects Required or Preferred	Additional Information
<b>English Literature</b>	Students should read to have extensive range of literary movements, genres and forms to develop a detailed analytical overview of the development of both literature and critical theory through time as essential for UCAS applications.	Literature degree courses tend to place the emphasis firmly on independent study, often with a minimum of lectures and classes to attend, but an expectation that students can produce dissertations of up to 10,000 words, largely made up of their own research.
<b>Geography</b>	Most universities will ask for an A Level (or equivalent) in Geography. A Science or Maths A Level is also useful, but Geography also works well with other Humanities and Social Science subjects such as Business Studies, History, Sociology or English Literature.	Look out for Geography-related university subjects such as Environmental Studies, Geology, Humanities or Anthropology. These will specialise on one area of Geography, human or physical that you might have studied at A Level and make good links to other A level courses.
<b>History</b>	History is essential, English Literature is advantageous.	Russell Group universities favour students who have studied English literature or a foreign language and can demonstrate they have the ability to make analytical judgements, be able to think laterally, discriminate critically, enjoy reading, and show an enthusiastic curiosity about the past.
<b>International Business</b>	Many top Universities require a foreign language as a requirement to pursue a career in these fields. A Level French would be an asset.	Students may have to spend one year abroad to widen their scope of French with a particular focus on the communicative approach of language learning.
<b>Journalism</b>	Philosophy, English Language, History, Sociology and English Literature provide students with the skills needed for a degree in journalism, and therefore are viewed favourably by many universities. Many journalists have a Philosophy background due to the need for clear and convincing writing.	Due to the competitive nature of journalism courses, students are advised to seek a period of work experience prior to submitting their UCAS application in order to provide evidence of a real passion for the subject.  Work experience is not essential but is looked on favourably by the top universities.
<b>Languages</b>	Most universities will ask for an A level in a commonly learnt foreign language like French but you can also start a foreign language from scratch at university in a combined degree such French with Mandarin.	Students can study the language through linguistics, through literature or through cultural studies of the foreign country. Some courses combine a language with other subjects such as French with Fine Arts, French with Architecture or French with Law
<b>Law</b>	None specified – although subjects such as English Literature, History, Philosophy, and Sociology provide students with the skills required to succeed in a Law degree.	A small number of universities may ask you take a Sixth Term Exam Paper (STEP) or Law National Aptitude Test (LNAT) or Advanced Extension Award (AEA) as part of their conditional offer.
<b>Mathematics</b>	Mathematics required. Further Mathematics required for Oxbridge, and frequently preferred for other top universities. Physics is advantageous	Further Mathematics required for certain top universities and Oxbridge colleges.
<b>Medicine</b>	Chemistry required to A Level. Biology usually required to at least AS Level. Some medical schools actively seek a broader academic base with one non-science subject.	Students looking to study medicine need to be aware that places on these courses are highly competitive, and students need to have almost exclusively a mixture of 8 and 9 grades at GCSE. Students need to obtain a period of medical-related work experience prior to their UCAS application. This could be work experience in a hospital, or also in a care home as it indicates an interest in caring for others.



# Advanced Level Subjects

University Course	Advanced Level Subjects Required or Preferred	Additional Information
<b>Nursing</b>	Non specified, but BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care, Sociology and Psychology are helpful.	Students may need to achieve a certain level, for example a merit or distinction in the case of BTEC. It might be possible to combine academic qualifications with vocational qualifications. For example, an A level and a BTEC qualification. Nursing degree apprenticeships are also available with some employers. Work experience is not essential but is looked on favourably by the top universities.
<b>Philosophy</b>	A Level subjects involving essay writing such as History, Sociology, English Literature and Philosophy would be highly beneficial. However, philosophy has links with a wide variety of subjects and students in Maths and the Sciences often perform well in Philosophy.	Students looking to study Philosophy at university should develop an awareness of both classic and modern philosophers.
<b>Physics</b>	Physics and Mathematics are required.	Further Mathematics at AS or A Level is an advantage.
<b>Physiotherapy</b>	Biology required. Sport BTEC would be beneficial.	One further science often preferred.
<b>Politics</b>	None specified, but Economics, History and Sociology are helpful.	Students must have an up to date understanding of the political climate, which would need to be evidenced in their personal statement.
<b>Primary Education</b>	Many institutions require students to have studied at least one national curriculum subject at A Level. Core National Curriculum subjects are Maths, English and Science.	A minimum of 2 weeks work experience is mandatory for entry on to many Primary Education programmes. There is no requirement to carry out the work experience all in one go, it can be gained over time, such as half a day a week.
<b>Psychology</b>	Psychology A-level preferred but not essential. If applying for a BSc Psychology degree Biology is also preferred.	Students wishing to specialise after their degree should be looking to get work experience with people in different circumstances and particularly the field of psychology they are interested in (i.e. occupational, forensic, child, sports etc.)
<b>Social Work</b>	Non specified, but Health and Social Care, Sociology and Psychology are helpful.	Students must be able to demonstrate care and compassion, dedication, sensitivity and empathy, resilience, and social skills. Experience working with vulnerable groups will be useful, but again, not essential.
<b>Sociology</b>	Non specified, but Sociology, Psychology, Health and Social Care, Media Studies, History, Geography Government and Politics and English Language/Literature are helpful.	Look out for Sociology-related university subjects such as Social Policy, Criminology, Behavioural Sciences, Humanities or Anthropology. These will specialise on one area of Sociology that you might have studied at A Level and make good links to other A level courses.
<b>Sports Science</b>	One science often preferred (usually Biology). PE and Sport BTEC would be beneficial.	Students should have a keen interest in sport and sports performance, matched with good academic skills and an application for science.
<b>Veterinary Science</b>	Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics/Physics are required.	A minimum of two weeks (or occasional days over a substantial period) work or shadowing experience with a vet and that they are comfortable with large animals (cows/horses). Broad experience of and contact with a wide variety of animals is viewed favourably.

Note: Students must be aware that universities often change or make additions to entry requirements on a yearly basis. Students must carry out their own research regarding entry requirements for the course(s) they are interested in studying.

## Course Outline

Our Art Department is very successful, with a large percentage of our students progressing on to Art and Design related Foundation and Degree courses. Part of this success is due to our experienced department with staff who have specialisms in fine art, applied processes and illustration techniques including print and new media. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences to enable them to explore a chosen theme in range of traditional and contemporary processes and techniques. They will explore the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media in varying scales, using sketchbooks and journals to underpin their work. Students will explore relevant sources relating to a range of art, craft and design, from the past and present, incorporating other cultures. Students' responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

The new two year A Level course in Art & Design allows for more in-depth enquiry into a broad range of Fine Art and applied processes. Gallery and location work form an essential part of the course, and students are expected to complete some of this work in their own time. Most importantly, Art at A Level requires a considerable amount of time dedicated to personal development and exploration in addition to timetabled studio time.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

This is a two year course and will result in a full GCE at the end of the two years of study. We welcome students with a lively intellect who are keen to develop research techniques, critical and contextual evaluation and technical competence in Art, Craft and Design through thematic enquiry and personal responses.

## Why Study Art?

Students who pursue Art at A Level gain an enjoyable creative education which moves on from GCSE at a rapid pace and demands of students a much deeper level of investigation. The course encourages students to develop commitment, perseverance, creativity and expression. As they mature, they become adept at communicating personal ideas through visual means.

Traditionally, after A Level study students move onto an Art Foundation Diploma which leads in turn to a specialist BA Honours Art Degree. Many students apply directly to their chosen Degree, particularly those applying to Architecture, some also use their Art A-level qualification towards their points scores in applying for other Degree courses. We provide a great deal of guidance and portfolio preparation to students applying to go on to further study, including mock interview situations. The majority of our students are successful in gaining a place at their first choice institution and each year we have 15-20 students moving into university for Art & Design.

Last year, places were gained at Oxford Brookes and game design, UCL for Architecture alongside all the major London colleges for Art Foundation. Some students apply out of London, particularly those interested in Interior Design, Textiles, Fine Art and illustration.

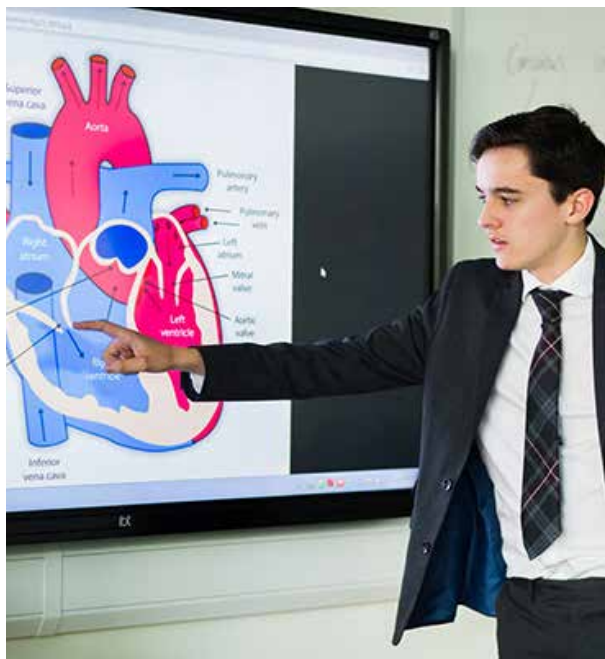
## Assessments

**Component 1:** Personal/Independent Study including a written component (60%).

**Component 2:** Externally set assignment and 15 hour supervised time (40%).







## Course Outline

The Biology B specification is a concept-based course that combines the teaching of traditional elements and more modern biological ideas. The course has been designed to engage and inspire students by showing how an understanding of many contemporary issues requires a grasp of fundamental biological ideas.

Students will study a wide range of living things with an emphasis on the biochemistry of biological processes. Some of the topics covered include inheritance, evolution, cell structure, transport in animals and plants, photosynthesis, respiration, nervous system, hormones and infectious diseases.

Studies include theory work, laboratory investigations, ecology fieldwork and microscopy.

A strong emphasis is placed on developing practical skills and understanding the process of how science works. This is assessed through written examination papers rather than coursework or a separate practical exam at the end of the course. The course also offers Practical Endorsement leading to practical competency as an addition to the A level.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Students should have a keen interest in Biology, an enquiring mind, together with the ability and willingness to carry out independent background research. Biology at A Level could be essential if you want a career in health and clinical professions.

Biology is a diverse subject – from molecular biology to the biosphere, a qualification in Biology equips you with valuable skills: literacy, numeracy, social awareness and an ability to make connections between natural, social, economic, political and technological fields.

A level Biology provides a useful complement to other subjects including other Sciences, Sports studies and Maths. It provides a firm foundation for a whole range of careers such as: Biochemistry, Dentistry, Ecology, Forensic science, Genetics, Medicine, Microbiology, Nursing, Pathology, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Veterinary Medicine and many others.

## Assessments

### A Level

**Paper 1:** Energy for biological processes, Microbiology and pathogens and Modern genetics.

**Paper 2:** Origins of genetic variation, Control systems and Ecosystems.

**Paper 3:** General paper assessing topics across the AS and A level qualifications

Paper 1 and 2 will carry 30% of the weighting and paper 3 the remaining 40%.

All papers will include assessment of experimental methods (including questions on core practicals) and mathematical skills, the latter making up 10% of the assessment.

There are 16 **core practicals** that cover all of the 12 techniques required for the **practical competency measure**. This will be teacher assessed and reported alongside the A level grade.

## Course Outline

Business Studies aims to make you think critically about business. Business at this level encompasses many disciplines and covers different forms of organisation and business activity. The course integrates ideas drawn from various disciplines, including Economics, Accounting, Law, Government and Politics, Sociology and Psychology. The course focuses on small to medium sized businesses operating within national and international markets. It includes the teaching and learning of transferable skills such as calculations, interpreting and analysing data, applying knowledge to unfamiliar situations, developing arguments and making judgements and decisions.

The Business Studies A Level course is concerned with a problem solving approach to business issues and enterprise. It will provide a theoretical and practical understanding of business operations and industry and the impact on them of external factors. This course deepens knowledge gained from the GCSE, but previous study is not necessary. However, an interest in the business world is essential.

At AS level in Year 12, areas of study include the importance of the context of business in relation to decision making, how technology is changing the way decisions are made and how businesses operate and compete and the competitive environment and the markets in which businesses operate.

At A Level in Year 13, areas of study include the importance of assessing feasibility and risk when making strategic decisions, the influences of Corporate Social Responsibility, ethical and environmental issues on strategic decisions and the impact of technology on strategic decision making.



## Entrance requirements and skills needed

The course requires a good standard of English and maths. Students are encouraged to develop an awareness of business topics which can be used as examples in written work. Students do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE.

## Why Study Business Studies?

Business Studies is a multi skilled subject, that gives students an insight into the difficulties of setting up a business, as well as developing their knowledge of Marketing, Accounting, Human Resources, Production and Economics. It is a useful for a wide choice of Business and Management related degrees, as well as Media, Law, Economics, Accounting, and Finance.

It can also lead to a wide range of careers, for example, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Public Relations, Advertising, Events Management, Retail Management, Banking, Finance, Publishing and Law.

Combined with a modern foreign language, Business Studies can also lead to international business careers.

## Assessments

In A level Business, the assessments will be in the form of 3 papers. All 3 papers will assess all the content taught across the two years and a breakdown of each paper is below.

**Paper 1** - written exam: 2 hours, 100 marks in total, 33.3% of A-level

### Questions - Three sections:

- Section A has 15 multiple choice questions (MCQs) worth 15 marks.
- Section B has short answer questions worth 35 marks.
- Sections C and D have two essay questions (choice of one from two and one from two) worth 25 marks each.

**Paper 2** - written exam, 2 hours, 100 marks in total, 33.3% of A-level

**Questions** - Three data response compulsory questions worth approximately 33 marks each and made up of three or four part questions

**Paper 3** - written exam: 2 hours, 100 marks in total, 33.3% of A-level

**Questions** - One compulsory case study followed by approximately six questions



## Course Outline

The BTEC National Diploma in Business uses a combination of assessment styles to give students the confidence to apply their knowledge and succeed in the workplace whilst developing the study skills to continue learning on higher education courses and throughout their career. The range of vocational assessments – both practical and written – mean students can showcase their learning and achievements to best effect when they take their next step, whether that's supporting applications to higher education courses or potential employers.

The BTEC National Diploma is equivalent to two A Levels and it is assessed both internally and externally through coursework, tasks and a written exam. So if coursework brings out the best of your skills and abilities, then this may be suitable for you. Coursework can include written assignment work, team working activities, presentations, financial calculations on spreadsheets and website design.

The department staff will assess your work and you will be given a final grade, that will be equivalent to A Levels and which have UCAS points. The grades range from Distinction\*Distinction\* (equivalent to A\*A\* at A Level) to Double Pass (equivalent to CC).

A number of topics are studied that include:

- Exploring Business
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Digital Marketing
- Personal and Business Finance
- Principles of Management
- Creative Product Promotion
- Managing an Event
- International Business

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

The course is practical and you will develop independent learning skills through research, planning and organising your work. You may be required to work in a team. Business lessons incorporate a range of activities including case studies, group work, discussions, presentations, role play and using ICT applications.

The department has a successful pass rate for its BTEC Diploma in Business. A number of our students achieve a double distinction award and have successfully gained places at university and in employment.

## Assessments

BTEC Nationals uses three types of assessment: assignments, tasks and written exams.

In year one, you will complete two assignments, one task and a written exam.

In year two, you will complete three assignments and one task. Each assignment varies in their weighting towards your final grade.





## Course Outline

Students of our Edexcel A level in Chemistry will develop their interest in and enthusiasm for Chemistry, and explore how the sciences contribute to the success of the economy and society. Plenty of practical experience is included to encourage enjoyment of the study of Chemistry and enhance understanding.

Edexcel A level Chemistry specification has a six-unit structure that provides the fundamental key concepts of chemistry, including the core and general principles and laboratory skills, in motivating contemporary contexts. With a realistic, manageable level of content and assessment, the specification is designed to inspire and engage teachers and students in the learning experience.

Studies include both theory work and laboratory investigations.

A strong emphasis is placed on developing practical skills and understanding the process of how science works. This is assessed through written examination papers rather than coursework or a separate practical exam at the end of the course. The course also offers Practical Endorsement leading to practical competency as an addition to the A level.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Students should have a keen interest in Chemistry, an enquiring mind, together with the ability and willingness to carry out independent background research.

Chemistry is a diverse subject – from environmental studies to the polymer revolution, a qualification in Chemistry equips you with valuable skills: literacy, numeracy, social awareness and an ability to

make connections between natural, social, economic, political and technological fields.

A level Chemistry provides a useful complement to other subjects including other Biology, Physics and Geography. It provides a firm foundation for a whole range of careers such as: Dentistry, Forensic Science, Medicine, Pharmacy, Analytical Chemist, Chemical Engineer, Healthcare Scientist, Toxicologist, Veterinary Medicine and many others.

## Assessments

### A Level

**Paper 1:** Equilibrium, Acid-base equilibria, Energetics, Redox, Transition metals and some AS content

**Paper 2:** Kinetics, Organic chemistry, Organic chemistry, Modern analytical techniques and some AS content.

**Paper 3:** General paper assessing across the AS and A level qualifications and Experimental methods (including questions on core practicals)

Paper 1 and 2 will carry 30% of the weighting and paper 3 the remaining 40%.

All papers will include assessment of experimental methods (including questions on core practicals) and mathematical skills, the latter making up 20% of the assessment.

There are 16 **core practicals** that cover all of the 12 techniques required for the **practical competency measure**. This will be teacher assessed and reported alongside the A Level grade.

## Course Outline

Our modern world would be inconceivable without Computer Science. From Engineering to Business Management, Medicine to Biology, and language processing through to Psychology, Sociology and Archaeology – all the sciences today need computer science in some form or another. This is exactly what makes the subject so exciting and is opening up ever more employment opportunities for computer scientists. Computer Science, therefore, is a forward-looking discipline that offers excellent prospects.

Computer Science at Highams Park School will enable every student to a broad technical knowledge with the ability to write their own programs and software in the Python and Visual Basic Programming Languages – some of the most popular languages used in industry today.

## Why Study Computer Science?

- Computing is part of everything we do!
- Expertise in computing enables you to solve complex, challenging problems.
- Computing enables you to make a positive difference in the world.
- Computing offers many types of lucrative careers.
- Computing jobs are here to stay, regardless of where you are located.
- Expertise in computing helps even if your primary career is something else.
- Computing offers great opportunities for true creativity and innovativeness.
- Computing has space for both collaborative work and individual effort.
- Computing is an essential part of well-rounded academic preparation.
- Future opportunities in computing are without boundaries.

Computer Science students have careers in variety of fields: System Analysts, Stock Brokers, Bankers, Gaming industry, Architecture, Software Engineers, App Developers, Web Designers, Media, and many more.

With Computer Science A-level you can go on to university courses like: Computer Science, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, or may be combined with other degrees such as Architecture, Engineering and so forth.

## The course is subdivided into the following sections:

Topic	Assessment	Weighting	Course	Year
Computer Systems	Exam	40%	A Level Computer Science	Year 13
Algorithms & programming	Exam	40%	A Level Computer Science	Year 13
Computing Project	Coursework	20%	A Level Computer Science	Year 13



## Course Outline

The new A Level in 3D Design has been introduced to build on the success of the Design and Technology department at GCSE. This success is due to an established team with extensive experience in a wide range of design fields including jewellery, model making and design for television and film.

Due to this experience and the extensive workshop spaces and equipment, students will be able to explore a wide range of materials, processes, and techniques. They will continue to develop their visual communication skills through research, drawing and CAD as well as their prototyping capabilities. In addition, students will manufacture outcomes in response to challenging design briefs. Students understanding of Design as an intellectually rigorous pursuit will be established through teaching and independent research into Design movements and the work of designers. This will be reflected both in creative outcomes for project work and through the written component of their personal investigations.

## Assessments

**Component 1:** Personal Investigation including a written component (60%).

**Component 2:** Externally set assignment and 15 hour supervised time (40%).

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

This is a two-year course and will result in a full GCE at the end of the two years of study.

Students considering the course will need to be especially motivated and have demonstrated a high level of ability in Design and Technology. They should possess skill in visual communication and design and have a passion for conceptualising and making products.

## Why study 3D Design?

Students that pursue the 3D Design A Level will become immersed in a creative yet practical education, rapidly improving their drawing and prototyping skills whilst expanding their design thinking capability. In addition to the expansive learning through both guided and independent study of designs the course will enable students to build an extensive and impressive portfolio.

This course is well regarded by Universities as foundational for Design degrees. With support from the course teachers students will be able to select work to create a targeted portfolio which will enable them to access degree courses in a wide range of related fields including Product, Furniture, Interior, Exhibition and Set Design along with Architecture and Environmental Design. Success in the 3D Design A Level can of course also provide points scores for application to other Degree courses.





## Course Outline

This two year course is an examination of Drama and Theatre throughout history and requires students to develop their skills as a director, designer and performer. Whilst there are some performance tasks, this is not solely an acting course and students must be prepared to undertake independent research and develop an understanding of how theatre relates to the societies and time frames in which it was, and is, created.

**Unit 1: Drama and Theatre.** You will explore and study two set plays, from contrasting areas of theatre history, both practically and theoretically. You will also visit the theatre and develop the skills to evaluate live theatre analytically. You will then apply this knowledge to a written exam.

**Unit 2: Creating Original Theatre.** You will explore the work of one theatre practitioner (Brecht, Berkoff or Artaud). You will then research, develop, devise and perform your own piece of theatre from a clear stimulus.

**Unit 3: Making Theatre.** You will explore three plays practically. For two plays, you will perform a small extract, for one play you will take part in a larger group performance, which will be performed to an invited audience and practical examiner.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

An interest and willingness to perform is essential! However, this is not a solely acting course, you need to be prepared to watch, analyse, discuss and approach lots of different aspects of theatre.

## Why study Drama & Theatre Studies?

Drama and Theatre Studies A Level is accepted as an entrance qualification to all universities.

- Some students continue to study degrees in different areas of the Performing Arts, alternatively Drama and Theatre Studies degrees can be combined with other subjects leading to a BA Honours degree.
- Many students use the skills from this course to gain employment in the creative industry, which is one of the biggest growing employment sectors in the UK.

Whatever career you pursue, an A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies will develop clear transferable skills and enhance your employability within any field.

- Empathy, teamwork, following direction, public speaking, creativity, resilience, project management, problem solving, leadership, negotiation, memory, confident, communication, responding to feedback, listening.

## Assessments

The A Level course is assessed by 30% internal controlled assessment, 30% by external visiting examiner and 40% written exam.



\*When attending external workshops students are allowed to wear non-school uniform

## Course Outline

Economics looks at how societies deal with the scarcity of resources and the role of government in dealing with the economic problems that stem from this. Microeconomics considers the rationale behind the behaviour of consumers and firms, whilst macroeconomics investigates issues such as inflation, unemployment and international trade. Students will apply economic theories and concepts to current issues such as Austerity, the EU financial crisis, financial markets, global warming, globalisation and the growing inequality in modern economies.

Economics is the branch of social science that deals with the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services, and their management, alongside the various related problems of labour, finance, taxation, etc. You don't need to have studied the subject before to be successful.

The A level course is divided into two discrete areas of study:

1. **Microeconomics:** involving scarcity & choice, markets (demand & supply), resource allocation and market failure.
2. **Macroeconomics:** involving macroeconomic objectives, aggregate demand & aggregate supply, policy instruments and international trade.



## Entrance requirements and skills needed

The course requires a good standard of English and Maths. Students are encouraged to develop an awareness of business topics which can be used as examples in written work. Students do not need to have studied the subject at GCSE.

## Why study Economics?

Economics is a highly respected subject at A Level, which provides a useful background for a wide variety of degree choices. These include: Banking and Finance, Accounting, Management Science and Law. It can also lead to many well paid careers in the city, such as international or corporate banking, trading in the commodities or money markets, stock broking, as well as careers in the media, advertising, accounting, charity work, government, and business consultancy. Economics combines well with an unusually wide range of A Levels, providing increased breadth and relevance to a Science or Art option. Especially worthwhile combinations with A level Economics, Mathematics, History or Politics. Students who intend to study Economics at university should also take AS/A level Mathematics, which is a requirement for most economics degree courses.

## Assessments

In A Level Economics, the assessments will be in the form of 3 papers. An overview of each paper is below.

**Paper 1 Microeconomics** - written exam, 2 hours, 80 marks in total, 33.3% of A-level

### Contents of assessment

Introduction to microeconomics

- The role of markets
- Business objectives
- Market structures
- The labour markets

**Paper 2 Macroeconomics** - written exam, 2 hours, 80 marks in total, 33.3% of A-level

### Contents of assessment

- Aggregate demand and aggregate supply
- Economic policy objectives
- Implementing policy
- The global context
- The financial sector

**Paper 3 Theme of economics** - written exam, 2 hours, 80 marks in total, 33.3% of A-level

### Contents of assessment

In paper 3, students will draw together their knowledge and skills to answer questions from across all content areas.

## Course Outline

English Language will enable you to develop your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of English.

### Paper 1: Language, the Individual and Society

We will start by exploring and understanding spoken and written language in use, analysing textual variation and representations in everyday spoken and written texts. You will consider the huge linguistic diversity that exists within these texts, as well as what factors contribute to the language varieties. One factor that will be prominent is the dynamic and ever changing nature of language. This paper is comprised of two sections.

**Section A** consists of three questions. The first two questions will require you to analyse a text each; one of the texts to be analysed will be contemporary and the other will be an older text. The third question will require you to compare the two texts. One of the elements to consider with the older text and with the comparison question will be one of language change, both contextually and linguistically.

**Section B** requires you to write a discursive essay on children's language development, with a choice of questions where the data will focus on spoken, written and multi-modal language.

### Paper 2: Language Diversity and Change

You will study a range of language topics, exploring the role that language plays in constructing identities, ideologies and norms within society. Topics studied will include social groups, class, power, gender, sexuality, occupation, accent and dialect, global Englishes and ethnicity. You will consider the different attitudes held about the many different aspects of language in use, analysing the techniques used by writers to convey their viewpoint on a language topic linked to diversity and change. You will also be given opportunities to consider and voice your own attitudes and opinions.

**Section A** gives you a choice of two questions, requiring you to write an evaluative essay on either language diversity or language change. For this section of the exam there will be no springboard text for you to use, instead you will be expected to draw upon your understanding of key concepts and theories surrounding language use and recall examples from texts studied in class.

**Section B** will present you with two texts about a topic linked to the study of diversity and change, and you will be required to analyse how the texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions. You will also be required to complete a directed writing task linked to the same topic and the ideas in the texts provided.

### Non-exam Assessment: Language in Action

You will produce two pieces of writing. In the first you will investigate and analyse a language topic using data through a variety of methods. This investigation may be chosen from topics covered during the course. For the second piece you will be given the opportunity to produce a piece of original writing with an accompanying commentary.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

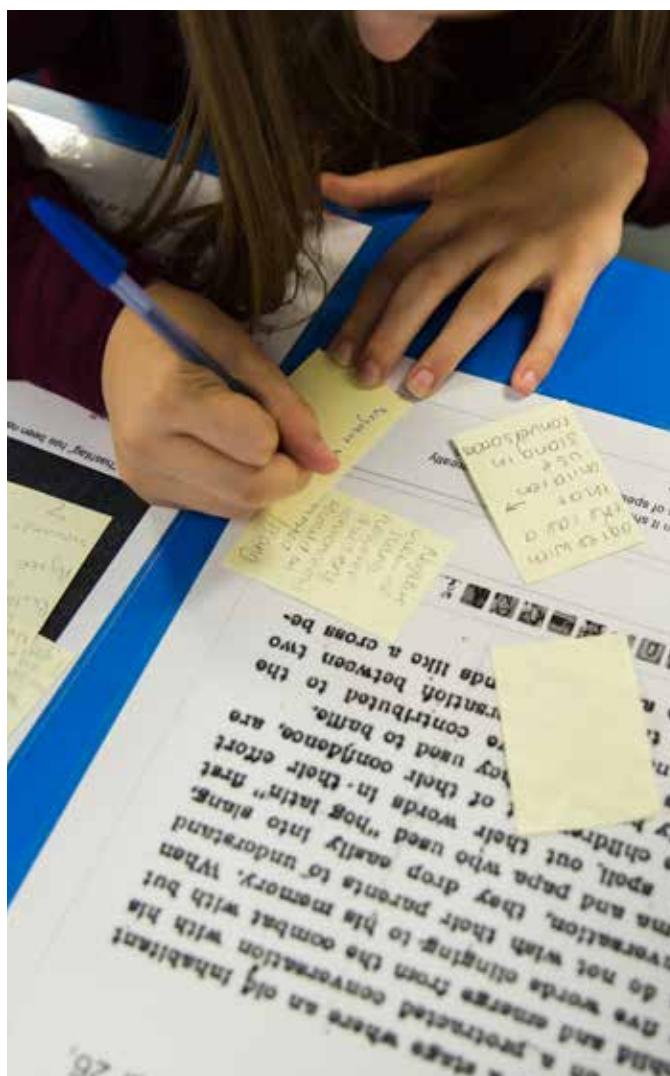
The course suits those with an aptitude for English Language and those who enjoy analysing a wide range of texts from everyday sources. Strong writing and analytical skills are required.

## Why study English Language?

English Language links particularly well with other Arts subjects such as English Literature, Media Studies, Film Studies and Sociology. The breadth of the course means that it complements many other subjects including, for instance: History, Theatre Studies and Psychology. The breadth, depth and diversity of English Language will complement a range of Higher Education courses and may be of value to those seeking employment within Journalism, Publishing and Advertising.

## Assessment

The A Level consists of two papers, each with a duration of 2 hours 30 minutes. Each paper is worth 40% of the A Level with a non-examination component, which is worth 20%.





## Course Outline

Throughout the course you will study a great variety of Literature that will help you develop an informed personal response.

Our specification offers 3 components in discrete genres of study: poetry, drama and prose. This allows students to focus on the conventions of each genre in turn. A further Component offers unseen prose and poetry allowing learners to apply the skills of literary analysis acquired in the course as a whole.

## Why Study English Literature?

We believe that the study of literature encourages young people to empathise. Through that empathy they develop an increased understanding not only of others and their viewpoints but also themselves and their position within the world. Developing a love of reading is at the heart of this.

Literature students develop skills of analysis and evaluation. They become critical thinkers with strong essay writing skills.

Many Highams Park students have gone on to study Literature at University. Others have used the qualification to access University courses in a wide range of subjects including law, other languages and even medicine.



## Syllabus Overview

### Component 1: Poetry

#### Section A: Poetry pre-1900

Students study one text. For 2021-22 this will either be selected poems of William Blake OR John Milton's Paradise Lost Book 9. (The choice is made by the teacher)

#### Section B: Poetry post-1900

Students study 2 poetry texts and explore connections across them. For 2021-22 this will be Philip Larkin's The Whitsun Weddings and Carol Ann Duffy's Mean Time.

### Component 2: Drama

#### Section A: Shakespeare

Students study one text. For 2021-22 this will be Hamlet

#### Section B: Drama pre and post-1900

Students study two plays. One pre and one post-1900. For 2021-22 the plays will be Lucy Prebble's Enron and Christopher Marlowe's Dr. Faustus

### Component 3: Unseen Texts

#### Section A: Unseen prose

Students study a wide range of prose extracts from either 1880-1910 OR 1918-1939 (Teacher's choice)

#### Section B: Unseen poetry

Students study a wide range of poetry of different periods and forms

### Component 4: Prose Study – Non-Exam Assessment

Students study 2 novels one pre-2000 and one post-2000. For 2021-22 these will be Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale and Cormac McCarthy's The Road

## Assessments

**Component 1:** 2 hour open-book exam. 30% of A level

**Component 2:** 2 hour closed-book exam. 30% of A Level

**Component 3:** 2 hour exam. 20% of A Level

**Component 4:** 2500-3500 word assignment. 20% of A Level





## Course Outline

Throughout the course you will study a variety of film styles, movements and genres across 12 film texts. The films will encompass global, European, British and, of course, American cinema. They will present you not only with an exciting array of viewpoints and stories but they will also serve as inspiration for your own filmmaking. Your production brief will be established early in the course and, as you study the various film texts, you will begin to incorporate ideas and plan to use techniques you've seen on screen in the preparation and planning of your own short film.

You will also explore a number of theoretical concepts through the analysis of the film texts. From the conflicting concepts that make up the study of 'spectatorship' to the application of auteur theory and representation, you will aim to develop a real confidence with film theory.

### The Syllabus overview is as follows:

**Component 1:** American and British film – This component assesses knowledge and understanding of six feature-length films. Section A: Classical Hollywood. Section B: Hollywood since the 1960s (two-film study). Section C: Contemporary American independent film. Section D: British film (comparative study).

**Component 2:** Varieties of film – This component assesses knowledge and understanding of five feature-length films and one compilation of short films. Section A: Film movements (two-film study). Section B: Documentary film. Section C: Global film (two-film study). Section D: Short film.

**Component 3:** Production Non-exam assessment – This component assesses one production and its evaluative analysis. Learners produce: either a short film (4-5 minutes) or a screenplay for a short film (1600-1800 words) and a digitally photographed storyboard of a key section from the screenplay and an evaluative analysis (1250-1500 words).

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Ideally, you will have a genuine interest or passion for film, though a curiosity and a willingness to develop a passion for film is enough. You will need to be prepared to watch a range of films and grasp a range of new concepts. Assessment is predominantly essay based so good written skills are important.

## Why study Film Studies?

The most significant artistic development of the last 200 years, film is everywhere; from multiplexes to your iphone; from independent art-house cinemas to your Netflix subscription; from Sight and Sound magazine to the gossip columns of the tabloids. There is no other art-form that transcends so many boundaries to invade our lives in quite the way that film does. And yet, at the heart of all the gossip, the popcorn and the merchandise is a complex and beautiful way of telling stories that, once you begin to scratch beyond the surface, becomes even more exciting and intriguing. Film Studies is a wonderful companion course for any of the English-based subjects. It helps you to develop close analytical skills, critical thinking skills and essay writing skills. Film Studies also compliments art, and the humanities. Every year we send plenty of students off to study Film at University. Film Studies is a great course for pupils wishing to work within the film industry but also for those who want to study a range of degrees at University.

## Assessments

70% exam (2 Papers, 35% each) and 30% NEA (Non Examined Assessment) film production.



## Course Outline

Studying French A level will give you the opportunity to build on all your GCSE language skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation through a variety of classroom-based and independent learning activities, whilst acquiring a thorough understanding of the grammar of the language

Themes will include topics of social, cultural, political, or artistic importance and include the study of a film (La Haine) and a work of literature (No et Moi). On top of these topics, you are encouraged to explore French culture through various films, music, and literary works. As part of the speaking assessment, you will undertake an independent research project where you will study an area of personal interest related to the countries where French is spoken. During the course, you will also have the opportunity to practise your language skills with a native-speaking assistant

## Required Individual Study

During the course, on top of the time dedicated to homework, you will be expected to learn vocabulary and revise grammar on a weekly basis. Moreover, you should immerse yourself within the language by reading French newspapers, listening to French radio or watch a TV series or film in French.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

To be successful, students need to show genuine commitment and interest in all aspects of the language and culture of the country. Before starting A level French, you should have a good grasp of basic tenses and grammar

## Why study French?

If you have enjoyed studying French at GCSE, why not continue to develop your linguistic skills at A-level? The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a life-long skill for education, employment and leisure purposes. With around 300 million French speakers in the world, being able to speak the French language is a powerful skill to have. You will discover new cultures and gain a broader view of our increasingly globalized world. In today's job market employers favour prospective employees who can offer a foreign language and according to the recent CBI/Pearson Education and Skills Report, some 54% of employers said that French is useful to their business.

French A Level combines well with essay based subjects like English, History and Philosophy but it is also an ideal subject to balance out a mathematics or science course. With an A Level in French you can do a degree in Modern Languages with another language or a mixed degree involving French e.g Law and French or Business and French. A Level qualifications in Languages are well regarded by universities for all future studies.

## Assessments

### The A Level exam consists of:

A reading, listening and writing exam - 50% of A Level grade

A written exam (two essays on a novel and a film studied) – 20% of A level grade.

Oral exam (a discussion based on a stimulus card and presentation and discussion of individual research project) – 30% of A level grade.





## Course Outline

Your A Level course will cover both the physical and human environments and the interaction of these processes that shape our world. It will also, importantly, show the applied side of the subject - how human intervention affects the environment and how people adapt and mitigate the effects of processes on their environment. In year 12 we start with subjects that are familiar to GCSE students by looking at natural hazards and coasts in greater depth and studying globalisation and shaping places.

Year 13 students study wider global topics including the water and carbon cycle and global development and connections. There is also an opportunity to complete an NEA on a topic of your choice and a synoptic question which uses an unseen set of resources linked to topics already covered.

## Why study Geography?

Geography is a useful subject at A Level as it combines well with both arts and science subjects. It is highly valued by universities as an A Level choice. If you are thinking of taking Geography further, good choice! Geographers are among the most employable graduates

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

You will be encouraged to frame your own questions using higher level thinking skills and show your grasp of complex issues through report and essay writing, this is an important part of the NEA. There is plenty of room for discussion and extended research, which will help you become an independent thinker and learner. You will learn in a wide variety of ways, using maps, GIS skills, data analysis, photos, videos, and podcasts.

## Fieldwork

Fieldwork will be an essential part of your A Level course and we provide at least four days of fieldtrips throughout the course. We have attended residential trips over the past three years to beautiful rural locations in Devon, Somerset and Surrey. We also take day trips to the Isle of Sheppey in Kent and Spitalfields in London. These trips have been very useful in helping students gain knowledge of coasts and changing places as well as ideas for their own coursework fieldwork. We teaching from the Edexcel specification which has three exams and an NEA.

## Assessment

**Paper One** – Tectonic Processes and Hazards, Landscape Systems – Process and Change, The Water Cycle and Water Insecurity, The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security (30%)

**Paper Two** – Globalisation, Shaping Places, Global Development and Connections, (30%)

**Paper Three** – A synoptic paper with a booklet of resources released before the exam date (20%)

**NEA** – An independent investigation based on fieldwork and secondary research with 3000-4000 words (20%)



## Course Outline

BTEC in Health and Social Care embodies a fundamentally learner-centred approach to the curriculum, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied in project-based assessments. They focus on the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to be able to succeed in employment and higher education.

### A number of topics are studied including 6 mandatory units and 2 optional units including:

- Human Lifespan Development
- Working in Health and Social Care
- Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care
- Sociological Perspectives
- Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
- Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care
- Psychological Perspectives
- Promoting Public Health

The BTEC National Diploma is equivalent to two A Levels and use a combination of assessment styles to give students the confidence they can apply their knowledge to succeed in this subject.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

The course is practical and you will need to have independent

learning skills as well as be able to work with others, be able to research, plan and organise your work and be able to meet clear deadlines. Health and Social Care lessons incorporate a range of activities including case studies, group work, discussions, presentations, role play and using ICT applications.

## Why study Health & Social Care BTEC

This subject is ideal for students wishing to go into the following fields: Medical including nursing, Ambulance paramedic or technician, Health visitor, Midwife, Social Services including Youth worker, Social worker, Education Welfare Officer, Teaching.

## Assessments

The department staff will assess your work and you will be given a final grade, that will be equivalent to A Levels and which have UCAS points. The grades range from Distinction\*Distinction\* (equivalent to A\*A\* at A Level) to Double Pass (equivalent to CC). The assessments are divided into 2 types; 3 externally assessed exams and 5 units with internally assessed coursework tasks. Coursework can include written assignment work, team working activities and presentations.





*"For me, History at A-level and university are both about the same thing; questioning, discussing and challenging big ideas about power, identity, politics and conflict. If you like thinking about things differently and enjoy a good old argument, then I wholly encourage you to take History A-level!"*

**Nancy, former HPS student (Achieved an A\*)**



## Course Outline

History, the study of the past, is all around us; we are continually making history through our thoughts, words and actions. History is personal and global; it is everyday life and momentous occasions. History is about people. History will develop your skills of analysis, interpretation and research. The skills and knowledge you will develop compliment a range of other subjects and are highly prized by employers and universities.

**Unit 1** – 'Britain Transformed 1918-97'

**Unit 2** – 'The USA, c1920-55: Boom, Bust and Recovery'

**Unit 3** – 'The Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America 1580-1750'

**Unit 4** – A coursework unit looking at a major historical controversy on the Salem Witch Trials 1692-93

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

An interest in the subject and a willingness to read beyond the textbook are essential. Good written communication skills and the ability to read fluently with good understanding are also required. You need to have a keen and enquiring mind to evaluate conflicting opinions and formulate coherent arguments. Students will develop the ability to provide complex explanations to key events and to critique the evidence they are interrogating. We encourage debate and students are encouraged to speak clearly and with confidence.

*'The toppling of Edward Colston's statue is not an attack on history. It is history'*

**David Olusoga, 2020**

## Why study History?

- To make sense of the world today through the events and people of the past
- To develop essential and highly prized intellectual skills – analysis, evaluation, research and independent thinking
- It is a 'facilitating subject' – highly valued by universities. History students go on to become Lawyers, Journalists, Writers, Managers, Teachers, Publishers, Leaders and Politicians. Employers respect and value the knowledge and skills developed in studying History, whatever the profession.

## Assessments

This Edexcel course is comprised of three exam papers and one piece of coursework. The first two papers look at democracies in transition in the 20th Century: Paper 1, change in Britain 1918-97 with a special interpretations focus on the impact of Margaret Thatcher's governments (30% of the overall A-level grade). Paper 2 is worth 20% of the A-level grade and considers the idea of conformity and challenge in the USA 1920-55. Paper 3 looks at the unique period in European and North American history when thousands of women were accused of and persecuted for the crime of witchcraft (30% of the overall grade). All three papers require students to write structured and well supported essays and involve an element of source and/ or interpretations analysis. The coursework, which is worth 20% of the A-level grade, involves the undertaking of individual research and interpretation on a matter of historical controversy which culminates in a 4,000 word essay.



# IT Technical Award (Single)

## Course Outline

The OCR Technical in Networking & Technical Support is an advanced level, known as a Level 3 qualification. It is designed to provide a specialist work-related qualification. It gives learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare them for employment.

An OCR Level 3 qualification in Introductory Diploma is equivalent to one A Level and is accepted for future studies in further education at university (up to 56 UCAS tariff points). An OCR guide for parents and learners can be found on the exam board's website.

Students are given the opportunity to learn advanced features of Spreadsheets, Web design and Databases. The course is presented with a practical bias, although there is a significant theory element, covering aspects such as how IT is used, the importance and value of information, the impact that IT has had on society and the legislation relating to IT.



Course	Equivalence	Number of Units	Number of Exams
OCR Technical Award (Single)	1 A Level	5	2 Exams, & 3 coursework units

## Why study ICT?

Information Technology is used in areas as diverse as manufacturing, education and medicine and IT skills are valued in virtually all areas of business and society. IT familiarises you with using computers for a purpose, which is a skill, which is becoming more and more useful in a world with more and more technology.

Information Technology is offered by universities either as a subject in its own right or in combination with a wide range of subjects, e.g. IT & Psychology; IT & Business; IT & Multimedia. The advanced skills you will develop will also be valuable in gaining many types of employment.

## Structure of Units (single):

Unit	Assessment	Single
1: Fundamentals of IT	Exam	✓
2: Global Information	Exam	✓
3: Cyber Security	Exam	
4: Computer Networks	Internally Assessed	✓
20: IT Technical Support	Internally Assessed	✓
18: Computer Systems - Hardware	Internally Assessed	✓

## Assessments

Each unit is equally weighted whether it is exam or coursework based.

## Course Outline

The Mathematics A Level course is suitable for students who wish to deepen their knowledge and understanding of pure mathematics, statistics and mechanics. The aim of the course is to enable you to study mathematical theories and concepts and develop your skills of analysis, interpretation, evaluation and application to modelling and problem solving. Pure Mathematics includes learning about number and algebra, graphs, geometry, differentiation and integration. Applied Mathematics includes both the modules of statistics - different methods of analysing data, and mechanics - applying forces, motions and tension of particles and objects.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Alongside achieving a Grade 7 in their GCSE Mathematics, students need to be genuinely interested in the subject and have mastered the knowledge, understanding and skills required at GCSE mathematics higher level, particularly in algebra and number. Students also need to be able to confidently apply these skills to problem solving questions. A passion for mathematics and a desire to learn more is pivotal in achieving a good grade, due to the sheer number of hours of independent study needed. To study Further Mathematics, a Grade 8 is required in GCSE Maths.

## Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is one of the most fundamental A Level subjects that you can study. Mathematics gives you a grounding for the study of any subject and is itself a prerequisite for many others.

For a degree in Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Engineering or Actuarial Science, for example, you will almost certainly have to have a good Mathematics A Level and possibly a Further Mathematics A Level.

If you are thinking of looking for a job straight after A Levels, Mathematics is a great core subject. The ability to understand and manipulate numbers and mathematical concepts is extremely useful for almost any job and employers give greater credit to those with an A Level in Mathematics. In particular, it is vital for careers involving Finance, Statistics, Engineering, Computer Science, Teaching and Accountancy, to name but a few! A report from the Times Educational Supplement stated that 'Young people with A Level Mathematics earn 10 per cent more than their mathematically challenged counterparts.'

Mathematics is not an easy option at A level but it is a valuable, worthwhile and interesting qualification that opens many doors for further studies or career choices. If you have the ability and passion for the subject, you should not miss out on an A Level in Maths.



## Assessments

### A Level Mathematics: 100% exam based

The A Level exam consists of three papers at the end of the two-year course.

**Paper 1:** Pure 1 & 2 (33% of grade)

**Paper 2:** Pure 1 & 2 (33%)

**Paper 3:** Statistics & Mechanics 1& 2 (34%)

### Year 1 and Year 2 Further Mathematics: 100% exam based

Further Mathematics students will cover the A level Maths course in one year and so will sit full A level Maths exams in the summer of Year 12:

**Paper 1:** Pure 1 & 2 (33% of grade)

**Paper 2:** Pure 1 & 2 (33%)

**Paper 3:** Statistics & Mechanics 1& 2 (34%)

In Year 13, the Further Maths content will be taught and the Further Maths exams will be sat in the summer of Year 13:

**Paper 1:** Core Pure 1 & 2 (25%)

**Paper 2:** Core Pure 1 & 2 (25%)

**Paper 3:** Further Mechanics 1 (25%)

**Paper 4:** Decision Mathematics 1 (25%)

## Course Outline

Core Maths is for those who want to maintain and further develop valuable Mathematics skills, but who are not planning on taking AS or A-Level mathematics. At Highams Park the course is structured over 1 year at the end of which you will have attained a Level 3 qualification.

In Core Maths what you study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis in work, study or life and in particular the course includes a financial mathematics element. It will also help with other A-Level subjects – for example with science, geography, business studies, psychology and economics. The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education; studying Core Maths will

enable you to offer these skills to a wide range of sectors. It is common knowledge that students who continue to study mathematics after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning prospects.

## Why study Core Maths?

Core Maths enables you to improve your knowledge of Maths and understand how to apply it to real world situations. Core Maths builds upon the work you have covered in GCSE and will also support you in many other subjects you may study in Sixth Form. It will also provide

you with the key mathematical and problem-solving skills which are valued by employers and further education institutions.

The qualification equips learners to apply for university, employment, higher apprenticeships or professional training in a wide range of

sectors, and offers a fresh experience with adult, context-based problem-solving tasks. It will give you the mathematical skills that will take you anywhere you want to go. It is a Level 3 qualification, equal in value to a AS Maths and so carries the same number of UCAS points as AS level. Having a Core Maths qualification may also enable you to receive a university offer with a lower grade, for some courses.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

As well as achieving at least a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths, students will need to have a secure knowledge of GCSE content as this is built on in Core Maths. Students should also have an interest in learning about how mathematics is applied in the real world, such as utility bills, banking and every day finances.

## Assessments

The Course is entirely assessed through two 90-minute examinations:

**Paper 1 - Comprehension:** covers the content of Analysis of data, Finance and Estimation.

**Paper 2 - Applications:** is a more traditional exam paper where you can demonstrate the mathematical and problem-solving skills you have developed, to critically analyse and use a set of pre-released material, and the application of mathematics in of the three options that are available (Statistical Techniques, Critical Path and Risk Analysis, or Graphical Techniques).





## Course Outline

The Media Studies A Level course will enable you to develop your understanding and appreciation of a variety of different media forms and products. It will broaden your horizons, encourage you to question the media industries and products that are so firmly embedded in today's society and enable you to experience media production first hand.

We do not run the AS level, instead we spread the A Level course over two years. Beginning with an Intro to Media consisting of stand alone lessons and project based work to help build up the skills you'll need to approach the A Level content.

Over the course of year 12 we'll look at a variety of products from Magazines (The Big Issue) and Advertising to Long Form TV Dramas (Stranger Things and Deutschland 83) and Radio (BBC Radio One Breakfast Show) As well as investigating the Film Industry (Jungle Boko 1967 VS 2016), the Video Game Industry (Minecraft) and how Music Videos create meaning and reflect society. Each unit is studied through the lens of at least one of the four key concepts, these are:

**Media Language:** How meaning is created through visual elements

**Media Representations:** Examining, understanding and critiquing how social groups and identities are portrayed in the media and why.

**Media Industries:** Who owns and makes the media and how does this impact the end product?

**Media Audiences:** How and why do we respond to media products?

**Contexts:** Social, Historical, Political and Cultural.

In year 13 we complete our final unit, News and Online and the Non Exam Assessed Component (Creating Media) where students will be given a creative brief to respond to. Previous years have created professional looking magazines and fantastic music videos.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

You will need the standard college requirements for entry. The course suits those with a keen interest in the media already, students who are inquisitive, analytical and open to new ideas. A Media student should also be creative and willing to try new creative digital software if they don't already use it.

## Why study Media Studies?

Media Studies links particularly well with a variety of subjects. The Industry elements compliment Business, Audience and Representation units pair well with Sociology and Psychology, the Language content works really well with Film, Art and English Language and the contextual elements are great for historians and Government and Politics students! Many of our students go on to study Media related courses at University but the skills developed in Media Studies can absolutely open opportunities for degrees in Film, Art and Design, Social Sciences, Business and Marketing as well as a whole raft of apprenticeships and entry level jobs.

## Assessments

### A Level

Two 2hr exams and one assessed piece of coursework.

**Component 1:** Media Messages (News and Online & Language and Representation) 35%

**Component 2:** Evolving Media (Audience and Industry & Long Form TV Drama) 35%

**Component 3:** Non Exam Assessed (Creating Media) Coursework 30%



## Course Outline

The study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions.

When business leaders across the world were surveyed recently (World Economic Forum), they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. Music A Level gives you the perfect opportunity to develop these skills as well as many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

The word “music” covers a huge range of different skills, styles and genres, and each one of us has our own preferences and interests. Much like the GCSE course, the Eduqas A level specification recognises this through the varied areas of study and the choice of routes through the course:

- **Option A** allows learners to specialise in Performing: 35% of the overall grade will be allocated to performing and 25% will be allocated to composing.
- **Option B** allows learners to specialise in Composing: 35% of the overall grade will be allocated to composing and 25% of will be allocated to performing.

### All learners must study Component 3: Appraising.

You will study works from four areas of study:

**Area of study A:** The Western Classical Tradition  
(The Development of the Symphony)

Only one from: **Area of study B:** Rock and Pop, or  
**Area of study C:** Musical Theatre, or  
**Area of study D:** Jazz  
*(will be decided by the Head of Music according to the interests and skills of the cohort)*

**Area of study E:** Into the Twentieth Century

**Component 1: Performing** - (25% or 35% depending on specialism) - This unit develops your accuracy, technical control and communication skills resulting in a final performance as a soloist and/or as part of an ensemble in the musical styles of your choice. You can perform using any instrument or voice.

**Component 2: Composition** (25% or 35% depending on specialism) – This unit develops your ability to create music in different styles and how to develop your technical and expressive control of musical ideas leading to one free composition and one composition in response to a brief based on the Areas of Study from the appraising component.

**Component 3: Appraising** (40% of total A level mark) – This section continues to focus on listening to both familiar and unfamiliar music and analysing how it works and the language used to describe it.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Both the standard 6th form requirements, and the music requirements for entry can be seen on page 10. In order to remain competitive, it is also strongly recommended that a professional instrumental/vocal teacher support you through the coursework requirements for Component 1.



## Why study Music?

Music itself generates billions of pounds each year with a vibrant industry in many different areas of society. It can also give you opportunities to travel, meet people and get the most out of life. Musical careers that one can pursue with this academic subject's qualification are:

- Music Performance (symphony orchestras, operas, jazz, rock, pop, theatre etc.)
- Music Education (teaching in schools, teaching privately)
- Music Therapy (using music as an aid to healing)
- Music Administration (managing symphonies orchestras, music societies, rock stars, etc)
- Composition (classical, rock, country, film music, advertising, etc.)
- Music Software Development including games
- Electronic Musical Instrument Engineering
- Recording Engineering including mixing, recording, sampling, building and repairing of electronic devices
- Record Production, Artist and Repertoire (A&R) and promotion
- Retail Music (selling music, instruments, and accessories)
- Film Music and Underscoring Orchestration and Editing
- Music Publishing and Business
- Music app composition for phones and tablets
- Computer Game music composition

A Level Music students have also gone on to have careers in a multitude of other industries including Acting, Art, Arts Journalism, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classics, Computer Science, English and Drama, English Literature, French, Geography, Japanese, Liberal Arts, Marine Biology, Maths, Medicine, Midwifery, Modern Languages, Journalism, Occupational Therapy, Physics, Politics, Primary Education, Psychology, Sports Science, and Veterinary Medicine. There are numerous Music degrees combining Music with STEM or other arts subjects. NB. When studying Physics and Music, both subjects will need to be taken at A level.

## Assessments

60% NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) divided between performance and composition according to chosen option. NEA will be externally moderated.  
40% Appraising listening exam (1 paper)



## Course Outline

The Philosophy A Level course introduces students to some central philosophical ideas, how these ideas developed and their importance today. The course is divided into four units with two exams at the end of the course.

Year 12 Philosophy students will study Epistemology and Metaphysics of God. Epistemology is the study of knowledge: what knowledge is, whether we can have knowledge, how knowledge can be acquired and how it relates to truth, belief and justification. In Metaphysics of God you will explore the nature of God, look at arguments for and against the existence of God, some of which you may already have studied in GCSE Religious Studies, and question whether it makes sense at all to talk about God. In Metaphysics of God we will not study the beliefs of a particular religion.

Year 13 Students will study Metaphysics of Mind and Moral Philosophy. Metaphysics of Mind is a branch of Philosophy that studies the nature of the human mind and consciousness along with their relationship to the physical body, particularly the brain. Moral Philosophy is a branch of philosophy that investigates questions such as “What is the best way for people to live?” and “What actions are right or wrong in particular circumstances?” The philosophical answers to these questions are then applied and tested against issues relating to stealing, eating animals, simulated killing, and telling lies. We also ask whether there is objective morality and what it might mean if there is not.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

Students need to have independent and inquisitive minds, good analytical skills and literacy skills. Students will be expected to read philosophical texts and follow complex arguments. They should be able to evaluate their reading and support their own ideas effectively. For these reasons, Philosophy complements most areas of study.

## Why Study Philosophy?

- Philosophy students are trained to think hard both critically and creatively.
- Skills in problem analysis and problem solving are fostered throughout the course.
- Communication skills are developed throughout the course, particularly when learning about and responding to philosophical concepts.
- Philosophy is looked at favourably by employers and academics alike. It assists in careers in government, business and the service professions.
- It is very beneficial to careers in law, medicine, journalism and politics.
- Philosophy has links with almost every subject, however future studies with particularly strong links to philosophy include degrees in Philosophy, Theology, Cultural Studies, Literature, Cognitive Science, French, and Politics.

## Assessments

The A Level is 100% exam based. The A Level exam consists of two 3 hour exams at the end of Year 13 covering all the content covered over years 12 and 13. Each of the two papers is worth 50% of the final grade.





## Course Outline

Initial topics cover fundamental areas of Physics, such as motion, waves and electricity. Later topics include cutting edge Physics such as Particle Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology. These build on what has come before to give students a broad knowledge base, and allows progression to further study and the workplace, whether that involves Physics, Engineering, Maths or other related subjects.

**Paper 1: Working as a Physicist, Mechanics, Electric Circuits,** Further Mechanics, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Nuclear and Particle Physics.

**Paper 2: Working as a Physicist, Materials, Waves and the Particle Nature of Light,** Thermodynamics, Space, Nuclear Radiation, Gravitational Fields, Oscillations.

(Note: the topics in bold are assessed in our internal summer exams in Year 12)

**Paper 3:** General and Practical Principles in Physics – **All topics** across the full A level specification. Half of the paper will also focus on testing students' knowledge and understanding of practical skills and techniques.

**Core practicals:** The above exam papers will feature questions allowing students to demonstrate investigative skills in the context of 16 core practicals carried out through the two years. Students' skills and technical competency when completing practical work will be assessed by teachers. Note: we have always and will continue to carry out way more practicals than these 16 practicals required by the exam board.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

A genuine interest in Physics, coupled with good problem solving skills and a sound mathematical background.

## Why study Physics?

### What are the progression opportunities?

Do you enjoy the challenge of trying to explain how the world around us works? Are you always asking your science teacher questions which don't necessarily have much to do with the lesson? If so, then physics may be the subject for you. As well as satisfying this intellectual curiosity, A level physics will also provide you with problem solving skills that are highly valued whatever your future ambitions, whether in further education or in the workplace. It is this ability to analyse problems and use their knowledge that makes physicists highly sought after in many areas of business and finance as well as more traditional science occupations.

## Enrichment

**ORBYTS** – Original Research By Young Twinkle Students. ORBYTS links young PhD and post-doc scientists from UCL with groups of students to work on original research associated with the Twinkle mission.

**Isaac Physics** – we make extensive use of this University of Cambridge problem solving online resource.

**British Physics Olympiad** - able students are encouraged to sit extension national exams and complete experimental projects.

**University interviews and admissions tests** – preparation and advice is available in school and through our partnership with the Physics department at nearby Forest School.

*"I reckon that physicists can do pretty much anything. Our training can be applied to almost any activity, and it allows us to see things in ways that might not be obvious to others"*

Simon Singh, Science Writer and Broadcaster.



## Assessments

The A Level exam consists of Paper 1 and Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes), each of 30% weighting and Paper 3 (2 hours 30 minutes) which counts for 40% of the overall mark.

Questions assessing students' use of mathematical skills will make up 40% of the exam papers.

The **Practical Endorsement** at A level is based on the 16 core practicals. This is separate to the A level grade and, if awarded, will be reported as a 'Pass' on A level certificates for students who achieve it.

## Course Outline

Politics exists because people disagree. They disagree about how they should live (moral questions), about who should get what (resource questions) and about who should make decisions (power questions). Politics seeks to establish the general rules under which we live and it is those rules that make orderly existence possible. As such, politics is the most basic and necessary of social activities - without orderly existence, society will degenerate into a civil war of each against all.

### During Year 12 you will study the following units:

- UK Politics
- UK Government
- UK Politics with Core ideologies; Conservatism, Socialism and Liberalism

### During Year 13 you will study the following units:

- UK Government and the study of Nationalism as an ideology
- Comparative studies in Global Politics

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

An interest in Government and Politics and the willingness to read around the subject is essential. A genuine interest in current affairs is a key to success. Regular viewings of 'Question Time' and 'Newsnight' will provide a sound basis for progression at all levels. Good written and verbal communication skills will ensure enjoyment and provide a

structure for examination success. Government and Politics is likely to suit students who:

- Have an interest in the world around them - ones who want to know more about the society they live in, how it works and how it could work.
- Enjoy debate, discussion and argument - ones who are comfortable with the fact that in politics there are no simple 'rights' or 'wrongs'.
- Like to think for themselves - ones who want to develop their own views, rather than accept the views of others.

## Why study Politics?

The short answer is that everyone should study politics - all members of society should have a better understanding of the general rules under which they live. For these rules to be effective, as many people as possible should actively participate in making them, upholding them and maybe, changing them. Government and Politics is a great companion to studying: History, Sociology, English Language, English Literature, Psychology and Philosophy.

## Examination requirements

**There are three 120 minute examinations in Year 13.** These are Paper 1 UK Politics, Paper 2 UK Government, Paper 3 Global Politics. Each of the three papers is worth a third of your final grade





## Course Outline

The Psychology A Level course is suitable for students who wish to develop their interest in the study of human behaviour. The aim of the course is to enable you to study psychological theories and concepts and develop your skills of analysis, interpretation and evaluation.

**Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology** – This unit includes learning about social influence (why we obey, conform and change the majority's point of view), memory, attachment and psychopathology (how mental health disorders affect people and how they are treated).

**Paper 2: Psychology in Context** – This unit includes learning about the different schools of psychology from behavioural to biopsychology and how human behaviour is studied as a science. Additionally you will be learning about research methods and the mathematical element of psychology.

**Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology** – This unit includes learning about psychological debates (such as nature or nurture), schizophrenia, relationships and aggression.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

An interest in human behaviour! Is it the innate or the outside influences that make us behave the way we do? Do genetics and/or hormones make us the person we are or do social influences such as our parents and friends have the biggest impact on our behaviour? These are the questions we will endeavour to try to answer.

Good essay writing and numeracy skills. Students will develop their essay writing skills, will conduct experiments and write scientific reports. You will be expected to read around the subject to enhance your knowledge.

## Why study Psychology?

Whatever career you pursue, a background in psychology will enhance your employability. Studying Psychology can;

- Develop sound analytical skills through the application of scientific method. Psychology is a science. The defining feature of any science is the objective approach that is used to advance our knowledge. In psychology we use this scientific approach to learn about behaviour and mental life. Psychology provides an excellent training in analytic thinking and scientific research methods that are applicable to a broad range of careers.
- Prepare you for a career as a professional Psychologist. Psychologists work in a wide variety of different contexts, including clinical, legal, sport, organisational, educational and research settings in both the private and public sector. The initial training required to work as a psychologist is an accredited undergraduate degree in psychology. Specialist training in different professional areas is then provided in postgraduate degrees.
- Provide excellent job prospects in a wide range of careers including a Counsellor, Market Researcher, Psychiatrist, Teacher or a role within Social Work, HR, Police, Sports Psychology, Health Care, or the Business Sector.

## Assessments

This A Level is 100% exam based.

The A Level exam consists of three papers at the end of the two year course. Each of the three papers is worth a third of your final grade.



## Course Outline

The Sociology A Level course involves a detailed study of society, social processes and social institutions. This subject looks at what happens in the world around us and how this affects us as individuals. You will need to have an interest in wider social issues and current affairs.

In year 1 you will study Education, Family & Households along with Research methods. Education includes looking at why attainment differs between class, gender and ethnicity as well as approaching it from differing theoretical perspectives. Family and Household studies how family has changed over time, why family sizes have reduced in size, changes to birth rate, death rate, divorce and marriage rates. Again, the theoretical positions will be considered. Research methods will investigate how research is carried out by sociologists, the methods and samples used and why sociologists might choose these to carry out their research.

In year 2 you will be adding to the above units with the study of Crime and Deviance, Global Development and Sociological Theory. This will again look at differing perspectives, gender, ethnicity and class. Your year 1 skills will be enhanced and built upon for you to achieve the full A Level.

## Entrance requirement and skills needed

You will need to be an inquisitive person and have a real interest in what is happening in the world around us and how this motivates human behaviour. A commitment to reading around the subject

and keeping up to date with social issues is essential. You would be expected to watch/read the news at least once a day. An ability to write fluent and coherent essays is essential due to the assessment requirements.

## Why study Sociology?

Studying sociology can:

- Help you understand yourself and your role in society and to question what we accept as normal.
- Develop sound analytical, research and essay writing skills.
- Prepare you for professional life. Sociologists work in a wide variety of professions, including health service, education, advertising and marketing, police, political and legal organisations, and social work. The understanding you will have gained about society is invaluable to many career paths.
- Provide excellent preparation for the skills required for success in higher education.

## Assessments

This A Level is 100% exam based.

The A Level exam consists of three papers at the end of the two year course, some of which contain long essay questions. Each of the three papers is worth a third of your final grade.



## Course Outline

The new BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport is a two-year course, equivalent to two A Levels. The course is suitable for students who wish to gain an insight into sport as an industry and as such offers a diverse curriculum of study.

The course aims to provide a strong base of study specifically within the coaching and sport sector through a range of units.

The following mandatory units allow students to concentrate on the development of their key skills and the broad knowledge required for entrance into higher education programmes in sport:

- Unit 1:** Anatomy and Physiology.
- Unit 2:** Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being.
- Unit 3:** Professional Development in the Sports Industry.
- Unit 4:** Sports Leadership.
- Unit 22:** Investigating Business in Sport and the Active Leisure Industry.
- Unit 23:** Skill Acquisition in Sport.

Students will also study the following units which have been designed to support progression into specific specialist areas:

- Unit 5:** Application of Fitness Testing.
- Unit 24:** Sports Performance Analysis.
- Unit 26:** Technical and Tactical Demands of Sport.

## Entrance requirements and skills needed

**Please see the subject entry requirements on page 8.**

Students require a sound knowledge and interest in sport and sporting issues. To be successful, you will need to be highly organised and be able to consistently meet and achieve set deadlines throughout the two-year course. Students should be able to work both independently and collaboratively, demonstrating a high quality of written communication. In addition, you will need to demonstrate good verbal communication, particularly when completing presentations.



## Why study National Diploma in Sport?

The new BTEC National Diploma in Sport has been specifically aimed at learners looking to progress to higher education or a career in the sporting sector.

The course can:

- Prepare students for a range of higher education courses and job roles related to the sporting industry, including fitness instructor, leisure and sports manager, PE teacher, physiotherapist, youth and community worker, coach or sports development officer.
- Provide up-to-date industry knowledge, in addition to practical, research and behaviour skills required to succeed in higher education and in future careers.
- Give learners transferable knowledge and skills which can enhance employability, including, interpersonal and practical thinking skills, effective teamwork; efficient time management and self-management.

## Assessments

The units covered are assessed externally and internally, and include examinations, vocational tasks and assignments.

All units contribute proportionally to the overall qualification grade with the externally assessed units equating to 45% of the total qualification.

Unit 1 is assessed through a 1.5 hour written examination.

Unit 2 and 22 are both assessed through a task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions in 2.5 and 3 hour sessions respectively.

The remaining units are assessed internally through set assignments with work externally verified.





# Notes

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 30 horizontal dotted lines.

# Highams Park

6th Form





Head of Sixth Form:  
**Mr McDonnell**

**Highams Park School**  
Handsworth Avenue  
Highams Park  
London E4 9PJ

Tel: 020 8527 4051  
[enquiries@highamsparkschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@highamsparkschool.co.uk)  
[www.highamsparkschool.co.uk](http://www.highamsparkschool.co.uk)  
X @HPS6thform

